Opinion




by Dennis Coday

View Author Profile

dcoday@ncronline.org
Follow on Twitter at @dcoday

## Join the Conversation




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LITTLETON, Colo. -- Colorado gun control activists rallied near Columbine High School, calling for an end to gun violence and **[marking the 19th anniversary of the massacre there and a planned nationwide student walkout.]**

- Inspired by this generation: **[Catholic students 'ignited' to help organize locally]**
- Inspired by this generation: **[Catholic schools a faithful presence at Cleveland march]**
- Inspired by this generation: **[Editorial: Single-mindedness needed on guns]**

On Monday, I told you this was a developing story: In February the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, announced **it was ending pension payments with lump-sum payouts.** The rest of the story came yesterday: **Wisconsin diocese calls off plan to rescind employee's pensions.**

As **Puerto Rico wrestles with blackouts across the island**, Jubilee USA Network is warning that Congress's oversight board for Puerto Rico could pass a fiscal debt plan that is worse than the fiscal plan in place before Hurricanes Maria and Irma struck the island. Puerto Rico's Archbishop Gonzalez testified to the oversight board yesterday: **Human lives must be focus of Puerto Rico fiscal plan**.

**NAACP joins environmental groups in calling for EPA chief Scott Pruitt's ouster**

**Church crackdown intensifies in China's Henan province** An official notice posted outside a church in Henan says: "Religion must not interfere with life and social order."

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Chicago -- San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy delivered an important talk at Loyola University Chicago. Here are two takes:

- **McElroy blasts 'sickness of the soul' in US politics, calls for a moral solution**
- **McElroy: Politics should pursue common good, not special interests**

For the first time since 1959, Cuba has a president not named Castro. **Who is Miguel Díaz-Canel, Cuba's handpicked president?**

NCR and Global Sisters Report published this week a series of stories about Cuba and the church. Read them here:

- **Cubans, US exiles connect to help rebuild Cuba's Catholic Church**
- **Encuentro Eclesial event unites Cuban Catholics, bridges US-Cuba division**
- **Where Cuban government can't provide, sisters and Catholic organizations fill the gaps**

Sunday is Earth Day. How you mark it? Find some inspiration in these stories:

- **Pope Francis' encyclical inspires the Laudato Si' Project in Wisconsin**
- **Environmental vulnerabilities are linked to every other problem in Haiti**
- **Access to clean water is a life issue that the church must defend**

Did you ever consider a good road, a convenient bus line and rural access to the internet might help eradicate hunger? **US infrastructure investment key to better jobs, less hunger, Bread for the World recommends**

If Pope Francis' exhortation **Gaudete et Exsultate ("Rejoice and Be Glad")** has inspired you to join **the journey of 'small holiness'**, NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you:

- Start your day inspired with daily Scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister publication, Celebration, for **Daily Bread**, a series of short reflections written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.
- Or reflect on **Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin**. Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.