

[Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. [Learn more](#)

May 23, 2018

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

The pope is getting some positive press around the world with an editorial in the [New York Times editorial](#) that praises his recent actions as a “welcome step” in addressing not only sex abuse but the hierarchy that covered it up. The Guardian calls the pope’s asking for forgiveness “[an authoritarian U-turn](#),” while the Canadian Globe and Mail is running an opinion piece, “[Pope Francis sets a new tone of accountability](#).”

Breaking: [the pope is planning another round of meetings with victims of clergy sexual abuse from Chile](#), this time the victims are priests too.

But reports on the economic ethics document released by the Vatican last week are less stellar. [Fr. Tom Reese complains that obscure writing makes the important message inaccessible](#), while [Stephen Schneck of Catholic U was hoping for more critique of markets](#). (ICYMI: [Eric LeCompte](#) and [Michael Sean Winters](#) had more positive reviews of the document.)

The economic story of Appalachia’s poverty told in the bestselling *Hillbilly Elegy* is challenged by two new books on the region. Our reviewer finds a “new story” in these [two histories that shows that Appalachia isn’t all poor, or all white, or all](#)

[passive](#).

The second week of the Poor People's Campaign in Washington D.C. focused on voting rights. "[Our democracy is in trouble](#)," a pastor said. Catholics are joining the predominantly Protestant group of protestors who are resurrecting Dr. Martin Luther King's campaign.

[The church should tread carefully with Basque separatists in Spain who are apologizing for their use of violence, according to report on the latest "peace pledge" from the nationalists.](#)

At a summit on young adult ministry in the United States, much of the conversation was about those not in the pews, with one minister saying [the church is "bleeding out the young church severely"](#). Meanwhile, reaching out to the "nones" is part of the parish restructuring in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, says this week's [Field Hospital parish roundup](#).

[Catholics are criticizing the move to separate families at the border](#), saying it contribute to further de-humanization of immigrants.

[A sister from Honduras reports on the oppression in her country](#) after the disputed 2017 presidential election and as Hondurans in the United States face deportation after the loss of temporary protected status.

Opinion:

A beautiful reflection on [how the women's movement can turn anger into hope](#), by Jessica Mesman Griffith at U.S. Catholic.

I knew someone would complain about [secular music at the royal wedding](#): Distinctly Catholic delivers. [PrayTell blog praises the sermon](#).

Advertisement