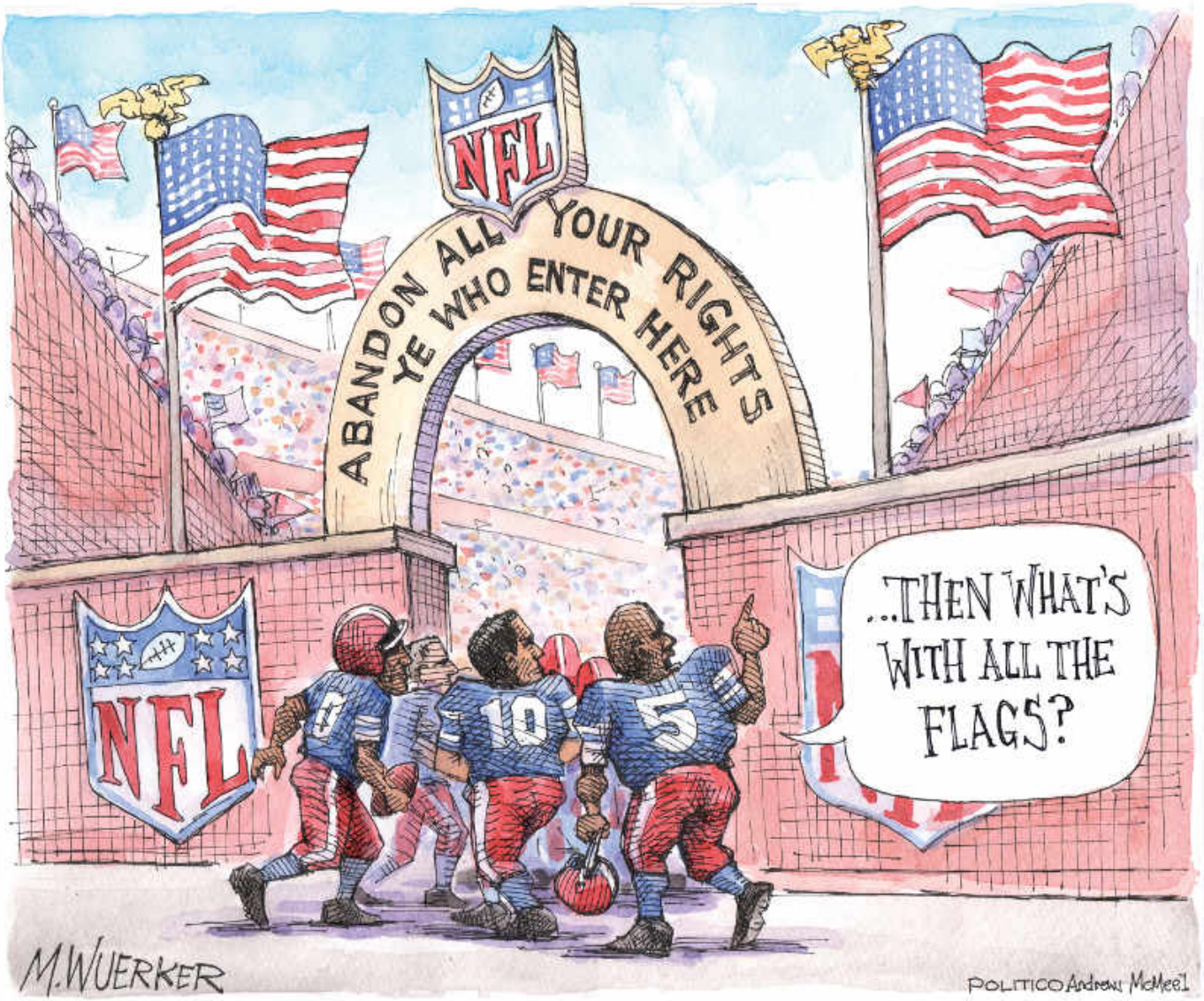
Opinion



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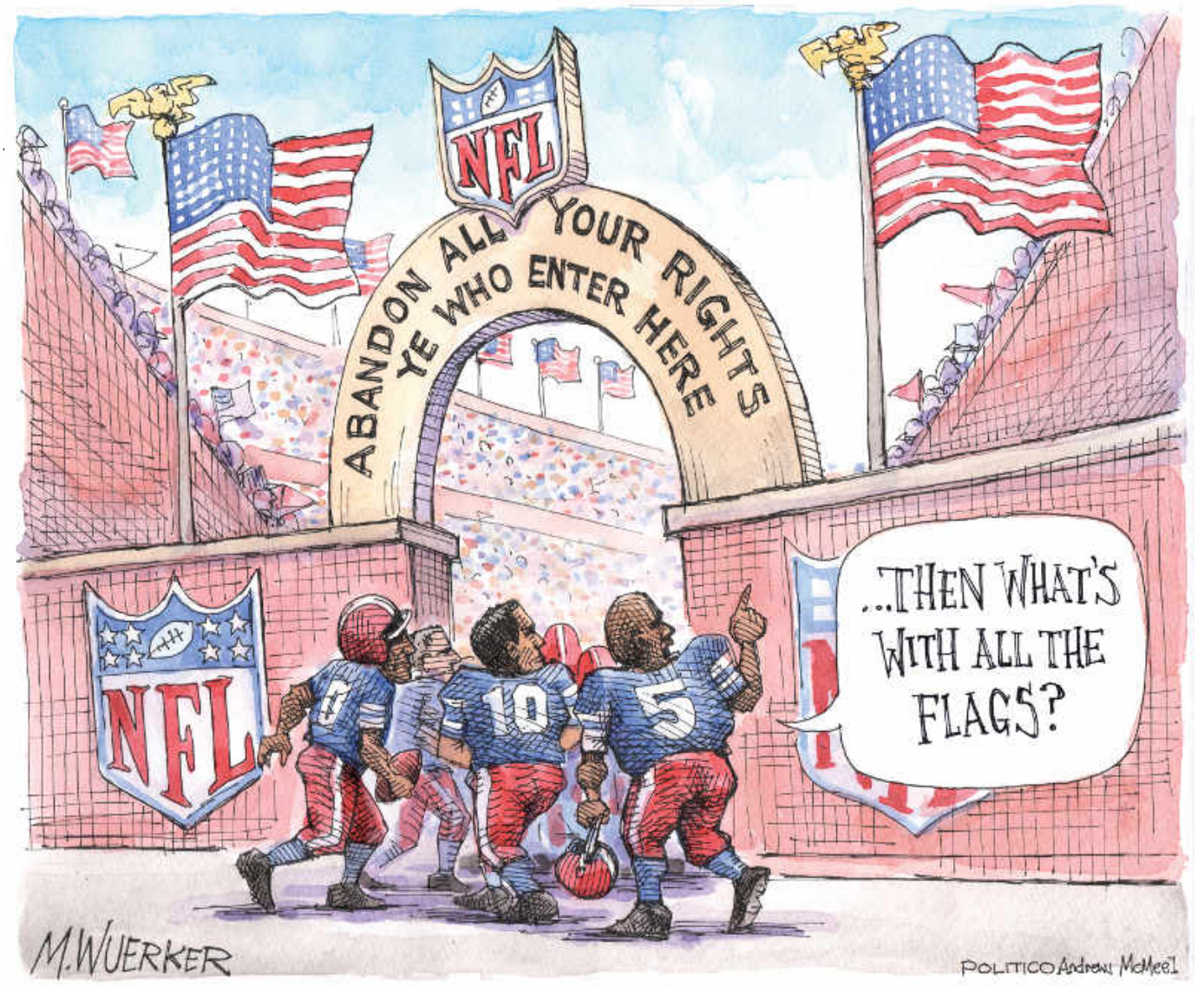

For more Editorial cartoons, click here.

Yesterday, began with a bit of excitment as our Vatican correspondent Joshua McElwee informed us that **Pope Francis was sending letter to Chile about the sex abuse scandal there.** Our afternoon and evening got busy when the text of the acutal letter was published. Josh filed this story (very late in Rome): **In letter to Chileans, Francis decries church's 'culture of abuse and cover-up'**. With Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta dispatched to Chile for the second time in three months to look into the local church's handling of abuse you know this is a developing story. Stay tuned to NCR for more reporting.

As the Chile-Pope-abuse story was unfolding, NCR staff writer Brian Roewe saw a notice that sex abuse attorney Jeff Anderson had scheduled a press confernce in St. Paul, Minnesota, for yesterday afternoon, Roewe received a note from a source saying "you will want to tune in for the historical moment." The resulting story was **$210 million settlement announced in St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese bankruptcy case**. We updated that story three times yesterday, so you better check out the latest version to make sure you've seen the full story.

That, too, is a developing story that Roew will be following, so please stay tuned to NCR. Anticipating the historic nature of the St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese settlement, we mined the resources of BishopsAccountability.org and put togehter this little backgrounder: **List of Catholic dioceses and orders that filed for bankruptcy and other major settlements**

Canberra, Australia -- On Wednesday, the Catholic bishops conference and religious orders joined a federal government redress plan for ictims of child sexual abuse in Australian institutions. Thursday the **Anglican Church, Salvation Army, Scouts Australia and the Young Men's Christian Association, better known as YMCA, committed to join the plan.** 80 percent of Australia's 60,000 known abuse victims were now covered by the plan.

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Other news we're following right now:

- **Fifteen killed in Nicaragua protests** Pro-government groups have opened fire on marchers in Nicaragua, witnesses say, killing at least 15 as more than a month of violence in the country continues.
- A deacon's personal account of parenting a transgender child. **Transgender and Catholic: A parent’s perspective**
- **U.S. Thwarted in Bid to Change U.N. Human Rights Council’s Approach to Israel** Some diplomats fear the United States might now exit the council.
- **Baptist church removing Jesus statue it deems too 'Catholic'**

And some recommneded reading:

- Montreal, Canada -- Global Sisters Report sent reporter Dana Wacker to cover the meeting of Canadian Religious Conference. The message they heard: **Rethink what Catholic religious life can be.** Accept the changed climate of religious life and find new ways to move forward in equal alliance with laypeople.
- Ottawa, Canada -- As part of its attempts to bring healing and reconcilaiton to Indigenous children who suffered abuse in residential schools **the federal government is seeking a Catholic coalition's help securing a papal apology – but it's not likely to help**
- Fr. Charles Curran offers this reflection: **Canonization is right for Óscar Romero, a true Christian martyr**
- Michael Sean Winters takes a look at Matthew Stewart's important essay in the June issue of Atlantic Monthly, "The Birth of a New Aristocracy" (online as "**The 9.9 Percent Is the New American Aristocracy**"). Read Winter's **Part 1 here** and **Part 2 here**.

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

- 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.