

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

[hschlumpf@ncronline.org](mailto:hschlumpf@ncronline.org)

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The U.S. bishops begin their [spring General Assembly](#) today in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. On the agenda are ethical and religious directives for Catholic health care, a pastoral for Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics and the upcoming Synod on Young People. They also will begin discussing “[Faithful Citizenship,” the bishops’ quadrennial document on voting](#). NCR’s Brian Roewe will be covering the meeting from Florida, so watch our website and social media pages for breaking news.

The Southern Baptists are also meeting this week. This morning [Vice President Mike Pence will address the convention. Here’s why that’s so controversial.](#)

At the end of a meeting of the Council of Cardinals, the advisory body released a statement saying they are planning [restructuring of the Vatican bureaucracy to make it more missionary](#).

In other Vatican news, a team has returned to Chile to [ask forgiveness about how clergy sex abuse was handled](#).

[Republicans reached a deal late last night](#) to schedule two votes on immigration issues, including DACA, next week, but the bills are largely a political exercise.

Meanwhile, children are being separated from their families at the border:

- Our editorial says that is [immoral and ineffective](#),
- Our Theology en la Plaza columnist says it [demands moral action from Catholics](#),
- And Michael Sean Winters asks [where is the voice of the bishops](#) on this?

The [bishops in Nigeria are pressuring the government to do something about the killings of farmers and two Catholic priests](#) by nomadic herdsman, who have turned violent in search of land for grazing.

Amid preparations for Pope Francis' trip to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families in August, a [church reform group there is calling for changes in the church's language about LGBT people](#) that is "complicit in marginalization." Also, organizers announced this week that [Jesuit Fr. Jim Martin will speak about how parishes can welcome LGBT Catholics](#).

Speaking of Jesuits, the U.S. West Province held its [ordinations at the U.S.-Mexico border](#) this year.

ICYMI: Theologians are raising questions about the justice and morality of using [contingent faculty at Catholic colleges and universities](#).

[Catholic sisters in India are literally saving lives by donating one of their kidneys](#) to sick people who need them.

Oops. [A mistake in a diocesan newspaper headline goes viral](#).

### **Opinion:**

Though some Catholics believe Adam and Eve were real people, [a new book about them explores the historical foundations and reactions to the creation story in Genesis](#).

In the wake of two prominent people who died by suicide, [we need to see the causes of suicide in our midst](#), says this columnist.

Mark Silk has [a plan for President Trump's new faith-based office](#): offer sanctuary to undocumented immigrants. He's not holding his breath.

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