Opinion



by Dennis Coday

View Author Profile

dcoday@ncronline.org
Follow on Twitter at @dcoday

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. Learn more

July 16, 2018
Share on BlueskyShare on FacebookShare on TwitterEmail to a friendPrint

Theodore E. McCarrick -- **He Preyed on Men Who Wanted to Be Priests. Then He Became a Cardinal.** Some background: **Retired Washington cardinal out of ministry after credible abuse allegation**

The Associated Press begins its coverage of the Helsinki personal summit like this: "With a wink and a slouch, respectively, President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin opened their summit Monday as the American president declared that 'the world wants to see us get along.' " The headline reads: **Trump-Putin summit opens without talk of election meddling**

Reuters begins its coverage with -- **Trump sits down with Putin after denouncing past U.S. policy on Russia as "foolishness and stupidity."**

Writing in the New York Times, Andrew Higgins and Neil MacFarquhar say **Just Sitting Down With Trump, Putin Comes Out Ahead**

NCR's Michael Sean Winters says Trump's trip to Europe has not been a victory for diplomacy but **it has its value to Trump's propaganda machine.**

Buffalo is having its Boston moment. **Clergy sex abuse revelations stun, anger Catholics in Buffalo**

Manila -- As Philippine President Duterte prepares for this third State of the Union Address next week, a Catholic bishops is urging people to ask **Are we better off now? Are we safe now?**

Advertisement

July 25 marks the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of Humanae Vitae, Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical banning artificial birth control. Penny Mordaunt, Britian's International Development secretary (a cabinet post), **urged the Vatican to change its strict ban on the use of contraception,** in a meeting with senior aides to Pope Francis last week.

NCR's Jamie Manson says though the vast majority of lay people and theologians (and a good number of clergy) have rejected the teaching, **Humanae Vitae's ban on contraception causes suffering among those least able to ignore it.**

Manson's pies is part of NCR's multipart series mapping the influence of Humanae Vitae, the impact this teachinghas had in the Catholic community and where it might be pointing us in the future. **'Humanae Vitae': The maturing of church teaching**

Some additional background: **How the Catholic Church came to oppose birth control** In 1968, Paul's declaration shocked many Catholic priests and laypeople. Conservative Catholics, however, praised the pope for what they saw as a confirmation of traditional teachings.

Some stories you may have missed from late last week:

- **German Catholics' confusing attempt to allow Communion for Protestants** A debate has gripped the country's Catholic Church, exacerbated by mixed signals from the Vatican.
- **Episcopal convention approves a 'pastoral solution' on same-sex marriage**Same-sex couples will now be able to marry in their home parish even if their local bishop has moral objections to gay marriage, Episcopal Church leaders decided July 13.

- The traditionalist Society of St. Pius X **has elected a new superior general**. A 47-year-old Italian.

Pope Francis' exhortation **Gaudete et Exsultate ("Rejoice and Be Glad")** has inspired many. NCR and Celebration have the resources to help you on your**journey of 'small holiness'**.

- 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.