

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

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Today is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of *Humanae Vitae*, the papal encyclical that banned birth control. Columnist Michael Sean Winters argues that [“even if you think \*Humanae Vitae\* got it wrong about the pill, it was prescient about much else.”](#) ([Here](#) are all of NCR’s articles commemorating this anniversary.)

As the papal trip to Ireland next month near, clergy sex abuse survivors [are hoping Pope Francis will—as he did in Chile earlier this year—admit to the Vatican’s role in decades of cover-up of abuse.](#)

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who served as an auxiliary bishop to Cardinal McCarrick for six years, [said he was “shocked” about the allegations of sexual abuse and harassment](#) against the cardinal. And [Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston says the church needs policies that address bishops’ violations of vows of celibacy.](#)

Meanwhile, some right-wing Catholics are using the allegations to [attack so-called “Francis bishops.”](#) (I refuse to link to other, disreputable websites where these attacks are happening.)

ICYMI: Maria Benevento's [powerful stories of asylum-seekers fleeing gang or domestic violence](#), as Attorney General Jeff Sessions has said such cases should not usually qualify migrants for asylum.

The [deadline for the government to reunite the more than 2,500 children separated from their parents at the border is tomorrow](#). But more than [450 of those parents may have been already deported without their kids](#), according to a court filing.

A must-read: this [in-depth Washington Post piece about why evangelical Christians support Trump](#), which includes this problematic biblical exegesis: Love thy neighbor meant "love thy American neighbor." ... Welcome the stranger meant the "legal immigrant stranger."

Global Sisters Report has this story of [140 unbroken years of perpetual adoration](#) by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. I have a personal connection, as my great aunt, Sister Eliza Werrell, was a sister in that community.

[This week's Justice Action Bulletin goes international](#): protests in Washington State, Maine, Germany and London.

[Three books examine unbelief](#)—they're best read in conversation with one another, our reviewer says.

Speaking of books, I'm a big fan of Quaker writer (and Wisconsinite!) [Parker Palmer, who has a new book out about aging](#).

Best book title I've heard in awhile: "I Can't Date Jesus," about growing up black, gay and Catholic in Texas. Listen to author [Michael Arceneaux's interview with Terry Gross on Fresh Air](#).

Godspeed to all the theologians and ethicists traveling to Sarajevo for the international event, "[A Critical Time for Bridge-Building: Catholic Theological Ethics Today](#)," which begins tomorrow. Our Josh McElwee will be reporting.

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