

[Opinion](#)



by Dennis Coday

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dcoday@ncronline.org

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Marie Collins writes: "Along with seven other survivors [of sexual abuse] I met with Pope Francis Aug. 25, at which time I asked him why the central Vatican Accountability Tribunal announced in 2015 was not being implemented. In reply to me, he spoke of his belief that for cultural reasons such a tribunal was "not viable." I wonder: What has changed his mind since 2015? [Who or what has caused him to change his mind?](#)"

[Missouri bishops invite attorney general to review abuse cases](#)

Earlier today, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference accepted the recommendations made by the Royal Commission that investigated sexual abuse in institutions, except for one recommendation: **The bishops rejected the recommendation that priests should be forced to report sexual abuse disclosed during confession.** Breaking the seal of confession was, they said, "contrary to our faith and inimical to religious liberty".

Jason Berry writing in The Washington Post: **Pope Francis is facing a crisis of justice. Here are three steps he can take.**

Mary Hunt says **Catholics Are Facing a Very Real Emergency** What's needed is a massive overhaul so that Catholic communities can be run by trained lay people rather than be ruled by incompetent and sometimes criminal bishops.

Washington -- In an Aug. 30 letter to priests in the archdiocese, Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl asked for **"forgiveness for my errors in judgment [and] for my inadequacies."**



Cardinal Joseph Tobin listens to Fr. Desmond Rossi Aug. 29 in front of Sacred Heart Basilica in Newark. (NCR/Peter Feuerherd)

Newark, New Jersey -- **Priest alleging seminary abuse leads church reform demonstration** Among the dozen or so attendees was Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, who told the group, "We have to smash the structures and culture that

make abuse [in the church] possible."

Other news we're watching

A closer look at the Florida Democrat's chances in November. [**Does Andrew Gillum Really Have a Shot?**](#)

President Donald Trump rallied a crowded and enthusiastic arena in Evansville, Indiana, for over an hour on Thursday night with his campaign's greatest hits. [**He ramped up a war of words against FBI and DOJ**](#), but said nothing about the late Senator McCain. (Text and video)

MSNBC host hints President Trump may get some bad news just before the Labor Day weekend begins. [**Mueller May Drop Something Big**](#).

President Trump made headline news Monday saying he was going to ditch NAFTA, has finalized a trade deal with Mexico and gave Canada today as a deadline to join. Guess what? None of that is happening. [**Today isn't the real deadline**](#), and there is no formal free trade deal between the US and Mexico, [**only an agreement between the two countries on how to resolve key issues in their trade relationship as part of the NAFTA talks**](#).

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Washington's fall agenda: [**Pre-existing conditions fight takes center stage in midterms**](#)

Did you know thatpPrisoners around the U.S. are on strike? They have a list of 10 demands, including abolition of the labor practices that amount to what some call modern-day slavery. [**'I was in prison and you came to me'**](#)

The following item was in my Monday Morning Briefing. I am including it today too, because I think it is important. It's the kind of news we too easliy lose track of and that is too bad.

In a study of 40 peace processes since the Cold War, Olivia Holt-Ivry says researchers found that when only men sit at the negotiating table, cease-fires fall apart. [**Women Make Peace Stick**](#) (You may have to register to read this, but its worth it.)

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.