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(NCR photo/Teresa Malcolm)

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[What do we learn from this place where we don't want to be?](#) So asks John Gehring, who reflects on the personal and societal lessons for us as we stumble through a pandemic together.

A vulnerable population is becoming even more vulnerable as the **[coronavirus forces Catholic agencies to scale back services for the homeless](#)**. NCR intern Sarah Salvatore reached out to Catholic shelters and soup kitchens in San Francisco, Boston, Newark, South Bend and Scranton to find out how staff and volunteers are doing what they can to help people while protecting everyone's health.

In the face of such heavy news, there's still uplift to be found. NCR asked, and you came through with stories of hope and connection: **[NCR readers share acts of kindness amid coronavirus pandemic](#)**.

Michael Sean Winters assures us that a little sigh of relief, of varying kinds, comes with the stimulus package that is **[one small step for economic recovery, avoiding one giant leap toward Putinism](#)**.

And in case you missed it, some good news entirely unrelated to viruses came through the wires yesterday. In what Sr. Helen Prejean called a "life-affirming day," **[Catholic leaders praise Colorado's repeal of death penalty](#)**.

It may not always come easy, but Sr. Joan Sauro celebrates the positivity of **[the nod: just saying Yes](#)**. The Yes of the Annunciation, the "Yes to my eighth grade classmate who sends me a card out of the blue," "Yes to the past and yes to the future," "Yes to the carrots I left deep in the frozen garden" — and so much more.

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