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Editor's note: *NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf has joined "The Francis Effect" for its seventh season as a co-host with Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan and David Dault. The podcast airs every other Wednesday and will be available on NCR's site as well as on various podcast apps.*

NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf has joined Season 7 of "The Francis Effect" podcast. She joins co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan (columnist for NCR's "Faith

Seeking Understanding") and David Dault, executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations about Culture and Faith."

In this episode, Dault, Horan and Schlumpf discuss some last-minute surprises from the U.S. bishops, the grassroots nature of sainthood, and why this year it might be OK to put up your tree as early as you want.

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