

## [Opinion](#)



Brian Flanagan (Courtesy of New Ways Ministry)



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September 28, 2023

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NCR senior correspondent [Heidi Schlumpf](#) is part of the new season of "The Francis Effect" podcast, joining co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan ([columnist for NCR](#)) and [David Dault](#), executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations About Culture and Faith."

Heidi, Father Daniel and David discuss the threat of U.S. government shutdown and its effects on the vulnerable, and look at the recent [friction in Cologne](#), Germany, over the blessing of same-sex unions. In addition, Heidi interviews [Brian Flanagan](#) of New Ways Ministry about synodality.

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