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Joshua J. McElwee

Joshua J. McElwee is NCR's Vatican correspondent. His reporting and feature writing have earned numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association and the Religion Newswriters Association.

He was the first journalist to break the news of Pope Francis' decision in 2016 to create a commission to study the possibility of ordaining women to the Catholic diaconate, for which the Catholic Press Association awarded him and two other NCR writers its "best newswriting" honor that year.

McElwee previously served as NCR's national correspondent in Washington, DC, where in 2014 he broke news of two separate secret Vatican investigations of bishops accused of mishandling or committing sexual abuse and in 2013 broke news of Francis' call for parish-level input before the 2014 Synod of Bishops.

His reporting has been featured in various other outlets, including: Vatican Insider, The Huffington Post, The Irish Catholic, and The Official Catholic Directory (The Kenedy Directory).

McElwee was awarded third place for the Religion Newswriters Association's prize for Magazine Religion News Report of the Year [in 2013](#) [1], for which he was also a finalist [in 2015](#) [2] and [in 2012](#) [3]. He was also a finalist for that organization's 2013 award for Religion Feature Writer of the Year and [2014 award](#) [4] for Multiple Media.

In 2014 the Catholic Press Association lauded a piece of his [spiritual writing](#) [5] following a trip to Assisi, Italy, saying it "conveyed the humble nature of St. Francis, and took us there."

McElwee is the author of *10 Things Pope Francis Wants You to Know About the Family* from Liguori Publications and is co-editor alongside Cindy Wooden of [A Pope Francis Lexicon](#) [6] from Liturgical Press.

A graduate of The Catholic University of America, McElwee has reported for NCR from 21 countries. He and his wife Kate serve on the pastoral council of Rome's Caravita community.

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- [1] http://www.rna.org/?page=2013_contest_archive
- [2] <http://www.rna.org/news/news.asp?id=230741>
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