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REPORT

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Preview our Jan. 3 Pro-Life Special Section

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
Pro-Life
JANUARY 3, 2014 NCRCOnline.org

EXECUTIONS
Deported Drugs
By David Mervin
See how the U.S. is sending prisoners to other countries for their crimes.

Our Lady of the Mission for Dorothy Dickson, right, observes at a funeral Mass in St. Louis, Mo.
—Catholic Action missionary student Marisa Brooks, center, observes for AARP at a funeral Mass in St. Louis, Mo.

Death penalty opponents hold a vigil for a slain woman
—Catholic Action missionary student Marisa Brooks, center, observes for AARP at a funeral Mass in St. Louis, Mo.

A deeper look at the consistent ethic of life
By Dawn H. Hoffmeyer

In late October 2013, the Catholic media was abuzz with the so-called "consistency" of the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardini's purportedly "dead" consistent ethic of life. Also known as the "consistent ethic of life," this doctrine is the moral baseline for Catholics. While I readily join in the enthusiasm, I also believe we must look deeper, beyond the surface attributes and common understandings of the word "consistent" that often obscure the word's true meaning. In a 2009 study, I also noted that there are several reasons why adherence to the "consistent ethic of life" was quite low. In the *American Catholic* and the *Journal of Law, Ethics & Religion*, I also cited data from 1998 and 1999 studies that suggested that its consistent reception in several ways:

- U.S. Catholics are both utilitarian and believers. But U.S. individuals often change both sides of the utilitarian coin.

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Our Lady of the Mission for Dorothy Dickson, right, observes at a funeral Mass in St. Louis, Mo.
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A man wakes up after sleeping in a tent on downtown Los Angeles
—Tom Ivers
A man wakes up after sleeping in a tent on downtown Los Angeles' Tom Ivers in early March.

Keep Families Together
By Thomas H. Shannon
Shannon should share a rally for anti-prostitution efforts in Los Angeles April 12.

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online. These sections only appear in our print and Kindle editions, and they explore topics important to today's Catholics, including Environment, Catholic Education, Family Life and Theology.

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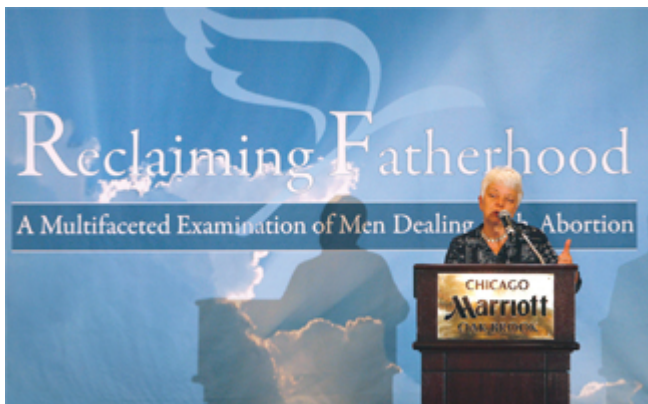
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A deeper look at the consistent ethic of life

By Dawn M. Nothwehr

In late October 2013, the Catholic media was abuzz with the seeming "resurrection" of the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's purportedly "dead" consistent ethic of life, also known as the seamless garment approach to Catholic ethics. While I readily join in the excitement, I also believe we must look deeper, beyond the surface attributions many commentators provide for why not all Catholics share this enthusiasm. Sadly, this media flurry has also been the occasion for a rise in heated comparative discussions and surfacing the ugly head of Catholic polemics. This is not at all surprising, but it actually confirms the need that Bernardin (1928-96) addressed in his consistent ethic of life, and more explicitly in the Catholic Common Ground Initiative. ... NEWSPAPER ONLY



Project Rachel marks 30 years of healing

By [Megan Fincher](#) [6]

Project Rachel, the church's postabortion ministry, is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2014, as well as

its first full-time staff position in the U.S. Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

At their general assembly in November, the U.S. bishops approved the use of grant money from the Knights of Columbus to fund a full-time staff position specifically for post-abortion ministries. Almost all U.S. dioceses offer such ministries, commonly called Project Rachel, with a shared mission ? ?Women can find forgiveness and peace of heart through compassionate counseling and the Sacrament of Reconciliation,? according to the church?s website, hopeafterabortion.org [7]. ... NEWSPAPER ONLY



Gun violence myths debunked; quest for profits exposed

Reviewed by Dennis McDaniel

Though many have seen the problem of gun violence and mass killing in the United States as a matter of moral depravity, few have argued as persuasively as Tom Diaz that the root of the problem lies in the deadly sin of greed. Through a painstakingly researched and carefully documented body of facts and anecdotes, *The Last Gun* challenges the myths of liberty and security purveyed by the gun industry and the gun lobby that serves it, and exposes the quest for profit that drives these myths. ... NEWSPAPER ONLY



States face dwindling sources for lethal injection drugs

By [Brian Roewe](#) [8]

When the state of Missouri on Nov. 20 executed Joseph Paul Franklin ? a 63-year-old who targeted Jews and African-Americans in a late-1970s interstate killing spree ? it used a single drug. A compounded version of pentobarbital ended Franklin?s life in 10 minutes, with media witnesses reporting no apparent signs of pain.

In the past, Missouri, as did most death penalty states, used a threedrug process as standard protocol for its death row executions. But recent years have seen the mechanics of killing change, much of it attributed to the lack of access to the drugs needed to make the traditional pharmaceutical cocktail ... NEWSPAPER ONLY

New survey studies end-of-life attitudes

By Religion News Service

WASHINGTON: Death may be inevitable, but one in three Americans ? including most blacks and Hispanics ? want doctors to never quit fighting it, a recent survey finds.

In 1990, 15 percent of U.S. adults said doctors should do everything possible for a patient, even in the face of incurable illness and pain. Today, 31 percent hold that view, according to a report released Nov. 21 by the Pew Research Center?s Religion & Public Life Project. Sixtysix percent of U.S. adults still say there are circumstances when a patient should be allowed to die. ... NEWSPAPER ONLY

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