



## FOCUS E-News

July 9 - 15, 2017 Edition

***Honor the Mary of Magdala in your life!***

Did you miss an issue of our weekly FOCUS E-News? Catch up!

[Download your St. Mary of Magdala resource for 2017!](#)

**[Celebrate St. Mary of Magdala in Cleveland on June 20!](#)**

[Start a conversation on women deacons!](#)

**[Register for 2nd women deacons retreat!](#)**

**[New! Urge leaders to support Cardinal Arborelius' suggestion for a College of Women Advisors](#)**

**[Last chance to sign up for our Greece pilgrimage with Sr. Chris Schenk!](#)**

**From the Executive Director,  
Deborah Rose-Milavec**

The news of [scandals](#) in Rome continues to fill our inboxes, some of these news sources bent on eroding the credibility of a pope who wants to open the church, yet there is so much happening that evokes hope, even joy, as we work together as sisters and brothers to build a better church and world.



This week, [Nancy Dallavalle](#) at **Catholic Women Preach** challenges us to believe less in what Facebook can tell us about each other, offering some very good news on the what it means to know one another in Christ.

[Kerry Robinson](#) recasts the **focus on women's leadership in the Catholic Church** saying she believes that empowering women to take up leadership in the Catholic Church isn't a favor to women, but a gift the Church deserves.

[Luke Hansen, SJ](#), challenges **our narrow and literal notion of Maria Goretti's purity** and asked Catholics to be aware, even outraged, at the ubiquitous violence perpetrated against women everywhere.

Bob Shine offers an overview of [DignityUSA's conference](#) highlighting the voices of Catholics working for LGBTQI justice offering hope and encouragement to all.

**Women Church Convergence** reached out to Catholics in the Springfield, IL diocese, offering [a pastoral response to Catholics](#) in the face of Bishop Paprocki's harmful decree.

**A new bishop has been named to the Cleveland diocese.** Bishop Nelson Perez comes from the Diocese of Rockville Center, New York. He is Chair of the Subcommittee for Hispanic Affairs and, from previous comments, seems to be a Francis bishop. We are looking forward to collaborating

with Bishop Perez on the many issues that face the local and wider church. FutureChurch's press statement is [here](#).

There are so many reasons to be hope-filled...and so many reasons to continue the work our foremothers and forefathers in faith began. I encourage you to **take action today!**

[Honor the Marys of Magdala in your life by supporting Catholic women preachers](#)

[DeaconChat: Start a Conversation on Women Deacons](#)

[Write a letter to our U.S. cardinals asking them to support Cardinal Anders Arborelius' idea of a College of Women advisors to Pope Francis](#)

[Open the discussion on married priests](#)

### **Cardinal Kevin Farrell: Time to implement Vatican II's teaching on laity**

"This is a moment in the life of the church where we can really try to implement what the Second Vatican Council already spoke about, which is the role of the laity in the church," Cardinal Kevin Farrell said in an exclusive interview with **America** in his office in Rome.

The implementation "has been slowed down at times for various reasons," the prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, the



Family and Life said.

[Read more](#)

## A Synod -- a revolution

Theologian Maureen K. Day reported that the Diocese of San Diego made waves last year on the Southwest shores of our nation. In late October 2016, Bishop Robert McElroy held a synod on the family, called *Embracing the Joy of Love*, in response to Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "*Amoris Laetitia*," released earlier that year. I served as the theologian for the group that discussed the welcoming and forming of children.



Both secular and religious news sources did an excellent job bringing the content of the synod to the world. But they could not quite capture one important element: The whole event was revolutionary. Bishop McElroy highlighted the broader significance of the occasion in his opening homily, saying to the roughly 125 participants, "We recognize that this very act of gathering in the name and grace of our God is a profound declaration of ecclesial identity, hope and witness."

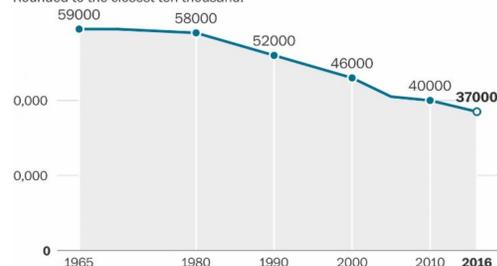
[Read more](#)

## Editorial: Its time to welcome married priests

The vast majority of Catholic clergy are good and holy men. The world is a better place because of Catholic priests over the past two millennia. They have founded universities, charities, hospitals, orphanages,

**The number of Catholic priests in the U.S.**

Rounded to the closest ten thousand.



Source: CARA, Georgetown University

SARAH PULLIAM BAILEY / THE WASHINGTON POST

and helped save a billion souls. But the sordid crimes of a small minority of clergymen and the efforts of the hierarchy to cover them up have severely tarnished the reputation of the Catholic Church and dealt a severe blow to all of her faithful.

Disgusted Catholics in the West have been leaving in droves. In the U.S., the number of Catholics has dropped by more than 3 million in the past decade.

Even more striking is the rapidly declining number of priests. The shortage has become so severe that, worldwide, there is an average of just one priest for every 3,000 Catholics.

[Read more](#)

### **Married priests: contributions and conflicts**

NCR contributor Bill Tammeus writes about the experience of married men in ministry from his perspective as a Presbyterian elder. He recalls writing about a married Catholic priest, a convert, who felt conflicted about introducing married priests into the Catholic Church.

The married priest loved his wife and loved the Catholic Church. He said he felt married to both, but that divided loyalty wasn't easy. Indeed, he told me that if he had been a Catholic official with the authority to approve his request to convert to Catholicism and become a priest, he might well have said no.

All of that came to mind recently



as Tammus read the [NCR story from Dublin](#) about the retired bishop of Portsmouth, England, saying that the ordination of married men to the priesthood "needs to be explored openly within the church in England and Wales at national and diocesan levels."

[Read more](#)

## **The Politics of Pope Francis**

Robert Mickens, commenting on Cardinal Ludwig Muller's contention that his replacement is part of a larger policy change by Pope Francis, asks, "Who's the next president or prefect of a major Vatican department that Pope Francis will let go?"



Mickens writes that many heads could start to roll. That is if Cardinal Ludwig Muller is right and the pope really has decided to replace Roman Curia chieftains at the completion of their five-year terms.

Francis must have adopted this new policy at the very last minute. Because a mere six days before Muller reached the conclusion of his quinquennium on July 2, Archbishop Jean-Louis Brugues OP already completed his first five years as Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church.

[Read more](#)

## **Bishop Murry sends out survey to youth for 2018 synod**

Bishop George V. Murry wants high-school youths and young adults in the Diocese of

Youngstown to be part of Synod of Bishops surveys on the topic "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment."



Bishop Murry asked diocesan parishes and Catholic high schools to reach out and invite high-school teens, young adults age 19 to 30, their parents and family members as well as church leaders to participate by completing the surveys.

"I want us to be part of forming the documentation for the preparation for the synod," the bishop said.

More than 150 surveys had been completed by June 15, said Cindee Case, director of the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

[Read more](#)

Examples of other surveys from the U.S. and around the world

[Diocese of Camden survey](#)

[Diocese of Cleveland survey](#)

[Diocese of Lansing survey](#)

[Diocese of Kerry survey](#)

[Australian bishops survey](#)

[Diocese of Birmingham, AL](#)

[Diocese of Des Moines](#)

[Diocese of Erie, PA](#)

[Diocese of Austin](#)

[Diocese of Washington](#)

Reports from youth survey

[Report from youth survey-](#)

[Newcastle](#)

## **Commentary on Cardinal Müller's complaints against the Pope**

In LaCroix International, Jesuit Michael Kelly writes that Cardinal Gerhard Müller's

criticism of Pope Francis' termination of his tenure as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) is simply astonishing. His complaint is that he had no warning and the termination was a summary dismissal.



In recent months, the cardinal's had three of his clerical employees sent packing from the CDF for their reported resistance to the current pope's agenda. Again, and as the world knows, the two lay people who resigned from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors left explicitly because of their frustration with the obstacles and blockages that CDF staff placed before action and reform. Cardinal Müller denied there was any problem.

[Read more](#)

### **The subversive act of breaking bread together**

Fr. Brian Massingale asks, "If eating expresses who counts and matters in a society, then Jesus' meal practices and our communion hymns stretch our social imaginations and the boundaries we place upon our inclusion, welcome, and embrace. Does our worship facilitate an encounter with Jesus' subversive memory?"

[Read more](#)



**You won't want to miss these  
FutureChurch events!**

**Please support this work!**



## **SAVE THE DATE! FutureChurch Fall Event**

October 27, 2017  
Cleveland, Ohio

Sr. Sandra Schneiders  
John's Gospel: Blueprint for the Future  
of Parish Life

[Learn more](#)



Learn what you can do to save your  
parish community

FutureChurch supports parishioners who want to preserve their parish community from being merged or closed. In doing so we have, together, changed Vatican policy. This FutureChurch initiative is designed to provide Catholics with tools to defend their parish homes has contributed to a highly significant change in Vatican policy.

[Learn more](#)



## **Follow in the footsteps of our foremothers --- in Greece!**

From **October 5 - 14, 2017** join **FutureChurch** as we explore the **archaeological sites of early Christian women**. This pilgrimage will focus on the influence of women on the spirituality and history of Christianity. Sr. Christine Schenk will serve as educational director and Russ Petrus, FutureChurch program director will serve as spiritual director.

[Read more](#)



## **EMERGING MODELS** OF PARISH AND COMMUNITY LIFE

New! Emerging Models of Parish and  
Community Life  
2017 - 2018 SERIES

September 13, 2017  
Association of US Catholic  
Priests Priestless Parishes

October 23, 2017  
Professor Ed Hahnenberg  
Emerging Models for Ministry

October 27, 2017  
Sr. Sandra Schneiders  
John's Gospel: Blueprint for the Future  
of Parish Life

November 8, 2017  
Fr. Robert D. Duch

January 17, 2018  
Jamie Manson  
Religious Life for the Next Generation

February 7, 2018  
Chris Lowney  
Everyone Leads: How to Revitalize the  
Catholic Church

[Learn more](#)

## Check out events offered by our friends

**2017 CALL TO ACTION  
EAST COAST CONFERENCE  
CTA Chapters from Maine to Florida**

**Justice and Mercy Under the Trump Administration**  
"...to do justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

**Friday and Saturday, October 20 – 21, 2017**

**Double Tree by Hilton, Baltimore BWI Airport  
890 Elkridge Landing Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090**

### Keynote Speakers

**Sr. Simone Campbell: "Justice and Mercy Under a Trump  
Administration"**

**Dr. Greer Gordon: "Racism in the Church and Society"  
Sr. Patty Chappell: "Pax Christi: Being a People of Peace"**

### Focus Presentations

**LGBT and the Welcoming Church  
Caring for the Earth, Our Common Home**

**Immigration, Sanctuary, and Human Rights for All  
Transgender and Intersex Identities and the Family  
Jews and Muslims...Our Sisters and Brothers**

**Registration Materials Coming Soon**

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443-275-1180**



