

## [Opinion](#)



by Heidi Schlumpf

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Part 2 of NCR's three-part series on the Catholic campus outreach group FOCUS [looks at the group's substantial resources and connections to conservative groups and funders](#). ICYMI: [Part 1 was an overview of the organization](#) and its emphasis on the new evangelization. (And Part 3 on its move into parishes will run tomorrow.)

On the topic of young people, the pope is talking to them — not about them, [during the pre-meeting to October's synod on young people](#).

New York Times columnist Russ Douthat's new book on the pope should be shelved in the fiction section, says Distinctly Catholic columnist [Michael Sean Winters in his review of "To Change the Church."](#) And that's the nice thing he has to say about it.

In the wake of the "[lettergate scandal](#)," in which the Vatican doctored portions of a letter from Pope Benedict that expressed concerns about the current papal administration, [Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of his communications czar](#).

In other Vatican news, the [pope will celebrate Holy Thursday Mass at a prison](#), where he will wash the feet of sick prisoners. (And it's official: [the pope is going to Ireland in August](#).)

Another great series in NCR's sister publication, Global Sisters Report, is on [black spiritual traditions in the church](#).

In a last-minute decision, the [U.S. Supreme Court halted the execution of a Missouri man](#). Four justices — including Catholics Roberts, Alito and Thomas, plus Gorsuch, who was raised Catholic — voted against the stay of execution.

The [pastor of a Chicago parish well-known for offering Mass in Latin has been removed](#) after allegations of sexual misconduct with an adult male. Fr. C. Frank Phillips founded the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, under the Resurrectionists, who will investigate the allegation.

A high-ranking [Mormon leader has admitted that he molested at least one young woman](#) and said he had a "sexual addiction" he struggled with all his life.

Have you seen the meme that says physicist Stephen Hawking converted to Christianity on his deathbed? [Not true](#).

### **Opinion:**

On the occasion of his 75th birthday, Capuchin Fr. [Richard Rohr reflects on how the Holy Spirit has blown through his life](#). Happy belated!

### **Listen up!**

As part of Women's History Month, the hosts at [Pantsuit Politics](#) interviewed Claire Swinarski, a self-described Catholic feminist ([with a podcast of her own](#)) about her pro-life beliefs and abortion politics. It was a reasoned conversation, which you don't see often in this debate. The listener feedback (which I haven't listened to yet) is [here](#).

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