



by Heidi Schlumpf

[View Author Profile](#)

hschlumpf@ncronline.org

Follow on Twitter at [@heidischlumpf](https://twitter.com/heidischlumpf)

[Join the Conversation](#)

President Trump will address the National Rifle Association today in Dallas. [Columnist Michael Sean Winters explains that while overall gun violence and gun ownership are both down, gun violence is worse because of the ability of assault weapons](#) to kill many people at once.

[Catholic colleges and universities are arguing they should be exempt from laws they claim conflict with their Catholic missions](#), but it's difficult to understand how anti-discrimination statutes or the right to unionize conflict with a Catholic mission. One example, [Chestnut Hill College in Pennsylvania, which is now awaiting mediation about a racial discrimination case](#) after losing in state court.

Arizona parents are breathing sighs of relief as their children head back to school today. The governor has agreed to [a substantial raise for teachers and more funds for their classrooms](#). It's the fourth state to successfully win education concessions from conservative lawmakers.

After meeting with four German bishops, the Vatican has asked them to [adapt a proposal to allow non-Catholic spouses to receive communion](#) so it might satisfy objections from a minority of the country's prelates.

Inspired by their Catholic faith, [volunteers from a new ministry accompany detainees to immigration court](#)—they're literally living out Pope Francis' call for a theology of accompaniment.

Former NBC anchor [Tom Brokaw has withdrawn as the commencement speaker for Sacred Heart University](#) in Fairfield, Connecticut. Find this and other college and university news in Campus Notebook.

Opinion:

Yesterday, during the National Day of Prayer at the White house, the president signed an executive order for [a new Faith and Opportunity Initiative](#), similar to ones by his predecessors. In a press release, the U.S. bishops said they look forward to working with the administration on the initiative, but [columnist Mark Silk says it guts a key protection](#).

[If you read only one book about Dan Berrigan, *At Play in the Lions' Den* by Jim Forest is it](#), says our reviewer.

Listen up!

Since I had the chance to tour the new audio and video studio at America Media while in New York this week, I'll give a plug for their Jesuitical podcast. [Last week, the hosts talked with memoirist Mary Karr.](#)

If you enjoy Morning Briefing, consider [contributing a one-time or recurring gift to NCR](#). We'd be happy (not "chronically unhappy," as one bishop put it) if you would help support the important Catholic journalism we provide for the church.

Advertisement