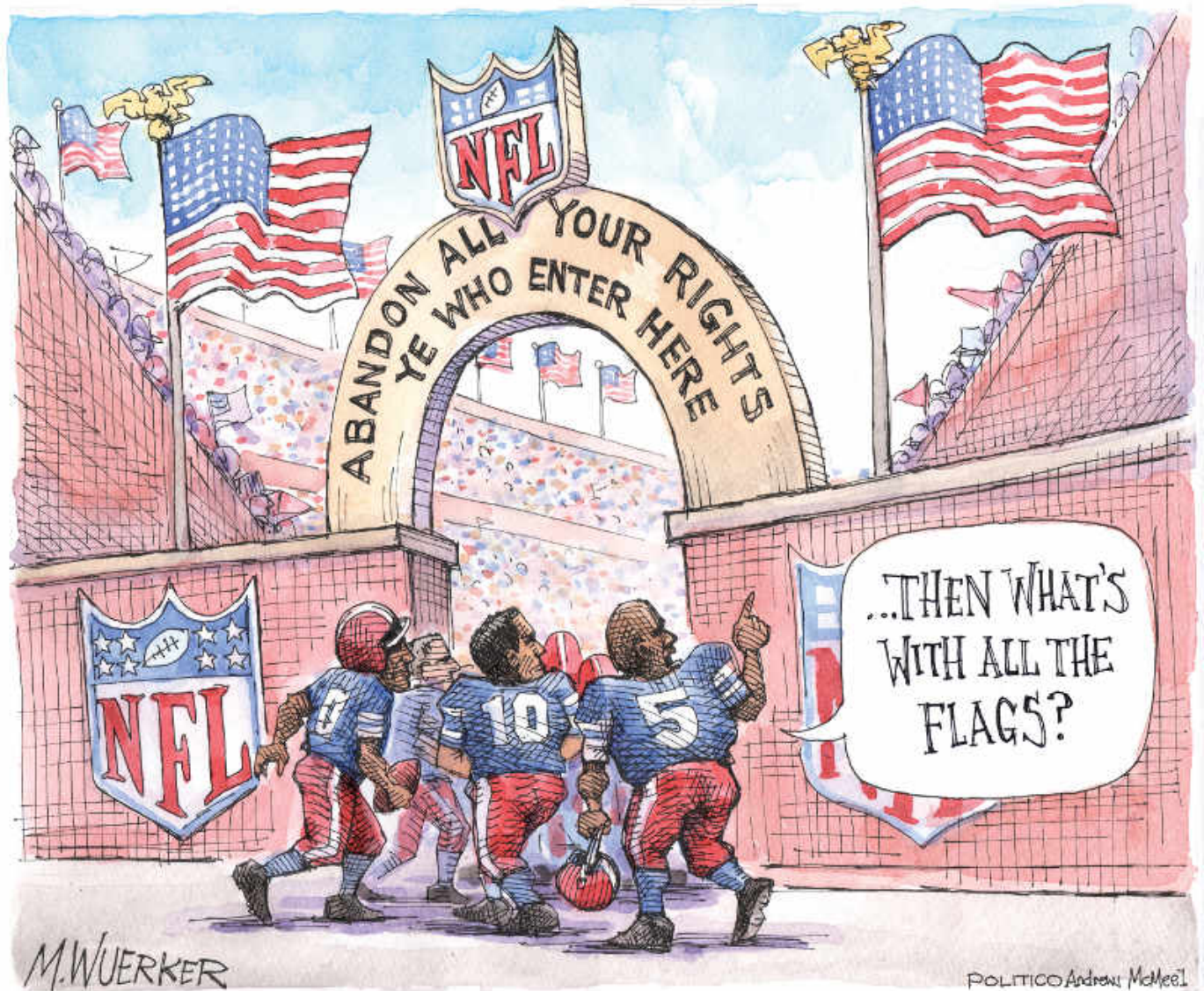


[Opinion](#)



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Yesterday, began with a bit of excitement as our Vatican correspondent Joshua McElwee informed us that [Pope Francis was sending letter to Chile about the sex abuse scandal there.](#) Our afternoon and evening got busy when the text of the actual letter was published. Josh filed this story (very late in Rome): [In letter to Chileans, Francis decries church's 'culture of abuse and cover-up'](#). With Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta dispatched to Chile for the second time in three months to look into the local church's handling of abuse you know this is a developing story. Stay tuned to NCR for more reporting.

As the Chile-Pope-abuse story was unfolding, NCR staff writer Brian Roewe saw a notice that sex abuse attorney Jeff Anderson had scheduled a press conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, for yesterday afternoon, Roewe received a note from a source saying "you will want to tune in for the historical moment." The resulting story was [**\\$210 million settlement announced in St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese bankruptcy case**](#). We updated that story three times yesterday, so you better check out the latest version to make sure you've seen the full story.

That, too, is a developing story that Roewe will be following, so please stay tuned to NCR. Anticipating the historic nature of the St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocese settlement, we mined the resources of [BishopsAccountability.org](#) and put together this little backgrounder: [**List of Catholic dioceses and orders that filed for bankruptcy and other major settlements**](#)

Canberra, Australia -- On Wednesday, the Catholic bishops conference and religious orders joined a federal government redress plan for victims of child sexual abuse in Australian institutions. Thursday the [**Anglican Church, Salvation Army, Scouts Australia and the Young Men's Christian Association, better known as YMCA, committed to join the plan.**](#) 80 percent of Australia's 60,000 known abuse victims were now covered by the plan.

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Other news we're following right now:

- [**Fifteen killed in Nicaragua protests**](#) Pro-government groups have opened fire on marchers in Nicaragua, witnesses say, killing at least 15 as more than a month of violence in the country continues.
- A deacon's personal account of parenting a transgender child. [**Transgender and Catholic: A parent's perspective**](#)
- [**U.S. Thwarted in Bid to Change U.N. Human Rights Council's Approach to Israel**](#) Some diplomats fear the United States might now exit the council.
- [**Baptist church removing Jesus statue it deems too 'Catholic'**](#)

And some recommended reading:

- Montreal, Canada -- Global Sisters Report sent reporter Dana Wacker to cover the meeting of Canadian Religious Conference. The message they heard: [**Rethink what Catholic religious life can be.**](#) Accept the changed climate of religious life and find new ways to move forward in equal alliance with laypeople.
- Ottawa, Canada -- As part of its attempts to bring healing and reconciliation to Indigenous children who suffered abuse in residential schools [**the federal government is seeking a Catholic coalition's help securing a papal apology - but it's not likely to help**](#)
- Fr. Charles Curran offers this reflection: [**Canonization is right for Óscar Romero, a true Christian martyr**](#)
- Michael Sean Winters takes a look at Matthew Stewart's important essay in the June issue of Atlantic Monthly, "The Birth of a New Aristocracy" (online as "[**The 9.9 Percent Is the New American Aristocracy**](#)"). Read Winter's [**Part 1 here**](#) and [**Part 2 here**](#).

Have you been inspired by Pope Francis' exhortation [**Gaudete et Exsultate \("Rejoice and Be Glad"\)**](#) to join [**the journey of 'small holiness'**](#), NCR and Celebration have the resources to help:

- Start your day inspired with daily Scripture reflections. Join NCR's sister publication, Celebration, for [**Daily Bread**](#), a series of short reflections written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings.
- Or reflect on [**Pencil Preaching by Pat Marrin**](#). Every morning Pat Marrin breaks open the Word with a pencil sketch and a short meditation.