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July 16, 2019

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*Our team of copy editors reads and posts most of what you see on the websites for National Catholic Reporter and Global Sisters Report (the NCR project focusing on women religious). The Copy Desk Daily highlights recommended news and opinion articles that have crossed our desks on their way to you.*

**[The rise of EWTN: from piety to partisanship](#)**: Heidi Schlumpf begins an extensive report on EWTN's growth into an influential media empire, and how the network became "the media star in a web of connections including wealthy conservative Catholic donors and some of the most public anti-Pope Francis forces in the Catholic world."

**[Across US, 'Lights for Liberty' shine in solidarity with immigrants](#)** On July 12, in cities throughout the country, pro-immigrant demonstrators held coordinated protests. Amid prayers from faith leaders and statements on protesters' signs, a common denominator: defiant compassion.

**[As U.S.-Iran tensions escalate, is any room left for negotiations?](#)** "Trump became president promising no more 'stupid wars' in the Middle East. Ironically, he could stumble into a new one, aided and abetted by his bellicose foreign policy team." An analysis by Margot Patterson.

Fr. Peter Daly makes things clear: "Celibacy harms the church and damages the lives of most priests." Further, "If the priesthood is to be reformed, it first must survive": **[The priesthood is being crucified on the cross of celibacy](#)**.

**[Q & A with Sr. Marcia Hall, producing a film encouraging African American vocations](#)**: The Oblate Sisters of Providence's vocations director saw the need for a video that portrayed the experiences of young black religious.

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