

## [Opinion](#)



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For decades, synods put on a show of dialogue only to arrive at papal-approved conclusions. NCR's editorial today contends that Pope Francis has changed the game, bringing on no-holds barred discussions and the complexities that come with them. As we saw in the recent synod for the Amazon, **[genuine dialogue takes church into unscripted territory](#)**.

The **[Francis pontificate is 'a place of spiritual combat,' claims papal biographer](#)** Austen Ivereigh. He told an audience at Fordham University that while Francis remains popular in the pews, the largely U.S.-made right-wing resistance has created a struggle.

At Villanova University, they're dissecting the church's sexual abuse crisis in an ongoing speaker series. On Friday, theologian Fr. Richard Lennan put forth the **[need for regular conversion in the church](#)**. The bishops' cover-up of abuse epitomized the harm of "communal forgetfulness and sinful disregard of self-criticism."

Sr. Mary Jaeger recounts the collaborative venture between two congregations of women religious in South Dakota. They're bringing health care to the "middle of nowhere," with [\*\*25 years of making a positive impact through telemedicine.\*\*](#)

"When you're weary, feeling small ..." Young Voices columnist Rebecca Collins Jordan experienced a transformation in her Catholic spiritual life thanks to two Jewish New Yorkers: [\*\*How Simon and Garfunkel settled my years of doubt.\*\*](#)

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