

[Opinion](#)



by Tracy Abeln

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Recommended for you today, from the NCR/GSR/EarthBeat copy desk:

We've got two, big, different and equally engaging front page stories for you today.

- From NCR: Distancing measures have severed the ability to pray in community, a practice that animates many Latinos in the U.S. who see relationships as an integral part of their Catholic, spiritual expression. Read: [Isolated from communal prayer, Latino Catholics rediscover spiritual roots](#) by GSR staff reporter Soli Salgado.
- On GSR, something for the history buffs (lots of photos, too) or anyone wishing to learn about how past pandemics were handled. This story is told through the lives of the women religious of earlier days. For centuries, nuns both in Europe and as immigrants to the U.S. have been ahead of their time, bringing fervor and entrepreneurial skill to their mission of tending the sick and preventing illnesses from spreading. [Read more.](#)

Young Voices contributor Christian Mocek is the director of annual giving at St. Meinrad, a Benedictine monastery, seminary and school of theology. He lives in New Albany, Indiana, with his wife and son, who have been spending a lot more time together lately. He says: "Quarantine has been an unexpected spiritual practice in so

many ways. One thing I hope is that it is teaching us to be connected." [Read more.](#)

Notes from the Field contributor Celine Reinoso is a Loretto Volunteer in El Paso, Texas, working at Villa Maria, a transitional homeless shelter for women. Of course, coronavirus rules are affecting how she can work. She says: "Self-isolation hasn't stopped my activism and service in the fight for social justice, but it has challenged me to advocate in new ways." [Read more.](#)

Lindy Brasher is a youth minister from Monroe, Louisiana, who recently earned a master's degree in religious education from Loyola University in New Orleans. She will begin working on a master's degree in spirituality at Fordham University in May 2020 in pursuit of a Doctorate of Ministry. This is [her Small Earth Story](#) about what happens when class goes outdoors.

You can contribute your own Small Earth Story to EarthBeat, too! [Find out how.](#)

We wanted to share a message with you from our CEO Tom Fox: [NCR receives paycheck protection loan to help with coronavirus constraints](#)

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