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August 26, 2020

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[Transgender Catholics criticize retiring archbishop's letter on 'gender ideology'](#)

"Must we show understanding and compassion? Yes, always!" wrote Archbishop Robert Carlson. "Does that mean compromising what Jesus offers ... Or accepting false dichotomies, like a division between the sex a person has and the sex a person wants to have, or wants others to perceive the person as having? No, never."

[Author hopes to trace 'an evolution of Catholic storytelling'](#): Author Nick Ripatrazone includes "in the canon of contemporary Catholic fiction several novelists not usually labeled as Catholic writers: Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon, Cormac McCarthy, Toni Morrison and Louise Erdrich," writes Paul Lakeland. "It is to Ripatrazone's credit that he makes a good case for at least the vestiges of Catholic impulses or religious faith in their work."

This week, Michael Sean Winters provides recaps of each evening of the Republican National Convention. You can read [his reaction to the first night](#). His thoughts on Tuesday evening will be posted this morning; it will be available on [his column page here](#).

[Creating campus cultures that welcome, even virtually, during the pandemic](#)

Marcus Mescher writes, "As we begin a new school year, we face the challenges of coping with and preventing the spread of the virus as well as how to

effectively engage young people if we're not cultivating rapport, respect and co-responsibility together in the classroom."

Bishop Cantú: Californians 'on edge' as historic wildfires rage: "People are just stunned, with the pandemic and the downturn in the economy and the racial issues and then on top of that, the wildfires," Bishop Oscar Cantú of San Jose told Catholic News Service. "It makes you wonder, what else? All we need is an earthquake."

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