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A nurse in Richmond, Virginia, readies a syringe with the COVID-19 vaccine at the Richmond Raceway complex March 4. (CNS/Julia Rendleman, Reuters)



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**Editor's note:** *"The Francis Effect" is in its eighth season, with co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Dan Horan and David Dault plus NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf. The podcast airs every other Wednesday and is available here on NCR's site as well as on various podcast apps.*

In this episode, NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf, Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan (columnist for NCR's "Faith Seeking Understanding") and David Dault, executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations about Culture and Faith," look at the strange path to COVID-19 relief, the conflicting messages of the bishops regarding vaccines and the recent papal visit to Iraq.

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