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Pope Francis gives his blessing to a group of people after celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 11 to mark the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. (CNS/Vatican Media)



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NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf is part of the new season of "The Francis Effect" podcast, joining co-hosts Franciscan Fr. Daniel Horan ([columnist for NCR](#)) and [David Dault](#), executive producer and host of "Things Not Seen: Conversations About Culture and Faith."

Heidi, Father Daniel and David discuss the Second Vatican Council and [the anniversary of its opening](#); the trio takes a look at the [upcoming midterm elections](#); and they talk about what to watch and read.

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