

## [Opinion](#)

by Mick Forgey

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#### [In Japan, Francis might be at odds with government on nuclear power,](#)

[peace](#): The pope will visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki and likely make a strong call to abolish nuclear weapons worldwide. But experts say Francis may take on other issues that would give his trip a political charge.

[Hope for creation never runs dry](#): "The Amazon is burning, storms are raging, islands are drowning ... laws meant to protect our planet are being lifted — and we have reason to hope? Yes, we do have reason to hope!"

NCR is on the ground, observing and reporting on the U.S. bishops' plenary assembly. From Heidi Schlumpf and Michael Sean Winters, respectively:

#### [Papal nuncio to US bishops: 'Reflect prayerfully' on communion with pope's](#)

[teachings](#): Archbishop Christophe Pierre told bishops that "the pastoral thrust of this pontificate must reach the American people."

#### [US bishops: Consensus by bromides](#): "They are firm in their commitment to

rhetorical mush, steadfast in the defense of compromise, decisive about their indecision, bold in their proclamation of the banal."

All coverage of the assembly will be collected at feature series page [USCCB Fall Assembly 2019](#).

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