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Heidi Schlumpf, Joshua McElwee and Asad Dandia discuss Pope Francis' visit to Iraq in a March 10 livestream. (YouTube screenshot)



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In this live conversation, NCR executive editor Heidi Schlumpf speaks with Vatican correspondent Joshua McElwee, who accompanied Pope Francis to Iraq as part of the press pool, and Asad Dandia, a writer and graduate student of Islamic studies at Columbia University.

Background reading:

- [Read all of our coverage of the papal trip to Iraq](#), including Joshua's reporting.
- In our recent editorial, [we say](#): Pope Francis' trip showed solidarity with suffering Iraqis, but shocking disregard for the pandemic.
- Asad Dandia wrote for NCR in 2020 after the release of *Fratelli Tutti*, saying that the encyclical [offers a new language for Muslim-Catholic solidarity](#).

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This story appears in the **Pope Francis in Iraq** feature series. [View the full series](#).