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NATIONAL CATHOLIC

REPORTER

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

McGraw-Hill

August 1-16, 2022

Vol. 58, No. 22 \$2.00



Pope Francis greets at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Fatima, Portugal, July 25 at Fatima, Portugal.

Gay woman wins battle against US bishops to become foster parent

By BRIAN FRAGA
Religion writer

Ruby Baker was in legal battle to become a foster parent to rescue children. But Easter still feels like she's "in limbo."

"I don't know what to make of it," Baker said of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' opposition earlier this year that "is unfortunately" causing one of the fundraising agencies in 2021 to deny her application to become a foster parent because she is gay.

Baker and one of her sisters told NCR that they expect to find out how that mislabeling happened. They also arranged to learn if the bishops' opposition would mean to write her sister, Lisa, if Baker, who is single, begins dating or marries a woman.

"We never did get answers to those questions," said Kenneth Upton, an attorney with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, Americans United and Lambda Legal, a civil rights organization that supports the LGBTQ community represented Baker.

"I am sorry," said Francis. "I am sorry for the bishops." *Continued on Page 8*

NEWS

REPORTER
Pope Francis made an historic speech during a week-long trip to Canada in late July, saying he was "deeply sorry" for the Catholic Church's "colonialist" involvement in remaining abusive residential schools for Indigenous children.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the environment by western Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said on July 27 during a solemn meeting with Indigenous representatives, while visiting the former residential school site.

Pope apologizes to Canada's Indigenous

By CHRISTOPHER WHITE
Religion writer

HONOLULU — Pope Francis made an historic speech during a week-long trip to Canada in late July, saying he was "deeply sorry" for the Catholic Church's "colonialist" involvement in remaining abusive residential schools for Indigenous children.

"I humbly beg forgiveness for the environment by western Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said on July 27 during a solemn meeting with Indigenous representatives, while visiting the former residential school site.

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NEWS

REPORTER
Public hospitals in Zimbabwe have experienced significant labor shortages in recent months, with staff at many hospitals going on strike to protest pay cuts in a country where the rate of currency inflation has reached 100%.

Staff at Catholic hospitals in the southern African nation are trying to pick up the slack, but are also struggling with the workload and the nation's worsening economic conditions.

Dr. Thebe Sibilo, a physician at the Catholic-run St. Anne's Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe's southeast, has been treated in all kinds of life-saving medical practices. But lately because of more frequent electricity outages, he has had to adapt to providing aid under candle or kerosene light.

"We are struggling," Sibilo told NCR of the staff at his hospital. "It

Catholic hospitals struggle to aid collapsing Zimbabwe system

By THANDWA KAROVIC



Health workers led by nurses take part in a demonstration over salaries at Parirere hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, June 2. A strike by health workers has left the country's major hospitals undermanned. Catholic hospitals are trying to pick up the slack, but are also struggling with the workload and the nation's worsening economic conditions.

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Is this threat of reform real?
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dilemma of US
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NATIONAL CATHOLIC

REPORTER

THE INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE

McGraw-Hill

August 19-SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Vol. 58, No. 23 \$2.00



Voters in Marietta, Georgia, line up to cast ballots in the U.S. Senate runoff election on Oct. 5, 2021.

Climate-concerned voters ready to bring faith to midterm polls

By BRIAN ROEWE
Environment writer

With less than 100 days until the midterm elections, a national network of state-based environmental faith groups is gearing up for a final push to register their communities to vote and their own faith with voting the crucial final weekend.

Since the spring, Interfaith Power & Light has mobilized its state chapters to engage their local congregations through its Faith Climate Justice Scorecard campaign. The effort seeks to increase the number of registered voters and to educate congregants of all religious traditions about the importance of voting and what's at stake in the coming elections for the environment, climate change and democracy.

"The reality is that in order to create this world that is built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

"The reality is that in order to create this world that is built on our values, we have to vote," said Rev. Susan Strickerhoff, president of Interfaith Power & Light. "Voting is a way that we can create the world that we want to live in, and a world in which we're voting for our neighbors and voting for the environment, climate change and democracy."

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NEWS

REPORTER
The Napa Institute conference focuses on banning abortion nationwide.

Napa Institute conference focuses on banning abortion nationwide

By BRIAN FRAGA
Religion writer

On the evening of July 16, former U.S. Attorney General William Barr addressed a friendly audience that once three days at the Napa Institute's annual summit on abortion care had heard more than 100 speakers at the speaker's table and more than 100 speakers at the speaker's table and more than 100 speakers at the speaker's table.

But it wasn't just a group of pro-life activists that gathered. Barr's remarks, praising the audience of conservative Catholics and Catholic business leaders to demand that the courts to get on with ending the Roe v. Wade decision, that Barr said in his address.

"If I had known earlier that I think I would have been a lot more," Barr said with a smile as he referenced his addressing federal law enforcement officers in June 2020's clear walk across the street to pose with a Bible at St. John's Episcopal Church.

The audience at the Napa Institute and the Napa Institute, taught at Barr's conference regarding the anti-abortion movement.


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REPORTER
Black Catholic groups gather for in-person meeting.

Black Catholic groups gather for in-person meeting

By DAN STOOKMAN
Religion writer



MIAMI, FLA. — The new president of the National Black Sisters' Conference closed the group's annual gathering with a message, calling for Black sisters, priests and seminarians to stand with her as a witness that Black lives do matter.

Dr. Adelle Lorraine Walker of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was elected to lead the 26-year-old conference at the group's annual meeting with three other Black Catholic groups and also presided the conference's Sacred Tables Award, which honors inspirational leaders.

In her remarks accepting the award on the gathering's final evening July 21, she returned repeatedly to one of the conference's themes: "Solidarity." "Solidarity means we are all in this together," she said.

"Solidarity," Walker said. "We see you, love you, have you, respect you, stand with you."

Walker said she would only accept the award if those in the banquet hall would accept the responsibility that comes with being Black in a white-dominated American Catholic church.

"If we can stand together, then I accept this award," she said.

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The front pages of two recent issues of the National Catholic Reporter (NCR graphic)



by Bill Mitchell

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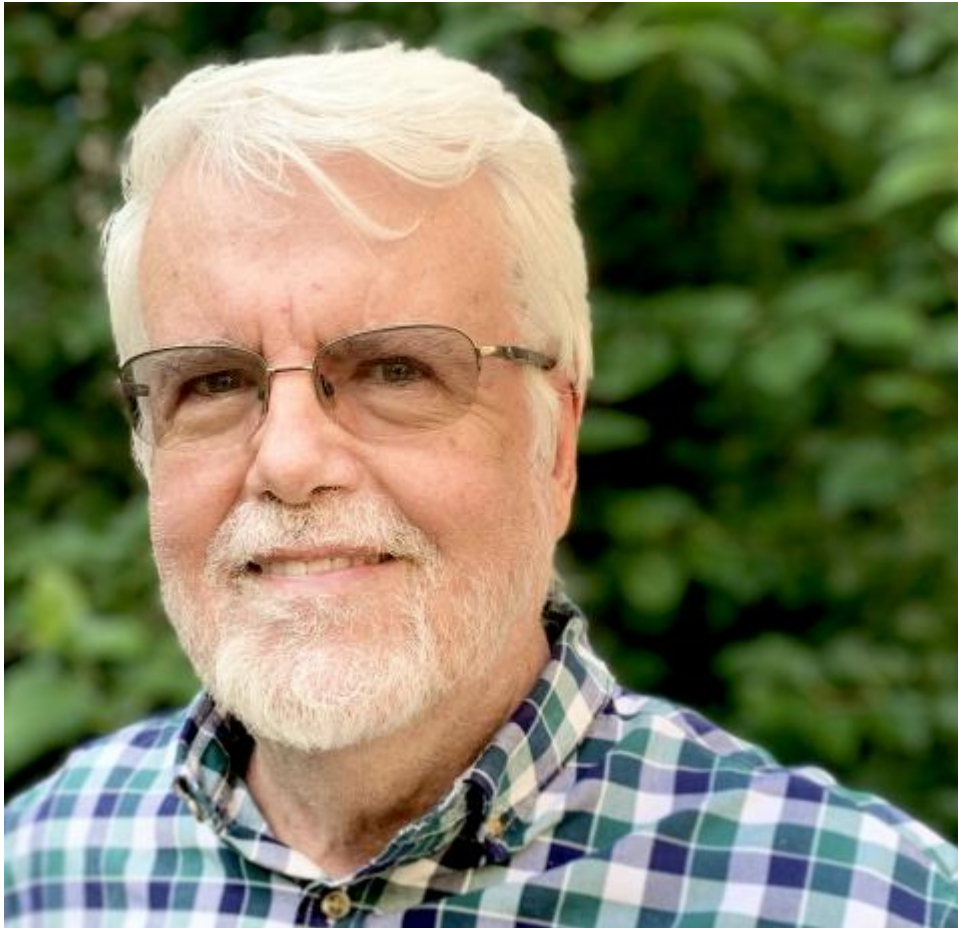
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August 26, 2022

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When I wrote my first story for the National Catholic Reporter as a college freshman in 1967, I certainly had no idea I'd end up as its publisher and CEO a half century later.



Bill Mitchell

When I accepted the position two years ago, I told the board I would serve until my 75th birthday, with the goal of helping the board identify a longer-term publisher to lead NCR into the second half of its first century. Although my 75th birthday is a year off, NCR is on a positive trajectory and now is the time to begin the search for that next leader.

I spent the vast majority of my career in secular journalism, but the mission is fundamentally the same as what we do at NCR: to probe the issues that matter most to the communities we serve and to rely on our independence to hold the powerful

accountable.

As readers and donors tell me every week, though, NCR does something more. It provides an inspirational vision of a church rooted in the Gospels and committed to values of faith and justice.

If you know of someone you believe would be the right fit, please direct them to ncr.media/pubjob for the job description and instructions on how to apply.

As ever, I thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Bill Mitchell

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A version of this story appeared in the **Sept 2-15, 2022** print issue.