James T. Bretzke, S.J. Media Hits

Last entry: August 5, 2016

(2016 in reverse chronological order):

2013 to 2015 in chronological order

2016

5 minute WWL live radio interview on the Tommy Tucker Show (New Orleans) on the creation of the papal commission studying women’s diaconate. 9:20 AM (EDT) August 5, 2016.

August 3, 2016 Phone interview with Nicole Duran, reporter for the Washington Examiner on story about Vice President Biden's officiating a gay marriage ceremony yesterday and calls from some for his excommunication as a result. Story appeared that evening at http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/could-joe-biden-be-excommunicated/article/2598581 and was picked up by several other news outlets as well such as Catholic News http://cathnews.com/cathnews/26291-joe-biden-unlikely-to-be-punished-for-officiating-at-same-sex-marriage


August 2, 2016 40 minute phone interview with Kassandra Sundt of WBUR (NPR affiliate) in preparation for a “Morning Edition” segment to be broadcast on August 3, 2016.


August 2, 2016 Reuters (based on the Hennessey interview below): http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-women-idUSKCN10D1AB and picked up by numerous news media worldwide, such as in Switzerland http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/pope-orders-study-of-women-s-role-in-early-church--cheering-equality-campaigners/42346248

August 2, 2016 Interview with Sean Hennessey on the implications of the announcement that Pope Francis has (today) created a 12 person commission to study the possibility of ordaining women to the diaconate.

May 16, 2016 30 minute phone interview with Denise Lavoie of Associated Press on various questions connected with the aftermath of the SCOTUS decision not to take up the St. Francis Cabrini parish closure case. We discussed a number of questions such as the intent of the former parishioners at St. Francis X. Cabrini to form an independent Catholic church _ with no affiliation with the Archdiocese of Boston _ now that they’ve exhausted their appeals and must
leave vacate the church building. How common or uncommon it is to form an independent Catholic church. Did this happen during or after the clergy sex abuse crisis in Boston or elsewhere? Did parishioners of certain parishes become so disillusioned that they formed their own churches? If this has happened before, how do church officials view these worship communities? How would the archdiocese of Boston be likely to see this? Would a priest within the archdiocese be allowed to celebrate Mass or give the sacraments at such a church? Would that be recognized by the archdiocese? Are there priests outside the archdiocese who would be willing to say Mass or give sacraments in an independent church? If so, would the archdiocese consider these valid? See http://www.oanow.com/breakaway-catholic-church-planned-by-closed-parish-not-rare/article_62c6f4d2-63b1-50d4-b418-AA0681b0f9e.html?mode=jqm (May 17, 2016)

Canadian CTV Evening news, 4 minute live interview on Pope Francis’ call for commission to study the possibility of women deacons in the Church. May 12, 2016 (done via IPhone FaceTime).

Religion News Service: http://religionnews.com/2016/05/12/pope-francis-lets-study-idea-of-ordinating-women-as-deacons/ May 12, 2016 (the Religion News Service article was re-published in a number of other journalistic pieces).


New York Times on Pope Francis’ call for commission to study the possibility of women deacons in the Church. May 12, 2016 See http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/13/world/europe/pope-says-hes-open-to-studying-whether-women-can-serve-as-deacons.html?_r=1 (The New York Times article was re-published in a number of other journalistic pieces).

Tip Sheet with Sean Hennessy from BC Media Relations on the news of Pope Francis’ call for a commission to study the possibility of women deacons in the Church. May 12, 2016

5 minute live interview on the Tommy Tucker Show of Radio Station WWL in New Orleans about how God speaks to us in our everyday lives. Whether he gives us signs, little miracles, etc. May 12, 2016

5 minute live interview on the Tommy Tucker Show of Radio Station WWL in New Orleans on dealing with loss and grief after the death of loved ones. April 12, 2016

10 minute phone interview with Mark Gollom a journalist with CBC News (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) on the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris laetitia April 8, 2016 Quoted in the story which appeared later that day at http://guidedtravel.biz/world/popes-marriage-treatise-urges-lenience-for-imperfect-catholics-197546.html
KCBS (San Francisco) 5 minute live interview on the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris laetitia April 8, 2016

20 minute video Skype interview with Jeff Semple, Global TV News Canada April 8, 2016 on the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris laetitia (for editing and broadcast later on). See http://globalnews.ca/video/2628140/pope-francis-releases-new-guidelines-for-family-life-in-modern-times

Rachel Zoll of AP on the Apostolic Exhortation April 7, 2016; Story appeared on April 8, 2016 at http://bigstory.ap.org/article/b67e0b339b9d46fab29cb0ef642d5ed7/pope-insists-conscience-not-rules-must-guide-faithful [this story was picked up by many other media organs that use AP]

Laurie Goodstein NY Times on the Apostolic Exhortation April 6, 2016


Phil Pullella Reuters April 7, 2016 and published April 8, 2016 at http://www.reuters.com/article/us-pope-marriage-idUSKCN0X42TB [this quote was picked up by innumerable media organs around the world]

2 Tip Sheets with Sean Hennessy of BC Media Relations---on Monday April 4, and Thursday April 7, 2016 on predictions and then on the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris laetitia

Follow-up e-mail on the concept of “pontifical secret” as it pertains to canonical investigations of clerical sexual abuse. with Alexandra de Pape, a fourth-year journalism student at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, who is writing an analytical article about the papacy of Pope Francis for an international affairs reporting class. March 23, 2016.

37 minute Skype interview with Alexandra de Pape, a fourth-year journalism student at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, who is writing an analytical article about the papacy of Pope Francis for an international affairs reporting class. March 22, 2016

Interview and construction of a “Tip Sheet” with Sean Hennessy of BC Media Relations on the Pope’s forthcoming Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Family, rumored to be released Saturday March 19, 2016. The Tip Sheet will be released to the media on Friday March 18, 2016.


WWL Tommy Tucker Show in New Orleans 5 minute live Phone Interview on Pope Francis and Capital Punishment, how one interprets Church teachings and practices, and how God works in the world. 10:15 AM February 24, 2016

WRKO Boston.com Morning Radio Show with Kim Carrigan. 5 minute Interview on Donald Trump’s negative reaction to Pope Francis’ remarks about “building walls, instead of bridges” as not being a “Christian” value and whether the Pope has been too political in the eyes of conservative Catholics. February 19, 2016 at 7:05 AM.

Daniel Burke, religion reporter CNN e-mail and phone on the Pope’s Zika virus remarks. See http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/18/health/zika-pope-francis-contraceptives/ The CNN report was picked up in whole or part by scores of other news outlets. Such as:


E-mail questions and answers with Rachel Zoll of Associated Press on Pope Francis’ remarks on abortion and contraception as options in dealing with pregnancy and the Zika virus. February 18, 2016. http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c248e47a3fa94edc935bdbe83e852b63/pope-suggests-contraception-can-be-condoned-zika-crisis The AP report filed was picked up by scores of other news outlets. Such as:


Simon Romero, by e-mail, on the Church’s response to the Bosnian crisis and contraception being allowed for women in danger of being raped. February 18, 2016

Rachel Zoll, Associate Press, phone interview on the interpretation of “lawful therapeutic means” in Paul VI’s *Humanae vitae* Paragraph #15


E-mail questions and answers with Elizabeth Cohen of CNN on Pope Francis’ remarks on abortion and contraception as options in dealing with pregnancy and the Zika virus. February 18, 2016. See http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/18/health/zika-pope-francis-contraceptives/

E-mail with reporter Ειρήνη Μητροπούλου irini@tovima.gr from VIMA newspaper, a leading broadsheet in Greece, with the biggest circulation on Sunday. About the vow of celibacy taken by Catholic priests and bishops, which has come under the spotlight again, because of the story about the emotional letters sent by Pope John Paul II to Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka. February 17, 2016. Story appeared on February 23, 2016 at http://www.tovima.gr/world/article/?aid=779203

CBS Morning News. Taped a segment on the letters of Pope John Paul II and philosopher friend Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, that supposedly was to be broadcast February 16, 2016. Instead a different segment was used so my interview apparently was shelved completely.

Alex Moseov of Sputnik News (Russia) on significance of meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill (by e-mail) February 12, 2016

10 minute phone interview with Stephanie Simon from “Stat” news of the *Boston Globe* on the Zika virus and possible/probable Catholic responses. February 1, 2016
Cohen’s piece with my quotes was picked up immediately by other news organs such as the Christian Science Monitor (see http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2016/0203/Zika-s-no-pregnancy-warnings-put-Catholic-teachings-under-pressure), CathNews New Zealand (http://cathnews.co.nz/2016/02/05/church-silence-forecast-on-contraception-and-zika-virus/), and many others around the world: for a representative cross-section see the following

http://freethinker.co.uk/2016/02/03/zika-epidemic-puts-catholic-church-in-a-difficult-position/ ;


https://www.reddit.com/r/atheism/comments/43zz2k/zika_tests_catholic_position_on_birth_control/ ;


However, the story also provoked a back-lash in the conservative Catholic press, and my name figured negatively in several of these pieces. See, for example, the following:


http://www.womenofgrace.com/blog/?p=47227

Preparation of a “Tip Sheet” for journalists on the Catholic Response to the Zika Virus, done with Sean Hennessy of the BC Media Relations department and “pushed” out the media January 28, 2016.
Already entered:


*BBC World Service “News Day” program: live interview on the “Missionaries of Mercy” in the Church’s Jubilee Year of Mercy, what constitutes “grave sins,” the notion of forgiveness of sins and related topics. 5 minute interview 11:10 PM (EST, 4:10 AM GMT) February 10-11, 2016.


*35 minute phone interview CNN medical reporter Elizabeth Cohen on mosquito virus in Latin America which has led health officials to call on women to avoid pregnancy for up to 2 years, and how Catholic teaching intersects with this health officials’ recommendation. January 27, 2016

2015 (in chronological order)


*Scott Malone from Reuters: Long phone interview on Pope Francis’s forthcoming visit to the USA, background, purposes, likely outcomes, etc. Given January 8, 2015. See http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/01/16/us/16reuters-usa-pope-philadelphia.html?_r=0


*Tommy Tucker Radio Show WWL in New Orleans January 14, 2015 live 7 minute interview talking about the process of deciding your religion, discussing what might be said to someone who’s struggling with their religious beliefs, trying to figure out what they believe. See http://media.wwl.com/a/100879994/1-14-9am-tommy-why-are-you-the-religion-that-you-are.htm?q=Bretzke

*Radio station KCBS (San Francisco): live interview January 15, 2015 at 12:20 PM PST (which they typically re-broadcast throughout the next day), on the announcement of the upcoming canonization of Junipero Serra who will be canonized by Pope Francis during his visit to the USA in September 2015.


*Tommy Tucker Show Radio WWL New Orleans. 5 minute interview on the place of God in sports, using the Seahawks/Packers playoff game remarks by the two quarterbacks on God’s role in the victory/defeat of each team. 6:15 AM (live) January 22, 2015. See http://media.wwl.com/a/101161129/1-22-6-15am-tommy-does-god-take-sides-in-sports.htm?q=Bretzke


*Global Pulse Magazine* January 26, 2015


*Opposing Views* Kendal Mitchell January 29, 2015

*Zoe Mintz of the International Business Times* on interpreting the decision to beatify Archbishop Oscar Romero. Given by e-mail on February 3, 2015. See

*Radio station KCBS (San Francisco) on Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone’s announcement of new contract proposals for teachings in Catholic schools to “affirm and believe” official Catholic teachings on a host of sexual ethics issues. February 4, 2015


*Phone interview (long!) with a reporter (Ms. Lee Romney) from the LA Times (Northern California edition) on update and continued fallout of the Archbishop Cordileone initiative to change the contracts with the Catholic school teachers in San Francisco, vis-à-vis enunciation and acceptance of official Church teachings on a range of sexual issues. February 9, 2015. Story appeared February 12, 2015, see http://touch.latimes.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-82790403/

*Phone interview (1 hour) with Kevin Fagan, reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle doing a followup of the controversy in San Francisco over Archbishop Cordileone’s new school faculty handbook and contract language focusing on acceptance of official Church teachings in sexual ethics. Discussion focused on other dioceses which have similar initiatives, as well as trying better to understand what might be the deeper reasons for the Archbishop’s initiatives—given

*Brian Fraga of *Our Sunday Visitor* on the response of California lawmakers to Archbishop Cordileone’s faculty contract initiatives. E-mail interview on February 23, 2015, story appeared February 25, 2015: see [https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/ByIssue/Article/TabId/735/ArtMID/13636/ArticleID/17037/Morality-clause-debate-heats-up-on-West-Coast.aspx](https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/ByIssue/Article/TabId/735/ArtMID/13636/ArticleID/17037/Morality-clause-debate-heats-up-on-West-Coast.aspx)

-?Lindsay Brennan, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, on the assessment of Pope Francis’ papacy two years after his election. Done by phone on February 25, 2015.

*Guy Kovner of *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* e-mail interview on “on the connection between Bishop Vasa, his friend and colleague Archbishop Cordileone and Cardinal Raymond Burke, who served on the Congregation for Bishops from 2009-13, a span that included the appointments of Cordileone and Vasa to their current posts. Burke is regarded as a member of the church’s conservative faction and there are Catholics in Santa Rosa who connect the dots between the three men, suggesting there was a deliberate effort by Burke to place conservative bishops in highly liberal areas. Then came Pope Francis’ appointment of 12 new members to the Congregation for Bishops in December 2013, removing Burke and suggesting a papal intent to overhaul the body that recommends the placement of bishops.” I sent a long e-mail response on March 3, 2015, and had a long follow up phone conversation on March 5, 2015.

*WBUR recorded 7 minute interview on the Church’s understanding and approach to individuals who might be seeking some sort of physical change in the gender make-up (e.g., through drug therapy, hormones, perhaps surgery [though not complete post-operative trans-gender]). Done with Martha Bebinger (marthab@wbur.org) on March 12, 2015. The story ran repeatedly in the “Morning Edition” NPR show on Monday, March 23, 2015. See [http://commonhealth.wbur.org/2015/03/genderfluid-identity](http://commonhealth.wbur.org/2015/03/genderfluid-identity)

-?Interview with Sean Hennessy of Boston College Media Relations on the assessment of the first two years of Pope Francis’ pontificate. March 13, 2015

*E-mail and extensive phone interview with Lora Moftah of the *International Business Times* on the controversial appointment of Bishop Barros in Chile by Pope Francis. The Bishop has been accused of participation in cover-up of clerical sexual abuse (though he and the Vatican have denied the accuracy of these charges). Given on March 31, 2015 via e-mail to l.moftah@ibtimes.com with follow-up phone interview later in the day. The article appeared on April 1, 2015 and can be viewed at [http://www.ibtimes.com/chile-bishop-controversy-raises-doubts-about-pope-francis-church-sex-abuse-reforms-1865704](http://www.ibtimes.com/chile-bishop-controversy-raises-doubts-about-pope-francis-church-sex-abuse-reforms-1865704)
*WERS Radio (Emerson) 20 minute Interview on the significance of the Italian bishops who have forbade Easter processions that would seem to “honor” mafia bosses. Holy Thursday April 2, 2015. Aired Easter Sunday on WERS (edited for length).

*WWL Tommy Tucker Show (New Orleans) live 7 minute interview at approximately 8:18 AM CDT on the meaning and theological background of Good Friday and Easter, Good Friday April 3, 2015.


*KQED (NPR affiliate) 4 minute interview with Tara Siler on the petition of 100+ Catholic donors to the Holy Father to remove Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone from San Francisco, April 16, 2015. Broadcast at 5:30 PM (PDT) on KQED 88.5 FM. (it was an 8 minute taped interview that got edited down to 4 minutes on the radio broadcast). www.kqed.org See https://soundcloud.com/kqed/high-profile-sf-catholics-ask-pope-to-remove-archbishop-cordileone


*Edwin Cartlidge, Nature magazine, on the impact of Pope Francis’ forthcoming encyclical on climate change. 40 minute interview by phone, on April 21, 2015. Published online April 27, 2015 at http://www.nature.com/news/vatican-convenes-major-climate-change-meeting-1.17422

*KCBS (San Francisco) live 5 minute on-air interview on the resignation of Bishop Robert Finn of Kansas City broadcast at 12:20 PM (PDT), with segments typically re-broadcast within the next 24 hours. April 21, 2015

*Lora Moftah of the International Business Times on the announcement that Pope Francis will be visiting Cuba on his way to the United States in September 2015. E-mail on April 22, 2015. Published April 22, 2015 at http://www.ibtimes.com/pope-francis-cuba-visit-catholic-churchs-tense-relations-communist-state-improve-1892778


*Phone interview with Colleen Curry of VICE News on the report that the president of Cuba, Raul Castro has reported that he is considering becoming Catholic (again) in response to his positive interactions with Pope Francis and the latter’s efforts to broker an improvement of

*KCBS live Interview on the ramifications of the Pew study on the declining religious affiliations reported in the American population. May 12, 2015 at 5:30 AM (PDT).

-?Interview with Sean Hennessy of Boston College media relations on the Catholic Church teaching on the death penalty in light of the Tsarnaev jury deliberations on whether to assign him the death penalty or life in prison. May 12, 2015.


*Phone Interview with KQED (NPR affiliate of San Francisco) on the reactions and impact of Archbishop Cordileone’s revised faculty handbook language for the Catholic teachers of the Archdiocese. May 22, 2015. The interview was taped and probably will be edited for later broadcast.

*Phone interview on May 28, 2015 with Kelly Heyboer, a reporter at The Star-Ledger, the largest newspaper in New Jersey, on the story about a local priest, the Rev. Warren Hall, coming out as gay in a magazine interview yesterday. He had been fired as Catholic chaplain at Seton Hall by Archbishop Myers, who said Fr. Hall “clearly had another agenda” that made his continued employment at Seton Hall unacceptable. KHEYBOER@njadvancemedia.co Story can be found at http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/05/can_an_openly_gay_man_be_a_catholic_priest_nj_case.html

*Interview with Brian Fraga of the Boston Pilot on “what the Catholic faith has to tell us about care for the environment and environmental stewardship. Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI obviously talked about this issue. How are Catholics to approach this issue, especially in our politically polarized environment?” Brian’s story was published in the June 5, 2015 Boston Pilot. See http://www.thebostonpilot.com/article.asp?ID=173976

*Phone/E-mail interview June 6, 2015 with Brian Fraga from the Boston Pilot on a story related to the changes in the penalties for marijuana and analysis of the push to legalize marijuana in Massachusetts through a Catholic moral lens. Why are drugs wrong? From a Catholic
perspective, is smoking marijuana always immoral? How analogous is pot smoking to alcohol drinking, from a moral theologian point of view? Is there a factor of causing scandal, compromising Christian witness to consider? Does it change the moral equation if marijuana is legal and related under civil law? Is the moral equation different for medical marijuana?


*Phone interview June 15, 2015 with Sara Bailey of the *Washington Post* on the forthcoming Encyclical *Laudato Si*


*Telephone interview with Bob McGovern of the *Boston Herald* regarding questions regarding the procedures and policies of the new Vatican tribunal set up to judge bishops who may have been guilty of clerical sexual abuse coverup or failure to act. June 16, 2015

*E-mail interview with Liam Moloney of the *Wall Street Journal* on the effect of the Encyclical June 17, 2015. Moloney posed 3 questions: 1) How will Catholic teaching change/ be impacted by this encyclical? 2) Is climate change squarely a moral issue now with this encyclical (not just an economic one)? 3) How will the encyclical affect the energy industry or investments there? Follow-up email on June 18, 2015.


*Radio Station WWL (New Orleans) 12:10 – 12:30 PM CDT with Garland Robinette “Think Tank” show speaking about papal infallibility, the Encyclical *Laudato si* and various other purported statements that Pope Francis said at his meeting with the youth in Turin on whether those who invest in armaments manufacture can call themselves Christian. See
*10 minute TV appearance on “Inside Story” with Ray Suarez on Aljazeera America regarding the faith dimensions present in the papal encyclical *Laudato Si*. June 24, 2015. To be broadcast at 11:30 PM and then repeated in different time slots in the days to come. [this taping involved a 90 minute car-trip each way to a studio in Madison, WI] See [https://twitter.com/AJInsideStoryAM?t=1&cn=bWVudGlvdGlv%3D%3D&sig=d06d82717380b15624b8f09c506c778712363247&al=1&refs=1&uid=f02a0c94008f4619af02b5b4d91b6092&autoactions=1435203018&uid=515483884&nid=4+1262](https://twitter.com/AJInsideStoryAM?t=1&cn=bWVudGlvdGlv%3D%3D&sig=d06d82717380b15624b8f09c506c778712363247&al=1&refs=1&uid=f02a0c94008f4619af02b5b4d91b6092&autoactions=1435203018&uid=515483884&nid=4+1262)

*25 minute phone interview with Brian Fraga, who is writing a story for the *National Catholic Register* on the political reactions to *Laudato Si*, and whether we've seen a role reversal here: Democrats lauding the pope and Republicans being cool to it and saying they don't get economic advice from the clergy. Article appeared June 26, 2015: see [http://m.ncregister.com/daily-news/political-role-reversal-democrats-praise-encyclical-while-gop-remains-cauti/#.VY1gDflVikp](http://m.ncregister.com/daily-news/political-role-reversal-democrats-praise-encyclical-while-gop-remains-cauti/#.VY1gDflVikp)

*Phone interview with Erin Grace of the *Omaha World-Herald* on Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts (a Catholic) and his efforts to re-instate the death penalty in Nebraska, despite this being at odds with current official Catholic teaching. July 7, 2015. Story appeared on Sunday July 26, 2015. See [http://m.omaha.com/columnists/grace/grace-in-death-penalty-crusade-ricketts-not-as-in-sync/article_5ea1f4ac-32e0-11e5-a146-3f33ca9f014e.html?mode=max](http://m.omaha.com/columnists/grace/grace-in-death-penalty-crusade-ricketts-not-as-in-sync/article_5ea1f4ac-32e0-11e5-a146-3f33ca9f014e.html?mode=max)

*10 minute live Radio Interview on the Tommy Tucker Show on WWL (New Orleans) commenting on whether Jesus would approve of gay marriage (in the context of the remarks to this effect by President Jimmy Carter, a Baptist), as well as the ethical ramifications of the removal of the Confederate flag from Southern state-houses, etc..7:15 AM, EDT, July 9, 2015. [http://media.wwl.com/a/107252263/first-news-6am.htm?pageid=401032](http://media.wwl.com/a/107252263/first-news-6am.htm?pageid=401032)

*Phone interview with Rachel Zoll of Associated Press on background regarding the controversial presentation to Pope Francis by the President of Bolivia with a cross that included the hammer & sickle Communist logo. July 9, 2015. The story went out on AP and was picked up in several places such as

*regarding the controversial presentation to Pope Francis by the President of Bolivia with a cross that included the hammer & sickle Communist logo. July 9, 2015

*Nicole Winfield regarding the controversial presentation to Pope Francis by the President of Bolivia with a cross that included the hammer & sickle Communist logo. July 9, 2015*
http://bigstory.ap.org/article/e6304d01ab0642708cc248317042ceba/vatican-communist-crucifix-sign-dialogue-not-ideology (which contains more of what I actually said).

regarding the controversial presentation to Pope Francis by the President of Bolivia with a cross that included the hammer & sickle Communist logo. July 9, 2015 http://www.heraldcourier.com/news/vatican-communist-crucifix-sign-of-dialogue-not-ideology/article_c7a16114-316f-5a19-9a5f-e1c3b94a789e.html

*regarding the controversial presentation to Pope Francis by the President of Bolivia with a cross that included the hammer & sickle Communist logo. July 9, 2015 http://celebcafe.org/pope-francis-to-celebrate-mass-in-bolivia/


*Scott Malone from Reuters who was asking for comments on the slight decline in the Pope's poll numbers and possible connections to decline in support from conservative quarters due to his positions on the environment and economic issues. July 22, 2015. See http://www.businessinsider.com/r-pope-francis-approval-rating-dips-in-us-ahead-of-september-visit-poll-2015-7

*TV taped interview with Jeff Saperstone of NECN on Pope Francis’ upcoming visit to the United States and the World Meeting on Families in late September. This will be broadcast later in the summer, or before the World Meeting. I also will be meeting with the NECN crew down in Philadelphia and perhaps after the meeting as well. July 22, 2015

*Phone live interview with eFM's "This Morning with Alex Jensen" KBS radio program in Seoul, South Korea, giving analysis on Pope Francis and global warming, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, etc. At 6:40 PM (EDT) on Thursday, July 23rd.

*Matthew Bell of The World at PRI (Public Radio International) program on WGBH on questions related to the Church’s teaching on sexuality and Pope Francis’ forthcoming visit to the USA. Phone and very long in-person taped interview given on July 30, 2015 at the STM. Appeared August 12, 2015. See http://www.pri.org/stories/2015-08-12/lgbt-catholics-are-looking-forward-pope-francis-s-us-visit-and-hoping-change

*Matthew Bell of The World at PRI (Public Radio International) program on WGBH on the issues revolving around the firing of LGBT faculty in Catholic schools (e.g., Philadelphia, San Francisco, etc.). Via e-mail on August 4, 2015.

*The Tablet (Catholic weekly published in the United Kingdom) on interpreting Pope Francis’ poll numbers and dip in support among conservatives. August 4, 2015. See http://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/1/696/francis-and-the-americans-what-s-happening-
*Fact-check e-mail for *New York* magazine on the Synod for the Family. Via e-mail to James Walsh, August 28, 2015.


*20 minute phone interview with Noah Bierman of the *Los Angeles Times* regarding issues connected with the upcoming canonization of Junipero Serra by Pope Francis during the latter’s visit to the USA in late September. August 31, 2015

*September 1, 2015: 9 Interviews regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*NPR: The Takeaway Radio: 10 minute taped interview with Todd [?]*

*Boston Herald phone interview with reporter September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*Live 10 minute *Boston Herald Radio* with Hilary and Tony [?] 11:05 AM September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*Channel 5 TV on-site (BC-STM) taped interview

*Fox 25 TV on-site (BC-STM) taped interview, to be broadcast on 5, 6, 10 PM news and perhaps the following morning. September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*WGBH 5 minute Taped radio interview September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*10 minute Phone interview with Jan Ransom of the *Boston Globe* September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy

*Dan Matheson, news anchor for *CTV News* in Canada (Canada’s 24-hours News network). Live TV Interview c. 5 minutes connected via Face-time at 7:10 PM ([ctvnewstest@gmail.com](mailto:ctvnewstest@gmail.com)) September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy
*20 minute phone interview with Lauren Gambino of The Guardian September 1, 2015: regarding Pope Francis’ decision to extend the power to forgive the sin of procured abortion to all priests during the Jubilee Year of Mercy


*New York Radio AM 970 The Answer 10 minute live interview with John Gambling at 11:40 AM on September 2, 2015

*15 minute phone interview with Cathy (didn't catch the last name) from the Metro, a Philadelphia daily, on the significance of Pope Francis' upcoming visit to a prison while in Philadelphia. September 3, 2015


*Telephone 6-7 minute live interview with Red Simons of Australian Broadcast Corporation (ABC) on the annulment process news. 5:00 PM ET on September 8, 2015


*Aljazeera America live 5 minute TV interview (done via Skype) on the annulment revisions, given at 10:25 PM on September 8, 2015.


*Ongoing e-mail and phone conversations with Matthew Bell of NPR’s *The World* on his report-in-progress on Pope Francis and the American Church. September 9, 2015

*E-mail interview with Felipe Restrepo-Acosta, journalist of *Semana*, a weekly Columbian magazine, on the significance and predictions about Pope Francis’ upcoming visits to Cuba, USA, and the UN. September 15, 2015

*65 minute phone interview with Mark Silk, journalist with *Religion News*, on the theological distinctions involved in the Synod debates on “discipline” and “doctrine” vis-à-vis the possibility of admitting divorced and remarried to the Eucharist. September 17, 2015. Quoted in his blog at http://religioninthenews.org/2015/10/08/showdown-at-the-bishops-synod/ (October 12, 2015)

*TV Interview on what to expect for Pope Francis’ upcoming visit to the United States. NECN September 17-18, 2015 (several different segments broadcast). See http://www.necn.com/video/#!/on-air/as-seen-on/Pope-Appealing-to-Younger-Generation/328137991

?Interview with Sean Hennessy of Boston College Media Department on the significance of Pope Francis’ upcoming visit to Philadelphia and the World Meeting on the Families (for tip sheet issued in conjunction with my media-related trip to that event). September 21, 2015


*KQED (San Francisco) radio interview with Mina Kim on the San Francisco Archdiocese and its conservative presence in a more liberal region – juxtaposed against the Pope’s more liberal stance in a religion many connect with more conservative social views. September 22, 2015. See http://mp3dlfree.info/track/225135029/kqed-progressive-catholics-cheer-popes-arrival-in-us


*Telephone interview with Argemino Barro of *Capital Radio* and *El Confidencial*, both based in Madrid. On the Pope's visit to the U.S. and how the U.S Catholic community reacting to the

*E-mail interview answering several questions from Pavel Sivokon of the Ukrainian magazine "Correspondent" for a story on the policy of Pope Francis and Catholic Church in modern times. September 23, 2015

*Tommy Tucker Radio Show WWL in New Orleans Radio 10 minute live Interview Pope Francis's visit to the US and the message he's preaching 9:20—9:30 AM EDT September 24, 2015

Media interviews given in reference to the Pope’s Visit to Philadelphia and/or the assessment of his Apostolic Voyage to the USA

*Phone interview with Rachel Zoll of Associated Press on aspects of the significance of Pope Francis’ speeches delivered to date in the USA. September 25, 2015.

*NECN TV taped interview with Jeff Saperstone at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, assessing the plenary talk of Cardinal Sean O’Malley and Pastor Rick Warren, Friday September 25, 2015, conducted at the WMOF meeting site at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

*Several e-mail interview exchanges with John Bacon of USA Today on Pope Francis’ visit to the USA. September 25, 26 & 27, 2015. See http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/09/26/popes-meeting-bishops-more-than-selfies/72871690/


*Alan Zarembo of the LA Times in an e-mail exchange asking for comment on the report that while in the USA Pope Francis had met with Kim Davis, the KY County Registrar who refused to process same-sex marriage licenses. September 30, 2015


*WBUR one-hour taped interview on the Church’s understanding and response to suicide (as part of what ultimately will be just an 8-minute report involving myself and several other
religious leaders in Boston). With Lynn Jolicouer done in my STM office on October 6, 2015. The piece was aired on October 26, 2015. See “‘Everything Is Grace’: Looking To Faith For Answers To Suicide” at http://commonhealth.wbur.org/2015/10/faith-religion-suicide


*E-mail correspondence with journalist Mark Silk on the Catholic and Orthodox understandings of reasons for allowing, or not, widows and widowers to remarry. Religion News Service October 21, 2015

*E-mail interview on October 24, 2015 on analysis of the Synod on the Family and its Final Report with Brazilian journalist Rodrigo Craveiro. Brazilian Press newspaper

2014 Media Interviews: 60 (listed in chronological order)

*Cincinatti Inquirer interview with Scott Wartman on the impact of Pope Francis’ writings on economic matters and how these will play in the various political arenas. Given by phone January 6, 2014 and appeared in print January 7, 2014 (see http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20140107/NEWS/301070016/Papal-shot-unbridled-capitalism-stirs-debate)


*Boston Herald on Vatican shakeup and role of O’Malley, January 17, 2014 (see http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2014/01/new_role_shows_pope_s_high_praise_for_cardinal_sean_o_malley


*Boston Herald interview with Bob McGovern on reaction to the UN report critiquing the Vatican’s handling of clerical sexual abuse. February 6, 2014. See http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2014/02/experts_say_un_went_overboard

*Catholic News Service and US Today reporter David Agren on the Univision survey on attitudes towards Pope Francis and specific Church teachings such as contraception, gay marriage, divorce, abortion, etc. Phone interview of about 20 minutes given on February 10, 2014. Article appeared in Catholic Herald UK (and elsewhere) on February 12, 2014 at various places such as: http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/02/12/poll-suggests-global-split-among-catholics-on-church-teaching/ and http://catholicphilly.com/2014/02/news/world-

*With Sean Hennessy from BC Media Relations Department on Pope Francis’ First Year in Office. March 6, 2014. See http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/pubaf/journalist/experts/PopeFrancisOneYear.html

*Interview with WBZ radio [CBS] (Mary Blake) on the first year of Pope Francis’ reign. Given March 13, 2014

*Interview with Grant Welker, a reporter with the Lowell Sun on March 14, 2014 (see March 16, 2014 http://www.lowellsun.com/news/ci_25354961/year-later-cheers-louder-than-ever )

*Interview given March 23, 2014 to Priyanka Dayal McCluskey of the Boston Herald on the impact of Cardinal O’Malley’s appointment by Pope Francis to the 8-person commission charged with development of the Church’s response to the sexual abuse crisis. See http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2014/03/o_malley_seen_as_no_1_voice_of_us_catholics

*TV filmed interview given to Channel 5 (WCVB) Boston with Liam Martin on the issues connected with the new Vatican commission on sexual abuse and Cardinal O’Malley’s role in this. (The interview was filmed outside in the area between Gasson and Bapst) March 23, 2014. (for the 6 PM news see http://www.wcvb.com/news/victims-protest-new-vatican-sex-abuse-commission/25126812#!A3Xpi )

*2 Telephone interviews given March 26, 2014 with Justin Sink of TheHill.com and Sean Hennessy of BC on the upcoming meeting between President Obama and Pope Francis. See http://thehill.com/blogs/global-affairs/201886-vatican-trip-a-blessing-for-obama )

*E-mail interview March 28, 2014 with Patrick Boehler of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, writing about Pope Francis revealing in an interview with Italian media on March 5 that he had exchanged letters with China’s President Xi Jinping, and possible ramifications (e.g., speculation about an upcoming visit of the pope to China. Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it was not concerned about the Vatican switching recognition to Beijing. How is Pope Francis’ stance towards China different from his predecessor?

*KCBS Radio (San Francisco) Interview on the Coptic Papyrus that purports to offer evidence Jesus was married (April 10, 2014)

*Interview with Sean Hennessy of Boston College on the upcoming double canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II (given on April 24, 2014). See [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/pubaf/journalist/experts/Canonization-Two-Popes.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/offices/pubaf/journalist/experts/Canonization-Two-Popes.html)


*WWL First News*, WWL AM, FM and WWL.com Radio Interview with Tommy Tucker on the papal double canonization Friday April 25, 2014 at 9:45 AM EST


*Telephone interview with Erin Smith of the Boston Herald on the significance of Pope Francis’ visit to the Holy Land, given on May 23, 2014, article published on May 24, 2014. See http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/international/middle_east/2014/05/vatican watchers_mideast_trip_will_test_pope_s

*Interview with Boston Herald about the significance of Pope Francis’ visits to historic sites in the Holy Land and the peace initiative. Given May 26, 2014 and published on May 27, 2014. See http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2014/05/pope_s_middle_east_invitation_a_foreign_policy_coup

*Interview with Jordan Graham of the Boston Herald on the interpretation of the prayer meeting for peace in the Middle East hosted by Pope Francis. See http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/international/middle_east/2014/06/pope_francis_to_host_historic_prayers June 8, 2014


*WWL 8 minute Radio Interview (live) on the Tommy Tucker Show on August 5, 2014 on the decision of the diocese of Lafayette LA not to release names of all priests charged with clerical sexual abuse. (cf. at 4:31 of this interview: http://audio.wwl.com/a/95265367/8-5-9-10am-tommy-should-the-names-of-priests-accused-of-sexual-abuse-be-public.htm?q=Bretzke)

*Telephone interview with Alan Gomez on August 18, 2014 with USA Today reporter to comment on Pope Francis’ airplane press Q&A in which the Pope said some force might be justified to stop the aggression in Iraq. We discussed these remarks in relation to Catholic Just War Theory, papal positions within the last century on war, and the relative authority of a press conference set of remarks as compared with more weighty papal teachings found in documents such as encyclicals. See http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/08/18/pope-oks-protecting-iraq-minorities-wants-un-ok/14241193/

*Telephone interview on August 18, 2014 with Michelle Martin of Our Sunday Visitor on the recent spate of “Black Masses” in Oklahoma and Harvard, and what should the Catholic response be. 773-213-1956 mmartin4@hotmail.com; See https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/National/Article/TabId/717/ArtMID/13622/ArticleID/15948/Archbishop-urges-prayer-to-combat-black-mass.aspx
*Live radio interview with Korean broadcast eFM radio station in Seoul, South Korea “This Morning” show on August 18, 2014 (August 19th in Korea) on Pope Francis’ airplane press Q&A in which the Pope said some force might be justified to stop the aggression in Iraq. We also discussed relative application to the Korean Peninsula situation, etc.  http://thismorning.iblug.com/index.jsp  Or https://itunes.apple.com/kr/podcast/tbs-efm-this-morning/id564557750?mt=2

*Telephone interview August 21, 2014 with Liam Martin of WCVB TV on the decision of the Diocese of Cincinnati to discourage participation in the “Ice Bucket Challenge” to fund efforts to discover a cure for ALS (aka Lou Gehrig’s Disease). We discussed the concepts of tolerance and legitimate cooperation with evil. Due to the fact that I was in Omaha and not Boston I was not able to do a live TV interview as requested.


*Telephone interview September 10, 2014 with Brian Fraga, a Catholic news journalist writing a story this week for Aletheia about the growing interest in groups like the Satanic Temple, a Satanic organization responsible for trying to organize the Black Mass at Harvard. Basically, it seems that interest in this kind of group is rising at the same time as traditional religious practices are waning. Is this reflective of the shifting religious landscape in the US? What does this say about the state of the nation's religious-cultural fabric if this is the case? 508-742-7287 and e-mail: brian.fraga@gmail.com

*Live TV studio interview at Fox 25 5 PM News on September 19, 2014 discussing the upcoming Synod and the possibility of some changes in the pastoral care of divorced and remarried vis-à-vis reception of Holy Communion. See http://www.myfoxboston.com/clip/10609436/catholic-church-changes-views-on-marriage

*Interview with USA Today reporter Kathryn Marchocki on recent Church leaders such as Cardinal Filoni and Pope Francis that have supported a limited response to terrorist aggression. The story should appear Tuesday September 23, 2014. See “Religious Leaders Try to Cope with Islamic Attacks” at http://www.religionnews.com/2014/09/29/religious-leaders-try-cope-islamic-state-attacks/

*Interview on September 23, 2014 with reporter Elizabeth VanMetre from Closer Weekly in regards to the famous Jackie O. letters found between her and her priest and advice he gave her regarding her having contemplated suicide.


*Interview with Sean Hennessey on September 26, 2014 on the upcoming Synod on the Family (for purposes of media distribution)

*7 minute Interview (live at 9:20 AM EDT) with John Hockenberry of NPR’s “The Takeaway” on the opening of the Synod on the Family, October 6, 2014 (see http://www.thetakeaway.org/story/vatican-meets-discuss-family-issues/)


*E-mail interview with Zoe Mintz of the International Business Times working on a story on the recent comments bishops made at the synod about gays in the Catholic church. October 14, 2014


*Correio Braziliense* Brazilian newspaper reporter Rodrigo Craveiro interview on the impact of the Relatio, especially with pastoral outreach to gays and lesbians. E-mail interview on October 14, 2014.

*Interview with Sean Hennessey of Boston College for other media organs on the analysis of the Synod as a whole and the import of the Beatification of Pope Paul VI. October 20, 2014

*Monday October 20, 2014 WWL Radio 19 minute interview (11:10—11:19 EDT [with commercial break in the middle]) with Garland Robinette on whether the Pope wants to consider radical shifts in the church’s beliefs concerning social issues, and especially marriage, divorce, homosexuality, and moralities of all types. Is the Pope infallible on every issue? Are Catholics ready to change their basic beliefs?

*25 minute phone interview with Zoe Mintz of the International Business Times on the evaluation of the Synod of the Bishops, especially as this will relate to people in the pews in general and the LGBT community in particular. October 20, 2014. See http://www.ibtimes.com/majority-catholics-support-gays-lesbians-lgbt-community-reacts-synod-report-online-1708019


*45 minute phone interview with Marie Szaniszlo from Boston Herald on the upcoming agenda for the US Bishops meeting November 8, 2014. Published on November 9, 2014: see http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/national/2014/11/battle Seems_brewing_between_pope_bishops


*Interview with Sean Hennessy on the involvement of Pope Francis in the efforts to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States. December 17, 2014.

*Live radio interview with KCBS (San Francisco) on the intervention of Pope Francis in efforts to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba. 7:50 PM EST (4:50 PM PST). December 17, 2014

2013 Media Interviews (See Papal News Cycle file) 55 separate interviews, with many times that of other news outlets picking up one or the other stories

Bretzke on Papal Resignation, Conclave, and New Pope News Cycle

*Radio Station KCBS 2 interviews on February 11, 2013

1st interview—live on-air at 9:20 AM EST on the papal resignation

2nd Interview on participation in the Conclave by Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony

https://www.google.com/url?q=http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/feed/&sa=U&ei=vJEaUcuGCo KEqgH4hIDwDQ&ved=0CAoQFjAB&client=internal-uds-cse&usg=AFQjCNFZJDcVTOPpvpZQm1oDXlsMVPl3jnw

*Fox News


*PRI’s The World (WGBH/NPR)

http://www.theworld.org/2013/02/first-pope-resign-600-years/

*Boston Herald
*Faith Walk with Trey Graham* (Baptist minister in Texas) 100.7


2 ten-minute segments on the papal resignation, sex abuse crisis, and upcoming Conclave

*Radio Station KCBS Live interview* on February 25, 2013 on the resignation of Cardinal Keith O’Brien and changes in the rules for the upcoming Conclave.

*KCBS Radio News* on 2/28/2013 on day of actual papal resignation taking effect

March 11, 2013

*TV taped interview for NECN* (New England Cable News Network) on the buzz around the possibility of Cardinal Sean O’Malley being elected pope.

March 12, 2013

*4 minute KCBS radio interview* on the opening of the Conclave

March 13, 2013

*Faith Walk with Trey Graham* (Baptist minister in Texas) 100.7


2 ten-minute segments on the Conclave

*NECN* Telephone Interview

*Reuters*

*WGBH*

*Jeff Santos Show Revolution Radio* (live interview)

*Global VisionWGRN*

A couple others

*Boston Herald*

*Bradenton Journal* (Florida) March 16, 2013
On the creation of the commission of 8 cardinals and the appointment of Cardinal O’Malley to it: April 13, 2013: 8 interviews

*WBZ Radio Interview
*WBUR Radio Interview
*Fox News TV Interview
*Channel 7 TV Interview WHDH


*WBZ TV Interview

http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2013/04/higher_calling

*NECN TV Interview

http://www.necn.com/04/13/13/Archbishop-Sean-OMalley-selected-to-be-P/landing.html?blockID=837663&feedID=11106

**Boston Herald reporters interview** (twice: print and web)

Plus media interview for BC (Sean Hennessy) on decision to canonize Pope John Paul II (July 2, 2013), plus interview with Boston Herald and subsequent news article on July 3, 2013; two more on July 5th with Boston Herald reporters with news story appearing July 6, 2013; radio interview with KCBS (San Francisco) on July 5th and WWL (New Orleans) on Monday July 8, 2013.

*Boston Herald*

*July 3, 2013:

http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2013/07/john_paul_ii_close_to_sainthood
Media interviews connected with Pope Francis plane interview on not judging gay men, etc. (July 29, 2013):

*KCBS live* 5 minute radio interview

*WMAC Radio* (remarks taped for the July 30, 2013 noon broadcast)

*Fox 25 TV evening news* (1 live and 1 taped in studio interview)

*US News and World Report
USA Today
Wall Street Journal

*Boston Globe

Additional References were republished world-wide from one or more of the above sources (e.g. India Times, etc.

Media interviews on release of Pope Francis’ extended interview with Jesuit periodicals on September 19, 2013

*WBZ Phone Interview, played on Channel 4 CBS on September 19, 2013


*KCBS 5 minute Radio Interview September 19, 2013 5:20 PM


*WWL First News*, WWL AM, FM and WWL.com Radio Interview with Tommy Tucker, Friday Morning September 20, 2013

*WCCO Chad Hartman Show Minneapolis* 10 Interview September 20, 2013


*Boston Globe* Saturday September 21, 2013


*KCBS* taped interview on reactions to Catholic Colleges (Santa Clara, St. Mary’s in Moraga, and LMU) on dropping abortion coverage from their employee health plans: October 10, 2013 (see [http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2013/10/10/santa-clara-university-faculty-criticize-decision-to-drop-abortion-coverage/](http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2013/10/10/santa-clara-university-faculty-criticize-decision-to-drop-abortion-coverage/))

*Interview* via phone and e-mail with Anton Troinovski from the Berlin office of the *Wall Street Journal* on the impact of the suspension due to financial excesses of Limburg Bishop Peter Tebartz-van-Elst, October 23, 2013.

*WWL First News*, WWL AM, FM and WWL.com Radio Interview with Tommy Tucker, Tuesday November 5, 2013 on the Vatican’s questionnaire for the upcoming Synod inquiring about attitudes towards birth control, marriage, divorce, communion, etc. (see [http://audio.wwl.com/a/83487236/11-5-6-15am-tommy-morality-up-to-a-poll.htm?](http://audio.wwl.com/a/83487236/11-5-6-15am-tommy-morality-up-to-a-poll.htm?))

*Television documentary “Revelations”* produced by Emerson College, 16 November 2013


*N.B. Prior to 2013 no efforts were made to compile lists of media hits, though Bretzke did win the faculty prize for most media hits at the University of San Francisco in 2005 and 2006.*

Some additional media hits:

**NBC Nightly News on Terri Schiavo PVS Case (2005)**