

Pope's Visit Outshines the Tumult

2015 IN REVIEW

In a year that saw marriage redefined by a 5-4 vote of the U.S. Supreme Court, the venerable Boy Scouts of America okay homosexual scout leaders, domestic and international terrorism raise their ugly heads, and assisted suicide reach California, there were signs that the United States had retained its conscience. Both bodies of Congress voted to defund Planned Parenthood, and protest rallies were held across the country after a series of videos from the Center for Medical Progress purportedly showed the abortion giant trafficking in fetal remains. Connecticut citizens turned away a third try by the right-to-die movement to establish a foothold there; and Pope Francis brought a shepherd's voice and a message of hope to a beleaguered nation.

FROM CHICAGO TO L.A. TO PHILLY. Bishop Robert Barron, the former rector of Mundelein Seminary in the Archdiocese of Chicago, was consecrated an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in early September and delivered one of the keynote addresses at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia later that month. Catholic Philly



SPONTANEOUS POPE. At left, Pope Francis delivers a rousing, off-the-cuff speech on the Catholic family at the 'Festival of Families,' part of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, on Sept. 26. Alex Wong/Getty Images Above, a young girl shows her affection for the Holy Father prior to his momentous arrival in New York. Jeff Bruno



SCOUTING DEBATE. A boy scout listens to instruction at camp Maple Dell on July 31 outside Payson, Utah. The Mormon Church considered pulling out of its 102-year-old relationship with the Boy Scouts after the Boy Scouts changed its policy on allowing homosexual leaders in the organization. Over 99% of the Boy Scout troops in Utah are sponsored by the Mormon Church. George Frey/Getty Images



STANDING FOR WOMEN. Near left, a 'Women Betrayed' rally in front of the Denver State Capitol in Colorado on Aug. 18. The rally protested Planned Parenthood and called on state and federal officials to defund Planned Parenthood. Peter Zelasko/CNA Far left, a student-organized 'Women Betrayed' rally protested against Planned Parenthood in an effort to defund the organization on July 28 at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Participants included Dr. Ben Carson and Sens. Rand Paul and James Lankford. Addie Mena/CNA

VIOLENCE. People create a memorial for victims at Emanuel AME Church on July 31 in Charleston, S.C. Earlier in the morning, Dylann Roof, the shooter in the June 17 massacre, was arraigned on 33 federal charges, including hate crimes. Sean Rayford/Getty Images

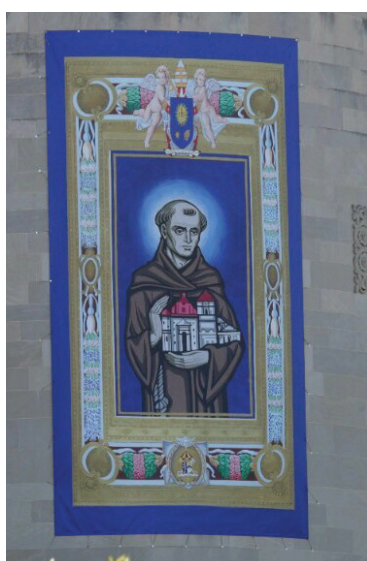


MOURNING. Nghi Van Nguyen, grandmother of Tin Nguyen, weeps over her granddaughter's coffin at her funeral on Dec. 12 in Santa Ana, Calif. Tin Nguyen died in the shootings in San Bernardino, Calif., on Dec. 2. Ed Crisostomo/The Orange County Register via AP



STERN WARNING. Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, speaking at the United Nations' General Assembly on Oct. 1 in New York City, fiercely criticized the nuclear agreement between the United States and Iran, warning that once the economic sanctions were lifted on Iran, it would become a more belligerent presence in the Middle East. Andrew Burton/Getty Images

MISSIONARY-SAINT. The tapestry of St. Junipero Serra hangs from the facade of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on the occasion of his canonization Mass, celebrated by Pope Francis, Sept. 23. CNA/Alan Holdren



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