

2016:

The Year in Review

AROUND THE WORLD/NATION



MATT SCHILLER

JANUARY Participants at the 2016 March for Life may not have been as numerous as in previous years, due to predictions of blizzard conditions, but those who did make their way to Washington, D.C., for the march or for Masses and related events found the same powerful public witness they have come to expect.

MAY The U.S. Supreme Court in orders issued May 23 remanded two Catholic entities' legal challenges to the federal contraceptive mandate back to the lower courts. The high court granted a petition for a writ of certiorari for two plaintiffs—the Catholic Health Care System, an umbrella for four Catholic institutions affiliated with the Archdiocese of New York, and the Michigan Catholic Conference. The order vacated the early rulings against the two Catholic plaintiffs by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and 6th U.S. Court of Appeals.

SEPTEMBER A tapestry of St. Teresa of Kolkata is seen on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica as Pope Francis celebrates her canonization Mass Sept. 4



CNS/PAUL HARING

FEBRUARY Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who had ties to New York—he graduated first in his class from Jesuit-run Xavier High School in Manhattan and was raised in Queens—died of apparent natural causes Feb. 13 while in Texas on a hunting trip. He was 79.



JUNE Recognizing St. Mary Magdalene's role as the first to witness Christ's resurrection and as a "true and authentic evangelizer," Pope Francis raised the July 22 memorial of St. Mary Magdalene to a feast day on the Church's liturgical calendar, the Vatican announced. A decree formalizing the decision was published June 10.

OCTOBER The Portuguese Bishops Conference praised former Portuguese prime minister Antonio Guterres for his "deep sense of humanity and faith" after he was nominated as United Nations secretary-general. A member of Portugal's Socialist Party and a fervent Catholic, Guterres is 67.



CNS/BOB ROLLER

NOVEMBER In his apostolic letter, "Misericordia et Misera," ("Mercy and Misery"), which he signed Nov. 20 at the end of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said he formally was giving all priests permanent permission to grant absolution to those who confess to having procured an abortion.

NOVEMBER Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, at left, addresses a news conference Nov. 15 at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. The cardinal was elected USCCB president that morning. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles was elected USCCB vice president.



COURTESY CNS/EWTN

MARCH Mother Angelica, who founded the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and turned it into one of the world's largest religious media operations, died on Easter Sunday, March 27. She was 92.

JULY Pope Francis walks with happy World Youth Day pilgrims from different countries on the Field of Mercy in Krakow, Poland, before leading an evening prayer vigil July 30. World Youth Day was held in Krakow July 26-31.



CNS/BOB ROLLER



CNS/PAUL JEFFREY

APRIL Cardinal Dolan greets Dominican Sister Muntahah Haday and students at the Al Bishara School run by the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena in Ankawa in Iraqi Kurdistan April 9. The cardinal and other Church leaders made a pastoral visit to Catholics and others displaced by the Islamic State.

AUGUST Pope Francis appointed six men and six women to a commission to study the issue of women deacons, especially their ministry in the early Church. On Aug. 2, the pope tapped Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrer, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to serve as president of the commission.



CNS/CHARLENE SCOTT

DECEMBER Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of Father Stanley Rother of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, making him the first martyr born in the United States. The Vatican made the announcement Dec. 2. The recognition clears the way for his beatification.