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PAY RAISE

Victories in fight for \$15 minimum wage

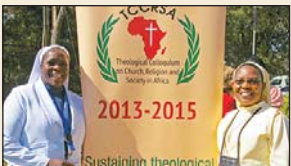
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Effort aims to curb gun deaths

By SOLI SALGADO



—Newscom/Reuters/Lee Celano

Bystanders watch over the scene at a movie theater where a man opened fire on filmgoers in Lafayette, La., July 23.

Linda Dayson holds a sign as members of the public and church members enter Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church for Sunday service June 21, four days after a shooting that claimed the lives of its pastor and eight others in Charleston, S.C.



—Newscom/TNS/Curtis Compton

From 1982 until 2011, the United States experienced a deadly public mass shooting about every 200 days, Harvard research shows. In the following three-year period, the average escalated to every 64 days.

This summer has done nothing to curb the trend: After nine churchgoers were killed in Charleston, S.C., June 17, a month later, five service members were gunned down in two military centers in Chattanooga, Tenn., July 16. Just six days passed before a gunman opened fire in a movie theater in Lafayette, La., July 23, killing two and wounding nine before turning the gun on himself.

"I've had to make statements like this too many times," President Barack Obama said June 18 following the Charleston shooting — then his eighth speech on mass shootings in six years. "Communities like this have had to endure tragedies like this too many times."

While such tragedies attract headlines and prompt national debates on gun laws, mass shootings

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Settlement plan stuns abuse victims

By MARIE ROHDE

MILWAUKEE . The Milwaukee archdiocese has put forth what it hopes is the final settlement plan that will end the church's nearly 5-year-old bankruptcy case, but victims of childhood sex abuse who filed claims against the archdiocese said they are stunned by the latest proposal. They allege that the \$21 million allocated to victims is much smaller than that awarded in other bankruptcies and that it pits victim against victim.

Only sketchy details of the plan had been released in early August. The full plan is to be filed with the bankruptcy court by Aug. 24. The claimants will vote on the plan by Nov. 6 and a court hearing for its approval is set for Nov. 9.

The plan emerged during a three-day mediation "a few weeks ago in July," according to a statement by Archbishop Jerome Listekci. It was the fourth attempt to reach a mediated agreement and the only one done secretly.

According to a statement by the

archdiocese, the plan sets aside \$21 million to compensate 330 victims. However, as much as \$7 million of that will go to lawyers who have been working on behalf of the victims without pay for more than a decade, according to a lawyer for some claimants.

Another 240 victims who filed claims will get nothing. The committee of claimants elected to set aside a portion of the award — about \$184,000 or \$2,000 for each of 92 claims deemed

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This issue was mailed on Aug 7.



—Courtesy of Dominican Sisters

Dominican Sr. Maria Hanna with internally displaced Christians in Dohuk, Iraq

The spirit of courage amid a bitter reality

FIRST PERSON

Editor's note: Dominican Sr. Maria Hanna is the prioress general of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena in Ankawa on the outskirts of Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. In August 2014, the sisters, along with other Christians, were forced to flee Qaraqosh and other towns and villages in the Nineveh Plain when the Islam-

ic State, or ISIS, seized control of the area. On July 22, Hanna wrote the following open letter to U.S. Dominicans and other supporters.

By MARIA HANNA

As we approach the first anniversary of our displacement, we look back and recall the past 12 months. We under-

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Facts on guns in the United States



Background checks

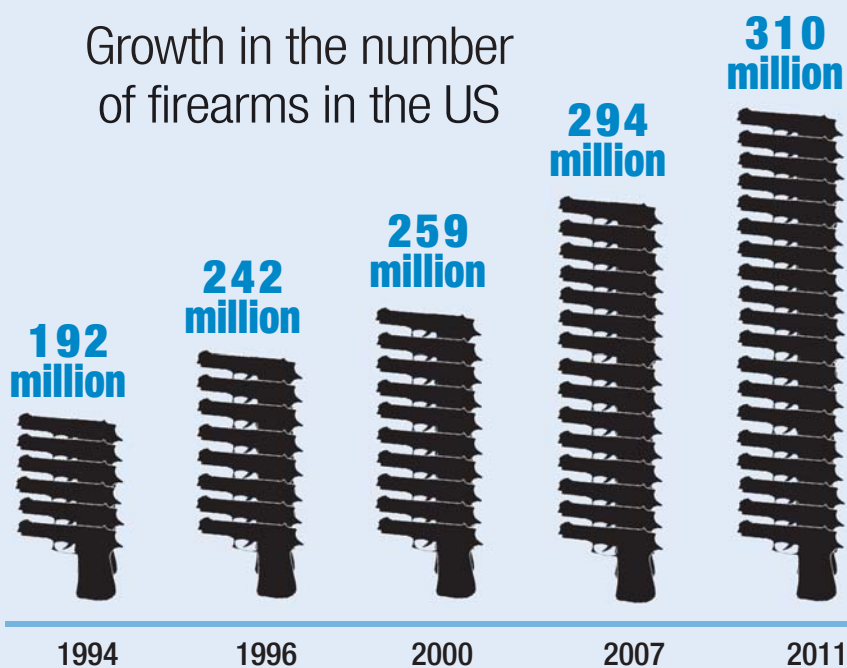


40% of all guns in the U.S. are sold through private sellers and require no criminal background check

30% of guns involved in trafficking are connected to gun shows, where background checks aren't required

Source: Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Growth in the number of firearms in the US



Source: Congressional Research Service

—NCR staff

GUNS: CONGRESS' RIGHT TO REGULATE A RIGHT

Continued from Page 1

— most often defined as the killing of at least four people — account for less than 1 percent of gun-related violence in the U.S. According to the National Institute of Justice, mass shootings account for an average of 35 fatalities a year, while homicides claimed 11,000 lives in 2011 alone.

In a country where guns outnumber people, according to a 2012 Congressional Research Service report, the U.S. murder rate by firearms is about 20 times the average of other high-income countries. Conceding that the Second Amendment grants its citizens the right to bear arms, many blame weak federal gun regulations that allow the wrong hands to acquire weapons far too easily.

Federal law requires background checks only for weapons purchased from a licensed gun dealer, excluding private transactions. Currently, 10 states have a permit-to-purchase system in place, requiring prospective handgun purchasers to obtain a license verifying they passed a background check either through an in-person application process or by applying with local law enforcement.

A 2014 study from the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, looked at how gun deaths in two states correlated with the repeal or enactment of permit-to-purchase (PTP) laws. After Missouri repealed its PTP regulations in 2007, it saw a 25 percent increase in homicides by firearm. Bordering states did not experience an increase, and the national murder rate declined 5 percent. Missouri murders not involving guns remained steady.

When Connecticut enacted PTP laws

in 1995, over the following decade it experienced a 40 percent reduction in firearm homicides. It also raised the handgun purchasing age from 18 to 21 and required prospective purchasers to complete eight hours of safety training after applying for a permit with local police in person. Murders that did not involve guns did not decrease, nor did murders in similar states without a handgun purchaser licensing requirement.

Such findings caught the attention of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of more than 50 national faith groups and organizations that supports a “common-sense agenda” to obstruct violence from firearms. The Rev. Gary Hall, chair of Faiths United and dean of Washington National Cathedral, helped launch the initiative, “Tale of Two States: Handgun Purchaser Licensing Saves Lives,” which calls on Congress to implement three pieces of legislation:

- Require every gun buyer to pass a criminal background check;
- Take military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines off the streets;
- Make gun trafficking a federal crime.

These regulations do not infringe on individual rights granted by the Second Amendment, Hall explained. When the U.S. Supreme Court established in 2008 the right to bear arms as an absolute principle, he said, it also established Congress' right to regulate that right — no different than other rights afforded us by the Constitution.

“It's the same as free speech. We have freedom of speech, but we still regulate speech in terms of being unable to libel somebody, incite people to violence, or advocate the overthrow of the government,” he said. “We regulate it. People

BUT GUNS MAKE US SAFER, RIGHT?

The “guns save lives” mantra isn't only touted by the National Rifle Association. Following the Charleston shooting, an Ann Arbor, Mich., priest hosted classes in his parish for people seeking licenses for concealed pistols. In a letter to his congregation, Fr. Edward Fride wrote that he thinks it is “perfectly appropriate for the parish to offer this class, because the protection of our families and our kids is of paramount importance to us.”

He noted that local police often tell him that it would be easier on their jobs if citizens would arm themselves for protection. “If we are adequately protected, fear need not be the reality,” Fride wrote.

But numbers don't favor the argument: According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, less than a third of burglaries occur when someone is home, and in the 7 percent of burglaries when violence does occur, the burglar is more likely to be a relative, intimate or acquaintance than a stranger.

Merely dialing 911 also proved to be safer than arming oneself, as the National

Crime Victimization Surveys found that threatening with a gun nearly triples the likelihood of getting injured, as opposed to just calling the police.

Studies also show that more guns equate with more suicides, homicides and accidental deaths. One study comparing the number of abused women who survived with those who died found that 51 percent of those killed had a gun in the house (as more than a third of U.S. homes contain a gun).

When compared to other developed countries where gun ownership is far less common, American children between ages 5 and 14 are 11 times more likely to be killed with a gun. And more than half of suicides are committed with firearms, a means that is often argued to encourage impulsiveness: One study showed that more than half of survivors who attempted to kill themselves with a gun reported that those suicidal thoughts lasted less than 24 hours.

In his letter to his parish, Fride said that it's a matter of choosing the lesser evil.

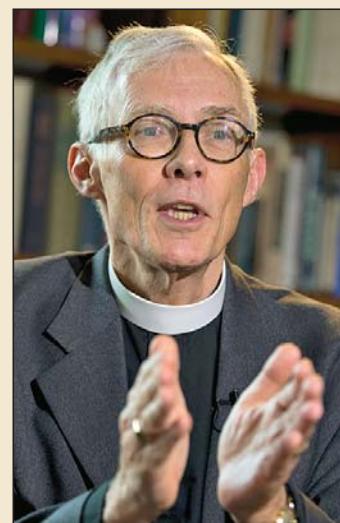
“Several people have said

to me, ‘I'm afraid of guns.’ My response to one woman was, ‘Well, how do you feel about rape?’ While that may seem extreme, when we choose against one option, we do, in a sense, empower the other.”

Franciscan Sr. Marie Lucey of Franciscan Action Network said such a notion — that people need guns for safety — is just one effective strategy employed by the NRA to promote guns. And it works: One gun manufacturer reported a 52 percent increase in earnings the year following the Sandy Hook school massacre in Newtown, Conn., which claimed the lives of 20 children and six staff members Dec. 14, 2012.

“The fear factor, the misconception that it's a violation of the Second Amendment and the money given to legislators by the NRA, corporations and gun manufacturers — all these combine to override the common-sense factor,” Lucey said.

While public opinion overwhelmingly supports such regulations, the political climate in Washington is “not one where we're going



—AP/Evan Vucci

The Rev. Gary Hall

to have a real argument about gun violence anytime soon in Congress,” said the Rev. Gary Hall, chair of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence and dean of Washington National Cathedral, adding that the public needs to make that conversation happen.

Whether this is a moral or political issue, however, adds to the debate's contentiousness. Lucey and others agreed that responding to gun violence is a moral imperative, as it threatens the right to life.

“We say how highly we value life, so on the one hand, we try to do everything to save

life from disease and try to protect life,” Lucey said. “And on the other hand, we don't take action to try to protect life from gun violence.”

Hall added that even though eliminating all gun violence isn't a feasible goal, there's a moral obligation to do everything possible to save the lives we can.

“Those who really favor gun violence protection need to get organized and be as present in the political process as the NRA is,” Hall said. “The problem is that progressive people care about this issue when there is a tragedy — like Charleston, Newtown or Aurora [where multiple assault weapons were fired on Colorado moviegoers, killing 12 and injuring 70 on July 20, 2012]. They don't care about it between tragedies at the same level that the NRA people care about it all the time.”

The Ann Arbor priest canceled the concealed pistol license classes in his parish on the instructions of Lansing Bishop Earl Boyea. Boyea issued a statement saying, “Such classes are not appropriate for church property,” and that diocesan schools and churches are gun-free zones.

—Soli Salgado

like me think people should have access to guns, but that should be a regulated right.”

Conflicting rights

Supporting Faiths United’s agenda, Franciscan Sr. Marie Lucey, director of advocacy and member relations for the Franciscan Action Network, agreed that responsible gun ownership in the form of background checks and handgun licensing is often and inaccurately misinterpreted as a threat to one’s constitutional liberties.

“I think in this country, we have placed such a value on individual rights as opposed to rights of all, reinforced by the old-frontier-cowboy mentality,” she said. “But legislation like what we’re trying to call for in no way threatens the Second Amendment.”

But the current debate regarding guns is largely steered by those with

money at stake. The National Rifle Association not only lobbies against gun control by heavily funding political campaigns — donating to 261 members of Congress in 2012 — but also by shifting the focus of the discussion.

“Our current debate about guns is flawed by ideology, mostly on the side of the NRA, which basically takes the position that, nowadays, any kind of gun regulation or expansion of gun laws is just a disguised way of trying to seize guns from law-abiding Americans who have the right to own guns,” Craig Whitney, author of *Living With Guns: A Liberal’s Case for the Second Amendment*, told *NCR*. “A lot of their opposition to gun control is basically ideology, not founded on data or science.”

Daniel Webster, who conducted the Johns Hopkins research on PTP licensing, told *NCR* that the NRA’s communications machine is powerful in

its ability to convince gun owners that background checks and licensing is the “path by which people are going to take their guns away.”

“They know they can’t win a debate about background checks or even licensing handgun purchasers, but they can win the debate if they change the discussion to, ‘Should the government take your guns away from you?’, which of course isn’t the point of policy,” he said. “And somehow they keep getting away with it.”

Hall said preventing gun violence is a public health issue — no different from adding airbags to cars or addressing the dangers of smoking. He added there’s no reason to tolerate “multiple thousands of gun deaths a year that are eminently preventable.”

Joan Neal, strategic adviser at NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby, agreed with Hall’s logic.

“My personal belief is that an individual’s right to own a gun ends with my right to live,” she said. “We are all entitled to a reasonable expectation of public safety, and if licensing is all it takes to significantly increase public safety, why not do it? After all, we have to have a license to drive a car. Surely taking precautions against more unnecessary loss of life due to gun violence is as important.”

Implementing universal background checks, they argue, is the vital first step.

According to a 2013 report by the Center for American Progress, an estimated 40 percent of all gun transfers take place between unlicensed people, which in 2012 resulted in 6.6 million guns being transferred without a background check.

Additionally, a national survey of inmates by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that nearly 80 percent of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it in a private transfer, which does not require a background check.

Opinion vs. reality

A 2013 Johns Hopkins public opinion survey found 89 percent of Americans, including 84 percent of gun owners, support requiring background systems for all gun sales; 77 percent of Americans and 59 percent of gun owners supported licensing laws.

Webster and Hall attribute the disparity between public opinion and political realities with how congressional elections are carried out. While comprehensive background checks for handgun sales with a PTP system would be most effective as a federal policy, Webster said our form of government is “tilted to give more power to states with smaller populations,” making it harder for legislation on consensual gun control to pass.

“Gun violence is more of an urban problem, while in rural communities there’s more of a culture that is less kind to regulations of gun sales,” he added.

Prosecuting gun trafficking as a federal crime is a precaution supported by Faiths United and those who spoke to *NCR*. According to the Department of Justice Inspector General, U.S. attorneys decline to prosecute 25 percent of such cases, compared to 9 percent of drug conspiracy cases. Yet 84 percent of guns found in crime scenes throughout New York City were originally purchased out of state, illegally making their way into the city.

The Johns Hopkins study showed similar results in Missouri. Following the state’s repeal of PTP laws, the



— Newscom/Polaris/Max Becherer
A sign asks for a moment of silence at a weekly market July 25 to honor the victims of a shooting at a nearby movie theater in Lafayette, La.

number of guns sold in Missouri and later recovered by police in Illinois and Iowa — two bordering states with purchaser licensing laws — increased 37 percent between 2006 and 2012, while the overall number of crime guns recovered by police in those states declined by 6 percent.

Whitney said the government should prosecute people who transfer guns illegally much more strongly than it does now. But he cautions against making guns too hard to obtain.

“You want to make it tougher for criminals and tougher on criminals when they’re found with guns illegally and vigorously prosecute crimes committed with guns,” he said. “That’s the best way to go after it. ... Keeping someone like me from having a gun does nothing to control the street violence by criminals.”

While Faiths United calls for a ban on assault rifles, Whitney said such efforts distract from the real problem. The National Institute of Justice noted that assault weapons are used in just 2 to 8 percent of crimes, while the vast majority of firearm crimes involve handguns. And with 1.5 million assault weapons already in circulation, Whitney said this focus makes it easier for the NRA to claim the potential for governmental appropriation of personal weapons.

“Criminals don’t come out with assault rifles and shoot each other on the streets in New York City or Chicago,” he said. “They’re using handguns, pistols, revolvers, .45s. Those are the weapons behind most of the gun violence we read about. By focusing on assault rifles, liberals make it easier for the NRA to say, ‘See, all they want to do is take your guns away.’”

The real problem, he said, is how to get law enforcement and regulations more effective in keeping guns out of the hands of people everybody agrees shouldn’t have them, namely criminals and violent or mentally ill people. Whitney noted that the Charleston shooting involved a handgun sale that an efficient background check would have prevented.

Still, Faiths United cited that 81 percent of likely voters support a ban on assault weapons, including 71 percent of gun owners and 60 percent of NRA members.

[Soli Salgado is an *NCR* Bertelsen intern. Her email address is ssalgado@ncronline.org.]



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POPE IN AFRICA

Francis to spend six days in three nations

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SPIRITUALITY

Solidarity in Lebanon; depression; reliquaries; and more

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Sisters meet in St. Louis to discuss religious life

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COLUMN

GOP PRIMARY

Which of the misfit toys will win the nomination?

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Complexity mires action on gun violence

By VINNIE ROTONDARO

Sixteen years have passed since the school shooting at Columbine, eight since Virginia Tech, and as of Dec. 14, three since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., which took the lives of 20 first-graders and six adults.

In between, before and after, dozens of other mass shootings have occurred.

In the same period, hundreds of thousands have died in gun-related homicides, suicides and accidents. Yet even as large majorities say they would support sensible regulations like universal background checks and handgun purchaser licensing laws, which drastically reduce firearm deaths, the nation seems paralyzed with inaction.

“The fundamental problem is that many of the people who support gun violence prevention don’t really believe that anything can be done about it, and as a result they’re not as motivated as people on the other side,” said Vincent DeMarco, national coordinator of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, which was set to host its annual National

Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend Dec. 10-14 in Washington, D.C.

In other words, the pro-gun-rights crowd is passionate, convinced of their argument and ready to go to the mat. Everyone else, including many gun owners, may support anti-gun-violence measures, but don’t truly believe they will work.

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—CNS/Bob Roller

Bishop Michael Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, Mont., turns in his paper ballot during the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 17.

Parsing priorities and plans

At meeting, bishops slow to adopt pope’s vision

ANALYSIS

By TOM ROBERTS

BALTIMORE · Less than a week before the Catholic bishops of the United States gathered for their annual meeting Nov. 16-19 in Baltimore, Pope Francis addressed a national council of the Italian church, exhorting its members not to place ultimate trust in structures, orga-

nizations and plans, but to embrace a church that is ever-changing.

If there was doubt about how integral change is to Francis’ view of the Catholic endeavor, he spoke of the church *semper reformanda*, always reforming, and declared: “We are not living in an era of change but a change of era” (*NCR*, Nov. 20-Dec. 3).

The papal language was perhaps more forceful and comprehensive in that talk than in previous ora-

tions, but it was hardly new. From the earliest days of his pontificate, Francis’ words have been rich in the language of movement and change, of his wish for a church unencumbered by old attitudes and habits, moving beyond the confines of church structures and into the streets.

A “church for the poor” and “on the peripheries” have become defining phrases, and he has repeatedly voiced his preference for a church

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By BRIAN ROEWE

In spite of terrorist attacks, climate talks push toward deal

The resounding refrain out of France following the mid-November terrorist attacks carried out in its capital city was succinct:

“Life must go on.”

That included a global gathering that would assemble world leaders in a temporary city north of Paris to ratify a binding deal to collectively address climate change. The 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

or COP21, anticipated as *NCR* went to press upward of 40,000 participants to descend upon the Le Bourget suburb Nov. 30-Dec. 11 for the annual summit.

The high-level climate negotiations have fostered enormous expectations across the globe — including inside the Vatican — as many view Paris as the first substantial opportunity to commit all nations to curbing greenhouse gas emissions since the limited 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the failed 2009 Copenhagen talks.

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—OurVoices/Alex Price

The People’s Pilgrimage for the climate crosses the Alps Nov. 3.

This issue was mailed on Nov. 27.

GUNS: THE MORAL FABRIC OF SOCIETY

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DeMarco says that educating the public is “the best thing the Catholic church and all of us could do.”

Franciscan Sr. Marie Lucey, director of advocacy and member relations for Franciscan Action Network, agrees. The American Catholic church can “frame gun violence as a pro-life issue and a health care issue,” she wrote in an email.

“Bishops and pastors have the pulpit. They can bring the issue home, to their own state, city, town,” she wrote. “They can speak with law enforcement, hospital personnel and teachers, and arrange meetings with parishioners to talk about gun violence, using statistics about children killed, the fact that most gun deaths are by handguns, and the majority of these are suicides. An environment of listening has to be created. Respectful dialogue is needed. There are very good films that can be used. Some schools already have programs in place.”

Implementing change will necessarily mean taking on the National Rifle Association, corporations, and the money involved. It will also hinge on convincing the public of an overarching strategy while not letting misunderstanding and mistrust build up across an array of related pro-life issues.

Anthony Granado of the U.S. bishops’ Office of Domestic Social Development said that many gun rights activists’ approach is a “very simple perspective, which is: Do not touch guns, do not touch our right, it is absolute, there should be no infringement. And that’s something that is repeatable, it’s not nuanced, it’s not complex, it’s just a strict interpretation of the Second Amendment, and so they’re able to rally people around that.”

On the other end of the spectrum, people feel overwhelmed by the “complexity of the issue,” he said.

“Are we seeking to stop or at least limit mass shootings in schools? Are we trying to address the gun violence in our inner cities? Are we talking about domestic violence?” Granado asked. “The nuance creates areas where people can say, ‘Well, I agree with you here, but I don’t agree with you there.’”

Take the question of mental illness, which is often mentioned in the same breath as mass shootings. Many of the shootings involve mentally ill young men, but studies regularly show that people suffering from mental illness are not violent. Instead, they are more likely the victims of violence.

The mass shootings grab our attention, then lead us astray, said Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference.

When we talk about the correlation between mental illness and gun death, we ought to be talking about “suicide deaths from people who have mental illness,” he said, as suicide gun deaths vastly outnumber deaths that occur annually as a result of mass shootings, and even outnumber the murders that occur in day-in, day-out settings.

“We live in a culture that’s dependent on drugs, because it’s depressed, it lacks hope,” Adkins said. “Are we giving people hope? Are we reaching out, are we treating mental illness effectively, with effective services? Are we embracing a culture of encounter, and reaching out to the people who are troubled most?”

Other gun-death-related issues are equally problematic, like inner-city



—CQ Roll Call/Tom Williams

During a Sept. 10 rally for gun control legislation in Washington, D.C., Ashley Cech, right, whose mother survived the Sandy Hook shootings, comforts Diane Sellgren, whose daughter committed suicide with a gun in 2011.



Vigil for victims

On Dec. 10-14, hundreds of places of worship and other groups across the country will participate in the National Vigil for Gun Violence Victims and the National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend, an interfaith call to action. For more information and for sample worship services, visit marchsabbath.org.

shootings, where a cultural and political rift exists on the question: What causes a life of crime?

The “progressive” tendency views the issue through the lens of economic inequality and racial injustice, as many inner-city neighborhoods with high levels of firearm death are populated by poor African-Americans. The “conservative” mindset tends to focus on cultural and moral problems.

“Why does a person resort to a life of crime?” asked Adkins. “There are certainly socio-economic reasons, but there are also the moral reasons: the breakdown of the traditional family, a culture of fatherlessness, gang violence as a way of belonging.”

How does one thread the needle?

“Every day, when you pick up the paper, that’s what you see, another African-American has been killed,” said Thomas Buckley, general counsel for the St. Louis archdiocese.

In a recent study, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law reported that St. Louis had the highest murder rate in the country, as measured per capita.

“We are way ahead of murders this year compared to last year in St. Louis,” Buckley said. “Unfortunately, it does seem to impact certain socio-economic segments of our area, and it’s most impacted the poor African-American areas and regions of the greater St. Louis area.”

What Buckley finds most disturbing is the “increase in holdups [where] the person gives them their wallet and turns to go away, and the attacker shoots them in the back.” Not a “drug deal gone bad or some gang infighting or gangs fighting other gangs,” just random, senseless death.

“I think most people recognize that this is a problem of our culture, of the moral fabric of our society,” he said, mentioning both the realities of “lower life expectancies across zip codes” in the St. Louis area, and “the collapse of the family.”

“We have to acknowledge the legitimate points on both sides of the debate and root that in first principals,” said Adkins. “Catholic social teaching could play a role here.”

At the same time, “just because guns are not the first point of the problem,



—CNS/Catholic New World/Karen Callaway
Chicago police officers escort students from the Academy of St. Benedict the African School for a prayer walk for peace in their community Nov. 5. The walk was prompted by the Nov. 2 fatal shooting of a 9-year-old boy in Chicago.

it doesn’t mean we can’t regulate reasonably,” he said. “And keep people away from guns who can’t exercise their rights responsibly.”

Granado agreed about reasonable regulation: “One of the things that Congress can do immediately is to address the issue of background checks, universal background checks for all

people. This is a simple thing.”

Even in a state like Minnesota, where “there is a sensitivity because we are a hunting state, we are an agricultural state, guns are a part of everyday life,” focusing on background checks are the way to go, said Adkins.

“Clearly, when you look at polling, there is a broad consensus in the public about reasonable regulation of firearms. Background checks typically have strong support even in a gun-friendly state like Minnesota,” he said. “The real challenge is to try get the debate out of this false either/or, partisan dynamic.”

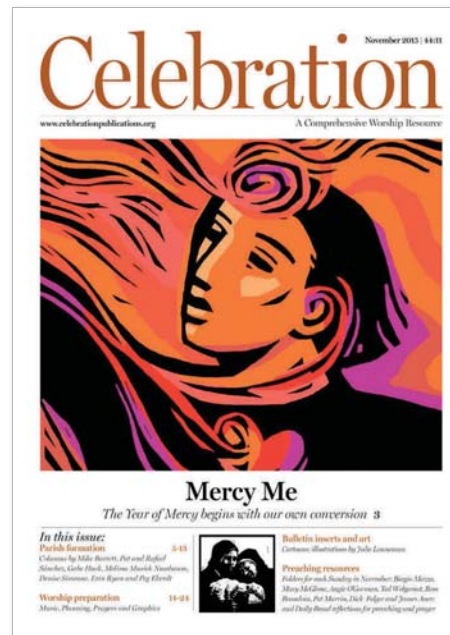
DeMarco said the most “constructive, positive” thing the church can do would be to focus on educating the public about the effectiveness of background checks and handgun licensing laws.

“There needs to be more networking,” he said, and he hopes the Dec. 10-14 anti-gun-violence Sabbath weekend event will help put various groups on the same page.

“People think about this differently in different areas,” he said, “but I think that everywhere people don’t know about the effective measures. And that’s what we need to get out.”

[Vinnie Rotondaro is NCR national correspondent. His email address is vrotondaro@ncronline.org.]

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