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SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher

sunshine, light winds, high 72. Weather map appears on Page 21.

\$6.00

Tonight, light winds, mainly clear,

low 55. Tomorrow, an abundance of



People outside Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago on Thursday after Pope Leo XIV was elected. His South Side church closed years ago.

Plight of Pope's Chicago Parish Is Familiar Catholic Lament

By RUTH GRAHAM and JULIE BOSMAN

CHICAGO - Before he was Pope Leo XIV, or even Father Bob, he was the youngest of the three Prevost boys in the pews at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on the far edge of Chicago's southern border.

The parish was bustling when the future pope and his family were parishioners there in the 1950s and '60s. All three brothers attended elementary school at the parish school. Their mother, Mildred, was the president of the St. Mary Altar and Rosary Society, and performed in plays there, according to Noelle Neis, who remembers sitting behind the family on Sunday mornings.

"They were always there," Ms. Neis said, adding, "The community revolved around the church."

Today, the old Catholic enclave on the South Side of Chicago has essentially disappeared, with institutions shuttered and parishioners dispersing into the suburbs. Attendance at St. Mary of the Assumption declined significantly over the years, and the congrega-

The Community, Once Tight, Drifted Away

tion merged with another dwindling parish in 2011. The combined parish merged with another two churches in 2019. The old St. Mary building has fallen into disrepair, with graffiti scrawled behind the

That transformation is in many ways the story of Catholicism in America, as changes in urban and suburban landscapes crashed into demographic and cultural shifts that radically reshaped many Catholic communities.

"It's one of the great dramas of 20th century U.S. history," said John McGreevy, a historian at the University of Notre Dame and the author of "Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter With Race in the Twentieth-Century Continued on Page 10

PAPAL PRICE BUMP Offers flood in for the Chicago-area house where Leo lived as a boy. PAGE 11

Trump Curtails Legal Tool That Enforces Civil Rights

Order Ends the 'Disparate Impact' Test for Whether Policies Discriminate

By ERICA L. GREEN

President

WASHINGTON — Trump has ordered federal agencies to abandon the use of a longstanding legal tool used to root out discrimination against minorities, a move that could defang the nation's bedrock civil rights law.

In an expansive executive order, Mr. Trump directed the federal government to curtail the use of "disparate-impact liability," a core tenet used for decades to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by determining whether policies disproportionately disadvantage certain groups.

The little-noticed order, issued last month with a spate of others targeting equity policies, was the latest effort in Mr. Trump's aggressive push to purge the consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion, or D.E.I., from the federal government and every facet of American life.

The directive underscores how Mr. Trump's crusade to stamp out D.E.I. — a catchall term increasingly used to describe policies that benefit anyone who is not white and male - is now focused not just on targeting programs and policies that may assist historically marginalized groups, but also on the very law created to protect them.

"This order aims to destroy the foundation of civil rights protections in this country, and it will have a devastating effect on equity for Black people and other communities of color," said Dariely Rodriguez, the acting co-chief counsel at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, an advocacy group.

The disparate-impact test has been crucial to enforcing key portions of the landmark Civil Rights Act, which prohibits recipients of federal funding from discriminating based on race, color or national origin. For decades, it has been relied upon by the government and attorneys to root out discrimination in areas of employment, housing, policing, education and more.

Civil rights prosecutors say the disparate-impact test is one of their most important tools for uncovering discrimination because it shows how a seemingly neutral policy or law has different outcomes for different demographic groups, revealing inequities.

Lawyers say the test has been crucial in showing how criminal background and credit checks affect employment of Black people, how physical capacity tests inhibit employment opportunities for women, how zoning regulations could violate fair housing laws, and how schools have meted out overly harsh discipline to minority students and children with disabilities.

Over the last decade, major businesses and organizations have settled cases in which the disparate-impact test was applied, resulting in significant pol-

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Attorney General Pam Bondi will have to ignore disparateimpact liability when enforcing the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Uneasy Truce Between India And Pakistan

This article is by Anupreeta Das, Mujib Mashal and Salman Masood.

NEW DELHI - India and Pakistan abruptly declared a ceasefire on Saturday, after four days of rapidly escalating drone volleys, shells and airstrikes that appeared to bring the old enemies to the brink of outright war. But only hours after the announcement, reports of cross-border firing raised fears about whether the truce

The agreement capped four dizzying days of strikes by the nuclear-armed rivals that went deep into each other's territories, and intense shelling on either side of the border that divides India and Pakistan's disputed Kashmir region that left many civilians dead, wounded or displaced. Adding to the bewilderment many people felt at the breakneck pace of events, the truce was initially announced not by India or Pakistan but by President Trump on social media.

And it was not clear, as night fell on Saturday, that the cease-fire would take hold in Kashmir, where a terrorist attack last month on the Indian-controlled side killed 26 people and set off the crisis. Cross-border firing was reported in both the Indian- and Pakistanicontrolled parts of the region, and India's foreign secretary, Vikram Misri, told a news conference that there had been "repeated vio-Continued on Page 6



Hendrik Dierendonck, a leading Belgian butcher and restaurateur, at one of his production plants.

U.S. and Europe, in Trade Battle, Play Game of Chicken, and Beef

BV JEANNA SMIALEK

VEURNE, Belgium — Hendrik Dierendonck, a second-generation butcher who has become, as he describes it, "world famous in Belgium" for his curated local beef, thinks Europe's way of raising cattle results in varied and delicious cuts that European consumers prize.

"They want hormone-free, grass-fed," Mr. Dierendonck explained recently as he cut steaks at a bloody chopping block in his Michelin-starred restaurant, which backs onto the butchery his father started in the 1970s. "They want to know where it came from."

Strict European Union food regulations, including a ban on hormones, govern Mr. Dierendonck's work. And those rules could turn into a trade-war sticking point. The Trump administration argues that American meat, produced without similar regulations, is bet-

ter — and wants Europe to buy more of it, and other American farm products. "They hate our beef because

nick, the commerce secretary, said in a televised interview last month. "And theirs is weak." Questions of beauty and strength aside, the administration is right about one thing: European

our beef is beautiful," Howard Lut-

policymakers are not keen on allowing more hormone-raised American steaks and burgers into the European Union. Further opening the European

market to American farmers is just one ask on a laundry list of requests from the Trump team. American negotiators also want Europe to buy more American gas and trucks, to change their consumption taxes and to weaken their digital regulations.

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In Life, Her Students Couldn't Forget Her. In Death, She Remembered Them, Too.

By HANK SANDERS

In August 2021, a mysterious package from Sarasota, Fla., showed up in Nicole Archer's mailbox in Manhattan.

Dr. Archer hurried upstairs to her cramped Chelsea apartment with the thick envelope in hand and tore it open at her dining table, revealing a legal document that she had been wondering about for months.

She knew that a beloved college professor had bequeathed her something in her will. She was expecting a modest gift — enough money for a fancy dinner, perhaps, or one of the beaded bracelets the professor liked to make by

But when Dr. Archer, 49, saw the number on the last page \$100,000 — she thought there

must be a misplaced decimal point.

"I truly, honestly believed that I read it wrong," she said. "I remember following the number with my finger, making sure I understood how many zeros it was."

At about the same time, 30 other people across the country received similar letters, sent at the behest of a professor whose class they had taken years earlier.

Over 50 years of teaching art history at New College of Florida, Prof. Cris Hassold had carved out an influential but complex legacy. She referred to her students as her children. She hired them to clean her home — a disturbing hoarder's den. At times, she humiliated them in class.

But the students who knew her best described her as a singular force of good in their lives. "The

cult of Cris," as one described it, lives on in her 31 favorite students, who inherited her intensity, her quirks and, in the end, her life savings.

New College, a small public honors college in Sarasota, on Florida's Gulf Coast, was known for attracting gifted students who could not afford a private liberal arts school but who sought a rig-

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NATIONAL 14-22

25 Questions for Your Mom

How well do you really know your mother? For Mother's Day, talk to her using these queries culled from experts meant to inspire rich, satisfying conversations, and find out.

What Happened to Learning?

Politicians used to care how much students learn. Now, a group of educators, parents and researchers has a plan where the breadth, depth and quality of the curriculum matter. PAGE 20

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SUNDAY OPINION

Maureen Dowd



INTERNATIONAL 4-13

Xi's Been Waiting for This

China's leader has long worked to make the world dependent on his country's exports and know-how.

Macron and Zelensky, Pals

The presidents of France and Ukraine have become not only strategic allies, but also friends.

METROPOLITAN

'I Curate the Vibe'

Fabrizio Brienza lords over a club's velvet rope with an iron fist, deciding who is worthy to enter.

A Desolate Bronx Park

Residents hope St. Mary's Park, once a refuge in a neighborhood stuck in poverty, can be saved.

SUNDAY STYLES

The Weeknd Comes to an End In his new film, "Hurry Up Tomorrow," the R&B singer, whose given name is Abel Tesfaye, plays his alter ego for the

final time. What's next for him? PAGE 4



ARTS & LEISURE

Dance Music Is Booming

As costs skyrocket for live instrumental acts, a touring D.J. needs to travel with only a USB stick full of tunes. PAGE 13 **SUNDAY BUSINESS**

In the Name of Manhood

Crypto bros, tech executives and startup founders, embracing an old-fashioned version of masculinity, have recently developed a new obsession: martial arts.

Mom and Pop in the Crossfire

A family business that makes embroidered patches is always on high alert for the competition. But with on-again, off-again tariffs, just keeping up with the rules is tough.

