Bill Graham juried my degree comprehensives back in 1970. I remember he asked me where I got all the odd dialect voices I used in delivering my readings. There were some drama faculty we admired; of others we were even in awe, but Bill Graham we loved. He did, indeed, show us how good acting would make for a good life.

— Bill Lenardson, B.A. 1970

Editor's Note: William H. Graham Sr., M.A. 1954, was the former chair of the Department of Speech and Drama, associate professor of acting, and founder of the Master of Fine Arts Acting program. He died on Oct. 15, 2013. His obituary appeared on page 40 of the spring issue.

“The pope’s selections remind us that the Church is booming in the global south,” said Chad Pecknold, assistant professor of theology at The Catholic University of America. “No pope has been as mindful of this as Francis. … (Their work with the poor) will give them common cause with some progressives critical of the abuses of corporate expansion without regard for social capital or the common good.”

The pontiff “is beginning to transform the College of Cardinals to reflect his vision of a poor church, for the poor,” said Stephen F. Schneck, director of the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies at The Catholic University of America.

— Professors Pecknold and Schneck were quoted in a Jan. 2 article in The Wall Street Journal about the Pope’s selection of new cardinals.

“I think the difference between Pope Francis and President Obama on the question of poverty is one of emphasis,” Andrew V. Abela, dean of Catholic University's School of Business and Economics, wrote in an email. “The President is policy driven, while the Pope, by contrast, sees poverty not as a technical problem — for him it is a human, relational problem.

“At the root of the Pope’s vision is personal relationship. He is fighting against a culture of exclusion; poverty, for him, goes way beyond a question of insufficient income: it means being left out of the human family,” Abela continued. “I think that the real opportunity here is for the Pope’s call to each one of us to care for the poorest among us to be heard and acted upon. I think it diminishes this call to reduce it to a policy debate.”

— Abela was quoted in The Washington Post on Jan. 21 on the Pope’s upcoming meeting with President Obama.

“In January more than 350 years ago, two men of Vlissingen — now Flushing, N.Y., near Manhattan — sat in jail for defending the rights of Quakers to publicly practice their faith. This early act of courage in support of religious freedom is one of America’s most important, yet least known, declarations of private and public rights of conscience.”


“Whether or not we are even close to the states moving to a position of eliminating excessive, or for that matter, mandatory minimums of any kinds, I am not optimistic on that count. I do think there are states that are slowly coming to recognize that if we want inmate offenders to have the tools to reenter society successfully we have to change the mode of incarceration. We cannot afford to warehouse inmates whether they are juveniles or adults. We can’t afford it from an economic standpoint, we can’t afford it in terms of human cost.”

— Law Professor Cara Drinan appeared on C-SPAN on Jan. 25 to discuss whether young criminal offenders convicted of murder should be spared life sentences and allowed time to rehabilitate.

Congratulations to Pope Francis: Person of the Year, 2013! Now when is he going to schedule his visit to CUA? @Pontifex @CatholicUniv

— @cuatower

Fr. Marek just came into Starbucks and blessed everyone studying. I. Love. This. School. #CUA #whywemarch #March4Life

— @CUAministry

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