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Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

Syria -- The clamorous heart of Aleppo, the ancient city with its cobbled streets and mazy bazaars, fell silent on Tuesday **as residents there and across Syria's sprawling commercial capital fled the streets and covered indoors, dreading the rat-tat-tat of machine gun fire and the echoing roar of government helicopters.**

Christian Bale Visits Shooting Victims

'Batman' Actor Attends Memorial Service

Austria Church Mounts Billboard Search for Priests

Catholic Relief Services: **Funding for humanitarian aid did not violate church teaching**

So who is the funniest Catholic in the Western world: New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan or Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert? **we may finally get an answer to that urgent question** when the cardinal and the comedian team up for a panel on faith and humor this September at Fordham University in the Bronx, N.Y.

Complex Emotions Over First American Indian Saint

Nearly all of the ice sheet covering Greenland's surface melted over several days in July -- **something scientists have never seen before.**

Commentary -- **Why is NCAA taking sex abuse more seriously than Catholic Church?**

Kansas City, Mo. -- **Catholic diocese dismissed from Jackson County priest abuse suit** Jackson

County judge says she struggled with decision but was bound by recent court rulings

NYC -- **Tempers bubble up at soda-ban hearing**, board that is expected to approve a partial ban of sales of large sugary drinks.

Recent announcement that Omaha, Nebr.-based, Jesuit-run Creighton University is teaming up with St. Joseph Hospital in Phoenix has prompted Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted **to re-affirm that he does not recognize St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center as a Catholic hospital**

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NCR's sister publication, Celebration, posts reflections on each day's Scripture reading. Here's a link: **celebrationpublications.org/dailybread**. You may want to bookmark it. It's a great way to begin the day.

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