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## Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

**LCWR past presidents reflect on Vatican mandate**

**Afghanistan sees first drop in violence against civilians in 5 years, U.N. finds**

COMMENTARY -- **The Second Vatican Council has already made us free** by Robert Blair Kaiser

Maryland -- **Catholic Supporters of Same-Sex Marriage Speak Out**

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- **The government wants a judge to dismiss a lawsuit by a Roman Catholic school in Ohio about the federal mandate requiring most employers to cover birth control.**

**Nuns' supporters gather as leadership conference mulls response to Vatican crackdown** See also the NCR blog *Sisters Under Scrutiny*

**The Bells of Hiroshima -- in Los Alamos**

Fargo, N.D. -- **Peace Pole rededicated in memory of Hiroshima** The handcrafted Peace Pole located outside Nativity Catholic Church here has a message in four different languages engraved on its sides, each carrying the same translation: "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

New claims of sexual abuse at the hands of Roman Catholic clergy are coming **from the Blackfoot Indian reservation, bringing to at least 280 the total number of plaintiffs** in two lawsuits seeking damages from the diocese that oversees western Montana.

NCR's sister publication, *Celebration*, posts reflections on each day's Scripture reading. Here's a link: [celebrationpublications.org/dailybread](http://celebrationpublications.org/dailybread)

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