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Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

Washington state's four Catholic bishops, while professing to abhor "bias" and "rejection" directed at gays and lesbians, **have delivered a pastoral statement calling Referendum 74 a threat to religious liberty**. Ref. 74, on the November ballot, would make Washington the seventh state to legalize marriage between partners of the same sex.

DULUTH, Minnesota -- **Catholic priest donated \$1000 to gay marriage**. The Diocese of Duluth, where Lambert is stationed, has donated \$50,000 to support the traditional marriage amendment.

Pope says Cardinal Martini's love for Bible guided his life

Translated final interview with Martini

Philadelphia -- **Judge postpones rape trial of priest, Catholic school teacher**

Rally at DNC: the Coalition for Liberty & Justice **Call "defend individual conscience on issues of marriage rights and access to reproductive health"**, coalition includes Catholics for Choice, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Charlotte-based Freedom Center for Social Justice,

Election 2012 -- **Republicans counter-program with Catholic voters**

New Zealand: **Catholic Church focuses on food security for Social Justice Week**

Franciscan friar Father Benedict Groeschel **has stepped down as host of EWTN's Sunday Night Prime television show** following his apology for making comments about the sexual abuse of minors.

NCR's Michael Sean Winters writes a letter: **Dear Democratic Catholics**. Last week he wrote to Republican Catholics.

Is the study discounting the benefits of organic food likely to change your eating habits?

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

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