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## Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

Election 2012 -- **Romney leaves Obama campaign on defense**

Election 2012 -- **Colin Powell endorses Obama; Sununu, McCain go nuts**

The names of more than 1,000 Catholics will appear Sunday in a full-page newspaper ad **endorsing Referendum 74 and same-sex marriage**, which is passionately opposed by the church's four bishops in Washington state.

Bishop Richard Malone: **a "Catholic whose conscience has been properly formed by scripture and church teaching cannot justify a vote"** to legalize gay marriage.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert W. McElroy: **Catholics should also consider if a candidate can or will do what they promise**

**Catholic senator in North Dakota challenges bishop's election letter**

Holy Land -- **Catholic churches condemn Israeli security barrier route near Bethlehem**

Paris, France -- A drive to rekindle Roman Catholicism's missionary zeal **is struggling to counter the challenge of Islam**, a religion with an arguably more direct message and a greater institutional hold on its faithful.

**Interview with Cardinal Christoph Schönborn**

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

. You may want to bookmark it. It's a great way to begin the day.

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