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## Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

**Tickets sold in Arizona, Missouri win Powerball jackpot** Winners, don't forget your tithe! Suggestions: The annual Friends of NCR appeal or give an NCR gift subscription.

### U.N. Agency Says 2012 Ranks Among Hottest Years

WHEELING, W.Va. -- Roman Catholic Bishop Michael Bransfield **is targeting child poverty in his latest pastoral letter.**

Manila, Philippines -- Some Catholic bishops sent a powerful message to their critics who are pushing the controversial reproductive health bill: **Do not underestimate us.**

Manila, Philippines -- **Church puts clout on the line with drive against reproductive health bill:** A Catholic official said Wednesday the bishops for the first time would be urging the faithful to vote as a bloc to defeat the Reproductive Health bill that the bishops say is anti-life and the candidates favoring passing it.

Pittsburgh -- **Bishop Zubik responds to dismissal of lawsuit regarding Obamacare**

Madrid, Spain -- **Spain's Catholic bishops urged political parties to unite against same-sex marriage, after it was confirmed as legal by the Constitutional Court.**

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.

Editorial: Teen boy denied confirmation because of Facebook photo with pro-gay marriage sign --  
**The flap in Barnesville over gay marriage is a sign of more restlessness ahead for the church.**

DETROIT LAKES, Minn. ? A nontraditional Catholic organization has **offered to confirm a Barnesville 17-year-old after he was denied confirmation** because of his support for gay marriage.

Australia -- President of Catholic Religious Australia says **significant changes coming to the way it handles its response to the issue of sexual abuse**

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Australia -- Bishop says it was not the Catholic Church that committed or shielded any crimes **but individuals within the church.** Copy of his letter A Church in Dismay.

DR Congo: **International community has failed us**, says bishop

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