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Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

Mali Islamists counter attack, promise France long war

Topless women flash Pope in protest against anti-gay Vatican

Vote Set to Name Conn. School for Slain Teacher

Center for American Progress thinks big on gun control. Will Biden?

Syrian women and girls allege use of sexual violence in civil war

Courage controversy embroils Toronto's Newman Centre parish. Courage is the support group for gay Catholics officially sanctioned by Toronto archdiocese.

New York -- **Catholics step up opposition to Cuomo's women's rights package over abortion**

A group of Catholic bishops is encouraging pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Nigeria -- **Mbaise Catholic Priests Reject Bishop-elect Ebere Peter Okpalaeke.** We don't oppose Okpalaeke as a bishop, group says, "but we strongly contest his suitability for Ahiara Diocese."

US Bishops urge vigorous leadership from Obama for peace in Israel-Palestine

New Zealand -- **Catholics celebrate beginnings in NZ.** First MAss was Jan. 13, 1838.

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PBS looks at **Roman Catholic Women Priests**

Grand Rapids, Mich. -- **A West Michigan Catholic parish is mourning the death of four people who were killed on a mission trip.**

Ste. Genevieve, Mo. -- **Catholic parish asking for return of stolen relics**



Looking for an a little inspiration to begin

your day? NCR's sister publication, Celebration, gives you two options, both based on the Scripture readings of the day:

Pencil Preaching is blog that Celebration editor Pat Marrin combines scripture and sketching to reflect on the word.

Daily Bread is a series short reflections, written by four authors who meet regularly to share the readings. Daily Bread is intended to help daily preachers and others who pray from the assigned scriptures each day to orient themselves to the Living Word addressed to the church in the world. It's a great way to begin the day.

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