

Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (<https://www.ncronline.org>)

March 20, 2014 at 5:32am

Morning Briefing

by Dennis Coday

NCR Today

These bishops of ours. Just when you think you got 'em figured out, they pull things like this:

- Bridgeport, R.I. -- Bishop Frank Caggiano **has agreed to meet with representatives of national and local victim support groups** who Wednesday called for him to hire an outside firm to investigate two priests who have been accused in the past of sex abuse.
- Springfield, Mass. -- Massachusetts catholic bishops call for minimum wage hike '**an important step toward fairness and justice.**'
- San Bernardino, Calif. -- Bishop Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino urges Catholics **in his diocese to comply with federal law and sign up for health insurance** if they have not already done so. (Pssst! Does he know that's Obamacare?)

Even the Canadian bishops are involved: **Two Vancouver bishops (1 Anglican, 1 RC) speak to Metro Vancouver Alliance**, a coalition of faith, labor and community groups devoted to 'finding common ground' and working for 'the common good.'

But you can always count on Bill to bring us all down: **Catholic League President Furious After St. Patrick's Day Parade Boycotts**. He is boycotting Guinness and Heineken.

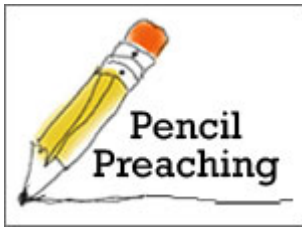
Portland, Maine -- **Churches to hold mill workers' benefit in Cape Elizabeth**. 200 workers laid off since December.

Catholics around the world pray for peace in Syria

Detroit Catholic priest accused of stealing charitable funds due in court today

The Lenten Longings program: **Parishioners lean on Scripture, each other to guide them through Lent**

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: **Child protection office being moved from Birmingham to 'in house' at conference headquarters in London.** Also, Vatican fails to approve the conference's child protection procedures.



Looking for 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 a blog in which *Celebration* editor Pat Marrin combines Scripture and sketching to reflect on the Word.



Daily Bread is a series of 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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