NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (http://ncronline.org)

Morning Briefing

Dennis Coday | Sep. 5, 2012 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.** [1] 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** [2]. 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 [3]

Translated final interview with Martini [4]

Philadelphia -- **Judge postpones rape trial of priest, Catholic school teacher** [5]

Rally at DNC: the Coalition for Liberty & Justice **Call "defend individual conscience on issues of marriage rights and access to reproductive health:** [6], 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** [7]

New Zealand: **Catholic Church focuses on food security for Social Justice Week** [8]

Franciscan friar Father Benedict Groeschel **has stepped down as host of EWTN?s Sunday Night Prime television show** [9] following his apology for making comments about the sexual abuse of minors [10].

NCR's Michael Sean Winters writes a letter: **Dear Democratic Catholics** [11]. Last week he wrote to Republican Catholics [12].

Is the study discounting the benefits of organic food likely to change your eating habits? [13]

NCR's sister publication, Celebration, posts reflections on each day's Scripture reading. Here's a link: **celebrationpublications.org/dailybread**. [14]You may want to bookmark it. It's a great way to begin the day.

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Links:
[1] http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattlepolitics/2012/09/04/catholic-bishops-gay-marriage-threatens-religious-liberty/
[2] http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/241865/group/homepage/

[3] http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1203696.htm
[4] http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/translated-final-interview-martini
[5] http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/04/justice/philadelphia-priest-trial/index.html
[6] http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/article/2012/09/04/progressive-groups-call-on-democratics-to-support-religious-freedom-0
[7] http://www.politico.com/blogs/burns-haberman/2012/09/republicans-counterprogram-with-catholic-voters-134447.html
[8] http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/catholic-church-focuses-food-security-social-justice-week/5/133895
[9] http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/father-groeschel-steps-down-from-ewtn-show/
[10] http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/note-fr-groeschel-it-wasnt-kids-fault
[11] http://ncronline.org/node/32029
[12] http://ncronline.org/blogs/distinctly-catholic/dear-republican-catholics
[13] http://minnesota.publicradio.org/collections/special/columns/todays-question/archive/2012/09/is-the-study-discounting-the-benefits-of-organic-food-likely-to-change-your-eating-habits.shtml
[14] http://celebrationpublications.org/dailybread