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Morning Briefing

Dennis Coday | Sep. 13, 2013 NCR Today

Syria Talks Yield Plan to Discuss Peace Conference [1]

Pope Francis' outreach to atheists not as controversial as it seems [2]

New *NCR* Feature: **"Francis" the comic strip** [3]drawn by *NCR* contributor and *Celebration* editor Pat Marrin. It seems that Pope Francis himself has recognized the humor inherent in being pope. "Francis," the strip, picks up on that cue.

Dominican Republic -- **Pedophilia scandal spurs protest at the Vatican embassy** [4]

Vatican City -- **Vatican willing to hand over accused nuncio to Dominican Republic civil authorities** [5]

Pope Francis, Reform in the Church, and Organizational Ethics [6]. This is a recording of a talk by *NCR* senior analyst Fr. Tom Reese at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University.

Minnesota -- **Fired Catholic Teacher Speaks Out on the Danger of Silence** [7]. She was fired after she revealed she was in a lesbian relationship.

The New Yorker excerpts **"the prayer journals" of Flannery O'Connor** [8], which she began compiling at the age of twenty while studying at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. (Thanks, Commonweal, for the tip [9].

Official Texas Review: **"Creation Science" Should Be Incorporated Into Every Biology Textbook** [10]

Kansas City, Mo. -- **Federal judge sentences KC preist to 50 years for child porn.** [11] This is the Shawn Ratigan case, which got Bishop Robert Finn convicted of failing to report suspected child abuse, a criminal misdemeanor. Ratigan told the judge that God had forgiven him and "his soul was in a good place."

Dublin -- **Censured Irish priest, Tony Flannery, will stop down as leader of Association of Catholic Priests in October.** [12]

Bishops defend Catholic Relief Services amid barrage of attacks [13]

Canberra, Australia -- **Archbishop-elect of Canberra says he will spend his first year listening.** [14] God gave me two ears and one mouth for a reason, he said.

More good news from the entertainment world: **New app, called No Cyrus, blocks Miley Cyrus from showing up on your screen.** [15] And as a surprise bonus, it also appears to block Kim Kardashian.

Pencil Preaching
Sketching open the Word each day

[16]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 **[16]** is blog that Celebration editor Pat Marrin combines scripture and sketching to reflect on the word.

Daily Bread [17] 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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[6] http://www.scu.edu/ethics-center/events/podcasts.cfm
[7] http://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/2013/09/13/fired-minnesota-teacher-speaks-out-on-the-danger-of-silence/
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