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Morning Briefing

Dennis Coday | Sep. 18, 2013 NCR Today

Syria -- **Syria tells Russia it has proof rebels used chemicals** [1]

Syria -- **U.N. Data on Gas Attack Points to Assad?s Top Forces** [2]

Sr. Margaret Farley, censured a year ago, **Expresses Hope for Pope Francis? Pontificate** [3]

Rome -- **Arrested prelate tells magistrates of secret accounts in Vatican** [4]

Sister of Pope Francis **in stable condition after entering hospital for rise in glucose level** [5]

PNB, the €400m pension fund for Catholic dioceses in the Netherlands, **boasts 123% coverage ratio** [6] -- Last year, it returned 11.6 percent on investments.

Peace activist and author Jim Douglass **plans to turn his heavily researched book about the assassination of John K. Kennedy** [7], into a graphic novel.

Australia -- **Tasmania's new Catholic archbishop has revealed he prefers men or primary school children, not women to take on the role of altar servers at Mass.** [8]

Philadelphia -- **Msgr. Lynn appeal moves before Pennsylvania Superior Court** [9]

Philadelphia -- **46 New Parishes Up for Review for Potential Closure, Merger** [10] (Warning: Loud video ad plays when page opens.)

European lawmakers have nominated several candidates for the bloc's top human rights prize, **including Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai and US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden.** [11]

Providence, R.I. -- **Bishop 'disappointed' with pope on abortion** [12] -- The pope is also an economic disaster, Tobin says. Read the last paragraph of the story.

Australia -- Canberra and Goulburn's incoming Catholic archbishop wants a **moratorium called to stop the passage of any new laws on same-sex marriage.** [13] Can't have a reasoned debate in current frenzied environment, he says.

The Catholic head of the German Bishops' Conference since 2008, Archbishop Robert Zollitsch**, has been given approval to retire by the pope. Zollitsch sometimes draws plaudits for trying to liberalize a shrinking church.** [14] He will continue to serve until a successor is named.

Vanier, Canada -- **Catholic school parents upset that bishop can't attend meeting on school's new policy on gay students.** [15] For background, read **Vanier school drafts new gay policy** [16]

Pencil Preaching
Sketching open the Word each day

[17]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 **[17]** is blog that Celebration editor Pat Marrin combines scripture and sketching to reflect on the word.

Daily Bread [18] 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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Links:
[1] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24140475
[2] http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/18/world/middleeast/un-data-on-gas-attack-points-to-assads-top-forces.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0
[3] http://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/2013/09/18/catholic-theologian-expresses-hope-for-pope-francis-pontificate/
[4] http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/16/us-vatican-bank-prelate-idUSBRE98F0HE20130916
[5] http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/17/sister-pope-francis-in-stable-condition-after-entering-hospital-for-rise-in/
[6] http://www.ipe.com/news/pension-fund-for-dutch-clergy-boasts-123-coverage-ratio_57244.php#.UjmciD_Bxos
[7] http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2013/09/the_jfk_assassination_in_carto.html
[8] http://au.news.yahoo.com/latest/a/-/article/18985766/new-archbishop-says-no-to-women-in-altar-role/
[9] http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/Msgr.-Lynn-appeal-moves-before-Philadelphia-superior-court
[10] http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/46-New-Parishes-Up-for-Review-for-Potential-Closure-Merger-224007591.html
[11] http://www.dawn.com/news/1043418/malala-snowden-nominated-for-europes-top-rights-award
[12] http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20130917-ri-bishop-disappointed-with-pope-on-abortion-poll.ece
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[14] http://www.dw.de/germanys-zollitsch-retires-as-archbishop/a-17093861
[15] http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/vanier-parents-demand-bishop-s-presence-at-meeting-1.1857656
[16] http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/vanier-school-drafts-new-gay-policy-1.1355064

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