

## Morning Briefing

Stephanie Yeagle | Feb. 25, 2014 NCR Today

In a move to reorganize the Vatican's financial structures, Pope Francis [appointed Sydney Cardinal George Pell](#) [1] to head a new office with control over economic issues.

More news from Vatican City: Francis [calls on families around the world](#) [2] to give prayer and help to the October synod.

And speaking of the synod, Florida Bishop Robert Lynch has [released a full report](#) [3] on the responses in his diocese to the synod questionnaire.

Affordable Care Act: A federal court [has ruled against the University of Notre Dame](#) [4] over birth control.

Critics say that a [health care giant out of St. Louis](#) [5] blurs the line between businesses and the Catholic church.

In reflection of the 19 new cardinals appointed a few days ago, there has been a [radical change in the diversity of cardinals](#) [6] in the past 100 years.

Several states in the U.S. have been introducing bills that would [allow people to withhold services due to their "sincerely held religious beliefs."](#) [7]

For example, in Arizona, a bill has been passed [giving people the right to discriminate](#) [8] as long as their actions are motivated by religious convictions.

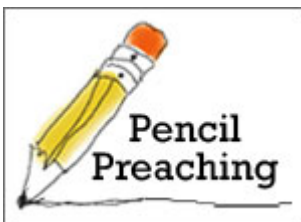
Thailand: Leaked documents prove [Myanmar government ordered persecution](#) [9] and abuse of Rohingya minority.

Alberta, Canada: [Bishops hope that apology](#) [10] will help residential school survivors heal.

UK: Former priest, 85, [admits to multiple sex offenses after 20 years](#) [11] on the run.

The [cost for household goods may soon triple](#) [12] for military troops and their families at stateside commissionaires.

Why is that? It's just one part of [proposed budget cuts from the Pentagon](#) [13], which, if accepted, would cut the U.S. Army back to its smallest size in 74 years.



[14] Looking for a little inspiration to begin your day? *NCR's* sister publication,

, gives you two options, both based on the Scripture readings of the day:

**Pencil Preaching** [14] is a blog in which *Celebration* editor Pat Marrin combines Scripture and sketching to reflect on the Word.



**Daily Bread** [15] 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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**Links:**

[1] <http://ncronline.org/node/71186>

[2] <http://ncronline.org/node/71266>

[3] <http://ncronline.org/node/70986>

[4] <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/court-rules-against-notre-dame-over-birth-control>

[5] [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/how-a-st-louis-based-health-care-system-became-one/article\\_c07ada87-ab74-5175-a0b0-5219dd7b95f1.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/how-a-st-louis-based-health-care-system-became-one/article_c07ada87-ab74-5175-a0b0-5219dd7b95f1.html)

[6] [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/24/pope-francis-diverse-card\\_n\\_4846714.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=religion](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/24/pope-francis-diverse-card_n_4846714.html?utm_hp_ref=religion)

[7] [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-raushenbush/sincerely-held-religious-beliefs-and-the-fraying-of-america\\_b\\_4847018.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=religion](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-raushenbush/sincerely-held-religious-beliefs-and-the-fraying-of-america_b_4847018.html?utm_hp_ref=religion)

[8] <http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/22/opinion/whitaker-arizona-law/?iref=obnetwork>

[9] <http://www.ucanews.com/news/leaked-documents-prove-myanmar-government-ordered-rohingya-abuse/70370>

[10]

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Alberta+Catholic+bishops+hope+apology+will+help+residential+school+survivors+h>

[11] <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/feb/24/former-priest-sex-offences-20-years-run>

[12] <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/military-spending-cuts/big-bite-pentagon-budget-cuts-could-raise-troops-grocery-bills-n37726>

[13] [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/pentagon-blueprint-would-cut-army-size-as-military-adjusts-to-leaner-budgets/2014/02/24/c029e2b4-9d8d-11e3-9ba6-800d1192d08b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/pentagon-blueprint-would-cut-army-size-as-military-adjusts-to-leaner-budgets/2014/02/24/c029e2b4-9d8d-11e3-9ba6-800d1192d08b_story.html)

[14] <http://celebrationpublications.org/pencilpreaching>

[15] <http://celebrationpublications.org/dailybread>