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Morning Briefing

Dennis Coday | Mar. 27, 2014 NCR Today

Interest in Obamacare surges ahead of enrollment deadline [1] -- The primary Obamacare website stays stable amid heavy traffic.

Manila, Philippines -- The Philippine government **signed a peace accord with the country's largest Muslim rebel group** [2] on Thursday, the culmination of years of negotiations and a significant political achievement for President Benigno Aquino III.

Franciscan Sr. Klaryta Antoszewska died this week at the age of 81: **A nonviolent lion for justice** [3]

March Madness Gets Heavy Dose Of Catholic Colleges In Competition [4]

Jimmy Carter speaks out on religion and equality for women, **slams sexist biblical interpretations** [5]

Australia -- 'It's a mystery to me': **George Pell pleads ignorance over abuse case** [6] -- Cardinal has an uncomfortable cross-examination at royal commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse.

Sydney -- **Cardinal George Pell celebrates final Mass before leaving for Vatican** [7]. Apologies to sex abuse victims part of farewell address.

Chicago -- **Archdiocese agrees to pay up to $2.1 million to settle sex abuse suit** [8]. To date, the archdiocese has paid victims $118 million as part of settlement agreements for abuse that took place over the past 50 years.

Graphic of the week from Public Religion Research Institute: **A Tale of Two Catholic Churches** [9] -- In 1991, 87 percent of American Catholics were white non-Hispanic, while less than 1 in 10 (9 percent) American Catholics were Hispanic. Today, Hispanic Catholics have more than tripled, accounting for more than one-third (34 percent) of the American Catholic population.

Many big-name conservative Catholics (like Newt Gingrich) say Francis is no liberal, only painted as one by a biased media that wants a liberal Holy See alliance -- even though it doesn?t exist. **GOP: Pope?s no liberal** [10]
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St. Ignatius, Montana -- **Alumni of Jesuit, Ursuline mission school discuss sexual abuse.** [11]

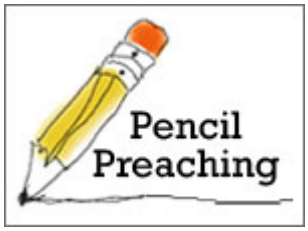
Wake Forest, N.C. -- **How A Government Computer Glitch Forced Thousands Of Families To Go Hungry** [12]

Since Pope Francis, more Catholics say the church is in touch [13]

Japan launches new campaign to fight climate change [14]

Gloria Steinmen's birthday was Tuesday. **Feminism and Catholicism: Celebrating Gloria Steinem and Pope Francis**

[15]



[16]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 [16] is a blog in which *Celebration* editor Pat Marrin combines Scripture and sketching to reflect on the Word.

Daily Bread [17] 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://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-obamacare-extension-20140327,0,3581621.story#ixzz2xAA4HIIa
[2] http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/philippines-largest-muslim-rebel-group-signs-peace-pact-1.1748222
[3] http://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/nonviolent-lion-justice/
[4] http://ncronline.org/node/73666
[5] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/25/jimmy-carter-religion-women_n_5028595.html
[6] http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/27/mystery-george-pell-ignorance-abuse
[7] http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/cardinal-george-pell-gives-final-mass-before-leaving-for-vatican-20140327-35m1f.html
[8] http://www.suntimes.com/26456754-418/archdiocese-agrees-to-pay-168-to-21-mil-to-settle-sex-abuse-suit.html
[9] http://publicreligion.org/2014/03/two-catholic-churches/
[10] http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/pope-francis-republicans-105077.html?hp=t3_3
[11] http://missoulanews.bigskypress.com/missoula/forgive-you-father/Content?oid=1940236&showFullText=true
[12] http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/27/food-stamp-delays-north-carolina_n_4994822.html
[13] http://www.cbsnews.com/news/since-pope-francis-more-catholics-say-the-church-is-in-touch/
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