



**NEW CARDINAL.** Cardinal Basileos Cleemis Thottunkal of India leaves after receiving a red biretta from Pope Benedict XVI during a consistory ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Nov. 24. Pope Benedict installed six new Catholic cardinals from around the world. Reuters/Tony Gentile



**CHRISTIAN ACCUSED.** Security officials surround Rimsha Masih (c, green scarf), a Christian girl accused of blasphemy, and move her to a helicopter after her release from Adyala Jail in Rawalpindi on Sept. 8. The Pakistani military helicopter flew her to a secret location after she was granted bail. Live broadcasts showed heavily armed police surrounding Masih, believed to be no older than 14, covering her face with a green scarf as she walked to the helicopter. Reuters/Springer



**U.N. STATUS.** French nationals residing in Israel hold flags as they protest outside the French Consulate in Jerusalem against France's support of a resolution that changed the Palestinian Authority's observer status at the United Nations to 'non-member state' and against its condemnation of a plan by Israel to expand settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem on Dec. 5. Israel moved forward with plans to build some 3,000 settler homes in one of the most sensitive areas of the occupied West Bank, in defiance of international protests. Reuters/Ammar Awad

## World Events 2012

Contraception, Pro-Life and End-of-Life Debates, Persecution and Violence Dominate Headlines

India welcomed a new cardinal, while, elsewhere, Christian persecution came in various forms, as did violence; and abortion, contraception and euthanasia were matters of debate from Canada to the United Kingdom and the Philippines.

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**EASTER MASS.** Iraqi Christians attend an Easter Mass at a Chaldean Catholic church in Amman on April 15. Thousands of Iraqi Christians fled to neighboring Jordan following a spate of bombings that targeted churches in Iraqi cities in the past few years. Reuters/Ali Jarekji

**STANDING FOR LIFE.** Police marshal pro-life campaigners behind barriers as they protest outside the Marie Stopes facility in Belfast Oct. 18. The first private business offering abortions opened in Northern Ireland. Reuters/Cathal McNaughton



**CANADIAN LIFE DEBATE.** Lawyer Joseph Arvey (r) talks with an unidentified colleague as members of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition protest outside the British Columbia Supreme Court in Vancouver on June 15. The court, in a ruling, declared invalid a section of the Criminal Code that prohibits physician-assisted death. Arvey was representing plaintiff Gloria Taylor, who suffers from ALS, and argued the law infringes on the equality of rights. Reuters/Andy Clark



**COPTICS MOURN.** Egyptian Christians mourn during the funeral of Pope Shenouda III, the head of Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Church, at the Abassiya Cathedral March 20 in Cairo. Thousands of mourners gathered in Cairo for the funeral. Salah Malkawi/Getty Images



**CONTRACEPTION SUMMIT.** Prime Minister David Cameron (c), Melinda Gates (fourth from right), co-founder and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell (second from left) talk with activists during the London Summit on Family Planning on July 11 in London. The summit was organized by the Gates Foundation with the United Nations Population Fund to provide greater access to contraception globally. Carl Court/WPA Pool/Getty Images