

Friday digest

January 6, 2012

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New today (and yesterday) from the *Century*:

- Thomas G. Long on [the "Like" button](#): "Everyone wants my opinion these days: airlines, hotels, Amazon. How healthy can it be to think of life as a series of episodes to rate up or down?" (subscription required)
- Richard A. Kauffman compiles a list of [essential books on spiritual direction](#)
- Scott Gunn on [photographs, and churches, with the key element missing](#): "The Lens at the *New York Times* has a fascinating collection of images entitled 'Iconic Scenes, Revisited and Reimagined.' Here are famous photos, but without the thing that made them famous."

In the news:

- [Egyptian Christian leaders consider dialogue with Islamic groups](#)
- [Pope Benedict XVI's cardinals: More Roman, less 'catholic'](#)
- [Church of Norway to improve inclusion of native Sami people](#)
- [It's 2012, which means another doomsday may be upon us](#)
- [Pope names 22 new cardinals, including two Americans](#)