

# Friday digest

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

September 30, 2011

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New today from the *Century*:

- Andrew Root reviews [Christian Smith's book on young adults](#): "Christian Smith offers a way between the idea that young adults are the great hope of our nation and the idea that they are crazed idiots." (subscription required)
- I discuss [the Smiley-West-Obama situation](#): "Ego issues aside, one can think of far worse things Smiley and West could do with their celebrity than go on the road to drum up support for fighting poverty, a word most elected officials simply talk around."
- Dora Dueck considers [the merciful and their blessedness](#): "This is a challenge for me, and I think it's a challenge for the church. What challenges me is the notion that I/we determine the wideness of the mercy given to me/us."
- Lil Copan looks at [artwork by John Freeman](#) (subscription required)

In the news:

- [Pastor on restaurant quest can't live by bread alone](#)
- [Pentagon: Chaplains can celebrate gay marriages](#)
- [Pope meets with Russian Orthodox ecumenical officer](#)

Links from elsewhere:

- [Protests work better with specific demands.](#)
- This month's "[respect life](#)" statement from the Catholic bishops does not mention the death penalty.