

Thursday digest

March 29, 2012

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New today from the *Century*:

- The editors on [stand-your-ground laws](#): "Stand-your-ground laws reflect our culture's belief that violence is not a last resort--it's a way to proactively promote security."
- Stephanie Paulsell on the [monkish ways](#) of her father and his students:"As a graduate student, my father visited the Abbey of Gethsemani. His experiences there entered him in some permanent way."
- [Monastic community on a trial basis](#): "In the midst of declining numbers, Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton, Wisconsin, dares to pursue a vision for *growing* an ecumenical Benedictine monastery."
- Steve Thorngate: "[Violence Against Women Act reauthorization](#) is about domestic violence victims, not debates over which senator is being sneakiest."
- Moses Biney reviews Mark Gornik's book on [African immigrant churches in New York](#) (subscription required)

In the news:

- [Pope meets with Fidel Castro, urges more freedom](#)
- [Food pantry's prayers violate federal rules](#)