Marriage and poverty
A 1965 study by the U.S. Department of Labor concluded that “the decline of the black nuclear family [those with both a father and a mother] would significantly impede blacks’ progress toward economic and social equality.” The report drew strong criticism from civil rights leaders as evidence of white patronizing and cultural bias. However, a recent study by the Urban Institute has shown that, regardless of race, four out of every ten single-parent families live in poverty compared with only one out of 12 two-parent families.—World

Churches can rent from NYC schools
In 1984, New York City’s Board of Education denied a request by the Bronx House of Faith to rent space for their worship services in one of the city’s public schools. In 2011, the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that schools could decide not to rent their facilities to churches, and in December of that year the United States Supreme Court declined to hear the case. The Board of Education promptly notified all churches that were renting school property that they would have to find someplace else to meet. However, this past May 22, the New York City Council adopted a resolution by a margin of 38–11 in support of faith groups meeting in public schools during nonschool hours.—Christian Post
**Tamerlan Tsarnaev burial**

On May 9, Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev was buried in an unmarked grave in a small Muslim cemetery in Doswell, Virginia, a rural community some 25 minutes north of Richmond. Residents of Doswell, who learned of the burial only after the fact, were angry. However, Tony Lippa, the local sheriff, and Mayor David Storke, of neighboring Bowling Green, reviewed the paperwork and affirmed that the burial was legal. Martha Mullen, a Christian counselor in Richmond who spearheaded arrangements for the burial, said, “Jesus tells us, ‘Love your enemies,’ not to hate them, even after they are dead.”—CNN.com

**Canadians saying No to religion**

A 2011 Canadian National Household Survey shows that, while 22 million people claim affiliation with a Christian denomination, 7.8 million have no religious affiliation. That's up from 16.5 percent of Canadians claiming no religious affiliation in 2001 and 12 percent (half of today's percentage) in 1991. Muslims, who have doubled their membership in Canada every ten years for the past three decades, now constitute 3.2 percent of the population; Hindus make up 1.5 percent; and Sikhs 1.4 percent. On the other hand, Christians and Jews have declined in their share of the population.—Christian Century

**Women at the Wailing Wall**

The Western Wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is also known as the Wailing Wall because of the Jewish practice of using the site to mourn the destruction of the temple in a.d. 70. It is one of the holiest sites in Judaism. Both men and women can pray at the wall, but until recently, only men could wear prayer shawls during their prayers. On April 11, Jerusalem police arrested five women, members of the group Women of the Wall, who attempted to pray at the wall wearing shawls. However, on April 25, the Jerusalem District Court ruled that the women were not breaking the law by wearing the shawls. On May 3, thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews swarmed the Wailing Wall to protest about 100 women who were praying with shawls, but Israeli police held the crowd back.—Christian Century

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Julían Melgosa

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“Our church grows stronger with martyrdom. My faith and confidence tell me that so long as our church is in the hands of God, no one can hurt it.”
—Father Yacoub, deputy head of St. Anthony’s Monastery in Egypt’s eastern desert, commenting on the growing number of attacks on Egyptian Christians following the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak.—Washington Post

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