



Syrian refugee Baraa Haj Khalaf and her daughter, 1-year-old Shams, wave after arriving Feb. 7 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. (CNS/Kamil Krzaczynski, Reuters)



by Peter Feuerherd

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[Is the cup half-empty or half-full?](#) Those of us who go to Sunday Mass like our parishes, but we are among fewer and fewer regular Sunday worshipers.

[This guy obviously likes his parish](#): World's "oldest altar boy" is honored with papal blessing in San Francisco.

Think it's tough going through a parish merger? Not nearly as difficult as it was [in South Philly in 1933](#).

Catholic parishes have led the way in resettling refugees. [Parish leaders are now pushing back](#) on Trump administration policies that would drastically cut the numbers of refugees welcome in the U.S. [In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana](#), parishes join in a Pope Francis-inspired effort to welcome refugees.

[Catholics and Lutherans in western Massachusetts](#) mark the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Unlike the original event, this time they will gather in peace.

[The Pope's Choir sings at a Detroit parish](#).

[Padre Pio relic comes to Utica, New York](#). And [to Chicago](#).

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, [celebrated Mass for the victims](#) of the Mexican earthquake Sept. 29 at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Brooklyn. The event gathered together Mexicans living in Brooklyn and Queens concerned about their friends and relatives back home.

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[Catholic education goes 3D](#). Here is a catechetical look at Good Shepherd Church in the Bronx, New York, an all-purpose explanation of the church building from a theological perspective.

[Peter Feuerherd is a correspondent for NCR's [Field Hospital series](#) on parish life and is a professor of journalism at St. John's University, New York.]

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