## News



New citizens write their names on hearts to be displayed on the outside of St. Rita of Cascia Church in Bedford Park, Illinois, during a Pastoral Migratoria program March 30. Pastoral Migratoria is a parish-based, immigrant-to-immigrant ministry that began in the Chicago Archdiocese in 2009 and it includes a citizenship program. (CNS/Chicago Catholic/Karen Callaway)



by Peter Feuerherd

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May 1, 2019

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A Chicago Archdiocese parish accompanies immigrants on the road to citizenship.

In the Pittsburgh Diocese, a <u>massive parish consolidation</u> is taking place. Is it a case of putting a Band-Aid on a critical wound?

Why do Catholic women stay? A writer <u>looks to science</u>. USA Today <u>goes across the</u> <u>country</u> to examine why Catholics stay, and why others are leaving.

A vibrant Catholic center at Binghamton University in New York state navigates difficult times as students <u>defend their Catholic identity</u> from their questioning peers.

A warning about fake priest scammers, this time from the Miami Archdiocese.

<u>Data indicates</u> that more Catholics — particularly the young, those who call themselves Democrats, and Latinos — no longer identify with the church.

A miscommunication causes canceling a Mass at a Minnesota church. Some see it as providential as the <u>roof caves in</u> from the weight of snow.

<u>Catholics in Vermont</u> come together in a synod where they emphasize the need for evangelization and communication.

## Advertisement

Where do all those former Catholics go? In the Philadelphia area, some are landing in what are called <u>independent congregations</u> that mimic the Catholic Church but are outside its bounds. They range from Latin-language traditionalists to those who accept women as priests.

[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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