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by Peter Feuerherd

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It's an often overlooked corporal work of mercy. A Delaware priest organizes a parish campaign to [write letters to inmates](#) at a nearby maximum security prison.

Alpha, a [program for parish evangelization](#) founded in Anglican churches, gains a foothold in British Columbia, as Canadian Catholics seek ways to attract parishioners in an increasingly secularized society.

The divorce rate in Duval County, Florida, has declined by 28% over two years. As such stats go, the reasons are surely complex, but Newsweek columnist [Lee Habeeb credits](#) the intervention of Catholic parishes and other Christian congregations.

A "Mass Mob" offers support for troubled parishes in Buffalo, New York. The Mass Mob is a social media-inspired effort to get Catholics and others to show up at historic yet financially-distressed churches on particular Sundays. Now the effort is going beyond the city's troubled urban core into more affluent churches, a result, [notes one writer](#), of the Buffalo Diocese's loss of trust due to the [sex abuse crisis](#).

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David Heinzmann, reporter for the Chicago Tribune, describes why a massive fund drive is still unable to meet the [pressing financial needs](#) of Chicago-area parishes.

What's in a name? A [new parish](#) in the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, honors Pope John Paul II. As parishes consolidate and, in some areas, new ones are created, the names of churches take on a more contemporary feel.

Parishes in the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, are celebrated for their participation in [programs that tackle poverty issues](#).

(YouTube/Catholic Sentinel)

Hosffman Ospino of Boston College argues that parishes can't remove themselves from the [migration issue](#). This is true, he says, even where there are relatively few immigrants.

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