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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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A Chicago Archdiocese parish [accompanies immigrants](#) on the road to citizenship.

In the Pittsburgh Diocese, a [massive parish consolidation](#) is taking place. Is it a case of putting a Band-Aid on a critical wound?

Why do Catholic women stay? A writer [looks to science](#). USA Today [goes across the country](#) 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 [defend their Catholic identity](#) from their questioning peers.

A warning about [fake priest scammers](#), this time from the Miami Archdiocese.

[Data indicates](#) 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 [roof caves in](#) from the weight of snow.

[Catholics in Vermont](#) come together in a synod where they emphasize the need for evangelization and communication.

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Where do all those former Catholics go? In the Philadelphia area, some are landing in what are called [independent congregations](#) 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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