## News



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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<u>Is the cup half-empty or half-full</u>? Those of us who go to Sunday Mass like our parishes, but we are among fewer and fewer regular Sunday worshipers.

<u>This guy obviously likes his parish</u>: 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. <u>Parish leaders are now</u> <u>pushing back</u> on Trump administration policies that would drastically cut the numbers of refugees welcome in the U.S. <u>In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend</u>, <u>Indiana</u>, parishes join in a Pope Francis-inspired effort to welcome refugees.

<u>Catholics and Lutherans in western Massachusetts</u> 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, <u>celebrated Mass for</u> <u>the victims</u> 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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<u>Catholic education goes 3D</u>. 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 <u>Field Hospital series</u> on parish life and is a professor of journalism at St. John's University, New York.]

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