

[News](#)



Catholics hold hands during a 2016 Mass in Sioux City, Iowa. (CNS/Catholic Globe/Jerry L. Mennenga)



by Peter Feuerherd

[View Author Profile](#)

[**Join the Conversation**](#)

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. [Learn more](#)

January 23, 2019

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

No more hugging or handholding at Mass. Church officials in New Mexico and Pennsylvania warn parishioners to [keep their distance](#) this flu season.

Parishioners at St. Peter Church in Cameron, Wisconsin, prayed incessantly for the return of kidnapped 13-year-old Jayme Closs. They are now offering [prayers of thanksgiving](#).

A Catholic school in Reading, Ohio, needs to raise \$200,000 to keep from closing, after two parishes pulled the plug on funding. Now it's a [race against the clock](#) to keep St. Nicholas Academy alive.

Church music publisher Oregon Catholic Press [offers grants to parishes](#) to improve liturgical music and worship. Last year, the company gave away \$200,000.

The Philadelphia Historical Commission [protects a historical shrine](#), much to the chagrin of the archdiocese.

Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, [meets with parishioners](#) concerned about the future of the church and the sex abuse crisis.

Bishop Richard Malone of Buffalo, New York, wants Catholics to [look beyond their anger](#) and support Catholic Charities.

[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.]

Advertisement

Editor's note: We can send you an email alert every time [The Field Hospital](#) is posted. Go to this page and follow directions: [Email alert sign-up](#).

This story appears in the **The Field Hospital** feature series. [View the full series](#).