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Rebecca Kitana, a parishioner at St. Matthew Church in Northwood, Maryland, talks during an Oct. 10 announcement at Sacred Heart of Jesus-Sagrado Corazon de Jesus in Baltimore about an ID card program for immigrants. (CNS/Catholic Review/Kevin J. Parks)



by Peter Feuerherd

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Portland, Oregon, is known for its vibrant cafes, environmental consciousness, and being a haven for former Californians tired of the Silicon Valley grind. It has an underside as well. Many of its neighborhoods are overwhelmed by homelessness. Catholics are [exploring ways to help](#). One suggestion: Bring an extra sandwich to work each day to share with a desperate person.

Parishioners in Amsterdam, New York, mourn those [killed by a limousine accident](#) that ended 20 young lives.

Bishop Michael Barber of Oakland, California, [says "we have nothing to hide"](#) regarding sex abuse.

Some Catholics in Pennsylvania have had enough. They describe [why they have left the church](#), with a number ending up in Episcopal and Unitarian congregations.

Jesus said to let the children come to him. So why do parishes isolate them in [cry rooms](#)?

A [Pennsylvania parish copes](#) with fallout from that state's scathing grand jury report on church sex abuse while adjusting to a reconfiguration of the parish in the Pittsburgh Diocese.

Old-time devotions make a [comeback](#) in Philadelphia.

[Students at campus parishes](#) at the University of Texas respond to the new emphasis on abuse protection.

What does an undocumented immigrant who is a victim of crime do? How can she relate to a police request for identification? A [program in Baltimore](#) provides identification cards for immigrants through Catholic parishes. The cards are unofficial, but still helpful.

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[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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