

## [News](#)



A statue of Mary is seen at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church in Detroit in 2015. Data shows that Catholic Church membership in Michigan is down by 17% since 2000. (CNS/Courtesy of Detroit Archdiocese)



by Peter Feuerherd

[View Author Profile](#)

## [Join the Conversation](#)

May 15, 2019

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

In Bakersfield, California, an [overflow crowd of parishioners](#) comes out in support of their pastor accused of sex abuse. Not everyone is happy about the turnout.

Why are urban Catholic parishes closing? [One answer](#) is that in flourishing cities there are few Catholics amid valuable real estate. That combination creates a temptation to sell church property for more condos.

[Some donors](#) to the Catholic Charities Appeal in Buffalo, New York, don't want their funds going to the local diocese.

The priest who officiated at her wedding is a sex abuser. [A writer reflects](#) on what that means.

How [evangelical megachurches](#) are incorporating Catholic prayer styles.

[A snapshot](#): Catholic Church membership in Michigan is down by 17% since 2000.

St. Mary of the Springs Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas, marks its 150th anniversary, with [a history](#) that includes life in a town with a colorful history more noted for its sins than its sanctity.

What do millennial Catholics seek from parishes? A [millennial focus group](#) in Boston has its say. (Hint: Schedule parish activities beyond times convenient for retirees.)

Advertisement

[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.]

**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](#).