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by Peter Feuerherd

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Ever had to fill in forms asking about criminal history to work as a volunteer in your parish? That process has become a part of parish life across the country, in response to the norms established by the U.S. bishops to combat sex abuse. [A report indicates](#) that parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, have not always been vigilant in doing the required paperwork.



Jesuit Fr. James Martin (CNS/Courtesy of America)

[New York Times columnist Frank Bruni](#) discusses why Jesuit Fr. James Martin was disinivited from speaking at a New Jersey parish. Seems that the popular author is the target of a hate campaign orchestrated online by traditionalists objecting to Fr. Martin's call to welcome LGBT Catholics.

[Bishop Mitchell Rozanski](#) of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, will conduct a listening tour of parishes in western Massachusetts.

[Bishop John Barres of Rockville Centre](#), New York, reflects upon an active first year as head of the Long Island diocese. He has promoted vocations and urged increased Mass attendance, and says that Long Island parishes — a number of whom have

large Central American communities — will support immigrants but cannot be designated "sanctuary" church communities.

A pastor is brutally attacked in the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota. The apprehended suspect [makes an ugly accusation](#).

Upset that your parish will be closed? A Rhode Island priest says [don't blame the local bishop](#), look at your fellow Catholics who no longer attend Mass in the numbers they used to.

[Fr. Peter Colapietro](#), a New York character known as the saloon priest who was as comfortable in taverns as he was in church, died at age 69. Colapietro was the long-time pastor of Holy Cross Church, across the street from the Port Authority Bus Terminal in the Times Square area, a crossroads for the desperate, the famous and commuters. He was said to have talked the actor Mickey Rourke out of suicide and was a regular at Elaine's, the watering hole for celebrities.

[Our Lady of Visitation Church](#) near Denver is now officially closed. Parishioners fought for months to keep the church open. It is a community founded to serve Mexican Americans.

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Parishioners mourn the [closing of a small Latino mission](#) in the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.

[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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