



Bishop Anthony Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas, gives Communion Sept. 24, 2017, to a member of a new Catholic community in Decatur named for Blessed Stanley Rother. The community is a mission of St. Mary Parish in Siloam. (CNS/Courtesy of Catholic Extension/Rich Kalonick)



by Peter Feuerherd

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Perhaps the beginning of a trend? The Baltimore Archdiocese will now [grant permission](#) for outdoor weddings. The change was announced as a way to reach out to young adult Catholics at a critical point in their lives.

Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," [takes shape in parishes](#) in the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois.

[How Catholic parishioners](#) in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese will pay for a landmark massive sex abuse settlement.

Jesuit Fr. James Martin will speak this summer [at the Catholic World Meeting of Families](#) in Dublin on the theme of how parishes can welcome the LGBT community.

A [Massachusetts bishop reports](#) that parishioners are looking for a more transparent church.

The Scottish government is concerned about growing social isolation. The Catholic Church [says it can help](#) through its parishes by providing social connections to the lonely.

Four U.S. dioceses are celebrating 175th anniversaries this year. They are Chicago; Milwaukee; Hartford, Connecticut; and Little Rock, Arkansas. Only Little Rock is [experiencing growth](#), a sign of the future of the church, which in the U.S. is increasingly focused on the West and the South.

A [historical tour](#) highlights black Catholic history in Louisiana.

[Paplin, Nebraska](#), is now a ghost town. The Catholic church there, still used occasionally, is said to have survived because of a tornado miracle.

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