News



Beth Hood, a member of St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, helps repair a house in Maunabo, Puerto Rico, July 27. (CNS/Wallice J. de la Vega)



by Dan Morris-Young

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Eighteen volunteers from St. Francis Builds, a program based at St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, traveled to Puerto Rico in late July to continue recovery work on the island, which was devastated by Hurricane Maria in September 2017. The St. Camillus group worked with the Fuller Center for Housing, based in Americus, Georgia.

Rosali Patterson tests out the prosthetic hand she helped design and produce for underprivile

Rosali Patterson tests out the prosthetic hand she helped design and produce for underprivileged children using St. John Fisher School's 3-D printer technology. (CNS/Chaz Muth)

Eighth-grader Rosali Patterson, who with her twin sister and family are members of St. John Fisher Parish in Portland, Oregon, has worked with fellow classmates at St. John Fisher School to fabricate plastic prosthetic hands for potential use by underprivileged children. The device is created by use of a 3D printer. A YouTube video explains the program.

Speaking of Catholic schools, all of them in the Diocese of Palm Beach, Florida, offer specialized programs and assistance for students identified as having specific learning needs.

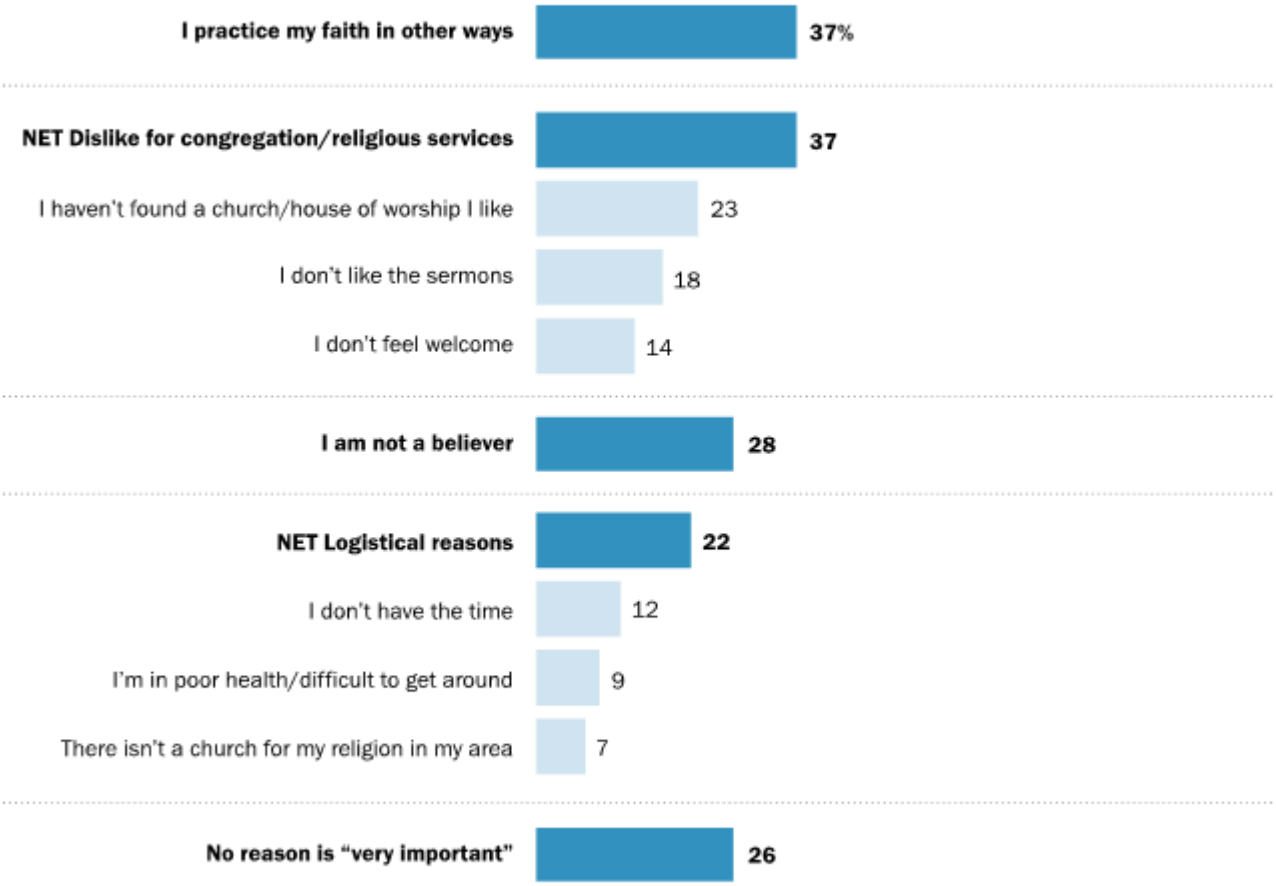
The main crops of the one-acre garden overseen by Tom Rohr are potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and green beans. A member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Rogers, Arkansas, Rohr's garden ministry annually raises 10,000 pounds of produce for the parish food pantry.

Catholic journalist Robert Brennan makes the argument that the tragic death a year ago of English infant Charlie Gard, whose parents were forbidden by the British government to fly their child elsewhere for possible treatment, might have paved the way for saving the life of baby Oliver Cameron, whose transfer from England to Boston for surgery had initially been blocked.

Church attendance in the U.S. has been on the decline across the board for some time, according to researchers, and a new Pew Research Center study focuses on the reasons. Many self-identified Catholics who do not or rarely attend Mass told researchers they practice their faith "in other ways."

Among those who rarely attend religious services, nearly four-in-ten say they don't go because they practice their faith in other ways

Among U.S. adults who say they attend religious services a few times a year or less, % who say ____ is a "very important" reason for not attending



Note: Figures do not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated because respondents could say more than one reason is a "very important" reason they do not attend religious services.
Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.
"Why Americans Go (and Don't Go) to Religious Services"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The embezzlement trial for Fr. Jonathan Wehrle, formerly pastor of St. Martha Parish in Okemos, Michigan, in the Lansing Diocese, has been postponed until January. In a recent development in the case, Michigan State Police reported that $63,000 in cash was found above basement ceiling tiles of the priest's home on July 17. Wehrle has been accused of embezzling more than $5 million.

At times, for pastoral reasons, Masses are celebrated in unique places, even in the media room of a Major League Baseball stadium.

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