Monday, November 23, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,

We are about to enter the season of Advent, a time of joyful expectation for the coming of the Lord. Early in Advent we focus on the Lord’s second coming in glory before turning to the season’s later phase to remember how God fulfilled His promise to Israel to send a Savior, Jesus, born in humility in Bethlehem.

After a contentious election season, during a dangerous pandemic whose end is not yet in sight, having become more conscious of ongoing patterns of racism and nativism in our country and still grappling with scandals in our beloved Church, it may seem that the promise of Christ is remote from our experience. Yet the Lord is never absent from us! He comes to us through his Word, proclaimed in church or meditated upon at home; through those in need, in whose faces we recognize Christ’s; and through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, in which the Lord personally enters each of us, and Penance, which purifies us to receive the Lord worthily. In these ways he keeps his word to us: I am with you always, until the end of the age [Matthew 28:20].

The COVID-19 pandemic will affect how we celebrate Advent and Christmas in our Diocese, but we will celebrate them! Masks and hand sanitizers and physical distancing cannot stop us from expressing our faith and joy in the Lord. They actually allow us to gather for worship in a safe manner, considerate of those with whom we worship.

Even during this pandemic, many people who do not ordinarily worship with us will join us at Christmas Masses. Let us welcome them, if not with embraces, because of the pandemic, then with “the elbow of friendship” and a hearty “Welcome!” Let us presume that they want to hear how God, through the birth of His Son, has shown His love and mercy to the world. Let them know you hope to see them again.

See “Advent” on Page 2

A lit candle is seen on an Advent wreath. Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 29 this year.

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The truth is that we have a great message to announce to the people we live and work with. To a world submerged in the darkness of sin, error and death, God has sent a Savior. We cannot overcome these evils on our own. Only God can destroy sin, enlighten those in error and bring the dead to new life. That’s the message we have: Jesus Christ is the savior designated by God the Father to bring us light and life. Our message is rightly called Good News. It is news too good to keep to ourselves. We have to share it.

First, I hope you are willing to share the Good News about Jesus Christ with others. It is not beyond your ability. Let me share with you a simple Advent plan.

First, make a list, mental or on paper, of people you hope will hear the Gospel: family members, friends, coworkers, fellow students. Make the commitment to pray for them every day. In your morning prayer or at some other time, ask the Lord to open their minds and hearts to His Word.

Second, fast for these people once a week. Fasting can be from food — most of us can afford to forego lunch or another meal without hurting our health — but fasting can also be from some favorite activity such as a television show or playing video games. We do without a good thing as a sacrifice to show the Lord we mean it when we are praying for those on our list.

Third, offer to God any hardship or suffering you are experiencing: an illness, the loss of a loved one, a job opportunity that slipped away. Rather than let it embitter you, give it to God on behalf of those for whom you are praying. You can also offer good works you engage in: a teacher might dedicate her teaching energy to those for whom she prays, while a doctor does the same as he sees his patients; a teenager might dedicate his effort to reach out to a fellow student no one talks to, while a father might give to the Lord his getting up from bed to check on the baby he heard crying. When we do things with the right spirit, our prayers have greater effect. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful before God (James 5:16).

There is a final step: ask the Lord to give you opportunities to speak to those for whom you have been praying. Sometimes they give you an opening: a desire to talk about a problem, a great joy they share with you. You can then speak in a simple way from your own experience about why your faith in Jesus Christ and your belonging to his people matter to you. You don’t need a theological degree or the eloquence of St. Paul to do it. You are an expert on your own life, including how God has blessed you and held you up. Your willingness to speak of your faith may win an absent Catholic back or gain a soul we know God on behalf of those for whom you are praying. You can also offer good works you engage in: a teacher might dedicate her teaching energy to those for whom she prays, while a doctor does the same as he sees his patients; a teenager might dedicate his effort to reach out to a fellow student no one talks to, while a father might give to the Lord his getting up from bed to check on the baby he heard crying. When we do things with the right spirit, our prayers have greater effect. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful before God (James 5:16).

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparhies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforce- ment: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incident of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families’ Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: the Diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuellekens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 844.230.5656. Complainants may report either online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment”, then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforce- ment: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incident of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families’ Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

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Bishop Celebrates Mass of Gratitude

By Colleen Rowan

At this celebration of the Mass of Gratitude Nov. 20 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, Bishop Mark Brennan was presented with 32 typed pages of prayer intercessions shared by the faithful from all over the state.

“They will be part of my daily prayer,” the bishop assured those gathered for the Mass in the church and watching the livestream on the diocese’s website and Facebook page. In the weeks leading up to the Mass, West Virginia’s Catholic faithful were invited to visit the diocese’s website and to share their prayer intentions, which were offered at the Mass.

Concelebrating the Mass were Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G.; Father Joseph Wiley, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling and Father Arul Anthony, administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg. Deacon Doug Breiding of the cathedral served as deacon of the word.

Continuing his homily, Bishop Brennan said that one of the truths Jesus taught is to make use of the resources one has to help others. Whether that is faith that moves one to pray for others, or helping in a building project, or carrying out works in their parishes or neighborhoods, or contributing the money that enables others to help serve those in need. Jesus said it’s not just enough to love God, the bishop reminded the faithful, they have to love their neighbor too.

“Today I want to thank the people around this diocese, the whole state of West Virginia,” Bishop Brennan said, “who have been supporting their parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, and other good works in whatever way.”

The bishop explained that the diocese was unable to conduct the annual Catholic Sharing Appeal this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet, through the pandemic, he said, Catholic Charities has continued to serve; parishes have continued to serve and livestream Masses; Catholic schools are open, some virtual and some in person, forming children in Christ.

“You have been helping them,” he said to those gathered and watching online. “Your contributions have been making a difference. And your prayer intentions... They will be part of my daily prayer. I thank all of you who help others through your contributions.”

He then reminded all of the diocese’s participation in the Dec. 1 Giving Tuesday website dwc.org/GivingTuesday has been up and running since Nov. 20, and is available for those who wish to make their donation early. The website will be open to accept donations through Dec. 2. Every parish has its own profile page within the website. The full amount of one’s donation will go to his or her parish.

“Young generosity provides your parish with the tools to help them teach the faith, celebrate the Blessed Sacraments, expand charitable outreach, and build a vibrant culture centered around the eucharist,” stated on the diocese’s Giving Tuesday website.

There is also a place on the website to make donations to the diocesan ministry of Catholic Education: “The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop, and share their God-given talent.”

See “Mass” on Page 4
“Your gift will help provide challenging academics complemented with life and leadership lessons in empathy, morals, responsibility, and faith,” the site states. “You can help give our students a strong foundation for the future—spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially!”

Donors may also provide support for the diocese’s efforts in Evangelization and Catechesis. Stated on the website: “Your gift will support formation opportunities for Lay Ministry, and training and education for parish catechists who teach the Catholic faith to adults, youth and children through RCIA, parish religious education, sacramental preparation and adult formation.”

Donations also may be made to support Catholic Charities West Virginia. “We envision a West Virginia where all people can access the services they need to be happy, healthy, and reach their full potential,” the site states.

“Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.”

“Your gift will help sustain and expand outreach efforts to some of the most underserved areas of our state. Your generosity provides funding for statewide services such as food and utility assistance as well as programs that provide for children and the elderly,” the site states.

Donations can also be dropped off at one’s parish or in the collection basket during Mass. Donors should include Giving Tuesday on the memo line of their checks.

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**Mass … Cont’d from Page 3**

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Communities That Take Their Own ‘Path’ Lack Holy Spirit, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said he was dismayed by Catholic communities and groups that claim to be working to improve church life, but attempt to do so without prayer, the Eucharist and unity with the rest of the church.

“At times, I feel a great sadness when I see a community that, with goodwill, takes a wrong path because it thinks it is making the church through gatherings, as if it were a political party: the majority, the minority, what this one thinks of this or that or the other, (saying), ‘This is like a synod, a synodal path that we must take,’” the pope said Nov. 25 during his weekly general audience.

“I ask myself, ‘Where is the Holy Spirit? There? Where is prayer? Where is the community’s love? Where is the Eucharist?’ Without these four coordinates, the church becomes a human society, a political party,” he said. “But there is no Holy Spirit.”

While the pope did not mention a specific country or situation, already in June 2019, he had written a letter to Catholics in Germany urging them to ensure that their “synodal path” was guided by the Holy Spirit with patience and immediacy.

The worst outcome would be if the Synodal Path leads to a schism with the universal church, Cardinal Woelki said. “That would be the worst thing if something like a Christian association,” but “it is not the church.”

In his audience talk, the pope said that in order “to evaluate a situation, whether it is ecclesial or not, we must ask ourselves if there are these four coordinates: community life, prayer, the Eucharist and preaching.”

If one of those aspects is missing, he said, then the presence of the Holy Spirit is missing, which risks converting the Catholic Church into “a beautiful humanistic association,” but “it is not the church.”

Discussion and negotiations do not lead to the growth of the church, he said. “It grows by attraction. And who creates that attraction? The Holy Spirit,” Pope Francis said, echoing the words of retired Pope Benedict XVI.

“If the Holy Spirit, who attracts people to Jesus, is missing, then there is no church there. There is a nice club of friends, good, with good intentions, but there is no church, there is no synodality,” the pope said.

New Date for Local World Youth Day Suits Needs of Dioceses, Vatican Official Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis’ decision to move the local celebrations of World Youth Day from Palm Sunday to the feast of Christ the King addresses the pastoral needs of local churches, said Father Joao Chagas, head of the youth section of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

“We’re not considering the new date as better than the previous one, but rather as one that nowadays suits best the dynamic of the local church and, at the same time, does not change the intention with which the WYD has been established,” Father Chagas said in an email to Catholic News Service Nov. 24.

The pope announced at the end of Mass Nov. 22 that the change was made “after listening to various opinions and consulting” the dicastery.

“The center of the celebration remains the mystery of Jesus Christ, the redeemer of man, as St. John Paul II, the initiator and patron of WYD, always emphasized,” the pope said.

Father Chagas told CNS that the dicastery consulted national directors of youth ministry in bishops’ conferences around the world and discovered that many dioceses were already celebrating WYD on days that were “more suited to their pastoral and liturgical contexts than Palm Sunday.”

For example, a youth minister in Poland, he said, agreed with changing the date “because Palm Sunday is an engaging time for parochial communities” and a different date for the youth and young adult gathering would show “the vitality of the church, which continuously searches for the best ways to encounter young people.”

“This new date, which seems to best correspond to the varied dynamics of local churches nowadays, was chosen as a fruit of listening to the local realities and of searching for best ways to walk together as a family of the church,” Father Chagas said.

Other dioceses, especially in the Holy Land and many dioceses in English-speaking countries, already observed the local celebration of WYD on the feast of Christ the King, he added.

“Let us consider this change as a new boost for all the church to walk together, in synodality, with young people,” Father Chagas told CNS.

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Pope Francis leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Nov. 25.

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November 27, 2020

The Catholic Spirit 5
‘Make Space at the Table’: Pope Urges Valuing, Welcoming All Human Life

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis admits he is not an economist, but he is a pastor, and as a pastor, he has seen how the global economy has cast aside many members of his flock, and he knows that the Gospel and Catholic social teaching call for a different response.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been a global trauma or trial, Pope Francis said, and it is precisely how one acts in a trial that reveals the state of his or her heart: “How solid it is, how merciful, how big or small.”

“God asks us to dare to create something new,” he said. “We cannot return to the false securities of the political and economic systems we had before the crisis. We need economies that give to all access to the fruits of creation, to the basic needs of life: to land, lodging, and labor.”

And, he said, “we need a politics that can integrate and dialogue with the poor, the excluded and the vulnerable, that gives people a say in the decisions that impact their lives.”

In other words, the pope said, “we need to slow down, adjust our priorities, to pause and look around for the places where people suffer most and allow that suffering to touch one’s heart.”

“I think often of persecuted peoples, the Rohingya, the Yazidi — what ISIS did to them was truly cruel — or Christians in Egypt and Pakistan killed by bombs that went off while they prayed in church,” he said.

The pope’s prescription is centered on dialogue, a recognition of the God-given dignity of every human being and an understanding that the Earth and all the good it contains were meant by God to be a gift for everyone, not just those strong enough to grab the most the quickest.

“I cannot stay silent over 30- to 40-million unborn lives cast aside every year through abortion,” he said. “It is painful to behold how in many regions that see themselves as developed, the practice is often urgent because the children to come are disabled, or unplanned.”

“Human life is never a burden. It demands we make space for it, not cast it off,” Pope Francis insisted.

“Of course,” he said, “the arrival of a new human life in need — whether the unborn child in the womb or the migrant at our border — challenges and changes our priorities. With abortion and closed borders we refuse that readjustment of our priorities, sacrificing human life to defend our economic security or to assuage our fear that parenthood will upend our lives.”

To claim “to promote the Gospel and not welcome the strangers in need, nor affirm their humanity as children of God, is to seek to encourage a culture that is Christian in name only, emptied of all that makes it distinctive,” Pope Francis said.

Abortion, anti-immigrant sentiments, racism, lack of care of the elderly and the embracing of an economic system that focuses on profit at all costs are all signs of the “erosion of the value of life,” he said.

“Without a vision for society rooted in the dignity of all people,” he said, “the logic of the unfettered market ends up turning life from a gift into a product.”

As he did in a letter in April to grassroots workers’ cooperatives, Pope Francis said in the book that he believes “it is time to explore concepts like the universal basic income (UBI), also known as ‘the negative income tax’: an unconditional flat payment to all citizens, which could be dispersed through the tax system.”

The payment would guarantee every citizen has the minimum necessary to survive and, he said, could encourage people to job share with others, increasing employment, or give more time to volunteer work.

Pope Francis urged people to pause and look around for something new and different they could do to help someone else.

“When you feel the twitch, stop and pray,” he said. “And then act. Call up, go visit, offer your service. Say you don’t have a clue what they do, but maybe you can help. Say you’d like to be part of a different world, and you thought this might be a good place to start.”

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Wheeling Serra Club Launches Annual Diaper Drive to Help Mothers and Babies in Need

WHEELING—The Wheeling Serra Club has launched its annual Diaper Drive to help the Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project.

This year, the organization has made it easier than ever to help mothers and their babies. Donors merely visit https://go.rallyup.com/b20e94 to make their online donation. Or, send checks to Wheeling Serra Club and mail it to P.O. Box 4, Wheeling, WV 26003.

The Gabriel Project provides practical help to pregnant women in need and to families with infants and children 2 years of age and younger to give children a healthy and safe start in life.

Donations will be multiplied thanks to the generosity of Team Sledd, which matches every diaper donated by the Serra Club up to 5,000 diapers.

The relationship between the Gabriel Project, Team Sledd and the Wheeling Serra Club has become “a continuing blessing for Ohio Valley families,” Gabriel Project Northern Programs Coordinator Faith Hicks said earlier this year. She said about 150 women each month are helped thanks to direct and indirect support from Team Sledd and Serra.

Rob Sincavich, president of Team Sledd, is well aware of the excellent work of the Gabriel Project, as his wife Dianne is a longtime, faithful volunteer with the organization.

“Team Sledd and the Sincavich family have been extremely generous to us,” Hicks said.

“In addition to matching the diapers donated through Serra Club’s drive, Team Sledd gives us a good deal all year long on things families need: diapers, hygiene products and other baby items,” she said. “And they deliver to our Gabriel Project sites in Wheeling, Moundsville, New Martinsville and Parkersburg.”

Sincavich explained his family’s support of the Gabriel Project and Diaper Drive.

“My wife Dianne and I are so appreciative of the work that the Gabriel Project does in the West Virginia,” he said. “We have been doing and will continue to do whatever we can to support its efforts and those of all of its volunteers who donate their time and resources to assisting mothers and their young children when they need help with basic needs and a healthy start to their lives.”

Potential donors can contact the Northern Programs Gabriel Project at (304) 639-5039 for more information or for locations in West Virginia.

Catholic Daughters to Offer Drive-thru, Drop Off for Christmas Basket Food Donations in Weston

WESTON—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Weston along with St. Patrick Parish and St. Patrick School are collecting non-perishable for food items for their Christmas food baskets.

Due to current restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, items cannot be left in the church. The Catholic Daughters will offer a drive-thru, drop service at the cafeteria Dec. 5 from 9-11 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., and Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“This way you don’t need to get out of your car,” parish officials said. “Someone will come to you and carry the food into the school. You may also leave items in the tote on the back porch of the parish office.”

Items needed include instant potatoes and gravy, cake/brownie mix and icing, soup and crackers, mac and cheese and boxed dinners, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, and canned goods.

Recipients of the baskets are those recommended through parishioners of St. Patrick Church and School. The effort will work in conjunction with “Our Neighbor” to eliminate duplicates to help more people.

Virtual ‘Walk to the Manger’ Aims to Help Faithful Prepare Physically & Spiritually for Christmas

CLARKSBURG—To help the faithful prepare physically and spiritually for Christmas, the Immaculate Conception Parish Nurses invite all to join them in their virtual “Walk to the Manger.”

Participants will set walking goals for the Advent Season, receive a devotions booklet, and have access to virtual meetings to discuss progress. The program will begin on Nov. 30. To sign up to participate, go to https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71BEzZwV0HrvrQ9

For more information, visit the IC Parish Nurses on Facebook.

Monday Morning Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer Culminates This Month


“You are invited to join us on any Monday for the full morning, or any portion of the morning,” parish officials said. By the end, there will have been 11 Mondays of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. The gatherings include: 7:30 a.m. daily Mass; 8 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration, Miraculous Medal Novena followed by the Rosary; 9 a.m. Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; 10 a.m. Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help; 11 a.m. Quiet prayer; and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament at noon.

Morgantown’s St. Francis de Sales to Host Red Cross Blood Drive

MORGANTOWN—A Red Cross blood drive will be hosted at St. Francis de Sales Church in Morgantown Dec. 10 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. in the lower level of the church social hall. New and returning blood donors can call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (or enter the code STFRANCISWV at redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

“Please join the ranks of heroes who help maintain a safe and sufficient blood supply for patients who need it,” parish officials said. For questions or to volunteer to help out with the blood drive, call (304) 291-0745.
Employment Opportunities

Saint John XXXIII Pastoral Center Director

The Diocese is currently searching for candidates to fill the position of Director, Saint John XXXIII Pastoral Center. This is a full time position located in Charleston, WV. The Director is responsible for the overall management of personnel, facilities and services offered at the Center. This person will implement policies, procedures and directives in order to manage the facility. The individual will see to the quality of care, hospitality, environment provided to the guests at the center. The Director is accountable for the budget, financial management of the Center and operations and maintenance of the facility. Qualified individuals should have at least a Bachelor’s Degree. Person should have demonstrated experience in the management of a conference facility, lodging, resort management or related facility management. Person must be in adherence with the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith. The individual will possess excellent organizational, leadership and communication skills. Interested individuals should send letter of interest and resume to the Human Resources Office. Please contact Michael A. Nau, Director of the HR Office for a complete job description and application by e-mail to mnau@dwc.org. Position will remain available until an offer has been accepted.

St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley has an opening for a Title I teaching position. This is a three day per week position — Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The duties include: To provide a supplemental, structural support to identified K-5 students in reading and math; the implementation of research-based interventions to strengthen learning; to collaborate with classroom teachers, school staff and Raleigh County Schools’ Federal Program staff. Qualifications include working with K-5 students in reading and math; West Virginia Elementary Education certification; or experience or training in West Virginia college and Career Ready Standards and technology skills. Contact Principal Mary Grace Peck at (304) 252-4087.

Associate Immigration Attorney, Martinsburg

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Associate Immigration Attorney for its Migration and Refugee Office located in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Responsibilities include: assists in the development and provision of services to immigrants and refugees in West Virginia; provides legal advice and representation in accord with the best practice of the profession; maintains caseload of detained and non-detained clients in removal proceedings eligible for immigration remedies such as SIJS, asylum, CAT or withholding of removal, cancellation of removal, UVAWA, or family-based petitions; interviews individuals seeking legal assistance and advises the client as to possible options through proper interpretation of current laws; and provides ongoing legal representation to the client commencing with the initial intake interview, drafting of documents, correspondence and client applications/ petitions. Required job qualifications: Law Degree (J.D.) required. Admission to the practice of law in any state and/or Washington, DC required. Completion of Continuing Legal Education required, in addition to any and all licensing requirements for the jurisdiction where the attorney is licensed to practice. A year of experience practicing immigration law preferred. Bilingual (English, and Spanish or French) preferred; public speaking skills in English and Spanish or French preferred. Ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks at once. Excellent interpersonal, team, and communication skills. Strong organizing skills and attention to details, especially with regard to immigration laws, guidelines, and policies. Ability to work effectively with diverse populations. Tolerance and sensitivity necessary in dealing with people with hardships. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to drive and travel to court hearings. Please send cover letter, resume and three professional references by December 1, 2020 to: Sara Lindsay at slindsay@ccwva.org. Application materials can also be delivered to: Sara Lindsay, Chief Program Officer, Catholic Charities West Virginia, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Catholic Charities West Virginia HomeCare Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver (ADW) Services, Veteran’s Waiver Services, Private Pay Services. Serve as the main contact person for general program questions and referral info for the community; Development/implementation of a client recruitment plan in both office areas; Deliver HomeCare program info sessions at community sites/potential referral sites/health fairs (with accommodations during the COVID-19 pandemic) on an ongoing basis; Work with Advancement Department to create and maintain functional marketing materials for program, craft appeal requests, and market program for maximum coverage through all identified networks (including social media); Perform other job-related duties as assigned. Qualifications include: Bachelor’s degree preferred; experience working with programs serving people with disabilities and/or seniors preferred; solid interpersonal skills/experience for building a genuine rapport with people and families in need of supportive services; ability to communicate clearly with audiences from various social, cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds; ability to work independently; good customer service skills/experience; and must have a valid driver's license. Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by December 1, 2020 to: Sara Lindsay at slindsay@ccwva.org. Application materials can also be delivered to: Sara Lindsay, Chief Program Officer, Catholic Charities West Virginia, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.
Helping to Fight the Spread of Disease

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist

Because of COVID-19, our Neighborhood Center in Wheeling has adapted its on-site meals from congregate dining inside our facility, to “to-go” meals served just outside our Center’s side entrance. This allows us to follow health and safety guidelines and maintain social distancing; however, our neighbors/clients did not have the opportunity to sanitize or wash their hands as they normally would inside the building.

Thanks to a mini-grant from Volunteer West Virginia to host a ‘Be Kind, COVID-19’ volunteer project, volunteers were able to install a hand sanitizing station in the outdoor gathering space. This will help to keep neighbors, volunteers and staff safe from the potential spread of illness.

“This project is a great example of what happens when our dedicated volunteers and staff work together to find solutions to the problems faced by the people that we serve,” said Mark Phillips, Catholic Charities West Virginia Northern Regional Director. “Many thanks go to Volunteer West Virginia for funding this project.”

Catholic Charities West Virginia remains committed to staying present and working through the COVID-19 pandemic with the vulnerable populations we serve. The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center serves between 35-65 meals twice a day, six days a week. The hand sanitizing station can also be utilized by those who visit the Center’s twice-weekly food pantry.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit catholiccharitieswv.org.
Carta del obispo Brennan para el Adviento

Estimados fieles de la diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston,

Estamos a punto de entrar en la temporada de Adviento, un tiempo de gozo expectativa por la venida del Señor. Al principio del Adviento, nos encaminamos en la segunda venida del Señor en gloria antes de pasar a la última fase de la temporada para recordar cómo Dios cumplió Su promesa a Israel de enviar un Salvador, Nuestro Señor Jesús, nacido en humildad en Belén. Después de una temporada de elecciones polémicas, durante una pandemia peligrosa cuyo final aún no está a la vista, habiendo tomado más conciencia de los patrones continuos de racismo y nativismo en nuestro país y aún lidiando con escándalos en nuestra amada Iglesia, puede parecer que la promesa de Cristo está alejado de nuestra experiencia. Sin embargo, el Señor nunca está ausente de nosotros! Viene a nosotros a través de Su Palabra, proclamada en la iglesia o meditada en casa; a través de los necesitados, en cuyos rostros reconocemos el de Cristo; ya través de los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía, en la que el Señor entra personalmente en cada uno de nosotros, y la Penitencia, que nos purifica para recibir dignamente al Señor. De esta manera, nos mantiene su yermo: ¡Estará con ustedes siempre, hasta el fin de los tiempos! [Mateo 28:20].

La pandemia de COVID-19 afectará la forma en que celebramos el Adviento y la Navidad en nuestra Diócesis, pero esas celebraciones! Las máscaras, los desinfectantes de manos y el distanciamiento físico no pueden evitar que expresemos nuestra fe y gozo en el Señor. De hecho, nos permiten reunirnos para adorar de una manera segura, considerando a aquellos con quienes adoramos.

Incluso durante esta pandemia, muchas personas que normalmente no adoran con nosotros se unirán a nosotros en las misas de Navidad. Démosla la bienvenida, si no con abrazos, a causa de la pandemia, luego con “el codo de la amistad” y un cordial “¡bienvenidos!””. Suponemos que quienes querían escuchar a Dios, a través del nacimiento de Su Hijo, ha mostrado Su amor y misericordia al mundo. Hágase saber qué espera volver a verlos.

La verdad es que tenemos un gran mensaje que anunciar a las personas con las que vivimos y trabajamos. A un mundo sumergido en las tinieblas del pecado, el error y la muerte, Dios ha enviado un Salvador. No podemos vencer estos males por nuestra cuenta. Solo Dios puede destruir el pecado, iluminar a los que están en error y traer a los muertos a una nueva vida. Ese es el mensaje que tenemos: Jesucristo es el Salvador designado por Dios el Padre para traer luz y vida. Nuestro mensaje se llama con razón Buenas noticias. Es una luz en medio de las tinieblas. De este modo, hablamos de la gracia de Dios a través del Evangelio.

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Los atletas que no corran nunca ganarán la carrera. El evangelio de Cristo no es un aperitivo. Es el plato principal. De hecho, es el mejor alimento para los espiritualmente hambrientos. Si nos sostiene, sostendrá a otros.

Somos el Evangelio que las personas de hoy deben encontrar. El Señor cuenta con que hagamos nuestra parte. Comprométase a orar, ayudar y ofrecer sus dificultades y buenas obras a Dios por aquellos a quienes espera que la gracia de Dios toque. Si alguien se muestra abierto a escuchar su testimonio, ¡Que tengas un buen Adviento! ¡Que te lleve felizmente a la alegría de la Navidad!

Fieles en Cristo,

Obispo de Wheeling-Charleston

Mark E. Brennan

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a uti- lizar www.reportbishop- abuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquelo a la Diócesis tikando “Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores”. El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: Llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adi-cionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede ac-eder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, luego “Informar mala conducta” o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades di-oce-anas, y la identidad de la persona que informa se protege.

Enlaces e informaciones: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Un- 

idad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293- 6400.
Wheeling Hospital Offers Specialized Fibromyalgia Program

WHEELING—The Hand Rehabilitation Center/Occupational Therapy Department at Wheeling Hospital is now offering a fibromyalgia treatment program.

Fibromyalgia is a chronic nervous system condition that can cause widespread pain and tenderness. It is characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory and mood issues. Researchers believe that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way the brain and spinal cord process painful and nonpainful signals.

Symptoms often begin after an event, such as physical trauma, surgery, infection or significant psychological stress. In other cases, symptoms gradually accumulate over time with no single triggering event. The symptoms may include: widespread musculoskeletal pain, a dull ache on both sides of the body, lasting for more than three months; sleep disturbances; stiffness; and increased sensitivity to odors, noise, bright light, temperatures.

Fibromyalgia affects 2-4 percent of the population, with more than 3 million cases yearly in the U.S. It’s more prevalent in females ages 35-50.

Wheeling Hospital’s Fibromyalgia Program consists of approximately seven treatment sessions, much of which can be done through telehealth. It includes a thorough evaluation, a home exercise program, and a focus on learning self-management techniques for pain, fatigue and stress. Case studies have been done that have shown an improvement in pain, function, and overall well-being after completion of a similar fibromyalgia program.

“This program was designed by occupational therapists here at Wheeling Hospital, and it is a very comprehensive, evidence-based approach to the management of fibromyalgia,” Suzanne Holsen, Occupational Therapy director, said. “I am very excited to be able to offer this treatment to the community.”

Those interested in participating in this program will need a doctor’s referral to Occupational Therapy with the diagnosis of fibromyalgia. Referrals can be faxed to (304) 243-6375. For more information, call (304) 243-3195.

Wheeling Hospital Offers Specialized Fibromyalgia Program

OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.

Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don’t ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We’ll protect you, and take good care of you.

WHEELING HOSPITAL