

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Synod’s North American Phase Concludes with Call to Mission, Moves to Rome

By Gina Christian

(OSV News) — The final document for the North American phase of the 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality was released April 12, capturing a process of dialogue and discernment that two participants described as ‘messy,’ ‘joyful’ and unifying — like the synod itself.

“It’s amazing what comes about when ... you invoke the Holy Spirit in the conversation,” Julia McStravog, a theologian and co-coordinator of the North American team for the synod’s continental phase, told OSV News.

“The synodal approach provoked a genuine appreciation and joyfulness on the part of the people of God to be able to engage in conversation, even if they were talking about difficult issues,” team co-coordinator Richard Coll told OSV News. Coll also serves as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Led by Catholic bishops from Canada and the United States, McStravog, Coll and their fellow team members have now synthesized the results of synod listening sessions throughout the two countries, producing a 36-page final document available for download at usccb.org/synod. (According to the USCCB, the Catholic Church in Mexico is participating in the global synod with the Latin American Episcopal Council, or CELAM, given its long partnership with that conference.)

The North American synod team — consisting of eight
See “Synod” on Page 2

‘A Day of Great Rejoicing’



Gathered with the faithful at St. Mary Parish in Star City, Bishop Mark Brennan lights the Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil, April 8.

Courtesy Photo

By Colleen Rowan

“It is a day of great rejoicing,” Bishop Mark Brennan said at the beginning of his celebration of Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

“The resurrection of Jesus is an absolutely stunning event in the world’s history,” he said in his homily. “It is the fundamental reason why the Christian movement has grown despite persecutions, defections, and scandals from a handful of Galilean peasants to a religion that embraces roughly one third of the human race.”

The bishop began the celebration of the Easter Triduum at St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale on Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper. On Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, he gathered with the people of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg. The Easter Vigil, Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord, took the bishop to St. Mary Parish in Star City, where he brought nine people into full communion with the Catholic Church. Brianna Star Rose Fuller, Gabriel Michael Fuller, Silas Grant Fuller, Taylor Nichole Stull, and Krstin Nicole Wolfe received the sacraments of baptism, first Communion, and confirmation. Jennifer Nicole Fuller, Thomas Clay Fuller, Jr., Emily Anne Jewson, and Nicholas Jakson Knowles received the sacraments of first Communion and confirmation.

In every generation since his first disciples saw his risen body, men and women have experienced that Jesus Christ is truly alive and

See “Rejoicing” on Page 3

Inside:

Register Now for Diocesan Spring Eucharistic Congresses, Page 6

Archbishop, Governor Call for Prayer as Louisville Mourns Mass Shooting ‘in the Shadow of the Cross,’ Page 7

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Phillip R. Szabo is appointed chaplain of Council #8288 of the Knights of Columbus for the current Fraternal Year, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as parochial vicar at St. John University Parish in Morgantown.

In consultation with Bishop Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah, D.D., of the Diocese of Guntur, India, **Father Rayappa Kurakula** is appointed associate rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston with residence at the parish rectory, effective April 3, 2023.

In consultation with Very Rev. Quang Duc Dinh, SVD, provincial superior of the Society of the Divine Word, Chicago Province, **Father Nicholas Duc Hong Le, SVD**, is appointed priest in residence at St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and Risen Lord Mission in Maysel with residence at the parish rectory, effective April 1, 2023.

Synod...

Cont'd from Page 1

bishops, three laywomen, two priests, two laymen and two women religious — spent time in prayer, silence and discussion to distill responses for inclusion in the text, which forms a response to the Document for the Continental Stage issued by the Holy See's General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in October 2022.

The final document for the continental stage from North America, along with the contributions of the six other continental assemblies, will form the basis of the "Instrumentum Laboris," the global synod's working document, to be released by the General Secretariat in June.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, who leads the North American team with Canadian Bishop Raymond Poisson of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier, Quebec, presented the document at the Vatican April 12.

Launched by Pope Francis in October 2021, the multi-year synod of bishops — the theme of which is "communion, participation and mission" — seeks to cultivate an ongoing dynamic of discernment, listening, humility and engagement within the Catholic Church.

The North American report highlighted three key themes: the implications of baptism, communion with Christ and one another, and missionary discipleship as a living out of the baptismal calling.

"Our baptismal dignity is inseparable from our baptismal responsibility, which sends us forth on mission," the document stated. "Every human person possesses the dignity that comes from being created in the image of God. Through

baptism, Christians share in an exalted dignity and vocation to holiness, with no inequality based on race, nationality, social condition, or sex, because we are one in Christ Jesus."

By virtue of their baptism, participants in the synod's North American phase expressed "a desire for a greater recognition of, and opportunities for, co-responsibility within the church and her mission," with greater collaboration "among the laity and the clergy, including bishops," said the document.

It stressed "there can be no true co-responsibility in the church without fully honoring the dignity of women."

An "authentic acknowledgment and respect for the gifts and talents of young people is another vital aspect of a co-responsible church in North America," said the document.

Amid "polarization and a strong pull towards fragmentation," synod participants in North America emphasized the need to "maintain the centrality of Christ," especially in the Eucharist.

The document candidly acknowledged that a "significant threat to communion within the church is a lack of trust, especially between bishops and the laity, but also between the clergy in general and the lay faithful."

The clergy sexual abuse crisis in particular has caused "major areas of tension in North America," as have "the historical wrongs found in the residential (and) boarding schools for Indigenous people, which ... included abuse of all kinds," said the document.

In their introduction to the document, Bishop Flores and Bishop Poisson admitted the need to "(make) efforts to listen more effectively to those from whom we have not heard, including

many who have been relegated to the margins of our communities, society and church." They noted their "absence" in the synodal process was "not easily interpreted but was palpably felt."

Among those often missing from synodal sessions were priests, with bishops acknowledging their responsibility to address that lack "by example and by conveying the transparency and spiritual/pastoral fruitfulness of synodality."

Synod participants listed women, young people, immigrants, racial or linguistic minorities, LGBTQ+ persons, people who are divorced and civilly remarried without an annulment, and those with varying degrees of physical or mental abilities as marginalized within the church.

Outreach and inclusion of these groups is ultimately driven at the local level by the faithful actively living out their baptism, McStravog told OSV News.

At the same time, "the bishops really took to heart the call ... to reach out to the periphery," Coll told OSV News, who added that virtual synod sessions enabled broader participation.

Synod participants consistently articulated a longing for better formation in the faith and in Catholic social teaching, the document said.

As the synod process moves into its next phase, Coll and McStravog pointed to the need for humility and openness to God's will. "We don't have all the answers, and none of this is pre-packaged," said Coll. "You have to trust that the Spirit will be there to guide us despite the messiness — or maybe because of it."

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News. Follow her on Twitter at @GinaJesseReina.)

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 enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence 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 Schuelkens, 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 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available 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.

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 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, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies 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's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

Rejoicing...

Cont'd from Page 1

active in their lives, Bishop Brennan said in his homily on Easter Sunday at the cathedral. The way people, since then and today, encounter him is different from the way those first disciples met him. In all the sacraments, but especially in the Eucharist, the Lord is present to us, the bishop said. We also meet the Lord in the scriptures, in prayer, in the poor, and as we strive to love one another, he said.

These encounters, Bishop Brennan stressed, are no less powerful than physical sight.

"Walking by faith the Lord invisibly walks with us," he said. "The church itself becomes the great sign of Christ's risen presence and activity in the world." There are many Christians who do not live up to the name, he said, noting scandals that leave us angry and distressed.

"But they do not diminish the loving service that Christ carries on through his faithful people just as his wounds still visible in his risen body do not diminish the glory of his resurrection," the bishop said.

Along with joining believers to the Lord for their spiritual good through common worship such as the celebration of Mass that morning and practices of private prayer which Bishop Brennan said we should all engage in, the Catholic Church operates hospitals, schools, soup kitchens, and pantries. With them are organizations such as Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul conferences, he said, and the good work to help people accomplished in parishes.

"All of these things testify to the love that Jesus Christ inspires in us and by his grace makes possible," the bishop said. He noted the Second Vatican Council, which said the church is the sacrament of salvation, the visible sign of Christ's invisible saving work.

In light of all this, Bishop Brennan said it is distressing that more and more Americans have abandoned their faith.

"When people turn away from the living God and from his church, focusing only on the sins of believers while ignoring the immense good that so many Christians do, bad things will happen," he said. "Our country is dealing with widespread divorce, which I saw as a parish priest and saw that it hurt people, especially children. We are seeing increasing rates of depression and suicide in our country, especially among the young. Startling rates of drug use by Americans. Americans who want their illegal drugs are the real reason why there's a problem at the southern border with drug traffickers sending drugs into this country. If



Bishop Brennan washes the feet of parishioners at St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale during his celebration of Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 6.

Colleen Rowan Photo

people here didn't want to consume them, they wouldn't have a market. Our people are responsible for all of that.

"We find the loss of citizens ... future good people through abortion," the bishop continued. "We also see seriously ill people encouraged to take their own lives in assisted suicide. There is a vast confusion today about sexual identity and the nature of marriage. We also see increased hostility toward immigrants by the descendants of immigrants. We find structures and recurring instances of racism and an indifference toward ordinary working people's often difficult lives.

See "Rejoicing" on Page 4

Colleen Rowan Photo
The distribution of the sacred cup was reinstated in the diocese on Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 6. At right, a parishioner at St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale receives the precious blood of Christ.





Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Brennan and Father Justin Golna, administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg, begin the veneration of the cross on Good Friday of the Lord's Passion at St. John's. Holding the candles are altar servers John Soplinski, a seminarian, and Alina Shaffer.

Rejoicing...

Cont'd from Page 3

"Turning away from God, who loves us and who commands us to love one another is bad for our country," he said.

Bishop Brennan added that in his farewell address, George Washington said that religion supported public morality and public morality was necessary to support the republic.

"China isn't our biggest threat, we are if we turn away from God," the bishop said. "It is distressing to see that all of these problems rise as religious practice declines."

Faith in Christ's resurrection gives us a reason to hope and a source of strength for our lives, Bishop Brennan said. If death can be overcome, he said, then we can face other obstacles and trials with confidence.

"We have the living Lord to call upon. One

See "Rejoicing" on Page 5

Colleen Rowan Photo
Members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg venerate the cross on Good Friday of the Lord's Passion.





Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Brennan blesses the faithful at the end of Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Rejoicing...

Cont'd from Page 4

who, though removed from sight, still walks with us if we have faith," he said.

That is why St. Paul urges us to seek what is above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, Bishop Brennan said, noting that St. Paul said: "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth" (Colossians 3:2).

St. Paul is not urging us to disengage from earthly concerns, Bishop Brennan said, but he is telling us not to lose sight of the risen Christ

whose grace will help us to do as Jesus did—to go about doing good and overcoming evil. St. Paul continues: "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:2).

This is our great hope for going beyond this life, Bishop Brennan said.

In ending his homily, the bishop said that our church was blessed in the second half of the 20th century with an outstanding American Catholic biblical scholar, Father Raymond Brown. When he was a seminarian, Bishop Brennan met Father Brown. Among his many

books, Father Brown wrote "The Birth of the Messiah," and "The Death of the Messiah." He was once asked if he planned to write a book about the resurrection of the Messiah to complete the trilogy. Father Brown replied, "I have no such plans. I would rather explore that area face to face."

Father Brown died a few years later, Bishop Brennan said, "And given what is known about his faithfulness to his priesthood and his Catholic faith, I suspect that he has met the risen Lord. He would hope, as I do, that all of us have the same happy encounter with Jesus Christ."

Register Now for Diocesan Spring Eucharistic Congresses

By Joyce Bibey

WEST VIRGINIA—The first two of three Eucharistic Congresses in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (DWC) are set for the end of the month in Charles Town and Wheeling. These events are free – meals, refreshments, and materials included. Space is limited based on the host facility.

As you continue to read in your FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, DWC social media, and your parish bulletins, it is time to register!

Bishop Mark Brennan invites the faithful from all reaches of the state to attend any or all of the Congresses, regionally offered for your convenience in Charles Town, Wheeling, and Charleston.

These homegrown events are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year renewal of “the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.”

The Congresses will bring together people like you for prayer services, celebratory music, Mass, enriching talks, Eucharistic Adoration, and more. Two breakout sessions on Saturday will be tailored to registrants in our faith family, including school aged participants (K-12). Priority will be given to those within the diocese before opening registration to others.

The Eucharistic congresses are set for:

April 21-22: St. James Catholic Church, Charles Town

April 28-29: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

June 2-3: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Eucharistic Congress Book of Prayer Intentions

to Include **YOUR** personal prayers

You parish priest and Catholic school principal will be placing a Eucharistic Congress Book of Prayer Intentions out for the community to write their own personal prayers. On the Saturday the events begin with a Welcome Prayer Service that celebrates our six vicariates uniting to strengthen our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. Parishes, schools, and other Catholic organizations (in that region) are to have a representative(s) present in the procession, and then announced as their Book of Prayer is presented to Bishop Brennan, who will offer them in prayer throughout the Congresses and the remainder of the Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

The rest of Saturday will feature a nationally known keynote speaker, lunch, a Q&A conversation with the keynote, the breakout sessions to bring the message to life, Adoration, Confessions available, and a closing Mass celebrated by

Bishop Brennan.

For more details, schedule, and to register go to: <https://dwc.org/eucharistic-congresses/>

Watch for updates in the FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, your parish bulletin, and our DWC social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

It is also important to know the diocesan

and parish years will be followed by the National Eucharistic Congress Event set for July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis for a five-day congress. Then the National Year of Mission begins and extends to Pentecost of 2025. This will be a time when all Catholics are encouraged to evangelize and be a light of Christ in the world.



WEST VIRGINIA EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

Christ is Present! Will you be? *Come to the Table - Spring 2023*

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Eucharistic Congresses are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year renewal of "the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist."

DATE & LOCATION	KEYNOTE	SCHEDULE
APRIL 21 - 22 ST. JAMES CHURCH CHARLES TOWN	 Fr. Luke Spannagel	FRIDAY EVENING Taizé Service Reception
APRIL 28 - 29 CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH WHEELING	 Fr. Timothy Anastos	SATURDAY Powerful morning prayer & procession of all the vicariates Keynote Speaker Q & A
JUNE 2 - 3 BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART CHARLESTON	 Fr. Joe Freedy	Breakout Sessions Music Eucharistic Adoration Mass and more



For more information and to register visit www.dwc.org or scan the QR code.



Archbishop, Governor Call for Prayer as Louisville Mourns Mass Shooting ‘in the Shadow of the Cross’

By Marnie McAllister

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (OSV News) — Amid calls for prayer and praise for first responders, officials confirmed that five people were killed in an April 10 mass shooting, Easter Monday morning, in a downtown bank in Louisville, Kentucky.

According to the Louisville Metro Police Department, at least nine people were injured, including two LMPD officers, during the shooting at the Old National Bank, 333 E. Main St.

The shooter, identified by police as Connor Sturgeon, a 25-year old bank employee with a finance degree and no known criminal record, died at the scene after exchanging gunfire with police who arrived within three minutes of the attack's start. Sturgeon was reportedly armed with an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle, and livestreamed the slaughter over Instagram.

“My heart is heavy as we learn about another mass shooting, now in our own Louisville community,” Louisville Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre said in a statement hours provided to The Record, the weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, reminding the faithful that amid Easter joy, the cross remains. “Even with our Easter hope so recently renewed, we have been quickly reminded that we still live in the shadow of the cross, the cross of senseless violence.”

“For now, please join with me in praying for those who have died and for those who have been injured and for their families,” he said. “Let us also pray for all in our community as we deal with this tragedy.”

LMPD has identified those killed in the shooting as Joshua Barrick, Deana Eckert, Thomas Elliot, Juliana Farmer and James Tutt. The victims' ages ranged between 40 and 64 years old. Officer Nickolas Wilt, 26, who graduated from the police academy March 31, was shot in the head and is in critical condition, the department said. Eckert initially survived the shooting but succumbed to her wounds.

Prayer also headlined comments made by Mayor Craig Greenberg and Gov. Andy Beshear, who



OSV News Photo/Jeffrey Dean, Reuters
Police deploy at the scene of a mass shooting near Slugger Field baseball stadium in downtown Louisville, Ky., April 10. A gunman opened fire at a bank in downtown Louisville that morning, killing four people and sending nine to the hospital before he died by gunfire at the scene, Louisville Metro Police Deputy Chief Paul Humphrey said. A fifth victim later died at the hospital.

appeared at a press conference near the scene soon after the incident.

The mayor, who survived a shooting in his campaign offices last year, asked the community to pray for victims of the latest shooting and to work together to prevent gun violence. He also gave thanks for the efforts of “brave and heroic first responders.”

“Without a doubt, their actions saved lives,” he said.

LMPD Deputy Chief Paul Humphrey said during the press conference that officers who arrived at the scene exchanged gunfire with the shooter. It was unclear whether law enforcement killed the suspected shooter or if death was due to a self-inflicted wound, he said, adding that the cause will be part of the investigation.

Heavy with emotion, Gov. Beshear echoed calls for prayer and praise for law enforcement, “the

brave heroes of LMPD” and others who responded.

“Their efforts saved lives and put their own on the line,” he said, noting that the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Department of Homeland Security and Kentucky State Police were among those on the scene.

Gov. Beshear said the shooting affected him personally.

“This is awful. I have a very close friend that didn’t make it today and another at the hospital,” he said. Gov. Beshear noted his attorney general campaign offices were located in the Old National Bank building. “When we talk about praying, I hope that we will.”

He encouraged the community to “wrap our arms around these families” affected by the shooting and urged them to seek help if

needed.

The governor also reiterated his gratitude to LMPD, which was recently rebuked by federal investigators in a review of its practices.

“We saw the very best from them today,” he said.

The New York Times reported the deaths have directly affected Louisville’s Catholic community. At an April 10 vigil held at Holy Trinity Parish in Louisville, Father Shayne Duvall shared that Joshua Barrick was the “ideal parishioner” who took an active role in the church. The priest shared Barrick’s parting words in their last conversation together: “I will do anything I can for you — just let me know what you need.”

(Marnie McAllister is editor for The Record, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky. OSV News staff contributed to this report.)

Military Archdiocese: Walter Reed Pastoral Care Contract 'Turns Ministry on Its Head'

By **Gina Christian**

(OSV News) — The end of a long-running Catholic pastoral care contract at a leading U.S. military medical center highlights broader concerns about the federal contracting process for such services, according to the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and several lawmakers.

"The government cannot supervise a Catholic priest's ministry, so by extension, the government cannot hire a secular firm to do what the government cannot do," Elizabeth Tomlin, the military archdiocese's general counsel, told OSV News. "We've just turned ministry on its head. You have a secular firm with no interest in actually doing ministry (now handling) the contract."

On March 31, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland issued a "cease and desist" order to Holy Name College Friary, a community of Franciscan priests and brothers in Silver Spring, Maryland, who have served service members and veterans at Walter Reed for close to two decades, according to the military archdiocese in an April 7 news release.

Walter Reed is one of several major medical centers operated within the U.S. Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency, and, as such, falls within the pastoral jurisdiction of the military archdiocese. Walter Reed directed the Franciscan priests to halt religious services on its grounds, ahead of the church's commemorations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, according to the military archdiocese.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who leads the military archdiocese and also serves as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in the release that Walter Reed's decision was "incomprehensible," denying "essential pastoral care ... (for) the sick and aged when it (is) so readily available."

In an April 11 statement emailed to OSV News, Walter Reed public affairs officer Rick McNamara said the contract "was not terminated" but rather had "expired," with the Franciscan friars fully aware of the contract's end date.

McNamara said the center issued an April 4 cease and desist order to the friars since they "continued to provide services beyond" the March 31 expira-

tion date of the contract.

Tomlin told OSV News she had "asked in writing and (in) voicemails to several people within Walter Reed to ... extend the Franciscan contract with a simple pen and ink change at least through Holy Week."

"The Department of Defense never responded to any of my communications," she said.

The archdiocesan release noted "there is one Catholic Army chaplain assigned to Walter Reed Medical Center, but he is in the process of separating from the Army."

McNamara said in his statement that Walter Reed "currently (has) an ordained Catholic chaplain on staff who is continuing to provide all of our Catholic services for the hospital." He added that Catholic liturgies throughout Holy Week were provided by the "active duty Army Catholic chaplain," who was "able to provide bedside service to all patients who were unable to attend liturgies in person."

McNamara said the new Catholic pastoral care contract was awarded to Mack Global, LLC, a secular defense contracting firm based in Mechanicsville, Virginia. The request for proposal was released between March 15-29, said McNamara, adding he could not provide a copy of the solicitation "for proprietary reasons."

Mack Global's website states the company provides "telework consulting services, administrative and religious staffing, transportation and roadway services, (and) professional development and training."

The "typical religious positions" staffed by the company include music directors and musicians for "Catholic services," as well as coordinators for Catholic religious education and youth, according to its website.

Tomlin said she "(did) not know what the definitive factor was" in the decision to reassign the contract. McNamara did not indicate a reason for the contract's nonrenewal with the friars, but simply said the contract "was up for rebidding."

According to Tomlin, the approximate amount of Mack's bid was "about \$600,000," a number slightly less than that bid by Holy

Name College Friary.

The total covers "a huge amount of (pastoral) work done by multiple people," she said. Tomlin added that "even the Walter Reed chaplain office, which covers all denominations, has said that it's at least a four-person job" to provide Catholic pastoral care at the facility.

Richard Breen, director of communications for the Defense Health Agency, advised he had received OSV News' list of questions on the Walter Reed contract reassignment, including the amount and terms of the contract, and would prepare a response.

McNamara said the "current pastoral care contract is under review to ensure it adequately supports the religious needs of our patients and beneficiaries."

The center "can provide Catholic services without a contract," relying on "an assigned active duty Army Catholic priest" in its pastoral care department, while "(leveraging) Catholic priests assigned to other Defense organizations within the region." He said three such Catholic priests are currently available, along with "Red Cross volunteers and other active duty chaplains assistants."

Following calls and emails placed by OSV News, Mack Global CEO Robin Mack said in an email that she did "not have a comment at this time."

Tomlin told OSV News the common practice of bidding out pastoral care for military personnel risks turning ministry into "a racket" — one that can diminish the quality of service while shortchanging those engaged in pastoral care.

According to Tomlin, some defense contractors frequently subcontract the work of Catholic religious educators and music ministers who serve at military chapels. Instead of paying a person with qualifications on par with standard expectations in Catholic parishes, Tomlin said defense contractors will often hire someone, such as a musician with no training in liturgical music or knowledge of Catholic liturgies, "for 30% of the price of the contract, leaving minimum wage for the job itself."

Although not a party to such contracts, the military archdiocese has at least been able to specify in the statement of work — which details the tasks to be performed by the contractor — that religious educators be certified by the archdiocese for both catechetical competence and safe environment training, Tomlin said.

But the "emerging" trend of "trying to bid out priests' contracts" poses a unique set of challenges, she stressed.

Permission for a Catholic priest to minister at Walter Reed or other military locations first requires official ecclesiastical endorsement from the military archbishop, who must complete Department of Defense Form 2088 certifying the priest is credentialed and qualified for an appointment within the military chaplaincy.

The military archbishop must also grant the priest the faculties to serve within the archdiocese, Tomlin said.

Archbishop Broglio said in the April 7 news release he "feared that giving a contract to the lowest bidder overlooked the fact that the bidder cannot provide the necessary service."

The case of the Holy Name Franciscans and Walter Reed

shows the "disconnect ... between a secular, for-profit firm trying to subcontract mendicant friars who give a professional service nobody else can give," said Tomlin.

Rep. Mike Lawler, R-N.Y., told OSV News the incident raises "questions about this process," which could result in "certain people not being able to exercise their faith."

"How we are doing this may need to be evaluated," said Lawler, who has called for Walter Reed to change its decision.

On April 11, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and several Republican lawmakers sent a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin asking why the Franciscans' contract with Walter Reed had ended just before Holy Week.

"We have made promises to our service members and veterans that if they take care of us, we will take care of them," wrote the lawmakers. "This extends to not just providing quality healthcare at our nation's military medical facilities, but by also providing the ability to freely practice their religion to those under their care at these facilities."

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.)



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Maryland AG's Abuse Report 'Heartbreaking,' New Reminder of 'Tragic and Shameful Time,' Says Archbishop

By Christopher Guntz

BALTIMORE (OSV News) — In a pastoral letter responding to the release of a redacted version of the Maryland attorney general's report "Clergy Abuse in Maryland: Report on the Investigation of the Archdiocese of Baltimore," Archbishop William E. Lori said it serves "as a heartbreaking and new reminder of a tragic and shameful time."

The report, released April 5, details cases of sexual abuse committed by representatives of the church, for the most part from the 1940s to the early 1990s, as well as the way the archdiocese responded to reports of abuse.

In a message delivered via email to members of the archdiocese just after the report was released, the archbishop said, "The detailed accounts of abuse are shocking and soul searing. It is difficult for most to imagine that such evil acts could have actually occurred. For victim-survivors everywhere, they know the hard truth: These evil acts did occur."

The report includes information on more than 600 victims of child sexual abuse by 156 people affiliated with the church in that time span. The attorney general's list includes priests, deacons, brothers and laypeople, with 10 names redacted "by order of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, because they were not known to be deceased at the time of the Report and had not previously been listed as credibly accused by the Archdiocese of Baltimore or otherwise publicly identified," according to a footnote in the report.

Of those cited, the archdiocese has named 152 credibly accused priests or brothers on its list, first made public in September 2002, with additions since that time. The archdiocese was one of the first in the country to make public a list of credibly accused priests.

The attorney general's report recommended that the archdiocese expand its public accountability to include deacons and lay people, citing notorious cases involving those who are not priests.

In a pastoral letter responding to the report, "Apology, Healing and Action: The Church's Work to Repair the Sacred Trust of the Faithful," issued in English and Spanish, Archbishop Lori said there were three reasons for writing it: to ex-

press again the sorrow of the church for its failures, to see the failures and the suffering they produced through "the lens of Jesus' redeeming love," and to communicate how the church has taken steps over the last several decades to accompany victim survivors and root out the evil of child sexual abuse."

"My letter to you about this painful subject can only begin with a heartfelt apology. I offer this as my imperfect attempt," Archbishop Lori said. "To the victim-survivors, their families and all the faithful of the archdiocese: I see the pain and destruction that was perpetrated by representatives of the church and perpetuated by the failures that allowed this evil to fester, and I am deeply sorry."

He acknowledged the heinous acts of sexual abuse and the untold harm they inflicted. He added that the behavior of the abusers represents the polar opposite of what any representative of the church should be.

He noted that the details in the attorney general's report generally spanned five decades — from the early 1940s to the 1990s, from the attack on Pearl Harbor to the advent of the World Wide Web.

The archbishop noted that the response of church leaders to abuse was "woefully inadequate," but not because they wanted children to be harmed.

"We know that during this era what was deemed shameful was often buried and the common response to scandal was to keep it quiet at all costs. This was true in families, in society and, sadly, in the church," Archbishop Lori wrote. "We also know that there was a woefully inadequate understanding of both the lasting harm of sexual abuse and the rate of recurrence of these crimes."

The attorney general's report noted, "The criminalization of child sexual abuse in Maryland has a complicated history, made even more so by evolving understanding of what constitutes abuse and the applicability of statutes of limitation. Legal obligations to report suspected abuse have also evolved over time."

A chart in the pastoral letter plots the number of incidences of child sexual abuse in the attorney general's report by five-year time spans. The number doubled from



OSV News Photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review

The Catholic Center, pictured March 8, at 320 Cathedral Street in Baltimore, is the headquarters of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

the 1950s to the mid-1960s and then rose precipitously over the next 15 years before beginning to decline.

The chart also notes the evolution of Maryland law regarding reporting child abuse and laws related to criminal child abuse and sexual offenses. The first state law that criminalized child abuse of children under 14 was enacted in 1963. A year later came the first state law requiring doctors to report signs of abuse.

In 1993, after the Office of At-

torney General issued an opinion that reporting requirement applies even when a victim is no longer a child, or an abuser is no longer alive, the archdiocese began reporting all allegations of child sexual abuse, regardless of age. That year, the archdiocese also publicized written child protection policies and established an independent review board.

Incidents reported in the attorney general's report dropped significantly in the late 1990s and in

See "Report" on Page 10

Federal Judge Issues Good Friday Ruling Suspending FDA Approval of Abortion Pill

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — A federal judge in Texas ruled April 7 to suspend the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of a medication abortion pill, additionally granting a seven day pause for his ruling before it would go into effect to allow the federal government to appeal and seek emergency relief.

The Good Friday ruling comes amid a lawsuit by a coalition of pro-life opponents of the drug mifepristone, the first of two drugs used in a medication or chemical abortion. The groups are seeking for the FDA's approval of the drug to be revoked, arguing the government violated its own safety standard in approving the drug more than two decades ago. U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's ruling marks the most significant abortion-related court ruling since the Supreme Court issued its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision last year that overturned prior rulings by the high court making abortion access a constitutional right.

If the ruling goes into effect after the seven day pause, it would issue a nationwide injunction on the sale of mifepristone, as requested by the plaintiffs, which would affect even U.S. states where abortion is legal and the drug is permitted under state law. However, the government will appeal the ruling, and it may not ultimately be implemented.

Report...

Cont'd from Page 9

this century, with no new allegations against those related to the church since 2010.

Archbishop Lori wrote in the pastoral letter, "Today, both as a church and as a society, we have a greater understanding than in the past of the horrible impact of child sexual abuse. This, of course, does not lessen the gravity of these past sins. Tragically, the abuse of minors not only impacted members of the church, but it is indeed a societal problem that has inflicted harm upon many individuals worldwide. To repeat, this crime is all the more tragic when present within the church."

The archbishop noted that on his first day as archbishop of Baltimore, he met with victim-survivors of sexual abuse by clergy.

"Time and time again, victim-survivors have spoken to me personally about their journey of healing. Some have spoken publicly about this journey. I am deeply grateful for their courageous witness," he wrote.

"The scandal of child sexual abuse is perhaps the greatest lingering wound in our Church today," Archbishop Lori wrote.

"The wound in the Body of Christ is deep indeed. So too is the need for all of us, most especially bishops and priests, to share in the work of healing this wound."

The pastoral noted that the archdiocese has made transformative changes over the last 30 years in how it handles allegations of child sexual abuse in the church, including:

— Permanently removing clergy from ministry if even a single credible allegation is reported. Zero tolerance is the foundation for policies on sexual abuse.

— Reporting all accusations of abuse to the Attorney General's Office and other law enforcement authorities. This happens whether the church deems the allegation credible or not, and the archdiocese makes the report no matter when the abuse is said to have occurred.

— Readiness on the part of church leadership to meet with victim-survivors and to accompany them pastorally, if they choose.

— Offers to provide ongoing therapeutic care of victim-survivors, as well as direct payments.

— Enhanced screenings to prevent abusers from working or volunteering in the church.

— Mandated training for employees and volunteers on spotting signs of abuse.

— Strong accountability measures and a commitment to

transparency.

The pastoral also detailed the counseling and other compensation provided to victim survivors, including the option for them to select a therapist they trust — not necessarily ones sponsored by the church or Catholic Charities — and continue treatment for as long as it is helpful.

"The Office of Child and Youth Protection also coordinates a financial mediation program, if victim-survivors would prefer monetary compensation instead of coverage for their professional therapeutic care. Since the 1980s, the archdiocese has invested more than \$13.2 million into the care and monetary compensation for 301 victim-survivors. This includes \$6.8 million toward 105 voluntary settlements under a mediation program led by a retired non-Catholic judge," the archbishop wrote.

"Regardless of how long ago abuse occurred, our offer to pay for counseling is available to all victim-survivors. Also, since 2007, the archdiocese's financial mediation program has been available for victim-survivors regardless of legal liability, including for those whose legal claims are barred by the statute of limitations."

Archbishop Lori added, "My auxiliary bishops and I offer to meet with any victim-survivor who is open to it. We seek to ensure that the strength they show in speaking up is met with compassion, and the courage they display in coming forward is acknowledged and validated."

The Maryland attorney general's report, issued April 5, recommended lifting the statute of limitations for civil cases by those who have been abused. The report was written before the 2023 Maryland legislative session.

Its release comes as the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in both houses — as House Bill 001 and Senate Bill 686, known as the Child Victims Act — legislation that would remove the statute of limitations on civil claims for future incidents of child sexual abuse and retroactively revives claims that are currently time-barred, no matter how long ago the alleged abuse occurred. Gov. Wes Moore has indicated support for the legislation, although it is expected to face constitutional challenges.

Currently, the law in Maryland allows victims until age 38 to file such claims, an extension — from age 25 — that was supported by the church in 2017.

In a statement about the bills, the Maryland Catholic Conference — which represents the archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware — expressed concern the legislation "creates blatant disparity in its treatment of victims, with much lower monetary judgements available to victims of abuse in public institutions than those of abuse in private settings."

Potential civil lawsuits against private institutions, including Catholic schools or parishes, would be capped at \$1.5 million; suits against public institutions such as public schools or other governmental entities would be limited to \$890,000 (currently \$400,000).

(Christopher Gunty is associate publisher and editor of Catholic Review Media, publishing arm of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. George P. Matysek Jr., managing editor, contributed to this story.)

Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville
7:30 WOWK CBS 13 Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opened a new Diaconate Formation Program for all Catholic men who will be 35 by June of 2027. Bishop Mark Brennan has made the 2023-2028 Diaconate Formation Program free to the men who apply, and the cost will be covered by the diocese.

Permanent deacons may be married. They must be faithful Catholics. Most work at secular jobs and must be willing to be open to an assignment outside of their parish.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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<https://dwc.org/directory-listing/permanent-diaconate-formation-office-of/2275/>



The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is accepting applications for the next class of permanent deacons.

Note: Only the application form and the letter of recommendation from your pastor must be submitted prior to April 15.

Applications may also be obtained by contacting Tina High in the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (888) 434-6237 or for the Wheeling area at (304) 233-0880, ext. 271. Completed applications must be sent to the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.



Blessing of Easter Food

Immaculate Conception Parish in New Cumberland hosted its annual Blessing of Easter Food on Holy Saturday morning. Participants included (left to right): Helen Kirpan, Vanessa Dicks, Lisa Baxter, Emersyn White, Megan White, Father Bill Matheny (pastor), Larry Binkoski, Vicki DiLullo, and Lori Kaczmarek.

‘Life of the Beloved’ Zoom Series to be Offered by West Virginia Institute for Spirituality

The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston will offer the Zoom series “Life of the Beloved,” a five-week group spiritual direction program Monday evenings (April 17 and 24, May 1, 8, and 15) at 5 p.m. This will be offered by Jill Gordon, WVIS associate spiritual director intern.

“The resurrection has been accomplished! Lenten studies have ended, and you may be asking, ‘Is that it?’ Do I just coast from here until Advent? Certainly not! The sacrifice of the cross is the beginning call of the beloved,” program organizers said. “In this short series, we’ll be reading Henri Nouwen’s book ‘Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World.’ As Nouwen says, ‘The great spiritual call of the beloved is to

pull their brokenness away from the shadow of the curse and put it under the light of the blessing.’ Our world and ourselves live out the reality of that brokenness daily. How do we face it?”

Each week, participants will focus on one chapter, having read it, and in a quiet, meditative time, prayed about the reading and then journaled our thoughts and reactions to each – Loved, Chosen, Blessed, Broken, and Given.

“At meeting time, we’ll share our reflections (as we so desire) and always in a covenant of confidence,” organizers said.

Registration deadline is April 16. Offering: \$25 plus the cost of the book (purchased separately). For more information or to register, visit <https://www.wvis.org/>.



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(Formerly Known as the Catholic Camporee)

April 21st to 23rd, 2023

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Location: Camp Mountaineer (Morgantown WV)

Hosted by: Catholic Committee on Scouting & the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Contact: Chris Gorski at catholiccamporee@aol.com for further information

Additional information: <https://scoutingevent.com/615-59082>

Cost: \$10 Early bird : \$20 after March 29, 2023



All Are Welcome!



Parish Easter Scenes



St. Matthew Church, Ravenswood

Courtesy Photo



St. Mary Queen of Heaven Church, Madison

Courtesy Photo

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant


- Saturday, April 15:** St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, April 15:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
- Sunday, April 16:** St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 18:** St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 24:** St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 25:** St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 30:** St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 6:** St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 6:** St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 11:** St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 13:** Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 14:** Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 14:** St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 17:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 19:** St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 20:** St. Bernadette, Hedgessville, 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 20:** St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 21:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 21:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 22:** Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 28:** St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 1:** St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 10:** Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 10:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 18:** Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 24:** Mater Dolorosa, Paden City, 5:00 p.m.

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To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by



Courtesy Photo

Logan Holdren received his high school equivalency after studying in Catholic Charities' Adult Education program.

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Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

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Feb 27	Let us be Bread - Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27	The Eucharist as a noun - Bernadette McMasters Kime
April 24	Eucharist in the early church - Fr. John Di Bacco
May 22	Lord I am not worthy - Alex Nagem
June 26	The Eucharist as a verb - Deacon Paul Lim
July 31	Eucharist IS thanksgiving - Kate Marshall
August 28	Bread broken and shared - Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ
Sept. 25	Eucharistic Reflections through song - Chad Carter
Oct 30	The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? - Fr. Walt Jagela
Nov 27	Bread for the journey - Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.
Dec 11	Do this in remembrance of Me - Deacon Doug Breiding

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

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Arzobispo y gobernador hacen un llamado a la oración mientras Louisville lamenta un tiroteo masivo ‘a la sombra de la cruz’

Por Marnie McAllister

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (OSV News) — En medio de llamamientos a la oración y elogios para los que se apresuraron a responder a los hechos, las autoridades confirmaron que cinco personas murieron en un tiroteo masivo el 10 de abril, Lunes de Pascua por la mañana, en un banco del centro de Louisville, Kentucky.

Según el Departamento de Policía Metropolitana de Louisville (LMPD por sus siglas en inglés), al menos nueve personas resultaron heridas, entre ellas dos agentes de policía de LMPD, durante el tiroteo en el Old National Bank, 333 E. Main St.

El tirador, identificado por la policía como Connor Sturgeon, empleado del banco de 25 años, licenciado en finanzas y sin antecedentes penales conocidos, murió en el lugar de los hechos tras intercambiar disparos con la policía, que llegó a los tres minutos de iniciarse el ataque. Se reporta que Sturgeon iba armado con un rifle semiautomático del tipo AR-15 y retransmitió la matanza en directo a través de Instagram.

"Mi corazón está apesadumbrado al enterarnos de otro tiroteo masivo, ahora en nuestra propia comunidad de Louisville", dijo el arzobispo de Louisville Shelton J. Fabre en una declaración proporcionada a The Record, el periódico

semanal de la Arquidiócesis de Louisville, recordando a los fieles que, en medio de la alegría pascual, la cruz permanece. "Incluso con nuestra esperanza pascual tan recientemente renovada, se nos ha recordado rápidamente que todavía vivimos a la sombra de la cruz, la cruz de la violencia sin sentido".

"Por ahora, por favor, únense a mí en la oración por los que han muerto y por los que han resultado heridos y por sus familias", dijo. "Recemos también por todos en nuestra comunidad mientras lidiamos con esta tragedia".

LMPD ha identificado a los fallecidos en el tiroteo como Joshua Barrick, Deana Eckert, Thomas Elliot, Juliana Farmer y James Tutt. Las edades de las víctimas oscilaban entre los 40 y los 64 años. El oficial Nickolas Wilt, de 26 años, quien se graduó de la academia de policía el 31 de marzo, recibió un disparo en la cabeza y se encuentra en estado crítico, dijo el departamento. Eckert inicialmente sobrevivió al tiroteo, pero sucumbió a sus heridas.

La oración también fue una parte importante en los comentarios del alcalde Craig Greenberg y del gobernador Andy Beshear en una rueda de prensa cerca del lugar de los hechos poco después del incidente.

El alcalde, que sobrevivió a un tiroteo en sus oficinas de campaña

el año pasado, pidió a la comunidad que rezara por las víctimas del último tiroteo y que colaborara para prevenir la violencia armada. También agradeció los esfuerzos de los "valientes y heroicos primeros intervinientes (o equipos de primera respuesta)".

"Sin duda, sus acciones salvaron vidas", dijo.

El jefe del Departamento de Policía de Louisville, Paul Humphrey, declaró durante la rueda de prensa que los agentes que llegaron al lugar de los hechos intercambiaron disparos con el autor de los disparos. No estaba claro si las fuerzas del orden mataron al presunto tirador o si la muerte se debió a una herida autoinfligida, dijo, y añadió que el motivo formará parte de la investigación.

Apesadumbrado por la emoción, el gobernador Beshear se hizo eco de los llamamientos a la oración y alabó a las fuerzas del orden, a "los valientes héroes de LMPD" y a los demás que respondieron.

"Sus esfuerzos salvaron vidas y pusieron la suya en peligro", dijo, señalando que el FBI, la Oficina de Alcohol, Tabaco, Armas de Fuego y Explosivos (ATF), el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional y la Policía Estatal de Kentucky se encontraban entre los que acudieron al lugar de los hechos.

El gobernador Beshear dijo que el tiroteo le afectó personalmente.

"Es horrible. Tengo un amigo muy cercano que no sobrevivió hoy y otro en el hospital", dijo. El gobernador Beshear señaló que las oficinas de su campaña para fiscal general estaban situadas en el edificio del Old National Bank. "Cuando hablamos de rezar, espero que lo hagamos".

Animó a la comunidad a "rodear con nuestros brazos a estas familias" afectadas por el tiroteo y les instó a buscar ayuda si la necesitan.

El gobernador también reiteró su gratitud al LMPD, que recientemente fue reprendida por investigadores federales en una revisión de sus prácticas.

"Hoy hemos visto lo mejor de ellos", dijo.

The New York Times informó que las muertes han afectado directamente a la comunidad católica de Louisville. En una vigilia del 10 de abril celebrada en la parroquia de Holy Trinity en Louisville, el padre Shayne Duvall dijo que Joshua Barrick era el "feligrés ideal" que asumía un papel activo en la iglesia. El sacerdote compartió las palabras de despedida de Barrick en su última conversación juntos: "Haré todo lo que pueda por ustedes, solo hágame saber lo que necesiten".

(Marnie McAllister es editora de The Record, el periódico de la Arquidiócesis de Louisville, Kentucky. El personal de OSV News ha contribuido a este informe.)

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 utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.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, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504.

También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "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, Diócesis 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 adicionales, 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 acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", 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 diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Share Easter Joy with Others, Pope Urges

By **Cindy Wooden**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The women disciples, who were the first to meet the risen Jesus, offer a lesson to all Christians: “We encounter Jesus by giving witness to him,” Pope Francis said.

The entire city of Jerusalem had seen Jesus crucified on the cross, yet the women who find his tomb empty, run to share the good news that he is alive, the pope said before reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square April 10, Easter Monday, a public holiday in Rome.

The experience of the women disciples is a reminder, the pope said, that “when one encounters Jesus, no obstacle can prevent us from proclaiming him.”

“If instead we keep his joy for ourselves,” he said, “perhaps it is because we have not yet truly encountered him.”

Pope Francis also used the midday appointment to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended some 30 years of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

“With a grateful spirit, I pray to the God of peace that what was achieved in that historic passage may be consolidated for the benefit of all men and women of the island of Ireland,” the pope said.

Pope Francis began his main talk, a commentary on the day’s Gospel reading, by asking people to think about why the risen Jesus appeared to the women disciples first.

It is simple, he said, the women were the first to go to Jesus’ tomb.

Even though they were mourning like all the disciples and frightened as well, “they do not stay home paralyzed by sadness and fear,” the pope said. They go to the tomb to anoint his body and

“that gesture of love prevails over everything.”

The Gospel of Matthew says an angel tells the women that Christ has risen and, as the women are running to tell the disciples the news, “Jesus met them on their way and greeted them.”

Too often, the pope said, Christians seem to think they will keep Jesus closer to them if they don’t tell anyone about him. Or, at least, they will not have to face judgment, criticism or questions they don’t know how to answer.

But “this won’t do,” the pope said. Good news is meant to be shared.

Thinking of the women disciples, Pope Francis asked people in the square, “When was the last time you witnessed to Jesus?” and he prayed that Mary would “help us be joyful proclaimers of the Gospel.”

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Join in a Pilgrimage with Bishop Brennan

September 29-October 2, 2023

Itinerary

DAY 1: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

DEPART USA, ARRIVE IN MEXICO

- Depart to Mexico City via independent flights
- Welcome dinner with orientation talk

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- Breakfast at the hotel and then take your bus to the world famous Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- See the miraculous image, the "Tilma" of St. Juan Diego, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Guided tour: the Shrine, the New Basilica, Old Basilica, Tepeyac Hill, and more
- Celebrate Mass with our pilgrim priests
- Time to pray, shop & explore the grounds of the Shrine
- Dinner presentation: Sisters of Mary programs around the world

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Sisters of Mary Girlstown

- Be inspired as you celebrate Mass with 3,500 girls
- Enjoy an amazing musical performance by the girls
- Lunch with the exceptional Sisters of Mary
- Tour Girlstown and see how the Sisters are transforming lives
- Time to play and enjoy the girls
- Light dinner with the Sisters before departing
- Return to the hotel for wrap-up

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Return to USA

- Return home on independent flights

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- The most-visited Marian Shrine in the world!
 - Home of the only true image of our Blessed Mother.
- (A miraculous image created by God)

PILGRIMAGE PREP SUGGESTIONS

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"Our Lady of Gaudalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love" by Carl Anderson and Eduardo Chavez

"Priest and Beggar" by Kevin Wells

Sisters of Mary

In 1964, Venerable Fr. Aloysius Schwartz founded the Sisters of Mary to serve the poorest of the poor. Today, 400 Sisters now operate our Boystowns and Girlstowns in seven countries. They have rescued and transformed more than 170,000 of the world's poorest children from the most desperate circumstances.

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Testimonials

"It was truly one of the most spiritually important pilgrimages I've ever made."

—Glory Sullivan

"Anyone who goes to Guadalupe and Girlstown will be so grateful for the experience of this faith-filled journey." —Jane Lanier

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PILGRIMAGE CHAPLAINS

Bishop Mark Brennan - West Virginia
Fr. William Ryan - Togo, West Africa
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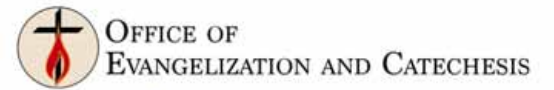


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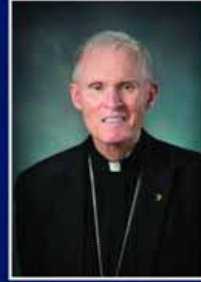
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