

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit



Parishes around the Diocese Welcome Bishop Brennan for Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

Each year, Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Holy Week and Easter with the faithful of different parishes across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. This year, he traveled to Richwood for the celebration of Palm Sunday Masses at Holy Family Parish. He is pictured above blessing the palms. With him are altar servers Kevin and Nathan, the grandsons of Holy Family parishioners Pam and Frank Hitt. Bishop Brennan went on to celebrate the Chrism Masses at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston April 11 and the next day at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. He returned to Charleston for Holy Thursday Mass at the basilica and will be with the faithful of St. Brendan Parish in Elkins for Good Friday at 7 p.m. this evening (April 15). For Holy Saturday, April 16, the bishop will celebrate the Easter Vigil at Sacred Heart Parish in Chester at 8 p.m. and Easter Sunday Mass at the cathedral in Wheeling at 10:30 a.m. Courtesy Photo

See Page 3 of this issue for the list of Holy Week and Easter Masses and services to be televised and livestreamed on the diocese's Facebook page and website.

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Obituary

James Francis Quirk

James Francis Quirk

Born: 25 April 1942, Washington, DC

Died: 8 April 2022, Wheeling, WV

Preceded in death by his parents John and Ava Marie (née Hafferty) Quirk, and by his former wife Jeannie Ann (née Monnes) Quirk.

Survived by his sons Kevin Michael Quirk and Seán Christopher Quirk of New Martinsville, WV, and Brian Patrick Quirk of Stafford, VA, together with Brian's wife, Brandi, and his children Thomas Axel and Dorothy. He is also survived by his siblings Joan Maguire, John Quirk and his wife Anne, and Bernadette Mauer and her husband John, together with many nieces and nephews and their respective children.

He had many occupations in his professional life and in retirement, none more important to him than being a father, recovering alcoholic, and agent of chaos. He recently earned his 38 year chip from A.A. and spent his days attending daily Mass, challenging societal norms and cultural mores, and caring for his friends and neighbors. The world, at least our small corner of it, will be boring without him.

The Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Wednesday, 20 April 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, New Martinsville. Internment will take place at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Seán's alma mater, St. Coletta of Greater Washington (www.stcoletta.org), or to your local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org).



To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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 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, 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.

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."

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Catholic Charities West Virginia Announces Charity in Action Award Honorees

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) will host its Shining a Light on Hope Virtual Gala on Thursday, April 21. The Gala will broadcast at 7:00 p.m. on WTRF-7 in Wheeling and on CCWVa's website at: www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/Gala2022.

"This is a unique chance for our whole community to peek behind the scenes and learn more about how we serve this region. And we're continuing our tradition of recognizing leaders in the community who demonstrate true Charity in Action," said Beth Zarate, CCWVa President and Chief Executive Officer.

CCWVa offers a network of services supporting infants to seniors. The agency collaborates with individuals and community partners to support people who



Kate Marshall

need food, hospitality, utility bill assistance, child care assistance, home care services and much more.

"The pandemic hit our clients especially hard. Our awardees stepped up in a profound way, helping us provide more critical sup-



Quenton Northcraft

port than ever before," said Zarate.

The recipients of the 2022 Charity in Action Award are The House of Hagar and Kate Marshall (Wheeling), Quenton Northcraft (Wheeling), and St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Food Pantry (New Martinsville).

The House of Hagar, HoH Share and Kate Marshall

Kate Marshall serves as the founder and Executive Director of HoH Share Inc, a non-profit to give voice to the underrepresented and provide resources to the underserved communities of Wheeling, West Virginia.

HoH-Share Inc. was founded after realizing there frequently is a disconnect between social services and the people who needed them, often because the whole-picture realities of the poor are frequently misunderstood.

Kate's work specializes in advocacy, working with those experiencing homelessness, recovery, poverty, judicially impacted peoples, as well as many

other social justice issues.

"Kate and her family have developed a large cadre of volunteers who assist them in providing homeless people with food, clothing and other necessities," said Janet Boyle, CCWVa Board Member. "They quite literally practice the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy daily."

Quenton Northcraft

Quenton Northcraft has a passion for service, and he uses his talents and gifts to improve the lives of other people. He is a devoted volunteer at Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling.

"They treat their neighbors with quiet compassion," said Boyle. "During a visit to HoH, one might be hard pressed to distinguish

See "Honorees" on Page 5



Courtesy Photo
Members from the cluster of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, Holy Rosary Mission in Sistersville, and St. Joseph Mission in Proctor are gathered with their pastor, Msgr. Kevin M. Quirk, on their pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling last summer.

Honorees...

Cont'd from Page 4

the volunteers from the neighbors in need, because all interactions are driven by kindness and respect."

"Quenton's thoughtful and strategic approach is evident in everything he does," said Trish Whitelatch, CCWVa Northern Regional Director. "He noticed that some of the carts at the Center were not in good repair, making it difficult to move donated food and goods. He donated two carts that are much easier to maneuver and can be used for multiple purposes. This is just one example of how Quenton has helped us become more efficient so we can improve our services."

In addition to sharing his time

and talent with Catholic Charities, Quenton volunteers at the Mother Jones Center for Resilient Community.

"We, the staff and the neighbors at Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center are blessed to count Quenton among our faithful volunteers," said Whitelatch.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Food Pantry

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville, West Virginia, coordinates a Catholic Charities West Virginia pantry that is now exclusively volunteer-run. When Catholic Charities was working to find staff for its food pantry at St. Vincent, Msgr. Kevin Quirk, the pastor, suggested that the parish would find a way to operate without paid staff, allowing all funding to go directly to those served.

"St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville deserves special recognition for the kindness, selflessness and charity of their administration and parishioners," said Mark Phillips, CCWVa Chief Operating Officer.

Despite the fact that they have no paid employees, they regularly distribute food, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies as well as provide emergency financial assistance for rent and utility payments.

Cecilia Wetzel, the lead volunteer, along with parishioners from St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph, Holy Rosary, and Mater Dolorosa are an integral part of this volunteer team.

"The volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Food Pantry truly exemplify their patron saint's commitment to people in need," said

Phillips.

"We are grateful for and inspired by many partners who walk this journey with us, and we're honored to recognize these dedicated individuals," said Zarate.

Proceeds from the Gala support CCWVa's programs and services in 17 counties in northern West Virginia.

As part of the Gala, CCWVa will host a virtual auction. The auction will be available at bidpal.net/CCWVa from April 17-24, closing at 9:00 p.m. on April 24.

The Gala is presented through the generosity of lead sponsor, WVU Medicine; and major sponsor, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

More details are available on CCWVa's website at: www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/Gala2022.

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All Saints Parish to Host 10th Community Conversation on Substance Use Disorder

BRIDGEPORT—“Treatment, Recovery, and Resources” will be the focus of the 10th Community Conversation on Substance Use Disorder that will be held on Monday, April 25, from 5-8 p.m. in the All Saints Parish Social Hall in Bridgeport.

The keynote Speaker is U.S. Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld who will address how West Virginia is battling the fentanyl pandemic.

During a Resource Hour from 5-6 p.m., people will have an oppor-

tunity to speak one-on-one with Substance Use Disorder specialists, as well as having time to network and enjoy refreshments. Featured speakers will present from 6-8 p.m. on local and state efforts, alcohol misuse, suicide and overdoses, and Help4WV.

Over the past six years, All Saints has hosted conversations on various aspects of substance use disorder, as well as Intervention, Stigma Reduction, Mental Illness: Childhood through Early Adulthood, A Call to Action for Families,

as well as other calls to action.

Close to 1,000 people have attended these conversations whose purpose has been to provide accurate information, education, and resources.

As Ellen Condron, All Saints parish nurse and organizer of the conversations, says, “Recovery is a lifelong process. It’s important that families know where to find help. The information presented can benefit everyone: parents, grandparents, adolescents, as well as persons involved in local and

state government.”

These conversations have been sponsored by All Saints Parish Nurse Ministry and All Saints Community Outreach and Social Justice committees, in partnership with various organizations such as the Harrison County Family Resource Network, Partnerships for Success, Harrison County Prevention Partnership, Hope Lions Club, and the Knights of Columbus of All Saints.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Wheeling Parish’s Pastoral Council Announces Goals for the Future

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—The Parish Pastoral Council at St. Michael’s in Wheeling recently announced goals for the future of the parish.

In a letter to parishioners in the April 10 parish bulletin, the council said that after much dialogue, discussion, and discernment the council has selected three primary goals as part of its long-term action plan: Spiritual Enrichment, Evangelization, and Stewardship of St. Michael Parish and School.

Beginning with the goal of Spiritual Enrichment, the council is focusing on three action items: more group liturgy and sacrament study sessions, enhanced training for liturgical ministries, and maximize educational opportunities within faith formation groups and parish community.

“We are already underway with some of these action items, but we will need your help moving forward in making these goals successful...” the council wrote to fellow parishioners. The council said it will be reaching out to various resources in the parish community and invited parishioners who have ideas or want to help with the initial action items to become involved.

“Let’s work together to make our St. Michael Parish the ultimate synodal church,” the council wrote.

Father Carlos Melocoton, pastor St. Michael Parish and School, told The Catholic Spirit that spiritual enrichment is vital.

“We cannot give what we do not have,” he said. “Without proper nourishment in our spirituality, we do not have the resources to share with others. Our study of theology has vast branches to cover for our spiritual wellbeing. We must tap those resources. We must not forget that in a parish we encounter different levels/categories of individuals and they come from different backgrounds and formation.”

Father Melocoton continued by saying that enriching parish leadership and parishioners with a variety of educational formation, devotions, and practices might awaken their zeal to further their understanding of

spirituality and religion.

As evangelization is the sharing of faith, Father Melocoton emphasized that the Acts of the Apostles gives the faithful the foundation on how do the work of sharing Christ with others.

“Apostles’ witness of faith sharing comes with strides and difficulties,” he said. “It is necessary that parish leadership as well as the rest of the parish community recognizes the ‘cross’ of evangelization. Looking at the works of the early fathers and the saints, such passion is inspiring for us to take on the task of sharing Christ in our life towards our neighbors. Jesus shared himself with us through his incarnate, he did evangelize us first to bring us strength and hope.”

Lastly, he said stewardship takes on the business of “mixing all our ingredients to make a perfect salad.” Collaborative ministry, he said, is a successful venture when one knows their gifts and are willing to offer them with trust, respect, and charity.

“Our time, talent, and treasures are important to our parish ministry,” Father Melocoton said. “The more we allow our members to be part of the whole ministry with utmost understanding and respect for collaboration of gifts makes the life of a pastor less stressful.”

Parishes often struggle with continuity in their parish mission every time there are changes in their pastoral leadership, Father Melocoton said. “We look at avenues where there

will be a continuity and longevity of mission regardless of changes in leadership and we come up with three areas which are equally vital in parish ministry,” he said.

The goals of the parish pastoral council will always be present in different forms within the life of an active and missionary parish, Father Melocoton said.

“I am happy that St. Michael parishioners are willing to take the risk of blending their gifts, though sometimes very challenging,” he said, “but the goal is to produce good fruits.”

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Courtesy Photos

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- April 23: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
- April 26: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- April 27: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg, 5:30 p.m.
- April 28: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- April 30: St. Alphonsus, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- May 1: Combined Confirmation: Sacred Heart, Chester, and Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland, 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart, Chester
- May 3: St. Michael, Vienna, 6 p.m.
- May 5: Combined Confirmation: Holy Trinity, Nitro, and St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft
- May 7: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- May 9: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- May 12: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 6:30 p.m.
- May 18: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
- May 19: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 6 p.m.
- May 20: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
- May 21: St. James, Charles Town, 10 a.m.
- May 22: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 3 p.m.
- May 28: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.
- May 29: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg, 2 p.m.
- May 31: St. Anthony, Follansbee, 6 p.m.
- June 4: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5 p.m.
- June 25: St. Brendan, Elkins, 5 p.m.

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St. Annes Parish, Shepherdstown, to Host Concert to Benefit Ukrainian Relief

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Shepherd University's Guitar Ensemble will present a concert to benefit Ukrainian Relief on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Shepherdstown.

The concert will feature solo and ensemble selections. Shepherd's Guitar Ensemble will present arrangements of familiar songs by The Beatles, and two pieces by Swiss guitarist, percussionist, and composer Jürg Kindle titled "Berimbao" and "Funky". "Berimbao", subtitled "Percussion Guitar Music No.1, Quartet No. 3", is based on African and Afro Cuban rhythms and attempts to imitate ancient percussion instruments. The guitar arrangement requires guitarists to strike the string with a stick. "Funky" is an upbeat, fresh arrangement for ensemble with pop, disco, and funk riffs that the players really enjoy. The concert will also include solo classical and contemporary works by students.

Dr. Candice Mowbray is the director of Shepherd's guitar program, and she is assisted this semester by Hart Wells, the director of Guitar for Potomac Falls High School in Sterling, Va.

Admission to this concert is free. All donations to St. Agnes at this concert will be directed to ongoing Ukrainian relief efforts and would be sincerely appreciated.

For more information, contact Robert Tudor, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Shepherd, at rtudor@shepherd.edu.

Confirmation Class Collects 1,200 Canned food for Mobile Food Pantry



Courtesy Photo

The confirmation class at St. Michael Parish in Vienna challenged the parish to raise 1,000 cans for Lent that will be distributed by the Catholic Charities West Virginia Mobile Food Van. The class is pictured are more than 1,200 cans collected.

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Eucharistic Revival Called ‘a Movement’ That Gets to Core of Catholic Faith

By Julie Asher Catholic, News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church’s three-year eucharistic revival about to get underway “is not a program but a movement” that is an invitation to the faithful from God to go on mission and be compelling witnesses of our faith, said Tim Glemkowski, the newly named executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress.

“We the church have to be clear about telling our story, getting to the core” of our faith, that “God is not just some distant someone who is not engaged,” he told Catholic News Service April 5. “He’s alive and real and can be encountered in the Eucharist, source and summit of the faith. ... This is where God is with us.”

The National Eucharistic Revival begins June 16, the feast of Corpus Christi, and culminates with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024. Along the way, there will be parish, diocesan and regional events to increase Catholics’ understanding of the Real Presence in the Eucharist.

The first year will get underway at the parish and diocesan levels with initiatives such as eucharistic adoration and processions, the development of parish teams of revival leaders and conferences on the Eucharist.

The following year there will be regional revival events, leading to the eucharistic congress in Indianapolis in 2024, the first to be held since one took place in 1976 in Philadelphia. It is expected to draw at least 80,000 from across the country.

The U.S. bishops approved plans for the revival and the congress last November during their fall general assembly in Baltimore. Both are being spearheaded by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, chaired by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota.

As chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., Bishop Cozzens announced Glemkowski’s appointment April 4.

“Tim is a real leader with a heart on fire for Jesus Christ and a desire to invite people to encounter his love in the Eucharist,” Bishop Cozzens said in a statement.

“He brings a unique blend of skill sets to this important role — from strategic vision and operational excellence to theological in-

sight and a missionary mindset. ... He lives and breathes the call of Pope Francis for a pastoral and missionary conversion of the church,” the bishop added.

National Eucharistic Congress Inc. was instituted earlier this year, and a national search was conducted for an executive director to lead the newly established entity.

“God is doing something important in his church through this multiyear national eucharistic revival,” Glemkowski said in a statement after his appointment was announced. “At its core, I believe the congress is a critical moment for how we fulfill Pope Francis’ vision of becoming a more missionary church.”

He added, “It is the fire of charity, born in our hearts from the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist, which impels us on mission. This is a phenomenal opportunity for our church to draw closer to Christ and to be prepared to better share him with our postmodern world.”

Until he was chosen for his new position, Glemkowski had been working for the Archdiocese of Denver in evangelization and strategy. Before that, he was founding president of the Chicago-based L’Alto Catholic Institute, which works with parishes to meet “the challenges and opportunities” of the new evangelization.

A native of the Chicago area, Glemkowski has a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and a master’s in theology from the Augustine Institute in the Denver Archdiocese.

He and his wife, Maggie, have three children, ages 6, 4 and 1. They are members of Light of the World Parish in suburban Denver.

“The heart of Vatican II is the universal call to mission, to holiness. All of us are called to give our entire lives to Christ and surrender to God and go on mission,” he told CNS April 5. “It’s not optional ... baptism is an invitation calling for each of us” to step up and share the joy of Christ and our faith with others.

He sees the revival and the congress as “a milestone moment” for the church and also “a generational moment” that can really change lives.

Glemkowski said that as a lay consultant to the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, he has been “engaged and involved with the genesis of (the) project for a while,” and when he

watched via livestream Bishop Cozzens’ Nov. 17 presentation to the bishops, “I felt God moving my heart and I wanted to be a part of it.”

So he applied for the spot as executive director and said he is “humbled and honored” to be appointed.

In his presentation and later in interviews, Bishop Cozzens said the Catholic Church can deepen the faithful’s understanding of the Eucharist with the revival and the congress by remembering that Christ said a lighted lamp does not belong under a bushel basket.

“Set it up on a hill so that people can see it and be attracted to it,” the bishop said. “And I think that’s what we want to do with our teaching on the Eucharist.”

Glemkowski noted that “the original vision” for the revival began to be discussed when Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles was the bishops’ evangelization chairman, shortly after the results of a 2019 Pew survey showed just 30% of Catholics understand the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Bishop Barron also is founder of the Catholic evangelization organization Word on Fire.

In the Pew survey, 69% of all self-identified Catholics said they believed the bread and wine used at Mass are not Jesus, but instead

“symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.”

The results struck a nerve with many U.S. bishops, who saw a catechetical crisis in this lack of fundamental understanding about the Eucharist.

In November, in addition to approving the plans for the revival and Congress, the bishops also approved a statement on “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” which is addressed to all Catholics in the United States and “endeavors to explain the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the church.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, which drafted the statement, also said the document was meant to be a theological contribution to the bishops’ upcoming eucharistic revival “by providing a doctrinal resource for parishes, catechists and the faithful.”

In addition, the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life has launched a new initiative for 2022 on fostering a eucharistic culture in parishes, schools, and dioceses as a way of promoting deeper affiliation with the church.

More about the U.S. Catholic Church’s National Eucharistic Revival—† and National Eucharistic

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Bishops from Four Continents Express Concern about Germany's Synodal Path

By Greg Erlandson, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an open letter, 74 bishops from North America, Africa, Italy and Australia have expressed their “growing concern” about the German Synodal Path process and content, warning about its “potential for schism.”

Joining recent letters of concern by the Nordic and Polish bishops, the “fraternal open letter to our brother bishops in Germany” said “the Synodal Path’s actions undermine the credibility of church authority, including that of Pope Francis.”

“By its destructive example, it may lead some bishops, and will lead many otherwise faithful laypeople, to distrust the very idea of ‘synodality,’ thus further impeding the church’s necessary conversation about fulfilling the mission of converting and sanctifying the world,” the letter concluded.

Signatories included Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, South African Cardinal Wilfred Napier, Australian Cardinal George Pell, and U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke.

All told, 49 bishops from the U.S., four from Canada, 19 Africans, one Italian and one Australian signed the letter. The letter was made public April 12 after having been sent to the German bishops April 11.

The German bishops, responding to ongoing revelations of clerical sexual abuse and how bishops mismanaged such cases, see the Synodal Path process as addressing the exercise of power and authority in the church; sexual morality; the priesthood; and the role of women.

The German bishops are keenly aware of the concerns of other conferences about the direction their Synodal Path is taking. Limburg Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops’ conference, has admitted that there were highly divergent opinions on issues such as blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples or the ordination of women as deacons or priests. The German Catholic news agency KNA reported he pledged that the bishops would submit all the synodal reform decisions that can only be implemented at the universal church level to the worldwide synodal process launched by Pope Francis in preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops on synodality.

The April 11 open letter to the Germans said that “events in one nation inevitably impact ecclesial life elsewhere.”

It raised seven criticisms, including “failing to listen to the Holy Spirit and the Gospel,” relying more on “sociological analysis and contemporary political, including gender, ideologies” than on Scripture and Tradition, and being too fo-

cus on “power” and “autonomy.”

“The Synodal Path process, at nearly every step, is the work of experts and committees,” the letter said, calling the process “bureaucracy-heavy, obsessively critical, and inward-looking.”

“In its effect, the Synodal Path displays more submission and obedience to the world and ideologies than to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,” it said.

The letter signers expressed concern for “the confusion that the Synodal Path has already caused and continues to cause, and the potential for schism in the life of the church that will inevitably result.”

In March, after a critical letter by the Polish bishops became public, Matteo Bruni, Vatican spokesman, told KNA Pope Francis had not changed his position since a June 2019 letter to Catholics in Germany. In his 2019 letter, Pope Francis emphasized that taking a synodal path is a process that must be guided by the Holy Spirit with patience and not a “search for immediate results that generate quick and immediate consequences.” Transformation “calls for pastoral conversion,” he said.

“Brothers and sisters, let us care for one another and be attentive to the temptation of the father of lies and division, the master of separation who, in pushing us to seek an apparent good or a response to a given situation, in fact ends up fragmenting the body of the holy and faithful people of God,” the pope said.

He also warned against a temptation to use evangelization as something that is adapted “to the spirit of the times.”

Concerns about divisions and responding to pressures of the times are some of the main issues cited by those European bishops who have voiced their concerns publicly.

In response to the letter by the Polish bishops, Bishop Bätzing rejected the accusation that the reform process in Germany was watering down church doctrine and bowing to the spirit of the times. “We do not walk the path of conversion and renewal lightly, and certainly not outside the universal church,” the German bishop said. “Several times I had the opportunity to speak with Pope Francis about the Synodal Path.”

Bishop Bätzing said the German church was doing exactly what Pope Francis asked of the nation’s Catholics in 2019, that is, embarking on a “spiritual journey in asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” The public criticism of one bishops’ conference by others is highly unusual, but within Germany as well there has been debate about the Synodal Path process.

(Contributing to this story was Barb Frazee.)


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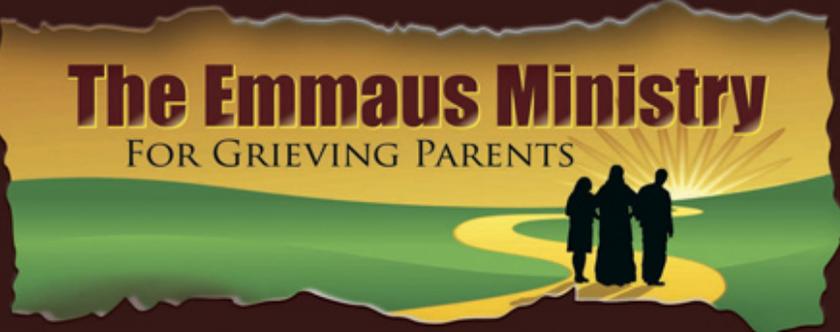

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Stop Fueling the Madness, the Monster of War, Pope Says in New Book

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To wage war, which marks a failure of politics and humanity, is to surrender to the forces of evil, Pope Francis wrote in a new book.

“War is not the solution, war is madness, war is a monster, war is a cancer that feeds off itself, engulfing everything!” he wrote.

And, he added, “war is a sacrilege that wreaks havoc on what is most precious on our earth: human life, the innocence of the little ones, the beauty of creation.”

The pope’s remarks were part of the introduction of a new book in Italian, titled, “Contro la Guerra. Il Coraggio di Costruire la Pace” (“Against War. The Courage to Build Peace”). Vatican News published the introduction April 13. The 192-page book, published by Solferino press and the Vatican publishing house, was to be released April 14.

“Every war represents not only a defeat of politics but also a shameful surrender in the face of the forces of evil,” the pope wrote in the introduction.

When people allow themselves to be “devoured by this monster represented by war,” he wrote, then “everyone loses, we destroy God’s creatures, we commit sacrilege and prepare a future of death for our children and grandchildren.”

“Greed, intolerance, ambition for power, violence are motives that advance the decision for war, and these motives are often justified by a war ideology that forgets the immeasurable dignity of human life, of every human life, and the respect and care we owe it,” the pope wrote.

War, he wrote, “is pure madness, its only goal is destruction, and it develops and grows through destruction,” he wrote, blaming people’s failure to remember the past or to listen to what others experienced during the “barbarity” of war.

“If we had memory, we would remember what our grandparents and parents told us, and we would feel the need for peace just as our lungs need oxygen,” he wrote.

The pope recalled the destruction “caused by war, fratricidal violence and terrorism” he witnessed during his pilgrimage to “martyred

Iraq” in 2021.

“I saw the rubble of homes and the wounds of hearts, but also seeds of hope for rebirth. Never would I have imagined then that one year later a conflict would break out in Europe,” he wrote, highlighting the conflict in Ukraine, but also giving voice to the many other wars and “forgotten wars” going on around the world.

“These wars seemed ‘distant’ to us,” until war broke out in Europe, he wrote.

“Ukraine has been attacked and invaded,” and those affected include so many innocent civilians, “forced to live in shelters dug in the belly of the earth to escape the bombs, with families that are divided because the husbands, fathers, grandfathers remain to fight, while the wives, mothers and grandmothers seek refuge.”

Seeing so many “heartbreaking images” and hearing “the cries of children and women,” he wrote, “we can only shout: ‘Stop!’ War is not the solution.”

The pope criticized the continual investment in and buildup of weapons, citing the latest findings by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which monitors military spending worldwide. Its April 2021 report calculated world military expenditure for 2020 reached \$1.98 trillion, the highest level since 1988 when SIPRI began consistent estimations.

The pope said the use of atomic energy for the purposes of war is “a crime” against humanity and creation, and the possession of atomic weapons is immoral; he lamented the “specter of a nuclear war” looming over Europe.

War must be stopped before it reaches the front lines by eradicating hatred from people’s hearts, the pope wrote.

To do that, “we need dialogue, negotiation, listening, diplomatic capacity and creativity, far-sighted politics capable of building a new system of coexistence that is no longer based on weapons, on the power of weapons, on deterrence,” he wrote.

Wars will only be stopped “if we stop ‘fueling’ them,” he wrote, repeating his appeal that money normally spent on arms and other mil-

itary expenditures instead be used “to set up a global fund to finally eliminate hunger and foster development in the poorest countries, so that their inhabitants would not resort to violent or deceptive solutions and would not be forced to leave their countries in search of a more dignified life.”

“Step by step, we are moving toward catastrophe” as if it were unavoidable, he wrote. “But we must forcefully repeat: No, it is not inevitable! No, war is not inescapable!”

Despite the difficulty in seeing signs of hope amid “the images of

death that reach us from Ukraine,” he wrote, “there are millions of people who do not aspire to war, who do not justify war, but ask for peace,” especially young people who are begging for “the possible and the impossible: to stop war, to stop wars.”

Everyone must respond with “never again war” and commit themselves to building a world that is more just, “where peace triumphs, not the folly of war,” he said, and where there is “mutual forgiveness, not the hatred that divides and makes us see an enemy in the other, in those who are different from us.”

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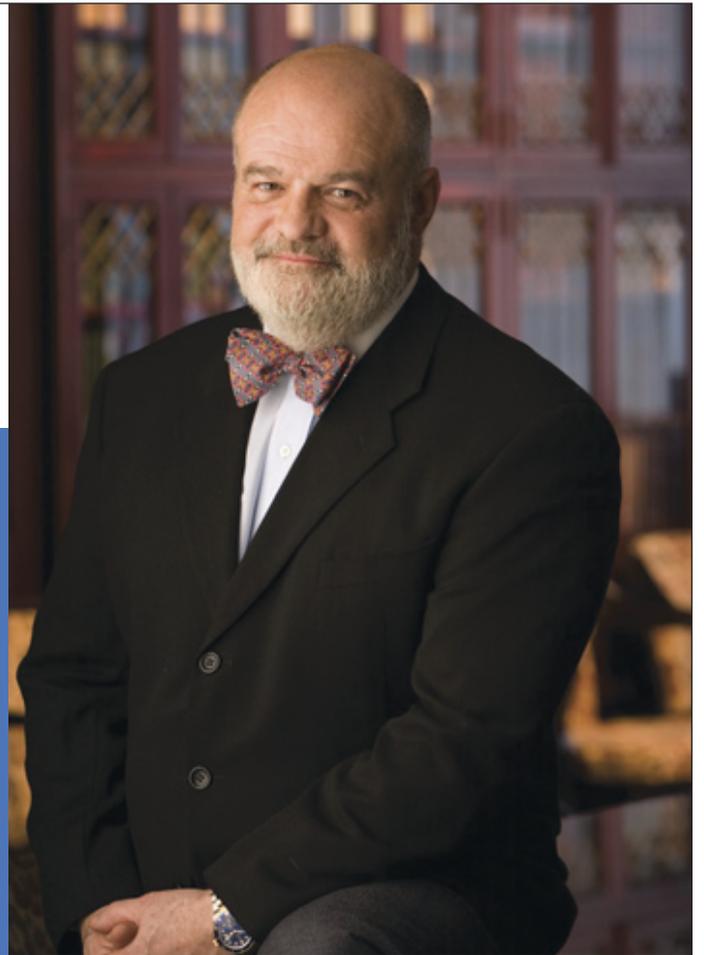
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MISSION MOMENT

Walking with Neighbors as We Walk with Jesus

At some time or another, most of us ask why Good Friday is called “Good.” It’s a day of mourning and coming to terms with the fact that Jesus died on a cross for us. And yet, we do celebrate Jesus’ passion and death because, ultimately, the pain helps us to know and understand the new life of Easter.

In a different way, Catholic Charities West Virginia’s staff, volunteers, and supporters intentionally bear witness to the suffering of our brothers and sisters. Through the heartache of poverty and the desolation of addiction, we refuse to turn away when our neighbors need us the most.

The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus became human so that He could relate to

each of us intimately:

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.”

—Hebrews 4:15

People come to Catholic Charities West Virginia when they need help. They often feel a sense of weakness. They are never met with judgment, but rather with solidarity and compassion.

Yes, we meet the physical needs of our neighbors. And we also strive to meet their emotional needs as we honor their dignity as children of God. Everyone who approaches us for help is met with a caring, compassionate person who

looks deeper than the wounds life has inflicted. We strive to see the image of Jesus in the face of every client.

So, while we do not celebrate the fact that people need our services, we rejoice in our mission of love! Thank you for standing with us in service to our neighbors who need us most.

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

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.



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Contact Assistant Director, Sadie Shields, for more information: sshields@dwv.org or 1 (304) 476-9015





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Papa: La paz viene a través de la mansedumbre, no de la guerra

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—Jesús trae paz al mundo destrozado de hoy a través de la mansedumbre y no a través de una "paz armada" que busca subyugar a otros, dijo el papa Francisco.

Durante su audiencia general semanal del 13 de abril, el papa dijo que la guerra en Ucrania, "como toda guerra, representa un ultraje contra Dios, una traición blasfema al Señor de la Pascua, una preferencia por el rostro del falso dios de este mundo sobre su manso".

"La paz de Jesús no vence a los demás, no es una paz armada", dijo. "Las armas del Evangelio son la oración, la ternura, el perdón y el amor gratuito al prójimo, a cualquier prójimo".

Al llegar al aula Pablo VI, el papa fue recibido con aplausos y vítores de la multitud, muchos de ellos jóvenes que estaban en Roma asistiendo a UNIV 2022, una reunión de estudiantes universitarios de todo el mundo patrocinada por el Opus Dei.

El papa Francisco dedicó su discurso de audiencia al significado de la Semana Santa, que comenzó con la conmemoración de la entrada de Jesús en Jerusalén el Domingo de Ramos.

Si bien quienes lo recibieron pensaron que su llegada anunciaría la liberación de Jerusalén de la ocupación romana, dijo, Jesús estaba más preocupado por su humilde entrada a la ciudad en un burro.

"Así es como Cristo trae la paz al mundo: a través de la mansedumbre y la apacibilidad", dijo el papa.

La marca de paz de Jesús, explicó, contrasta fuertemente con "la paz que sigue las estrategias

del mundo, que cree que puede obtenerla por la fuerza, por la conquista y con diversas formas de imposición".

"Esta paz, en realidad, es solo un intervalo entre guerras", dijo el papa. "La paz del Señor sigue el camino de la mansedumbre y de la cruz: es hacerse cargo de los demás. En efecto, Cristo tomó sobre sí nuestro mal, el pecado y la muerte. Así nos liberó. Su paz no es fruto de algún compromiso, sino que más bien nace de la entrega".

Sin embargo, prosiguió, la paz que es "mansa y valiente" es un camino difícil como lo demuestra la gente que alababa la entrada de Jesús solo para gritar que sería crucificado a los pocos días.

Citando la aclamada novela de Fyodor Dostoevsky, "Los hermanos Karamazov", el papa Francisco recordó la historia contada dentro de la novela de "El Gran Inquisidor", un cuento que imagina a Cristo regresando al mundo en Sevilla durante la Inquisición.

Aunque se acoge a Cristo, el inquisidor hace arrestar a Jesús y lo reprende porque nunca "quiso convertirse en César, el rey más grande de este mundo, prefiriendo dejar libre a la humanidad antes que someterla y resolver sus problemas por la fuerza", dijo.

La reacción de Jesús en el cuento, que fue permanecer en silencio y besar suavemente al inquisidor, muestra que la paz solo puede venir de la mansedumbre, la humildad y el amor por los demás, dijo el papa.

El papa Francisco llamó a los cristianos a colocarse durante la Semana Santa "ante el Crucificado, fuente de nuestra paz y pedirle la paz del corazón y la paz en el mundo".

"Este año, sobre todo, es una ocasión bendita para pasar del dios mundano al Dios cristiano, de la codicia que llevamos en nosotros a la caridad que nos hace libres, de la espera de una paz traída por la fuerza al compromiso para dar un testimonio real de la paz de Jesús", dijo.

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Colleen Rowan en crowan@dwc.org

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Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían 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.

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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.

Employment Opportunities

Principal Needed

St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, WV

Saint Joseph Catholic Church of Martinsburg, West Virginia, is seeking a principal for Saint Joseph School, which has students in preschool through eighth grades.

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts, and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

The ideal candidate must have a master's degree in educational leadership or administration, or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid educational leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

The candidate must have a minimum of five years of successful educational experience, with preference given to one with administrative experience.

Previous applicants need not reapply.

A résumé with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Meg Partington (mpartington@sjsvw.org) by Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Principal Needed

St. Paul School, Weirton, WV

St. Paul School in Weirton is seeking a Principal for the 2022-2023 school year. Qualified candidates will be a practicing Catholic, have a passion for Catholic Education, holds or qualifies for WV administrator's certification, and proven leadership and fundraising ability. Interested and qualified candidates are to submit a resume, letter of interest, and three references to Julie Link at mlink@dwc.org by April 30, 2022.

St. Paul School, located in Weirton, West Virginia is seeking an experienced elementary school principal (grades Pre-K through 8) effective July 1, 2022. St. Paul School serves approximately 144 students in Weirton and other surrounding areas. The principal, who is a practicing Catholic in good standing, reports directly to the Parish Pastor.

Qualifications include the following: strong mission-focused leadership and commitment to Catholic identity; exceptional knowledge of curriculum; familiarity with church documents on Catholic school education; operates collaboratively in a team environment; at least three years teaching experience; MA in educational leadership/curriculum & instruction preferred; holds or qualifies for WV administrator's certification.

Responsibilities include:

- Promotes Catholic identity by integrating Gospel values and Christian principles in all aspects of the school.
- Gives evidence of personal commitment to the Catholic faith and models an active faith life.
- Hires and terminates teachers and staff members.
- Supervises the educational program and maintains an ongoing evaluation of the program, staff and students.
- Sets annual goals with faculty and staff.
- Nurtures an atmosphere conducive to learning.
- Provides opportunities for staff development, curriculum development, and professional development.
- Demonstrates effective organization skills for day-to-day operations of the school.

Interested and qualified candidates are to submit a resume, letter of interest, and three references to Julie Link at mlink@dwc.org by April 30, 2022.

Pastoral Associate Needed

Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston, WV

Blessed Sacrament Church, a mid-sized, vibrant Catholic parish in South Charleston, WV, seeks to hire a full-time, salaried Pastoral Associate who will direct all faith formation programs and coordinate all liturgical ministries in close collaboration with the pastor, youth minister and music minister, along with a host of volunteers. The ideal candidate is a loving, faith-filled, practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, with either a masters level degree in education or theology, or equivalent experience. Good "people skills", written and oral communication skills and familiarity with computers and social media are a must. Send questions, resumé, references and salary expectations to Rev. John H. Finnell at blessedsacrament305@gmail.com, preferably by May 5, 2022.

*Place
your
ad
here*

COVID Testing Scaled Back at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital

WHEELING—In conjunction with WVUHS (WVU Health System), starting Monday, April 18, WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital will be instituting a scaled back approach to COVID 19 testing.

The facility will not require COVID 19 testing for preoperative, admission, and pre-sleep lab patients routinely. Screening for ac-

tive signs/symptoms of COVID 19 infection will continue to occur and based upon the clinical finding a COVID 19 test may be warranted if a patient is symptomatic.

However, it is important to note that masking for all visitors still will be required. Social distancing also will continue to be observed.

Continued assessment of COVID 19 Community Levels will occur by Infection Control and senior leadership to monitor the level in surrounding communities and determine when changes to the COVID 19 testing directives are warranted for the facility.

Meanwhile, beginning Friday,

April 16, WVU Medicine is implementing a more passive approach to screening patients and visitors to its hospitals and clinics.

All visitors can perform “COVID self-checks” at the entry points and opt not to enter if they’re experiencing any symptoms. Security no longer will be performing the screenings.

COVID 19 in Review to Cover ‘Lessons Learned’ Event Planned by WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds Memorial Hospital

WHEELING—“COVID 19 in Review: Lessons Learned” will be presented May 20, sponsored by WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds Memorial Hospital.

Open to healthcare providers, health departments, pre-hospital providers, firefighters and police agencies, along with Emergency Management agencies, the free symposium will be held at the Highlands Conference Center and offer continuing education credits.

Co-chairs of the event are John Sebring, Wheeling Hospital director of Safety, and David Kappel, MD.

“Nobody knew what the next few years would bring when COVID 19 hit in March 2020,” Kappel said. “While many of us had been trained in mass casualty and/or pandemic simulations, the reality of COVID hit hard. This conference will enable us to share what we thought would happen; what

really did happen; and what to do if something similar happens in the future.”

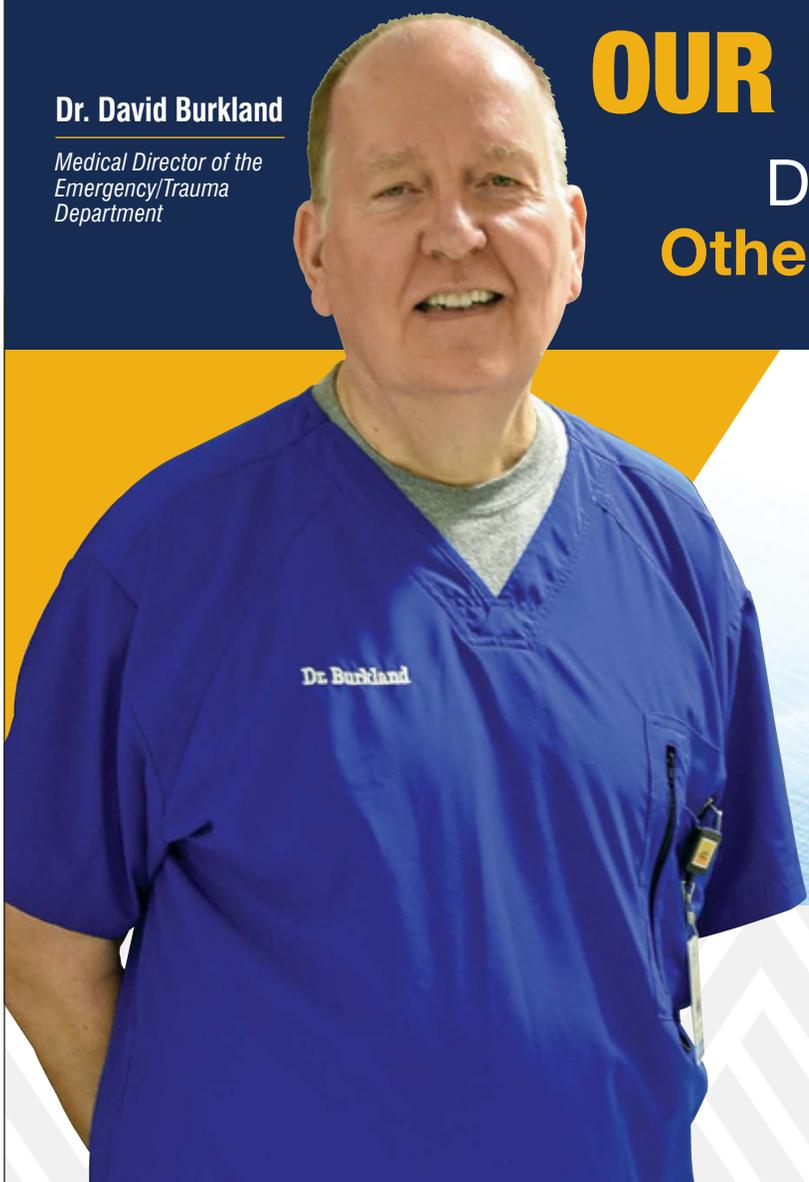
Topics and speakers include: Hospital Administrative Overview: Douglass Harrison, President and CEO, Wheeling Hospital/Reynolds Memorial Hospital; A Look Back: Statistical Overview: David Kappel, MD; Regional Coordination: Lou Vargo, Director, Ohio County EMA; Regional Incident Command Challenges: Kelsey Blackburn, Ohio COTS Representative; Personnel: Vulnerability, Staffing, Fatigue and Burnout: Cindy Polen, Wheeling Hospital Nurse Manager, COVID unit; Corporate Health/Infection Control: Clark Milton, MD, Wheeling Hospital Corporate Health Director; Critical Supply Chain Issues: Iain Lake, WVU Regional Director, Supply Chain Operations; Incident Command Technology: Wheeling Fire Chief Jim Blazier; Crisis Standard of Care: David Kappel, MD; Emergency Department:

Heather Merkel, Wheeling Hospital Director, ER; Surgical Services Challenges: Kareen Simon, Wheeling Hospital Vice President/COO; Kathy Shumate, RN Pre-Op; Intensive Care/Critical Care Challenges: Bryan Woodford, Wheeling Hospital Director, Critical Care; Alternate Care Sites: Lou Vargo, Director, Ohio County EMA; and Quality Care Reporting in a Pandemic: Heidi Porter, Wheeling Hospital VP, Quality and Regulatory Affairs.

Kappel said, “We will explore our reactions to the pandemic, our decisions and how to apply what was learned in any such future situations.”

The conference will be livestreamed on Facebook, but contact hours are only available for in-person attendance. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, or to register, call Sebring at (304) 243-3007.



Dr. David Burkland
Medical Director of the
Emergency/Trauma
Department

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.





WVUMedicine

WHEELING HOSPITAL