

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Interim Stage Synthesized Report March/April 2024 DWC Best Practices Used for Synodality

Tasked with engaging in a synodal process here in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, local synodal sessions were modeled on the process used at the World Synod in Rome. Sessions were held in each of our six vicariates / deaneries / regions. Members of Diocesan staff served as facilitators for these synodal

listening sessions.

Like the process used in Rome, after random selection, participants were seated at round tables allowing for equal sharing. After given some preliminary instructions on the overall process, participants were led into a significant time of prayer and reflective lis-

tening on a passage from scripture. A component of this spiritual preparation was an explanation of the meaning of synodality and key characteristics to ensure our faithfulness to the process: deep listening, dialoguing, accompaniment, and discernment.

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Join in World Day of Prayer for Vocations This Sunday, April 21



Martin Imbroscio Photo

In the front row, from left, are Father Brian Crenwelge (Vocations director), and seminarians Peter Russman, Michael Aiello, Clifton Mastran, Nathan Schmidt, and Deacon John Soplinski. In the back row, from left, are seminarians Travis Moger, Joe Derico, Timothy Kawash, and Donvito Cortese; Bishop Mark Brennan; and seminarians Michael Tupta, Dominic Re, and Bryan Tedeschi.

By Colleen Rowan

As World Day of Prayer for Vocations approaches, Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, is reminded of Bishop Mark Brennan's appeal to "Pray for Holy Vocations."

"As you know, all vocations lead us to holiness," said Sister Martha, who serves as the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's delegate for Consecrated Life. "God continues to call men and women to follow him—

some to married life, others to single life—and yet there is another call that is to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life as sisters, brothers, and consecrated virgins."

See "Vocations" on Page 5

Black History and Women's History Celebrated at Huntington's St. Peter Claver Parish



Linda Zima Photo

Dr. Dolores Johnson shares the history of Huntington's St. Peter Claver Parish, founded for black Catholic families, at a parish event March 17.

HUNTINGTON — On March 16 and 17, St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington co-celebrated the national holidays of Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS, of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, presented a program **See "History" on Page 6**

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Participants were then given instructions on the process of engaging in "Conversations in the Spirit" focusing on the two questions presented by the USCCB. After the Diocesan facilitator read aloud Question 1, participants engaged in Round 1, where each person at the table was given the opportunity to answer the question. This was followed by Round 2, where each person was asked to comment on something that they heard another person say at their table during Round 1. The process was repeated for both questions.

After both rounds were completed, the diocesan facilitator led Round 3, where each table was asked to make a brief report about discussions at the heart of their dialog. Significant points were highlighted that resonated with participants. Discussion points that emerged from Round 3, as well as notes recorded at each table, were then compiled and made available for inclusion in the Diocesan report submitted to the USCCB, which follows this summary of best practices.

Synthesized Report

Prefatory Remarks: Organization of this Report

This report synthesizes responses to the two guide questions suggested by the USCCB Synod team. Where there were multiple responses to a guide question from different sessions on the same topic, those topics are identified, and for the first guide question the responses are grouped as Successes or Distresses as the question indicates. The topics of the second guide question are not differentiated into Successes/Distresses because it was not requested by the question. Within the second question, this report attempts to summarize where the attendees may have reached some consensus. The order of the topics and the responses reported for the guide questions does not reflect any ranking of importance insofar as having a greater or lesser plurality of mentions. The responses themselves are quoted as recorded on the sessions' reports.

Question #1: Where have I seen or experienced successes and distresses within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?

The Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Eucharistic Revival Successes: "Eucharistic revival activities have been great successes." "The Eucharistic revival effort is being felt." "Eucharistic revival has
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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. 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. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. 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.

The Catholic Spirit's New Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org)

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

Ascension of the Lord

Feast Day, May 12

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is May 10

Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Month of June

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is June 21

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day, August 15

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Feast Day, September 14

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

Our Lady of the Rosary

Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

Advent

First Sunday of Advent is December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29

Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20



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made an impact." "The Eucharist helps us to unite." "We talk about the Eucharist more." "Devotion to the Eucharist continues to give spiritual strength and nourishment to the People of God. [This is seen with participation in Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration]" "More focus on the Eucharist." The Eucharist makes us gather together in unity." "Importance of correct and cohesive teachings on essential core doctrines: Eucharist and the teachings of Jesus." "...the reverence of the priest [at Mass] has the ability to catechize people without words – people see the care with which he handles the sacred species and understand that he is handling something immensely precious."

Distresses: "Consecration of the host - stand v. kneel - [vis a vis] other US congregations." "Need for Catholic education at all ages, especially on the Eucharist." "...after Vatican II something became fractured, and we lost reverence of the Eucharist. We need to get back to tradition."

Synod Activities

Successes: "Synodal report did not cause me to lose my faith." "Synod has been a good experience, and the parish was glad to continue the journey." "While the synod is a great step towards engagement, what do we do to encourage engagement in the life of the Church." "Synod is good in that it tries to get 'people in the pews' involved and engaged with Church." "Practice the synodal way." "Continue the synodal process. But do people even know the word 'synodal' and does that scare them off?" "Leadership success - Pope Francis initiating the Synod and its pattern, process, planning."

Distresses: "Synod set up to get specific results. Skeptical of process. Specific points of view being sought after."

The Church/Diocese/Parish

Successes: "Church does need structures." "Church offers many ways to grow in faith." "Church does a wonderful job on social justice issues." "Presence of the Catholic Church in the world: the Institution survives, despite the bad, because of the good the Church does." "The Church wouldn't have lasted this long if there wasn't something to it." "Need to ensure that the Church remains in the center." "Diocesan councils are good." "Church is a human organization and makes mistakes...How to acknowledge mistakes and move on...How to modernize without breaking the truth...It is difficult to do so." "One holy catholic apostolic Church has never changed." "The structure of the Mass is the same regardless of where you go to Church." "The Diocese was commended for its efforts in defending the weakest members of society through the pro-life movement." "Corporal and Spiritual Works of

Mercy are being pursued by parishioners." "Listen to people's ideas for new ministries."

Distresses: "Better communication is needed among parishes and more collaboration." "Take politics out of the Church." "More reverence within the Church." "The Diocese needs to be a resource and at the service of the parishes." "The Diocese doesn't seem to have a plan to deal with diversity of the State and the exponential growth in the Eastern Panhandle. There is a need to decentralize the Diocesan offices and focus more regionally. The central office needs to come to us." "Specific parishes are alienated from the Diocese." "Lack of common good found among different parishes." "More presence of the Diocese in southern West Virginia." "...bossy requirements from Diocese for priests/deacons." "...the Church should not be opening itself to the whims of secular culture." "A major distress... within the Church is the repression of the Tridentine Mass." "A backward movement - wanting Latin and Pre-Vatican II practices and leadership." "Old traditions (Latin Masses) – figure out a compromise." "People who want the old traditions – Latin Mass etc. – give them the option." "Invigoration of Church traditions – Catholics need to understand the teaching of the Church and not be distracted by current issues."

Hierarchy/Clergy/Deacons

Successes: "Bishop Mark has brought about healing and calming with his ministry." "The Deacon class has been returned." "Serra Clubs in Diocese (and in our country) that support our Bishop, priests, religious vocations, seminarians." "Continuity of the pastors/priests; staying longer in a parish." "Thankful for priests who teach and spread the Gospel tradition." "The Pope emphasized listening." Some parish priests "commended for their practices of having daily confession times, the wide availability of adoration times...the availability of the priests for...counseling when someone is having a crisis...and the guidance offered by the priests as spiritual directors." "The hierarchy of the Church helps it to stay unified unlike the denominations of Protestantism which frequently fracture over minute issues."

Distresses: "Standard of homilies – most sermons aren't feeding the soul or focusing on important issues." "Clericalism is a barrier to involvement." "Confusing messages from the Vatican on issues, doctrine, (says different things), etc. The messages from Rome are sowing discord and confusion." "Restructure the organization of the Church based on recognition of the common dignity of baptized; enabling all to share in the mission of evangelization." "Elections of the Bishops process needs to change." "New priest to a parish [needs] to be a leader not a boss." "Leadership isn't about a title." "Hierarchy needs to help to

meld truth and love. We are a revolutionary people; the Church encourages this but can also discourage people. How are we being heard? We are going to have disagreements but have its laws to follow." "Political factions in the Church, e.g. bishops arguing with the Pope." "Flatten the hierarchy – to be humble..." "Are we giving enough care to our priests and pastors? Who is ministering to them? Do we make sure they are okay? Are we asking too much from them?" "Priests need prayers. Priests [and] pastors have been under a lot of stress, and it has resulted in negative consequences." "Deacons need to be taught effective preaching – There is a need for them to speak clearly especially as the non-native priests are becoming more prevalent." "Train Deacons in giving homilies so that they will be understood." "Even priests need to learn that it is not 'my' parish or bishops shouldn't say it is 'my' Diocese rather it is 'ours'. Priests and bishops are just stewards." "Bishops and priests are not trained to listen, and clericalism plays God. 'I know what you need, you do not have to tell me'." "We are recruiting [seminarians] to be of a particular mold. Our seminarians are to be of a particular ideology."

Catholic Education and Catechetics

Successes: "Catholic School students are overall more disciplined and of a higher caliber in their academic achievement."

Distresses: "Lack of presence of religious Sisters has resulted in lack of Catholic identity in the schools." "Need more education on the sacraments." "Lack of resources in the area of education. There is a lack of Catholic Schools in this region. The need for formal religious education for catechists on a digital platform. More money needs to be invested in Catholic education." "Need for Catholic education – closing down Catholic schools – parents can't afford tuition, schools can't afford to pay teachers just salaries and benefits, priests and pastors are moved too often." "How do we catechize, educate toward a greater faith understanding that's in a more pastoral wisdom-like way and not so much as a classroom way." "[Need] more focus on teaching adults (continuing education) which would be helpful in encouraging the Church's missions – we no longer have a shared Catholic Church identity." "Besides the general need for more adult catechesis, we need a church-wide, clear, consistent, coherent teaching on true human sexuality, and a strong teaching on our responsibility to care for creation, based on real science." "In our Catholic schools, most kids and teachers are not Catholic." "The Catechism is missing." "More teaching from the Catechism." "Open OCIA to those who want to learn more about their faith." "There is a generation of grown-ups whose

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May 7, 2024

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Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

ONE MISSION ONE DAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Report...

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catechesis included games and folk songs and who are lacking in knowledge of their faith." "Apologetics need to be shared and taught, this goes hand and hand with good catechesis. People lose their faith when they encounter arguments they cannot answer. The catechesis needs to be done on a parish level."

Question #2: How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

Lay Involvement: There appeared to be consensus among attendees that an issue was the involvement of lay Catholics, but differing views as to what that involvement should be. Sample responses follow. "Spread parish administrative responsibility to lay people." "The church should consider looking more to the lay to relieve the overwhelming duties of the pastor. Let the lay do more administrative functions so that clergy can devote more time to being pastoral – to provide catechesis." "By allowing the lay to assist, it can lead to more deacons, individual ownership of faith formation. People are qualified for these functions." "Laity should be involved in choosing the next Bishop." "Encourage gift discernment activities to promote the laity's active responsibility and role in the mission of the church." "OCIA should be run by the laity with full support of the clergy."

Polarization: Attendees agreed that there is polarization between Catholics labeled as "Traditional v. Progressive." However, other than describing the issue, attendees did not appear to reach a consensus as to resolution of these issues. Responses included: "How should we handle divisive issues?" "Polarization by generations." "How to deal lovingly with questions in the church. How to disagree with each other." "Inclusion or exclusion: why do we always want to throw people out?"

"We need love and mercy to bridge the divide between 'liberals' and 'conservatives'." "Parishes that are more traditional and those that are more progressive should meet together and talk about commonalities and differences."

Youth/Young Involvement: Once again, there was consensus that the Church should be working to involve the youth in ministries and the life of the parish, but there was no consensus noted as to how. Suggestions included: "There are positive things going on with our youth and young adults." "Youth conferences are good – we need more of them." "Need for a youth seminar." "Youth groups and schools are reaching out and educating young people." "Parishes are experiencing growth with young people. Churches with young adults engaged in ministries and leadership are more vibrant. Those young adults involve their children in Church activities." "The voice of the youth is not being heard." "The youth want rules."

Role of Women: Though the role of women in the Church was discussed often, there was no consensus as to what the Church should be doing. There are many opportunities for men and women to take part in the Church. "Allow women to be ordained – be more active in the Church – deacons/priests." "Women are marginalized on the outskirts." "...distress over ordained ministry not being open to women." "...women do not feel a sense of equality." "There is a lot of confusion with women and oftentimes it feels as though some people are trying to make women into men. Equal in dignity, different in strengths, even biologically." "The message I am receiving is that in order to be valued and respected in the Church I must act like a man. I feel discriminated against, and I feel that people and leaders in the Church have taken on a misogynistic mindset." "As a Church, let us begin to honor women as God created them to be... Women you do not need to be a man to be enough."

Better Inclusion of Disabled and Hispanic Populations: There was broad con-

sensus that the Church should do more to evangelize to and welcome certain populations, including disabled and Hispanic Catholics. Some responses included: "Diocese needs a stronger focus on the disabled and those with physical and emotional challenges in our community." "Diocese needs to provide guidance in ministering to disabled and mentally challenged persons." "Need a mission statement for parishes and Diocese for our mission to the Hispanic community." "Inculturation – bringing [Hispanic] culture into the Church (dance, music, etc.)." "Immigrant populations are bringing vibrant life to the community." [There is] "an increase of Spanish-speaking Catholics in [various cities in the WCD]. Continue our collaboration with the HMSP missionaries. [They have led to] an increase in Mass attendance and an increase of adults and children asking for the sacraments. [Suggestion] a public out-door shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe be created within the Diocese, which could serve as a destination of pilgrimage."

Divorce, Remarriage, and Annulment: There was near consensus on the fact that divorced and remarried Catholics feel alienated and that the Church could do more work to reach out to these populations. "Marriage annulment is making progress to make it better." "Alienation of those who are divorced and remarried." "...need to relieve distress of being harshly judgmental regarding divorced and/or remarried... individuals, etc."

Inclusion of LGBTQIA+: There was frequent mention of the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ Catholics, but no consensus on what that inclusion should look like. Sample responses included: "Have a welcoming Church – all sexual orientations." "Be inclusive but follow the Church's teachings." "The challenge of LGBTQ persons to remain chaste." "Conflicting message regarding LGBTQ and blessings. Is the Church in danger of throwing away teachings to become more modern?" "Inclusion of LGBTQIA persons but understanding their expectations of us."

100th Anniversary of Benwood Mine Disaster

*Bishop Brennan will preside
at April 28 Service,*

Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston invites the public to a special prayer service at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, 1685 National Road, Wheeling, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Benwood mine disaster. Bishop Brennan will preside at the service which will be held in the Bishop's Chapel at the cemetery. A procession from the chapel to the nearby monument for the 119 men and boys who lost their lives in the disaster will follow the service, weather permitting.





Courtesy Photo

In June 2023, Bishop Mark Brennan installed 20 deacon candidates as acolytes at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. In the front row, from left, are John Butler, Michael Brumley, EJ Bruical, John Basile, Rick Allen, James McCullough, Tom McFarland, Patrick Michel, Jason Miller, and Tony O’Leary. In the second row, from left, are Jacob Manning, Rob Krall, Bill Klug, Michael Kawash, Victor Cwynar, David Torlone, Ron Piaskowski, Tommy Ross, Bryce Timberlake, and Aaron Talbott. With the candidates, in the back row from left, are Deacon Harry Evans; Very Rev. Don Higgs, V.F.; Deacon Brian Crim; Bishop Brennan; Deacon John Yaquinta, and Father Rayappa Kurakula. In the fourth row, from left, are Deacon Dennis Nesser, Deacon John Soplinski, and Deacon Vince Olenick.

Vocations...

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These ordained ministries, consecrated life, and missionary life are the focus of World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which is this Sunday (April 21). In this call to prayer, Sister Martha asks that the faithful continue praying the rosary, especially those who pledged in the “One Million Rosaries Campaign” last year.

“Bishop Brennan said to me the other day that we are being blessed with the number of young men asking to enter the seminary,” Sister Martha said. “I hope and pray that vocations to the religious life will also flourish from our pledge soon. I am so grateful for your participation in our ‘One Million Rosaries pledge.’”

Pointing to the Gospels, Father Brian Crenwelge said our Lord asks us to pray to the master of the harvest that there would be workers for his vineyard.

“Prayer, therefore, is of utmost importance in producing more vocations to the diocese,” said Father Crenwelge, the diocese’s vocations director. “Our Lord allows us to participate in the fruitfulness of vocational growth by our sincerity in prayer. It is with great humility that we

recognize our important role in the future of vocations in the diocese. I hope that each parish prays for vocations as a church as well, and encourages potential candidates to be open to God’s will.”

The diocese has 12 seminarians, many of whom have shared over the years that prayers from the faithful have sustained them. One of them is Deacon John Soplinski who will be ordained to the priesthood this summer.

Father Crenwelge, who is also pastor of St. John University Parish and di-

rector of Campus Ministry at West Virginia University in Morgantown, said there are men who are in the seminary application process as well.

The power of prayer has also touched the diocese’s Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, which has 20 candidates preparing for ordination this summer. The program also announced 12 new aspirants to the diaconate last fall.

“Many men in our state have responded to God’s call to humble service,” said Deacon John Yaquinta,

coordinator of the program. “Regardless of how much work we have accomplished, there is always more work to do.”

The role of the permanent deacon, he said, continues to evolve since its reinstatement in 1968 following the Second Vatican Council and continues to need prayers “as we strive to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our ministries of Word, Liturgy and Charity.

“As we are called to pray on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, please remember our deacons, dea-

con candidates, and deacon aspirants.”

Deacon Yaquinta is also permanent deacon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood.

Along with prayer, Sister Martha encourages the Catholic faithful to talk to young people about vocations.

“Do not be afraid,” she said. “They are eager to learn from your knowledge and experiences. We all have a vocation in life, and we must discover what will make us happy because God created us to be happy in this life.”



Colleen Rowan Photo

In October 2023, women and men religious and consecrated persons are gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling for the annual Mass at which they were honored.

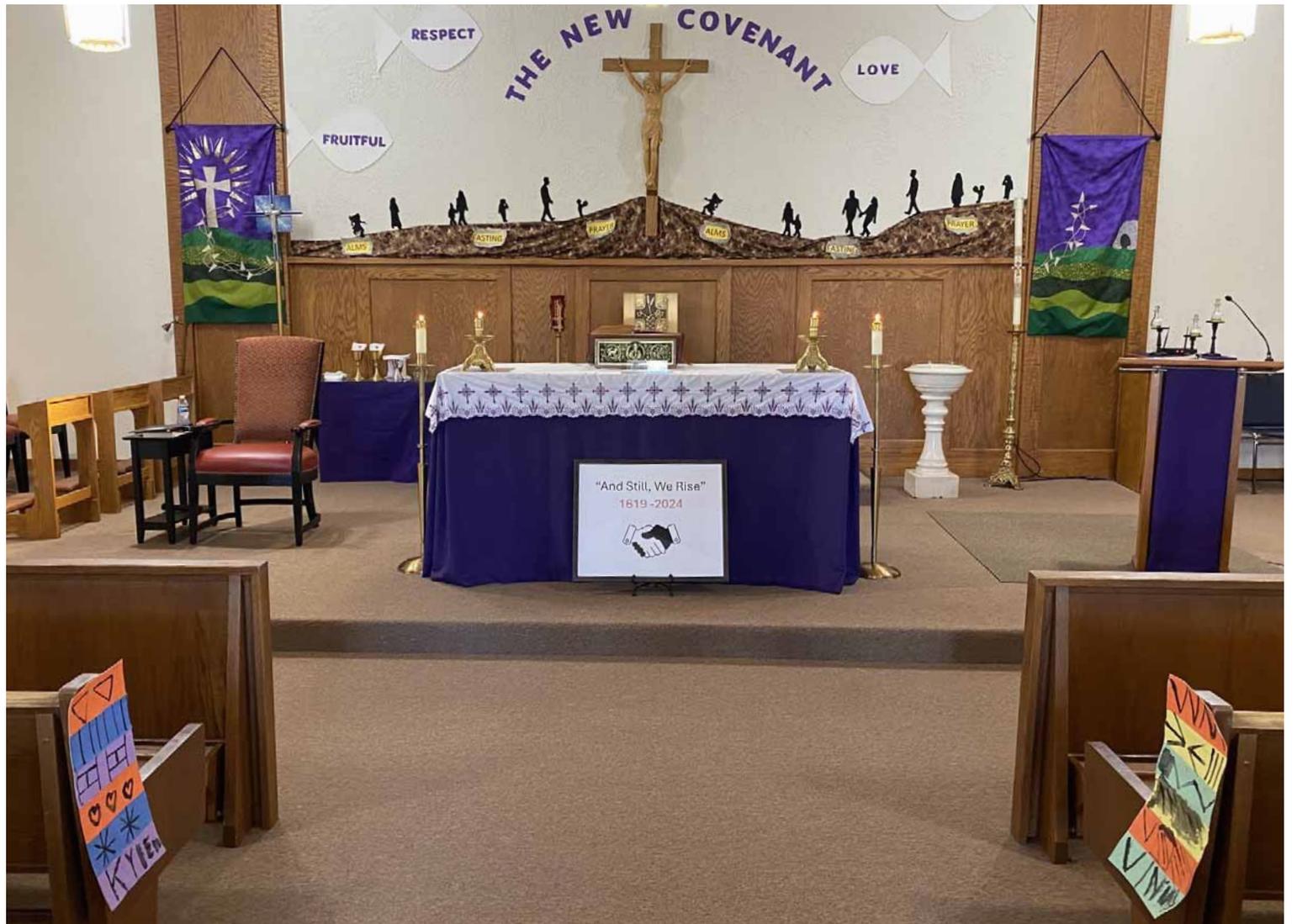
History...

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of life stories about “Maddonnas of Color.” Brother Mickey’s stories, in the glorious color and symbolism of his paintings, represented the saintly Madonnas down through the centuries. Parishioners learned of many women of faith, women from many cultures, and women with many distinct gifts whose roles in the church continue to transform the lives of Catholics throughout the world. St. Kateri, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Blessed Thea Bowman, Dorothy Day, among others—this saintly group of multinational, multi-racial and multi-gifted Catholic women have blessed the church with their love.

The celebration continued on Sunday with a Mass and a brief historical review by Dr. Dolores Johnson highlighting St. Peter Claver Parish’s 87 years as the only Black Catholic Church in West Virginia. Decorations in the church were created by kids in the parish’s religious education class.

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church’s story begins with a few Black Catholics moving up from the back rows of St. Joseph Catholic Church in the 1930s. With the positive help of Msgr. John Newcomb and Archbishop John J. Swint, and the support of the Most Precious Blood Fathers of St. Louis, Missouri, and the Pallottine Missionary Sisters of St. Mary’s Hospital Convent, the former boarding house of Traveler Smith became St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. John Holley was one of the first new members baptized in the new church. The oral histories tell the story that Traveler Smith, the white owner of the property where the first church stood, converted to Ca-



Linda Zima Photo

Shown above are just a few of the decorations created by the kids in St. Peter Claver’s religious education class.

tholicism and became one of the first white members to join the growing multicultural community that the church has become.

Church membership grew and prospered under the leadership of Father Leo Landoll, Father Jerome Hoepf, Father E. B. Odberding and Father Vincent Parr, all priests from The Most Precious Blood Fathers. During their service the church opened a school for African American children in grades 1-8. In 1958, Father Peter DeMeester served the parish from St. Joseph’s Church and was appointed pastor in 1960. Father DeMeester, from Belgium, served the parish for 14 years, overseeing a major growth spurt in the mem-

bership and the building of the parish hall. Membership continued to grow through the years. Even before integration, there were always black and white families who attended regular Masses at St. Peter Claver. Under Father Patrick McDonough, a new church was built, replacing the original converted boarding house. Father George Manjadi, who was originally from India, served the parish from 1984-1993. He was followed in 2003, by Father Adrew Kraync, a scholar of African American History. The singing priest, Father Livinus ba, arrived in 2003 and welcomed an influx of new members from the Marshall University Newman Center. He served as priest until 2013 and was replaced by Father Charles McGinnis who was with



Linda Zima Photo

Father Shaji Thomas, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish, celebrates Mass March 17, the second day of the celebration of history event.

the parish through the 80th anniversary. Father Doug Obideck served from 2018-2021.

The current pastor is Father Shaji Thomas, who hails from India and is active in the current renovation of the church and parish hall. He is active with the youth and is inspiring

new growth in church membership as he welcomes all visitors as though they are family. Many priests and parish members have blessed the diverse parish over the years, allowing for broadened understanding of the faith and in the church universal.



Linda Zima Photo

Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS, third from left, visits with parishioners at St. Peter Claver’s March 16.



Linda Zima Photo

Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS, gives his presentation at St. Peter Claver’s March 16.

Tim Tebow Will be Keynote Speaker at West Virginians for Life Rose Dinner

MORGANTOWN—Tim Tebow will be the keynote speaker for the West Virginians for Life (WVFL) 26th Annual Rose Dinner in Morgantown May 7 at 6 p.m. at Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place.

The dinner benefits the Educational Trust Fund of the WVFL and gathers pro-life supporters across the state from all religions and walks of life.

Tebow is a two-time national champion, first-round NFL draft pick and Heisman Trophy winner. In addition, he serves as a college football analyst for ESPN. Prior to joining ESPN Tebow played three years in the NFL for the Denver Broncos and the New York Jets. Re-



Tim Tebow

cently, Tebow retired from professional baseball where he was a member of the New York Mets organization.

Tebow is the author of five New York Times Best Selling books: "Through My Eyes," which was named the #1 sports and religion book of 2011, and "Shaken: Discovering your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms," which released in 2016 and won the 2017 Evangelical Christian Publishers Association Book of the Year. His third New York Times bestseller, "This Is The Day," was released in September of 2018, and his fourth New York Times Best Selling book and his first children's book, "Bronco and Friends: A Party to

Remember," was released Jan. 5, 2021.

Tebow grew up the son of missionaries and has returned to the Philippines several times throughout his life to spread God's word and do the Lord's work by serving the needy. The Tim Tebow Foundation was established in 2010 with the goal to bring faith, hope, and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need.

To attend the dinner or for more information about the event or WVFL, call (304) 296-1700 or visit the WVFL website at info@wvforlife.org. Registration for the dinner can also be accomplished on the site.

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Month of Mary

Mother's Day Weekend



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FOR AN END TO THE SURGICAL AND NON-SURGICAL KILLING OF UNBORN HUMAN PERSONS



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www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org.

It is important to know the number of Rosaries that will be said over the three days. Please e-mail

Rosaries4theUnborn@yahoo.com with the number of Rosaries you pledge to pray.

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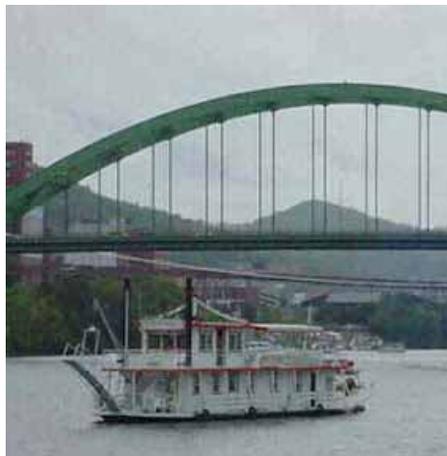
FROM THE EAST

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route



Welcome perpetual pilgrims to the Mountain State!

Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as they share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.



Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

Weirton:

St. Joseph the Worker
Sacred Heart of Mary
St. Paul's

Wheeling:

Cathedral of St. Joseph
St. Alphonsus



Pilgrimage Events

Thursday, June 20, National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Kickoff in Weirton

St. Joseph the Worker Church: Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.
Eucharistic Procession from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

Friday, June 21

Morning Mass with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 23

"Put Out into the Deep" on the Ohio River!"

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil—8:30 p.m. (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

Monday, June 24

Mass at the cathedral celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

Solemn Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

For more information, visit:

www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route

Historic Chapel of St. Peter in Harpers Ferry in Need of Volunteers

The Historic Chapel of St. Peter is open year-round for Sunday Mass. It is also open on weekends throughout the summer to allow visitors to the Harpers Ferry National Park to see the fruits of the Catholic community for the past 200 years. The chapel is currently in need of volunteers.

“Volunteering at St. Peter’s Church is a simple yet rewarding experience,” officials of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town posted to Facebook. St. Peter’s is a chapel of the parish. Volunteer duties involve opening and closing the church, welcoming visitors, and answering their questions.

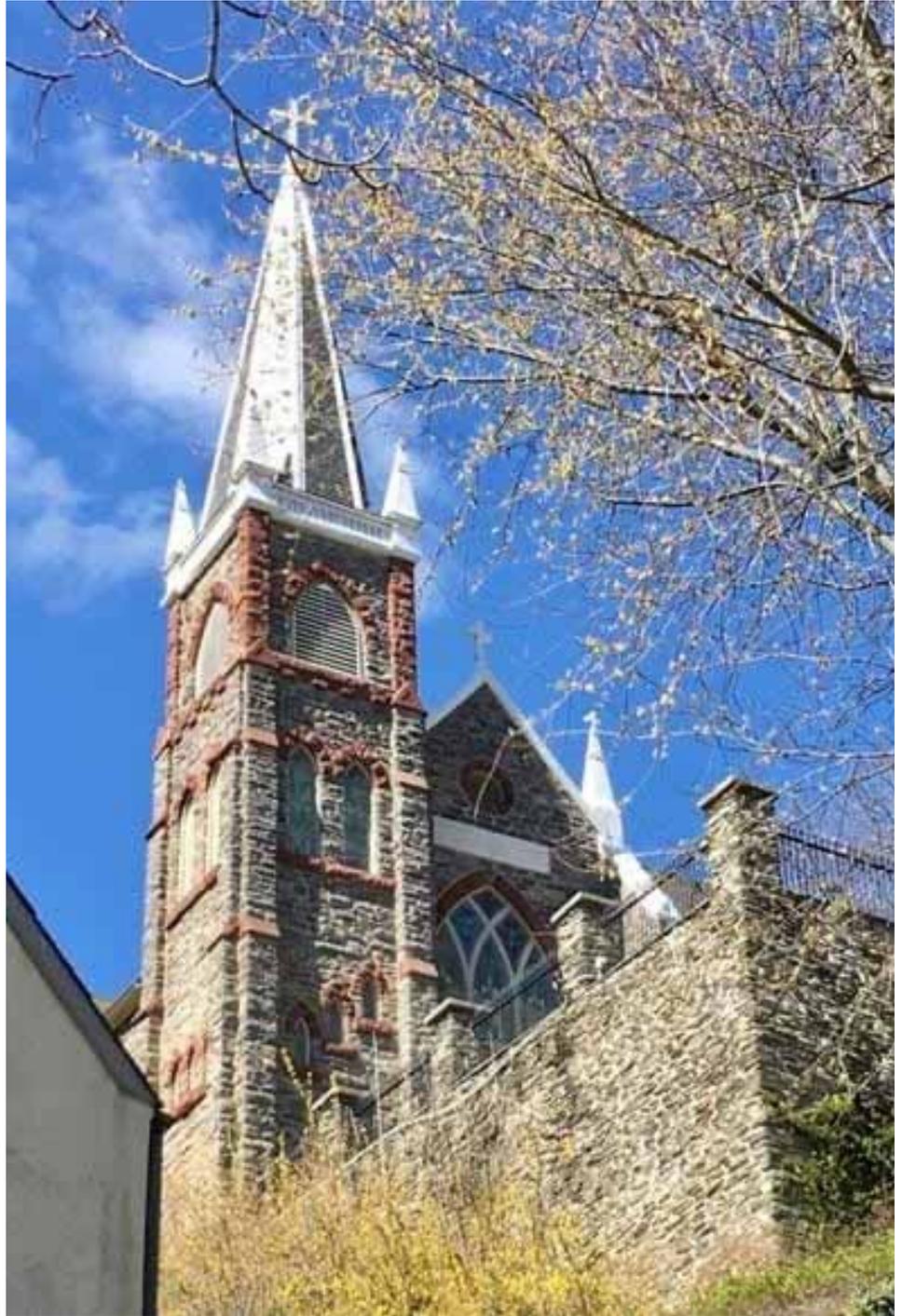
“There’s no pressure to know everything, and you can engage with visitors as much as you feel comfortable,” St. James officials said in the post.

A training for new volunteers will be held on Saturday, April 27, in Thomas Hall behind St. Peter Church. Orientation will start at 9 a.m. and end by noon.

Those who complete training and accept this offering will commit to one, three-hour session (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) once per month; volunteers pick the date. Training and a handbook are provided. Parking will be included at the church.

For more information, e-mail: stpeterdocent@gmail.com or docents@StJames.org.

Those interested can also call St. James the Greater Parish at (304) 725-5558.



The historic Chapel of St. Peter in Harpers Ferry is shown at right.
Courtesy Photo



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- 6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
- 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
- 9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
- 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

Encouragement, Eucharistic Adoration Key to Fostering Priest Vocations, Report Shows

By Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News) — Personal encouragement and Eucharistic adoration are crucial in fostering vocations to the priesthood, according to data from a newly released report.

On April 15, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University released the 2024 “Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood,” a report made directly to the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The report comes in advance of the 61st annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, celebrated this year on April 21, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday in the Latin Church. The Gospel passage (Jn 10:11-18) for the Mass highlights Jesus’ role as the Good Shepherd.

The online survey, which CARA has overseen since 2006, was completed by 392 of the 475 total ordinands for 2024 from both diocesan and religious order seminaries who were invited to participate. The ordinands represented 128 dioceses and 29 religious institutes in the U.S.

Most 2024 respondents said they had first considered a vocation when they were 16 years old, and their average age of ordination was 34, a number consistent with the range of 33-37 reported since 1999.

Two thirds (67%) of the ordination class is white; 18% Hispanic or Latino; 11% Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian; and 2% are Black or African American. About one quarter (23%) of the ordinands are foreign-born — coming to live in the U.S. on average 14 years ago at 22 years old — with Mexico (5%), Vietnam (4%), Colombia (3%) and the Philippines (2%) the most com-

mon countries of origin among them.

A majority of ordinands (82%) said they grew up with both their parents as Catholic, and 29% reported having a relative who was a priest or religious.

More than half of the respondents (60%) had completed an undergraduate or graduate-level degree prior to entering the seminary, with business, liberal arts, philosophy and engineering topping the areas of study. Between 32% and 42% had attended a Catholic elementary school, high school or college.

Most ordinands (70%) had worked full time before entering the seminary, particularly in education (21%), business (16%) and church ministry (13%).

CARA’s executive director, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt, told OSV News that direct encouragement of young men to consider priestly life

is a “perennial factor” in vocations, with 89% of the respondents, or nine in 10, reporting they had received such support — usually from a parish priest (63%), friend (41%) or parishioner (41%).

“You could almost say that ... no one shows up at the seminary who was not encouraged,” Father Gaunt said. “We generally see that men were encouraged by one, two, three, four different people in their life.”

Eucharistic adoration also emerged as significant in vocational discernment, with 75% of the respondents noting they had regularly prayed before the Blessed Sacrament prior to entering the seminary. The rosary was also a favorite devotion for 71% of those surveyed; another 40% practiced lectio divina, or meditative prayer with Scripture.

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

‘God has a plan for us – and discerning what this plan is – is essential to our personal growth.’

The Way to Find Happiness

By Sister Constance Veit, ISP, communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations this year, Pope Francis acknowledges the fact that every vocation – from marriage to consecrated life and priesthood – involves a call from God embracing our entire existence.

Realizing that every path in life is a call from God is worth pondering.

“Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord’s call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life,” Pope Francis wrote. “Hearing that divine call ... is the surest way for us to fulfill our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfillment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find our-

selves.”

I’d like to reflect on two aspects of this message – that God is calling each of us to participate in his loving plan and that our acceptance of his plan is the surest way to find personal fulfillment.

When we speak of someone having a ‘calling’ we generally assume this means a call to priesthood or religious life. But this is a narrow understanding of the concept of vocation.

God has a plan for each of us; he is calling each of us to a specific vocation, which may or may not involve full-time service in the church.

Realizing that God has a plan for us – and discerning what this plan is – is essential to our personal growth as we mature from childhood to adulthood.

As the pope says, it’s a matter of discovering who we are, what our gifts are and where we can make them bear fruit.

Do we take into account that our personal gifts have been “received”?

This is what St. Paul was trying to teach the Corinthians when he said, “What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you

boasting as if you did not receive it?” (1 Cor 4:7).

Looking back on my own vocation, I realize that as a youngster I didn’t look at my abilities and blessings as gifts given to me by God. I didn’t even understand that God had a plan for my life – I thought that life was all about my plans!

I began volunteering with the Little Sisters of the Poor and the elderly – not because I felt God calling me to religious life or because I was committed to improving the lives of elderly people in need – but simply because I thought community service would “look good” on my college applications!

In just a few weeks, however, I discovered qualities within myself that I never knew existed – gifts like love and empathy for the elderly and joy in making them happy – and I came to the conviction that caring for the elderly – giving my life for them – was my God-given purpose and my mission in life!

Discovering who I was, what my special gifts were and where I could make them bear fruit, led me to experience a sense of personal

fulfillment and lasting joy. Despite life’s inevitable ups and downs, this joy and purpose have never waned; they have endured for almost 40 years now!

Even when I was quite self-absorbed and ignorant of his ways, in his kindness God came to meet me where I was and to make himself known to me. This encounter, though completely unexpected, was very real.

When I look back at my own vocation, I often think of the words Pope Benedict XVI addressed to young people during his inaugural homily on April 24, 2005: “With great strength and great conviction, on the

basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life!”

If you think God might be calling you to a vocation of service, feel free to email me at serenity@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

(Sister Constance Veit is also an occupational therapist.)

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Online Format and Affordable Price Attracting More Students to Wheeling's MSN Program

WHEELING—Wheeling University's Master of Science in Nursing program has seen an increase in enrollment this year, and the program's director believes the flexibility of the online format allows working nurses an easy pathway to earn an advanced degree.

This semester, 53 students from seven states are enrolled in the program – with all but four of those students in the family nurse practitioner track, said Jill Emery, director of Nursing Programs. She noted they average about 40 students in annually.

"Our program is fully online – students do not ever have to come to campus for classes, seminars or meeting. This provides the students the flexibility to work full time and do their course work at times that fit into their busy schedules," said Dr. Karen Fahey, the nursing instructor who works directly with the MSN students.

"Our faculty present all

coursework online and communicate with students through our course delivery system, email or by phone. The students know that they don't need to be on campus to receive support from our faculty." Emery added, faculty understand that many of the students are working full time, so they afford those in the program the flexibility they need to complete assignments.

In addition, the MSN students can complete the 728 clinical hours where they live in hospitals, clinics and facilities near their home. Additionally, Fahey said, the faculty help the students secure a preceptor to oversee those clinical rotations.

With students ranging in age from 28 to 40, the faculty are very attentive to each student's needs, which can vary based on their age and experience, said Emery. "I believe the personalized attention our faculty give to the students is the reason why our number have grown – the nurses don't feel as if they

are alone in the program."

Fahey said with the university producing more well-trained family nurse practitioners, Wheeling is helping to fill a serious health care need in many rural communities where no doctors are located. "Many of our graduates are filling the void in towns around rural America that lack health care – showing how our students live the university mission to serve others," she added.

The online format that affords the students flexibility attracts many students, but Fahey believes the program is affordable.

Cost per credit hour for Wheeling's MSN program is \$550, while the average cost nationwide is \$950. Emery said students can take as little as one class per semester. "Once again, the student can set his or her own pace, based upon their work and family commitments. This aspect of our MSN program is another reason why the students like it."

Former and current students, Fahey said, are the program's best recruiters.

"The students really promote the MSN program among their peers. We have a lot of students from Morgantown, Fairmont and Clarksburg, where other institutions also offer MSN programs. I think this word of mouth promotion is a tribute to the experience our students have and the actual curriculum itself," Fahey added.

Wheeling University's Master of Science in Nursing offers tracks in family nurse practitioner and nursing administration. The MSN-FNP track prepares nurses for the advanced practice family nurse practitioner role and national certification. The track integrates concepts from nursing, science, and family practice to give the experienced nurse the advanced in-depth body of knowledge necessary to practice in the expanded registered nurse role as a provider of primary health care.

The MSN-Nursing Administration program is designed to prepare nurses for leadership and management positions in a variety of health care settings. Through an integration of concepts from nursing, business and management, graduates of the program are prepared to assume leadership positions in health care settings. They are also ready to contribute to the development of nursing knowledge, to demonstrate responsibility for the management of the nursing organization and to function as a member of the executive management team.

To learn more about Wheeling University's Master of Science in Nursing programs, contact kfahey@wheeling.edu or call the Admissions Office at 1-800-873-7665.

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Confirmation at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown



Courtesy Photo

Young parishioners at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown are pictured following their confirmation with Bishop Mark Brennan April 6.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule – Spring 2024

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, April 28: St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 5: St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12: Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 13: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 22: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 25: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 25: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 26: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1: St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9: Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 15: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16: St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.

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El Papa Francisco concede indulgencias plenarias para la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional, participantes del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional

Por **Maria Wiering, OSV News**

(OSV News) -- Los participantes en el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional y la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional previa al congreso tienen oportunidades de recibir indulgencias plenarias, anunció el 9 de abril el Arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio, presidente de la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos.

"Con gratitud al Santo Padre recibimos su Bendición Apostólica sobre los participantes en el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, y por la oportunidad para los católicos de nuestro país de obtener la indulgencia plenaria al participar en los eventos del Avivamiento Eucarístico", dijo en un comunicado de la USCCB. Según el comunicado, el arzobispo Broglio, que también dirige la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares de EE.UU., había solicitado que una indulgencia plenaria esté disponible para los católicos que participan en la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional y que "él u otro prelado sea designado para impartir la Bendición Apostólica con Indulgencia Plenaria" a los fieles que se incorporan al Congreso Eucarístico Nacional.

Las solicitudes fueron concedidas en dos decretos separados por la Penitenciaría Apostólica, una oficina del organismo administrativo central de la Iglesia conocida como la Curia Romana, que concede el uso de indulgencias "como expresiones de la misericordia divina", según el comunicado. Ambos decretos fueron aprobados por el Papa Francisco.

El congreso y la peregrinación anterior son esfuerzos del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional, una iniciativa de tres años de los obispos de EE.UU. que comenzó en 2022 para inspirar una mayor comprensión y amor por Jesús

en la Eucaristía. Programado a celebrarse en Indianápolis del 17 al 21 de julio en el estadio Lucas Oil, el congreso tiene como objetivo reunir a decenas de miles de católicos para participar en liturgias, devociones y oír a oradores católicos de renombre hablar sobre la Eucaristía. A partir del fin de semana del 17 y 18 de mayo, 24 adultos jóvenes, divididos en cuatro grupos, viajarán miles de millas hasta el congreso desde puntos de partida en California, Connecticut, Minnesota y Texas. Los peregrinos en esta Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional planean viajar, a menudo a pie, con la Eucaristía en una custodia, con paradas a lo largo de las rutas para la Misa y la adoración eucarística en parroquias locales y santuarios nacionales. Los "peregrinos perpetuos" anticipan que miles de católicos de todo el país se unirán a ellos en los eventos de peregrinación o viajarán con ellos en tramos de las rutas.

El obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota, presidente de la junta directiva del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, dijo a OSV News que "la tradición de dar una indulgencia para peregrinaciones y celebraciones importantes es antigua".

"Agradecemos al Santo Padre a través de la Penitenciaría Apostólica que ofrece esta bendición a quienes buscan crecer en una mayor pureza de corazón a través de la Peregrinación y Congreso Eucarístico Nacional", dijo. "Estos eventos serán grandes momentos de conversión a los que apunta esta indulgencia mientras buscamos ser libres de los efectos de nuestros pecados. Estamos agradecidos por la bendición del Santo Padre sobre estos eventos".

Y el obispo añadió: "El propio Papa Francisco dijo que el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional marca un momento sig-

nificativo en la vida de la Iglesia estadounidense y oró para que el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional guíe a hombres y mujeres de todo nuestro país hacia el Señor, quien, con su presencia entre nosotros, reaviva la esperanza y renueva la vida".

Según el Compendio del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, "Las indulgencias son la remisión ante Dios de la pena temporal merecida por los pecados en cuanto a la culpa, que el fiel, cumpliendo determinadas condiciones, obtiene para sí mismo o para los difuntos, mediante el ministerio de la Iglesia, la cual, como dispensadora de la redención, distribuye el tesoro de los méritos de Cristo y de los santos".

Se pueden obtener indulgencias para otras personas, pero sólo se pueden aplicar a las almas del purgatorio. También se puede obtener la indulgencia para uno mismo. Pero no se puede aplicar una indulgencia a otra persona viva; esa persona (a diferencia de alguien en el purgatorio) aún puede obtener una para sí misma.

La indulgencia plenaria para la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional se concede a todo aquel que participe en la peregrinación entre el 17 de mayo y el 16 de julio, así como a los ancianos, personas con enfermedades y "todos aquellos que por causa grave no puedan salir de su casa y que participen en espíritu con la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional, uniendo sus oraciones, dolores o inconvenientes con Cristo y la peregrinación", dice el comunicado de la USCCB. Para recibir la indulgencia, una persona debe cumplir las condiciones habituales para la misma: confesión sacramental, Comunión y oración por las intenciones del Santo Padre.

Al conceder la indulgencia, la Pen-

itenciaría Apostólica solicita que todos los sacerdotes con facultades apropiadas "se presenten voluntaria y generosamente para administrar el sacramento de la Penitencia" a los participantes en la peregrinación, según el comunicado.

El segundo decreto de bendición papal con indulgencia plenaria para el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional faculta al arzobispo Broglio o a otro prelado designado por él para impartirla, después de la Misa, a los fieles participantes en el congreso. Como ocurre con la indulgencia anterior, los católicos deben estar verdaderamente arrepentidos de sus pecados, estar motivados por la caridad y cumplir las condiciones habituales de confesión sacramental, Comunión y oración por las intenciones del Santo Padre. Sin embargo, los católicos que "por circunstancias razonables y con piadosa intención" no puedan estar físicamente en el congreso también podrán recibir la indulgencia si han participado en la misa y han recibido la bendición a través de los medios de comunicación.

"A través de los esfuerzos del avivamiento de los últimos dos años, hemos estado preparando la peregrinación y el congreso que ofrecerá a los católicos la oportunidad de experimentar un avivamiento profundo y personal de la fe en la Eucaristía", dijo el arzobispo Broglio. "El Papa Francisco continúa animándonos y apoyándonos mientras buscamos compartir el amor de Cristo con un mundo que lo necesita desesperadamente".

El Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional continuará después del congreso hasta 2025 con un "Año de Envío Misionero".

(Maria Wiering es redactora senior de OSV News.)

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 eclesiales 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; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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.

Catholic Charities West Virginia Partners with West Virginia Mothers and Babies Support Program



Courtesy Photo
Catholic Charities West Virginia employees (from left) Michelle Hatfield, Wendy Wilkerson, and Matt Atwood stock the baby supply pantry in Princeton.

PRINCETON—In January, Catholic Charities West Virginia launched its partnership with West Virginia Mothers and Babies Support Program, a specialized initiative providing support to expectant mothers and young families.

Through this program, Catholic Charities can provide utility assistance to families with children who have not yet cele-

brated their third birthday. Assistance purchasing baby items is also available in some locations.

Support is provided through Catholic Charities' outreach offices throughout the state. For more information, families can visit <https://www.ccwva.org/locations/> and call the regional office closest to them.



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