

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Wheeling Hospital Officially Joins WVU Medicine

MORGANTOWN—The West Virginia University (WVU) Health System, Wheeling Hospital, and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston March 31 formalized their agreement to make Wheeling Hospital a full member of the WVU Health System.

Wheeling Hospital will host an invitation-only event, which will also include medical staff and employees, to celebrate the occasion at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 9.

The WVU Health System has operated Wheeling Hospital since June 2019 through a management services agreement with the Diocese. Both announced in September 2020 that the Hospital would join the Health System.

“This marks an important moment and milestone for Wheeling Hospital, the Diocese, and WVU Medicine,” Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System, said. “I am grateful to Bishop Mark Brennan for the trust he has put in us. Our commitment to the people of Wheeling and the surrounding area is to ensure this hospital remains an integral part of the community while remaining true to its core mission, values, and Catholic beliefs. We are excited to have the hospital join our Health System, and we will work hard to ensure it thrives as part of it.”

As a full member of the Health System, Wheeling Hospital will be part of a broad, integrated network of doctors, hospitals, clinics, and

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Bishop Travels Diocese for Holy Week



Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the faithful gathered for Palm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Church in Huntington March 28. See story on Page 3.

Martina Hart Photo

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specialized institutes across West Virginia, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Western Maryland, and Ohio. Today, the WVU Health System, which operates under the brand "WVU Medicine," has more than 20,000 employees; 2,815 providers; 22 member, managed, and affiliate hospitals; and more than 2.5 million patient visits annually.

As Wheeling Hospital joins the Health System, a new community Board of Directors will begin service in support of the Hospital. The Board members are: Bernard Twigg (Board Chair), Community Leader; Bishop Mark E. Brennan; Mark Benson, M.D., President, Wheeling Hospital Medical Executive Committee; Todd Clossin, President and CEO, WesBanco; The Honorable Glenn F. Elliott, Jr., Mayor, City of Wheeling; Kenneth Mason, Community Leader; The Honorable Don Nickerson, Ohio County Commissioner; Don Rigby, Community Leader; Jessica Rine, Executive Director, United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley; Thomas Wack, M.D., County Health Officer, Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health; Albert L. Wright, Jr., President and CEO, West Virginia University Health System; and Douglass Harrison, CEO, Wheeling Hospital.

"I'm excited about our new Board and the energy its members will bring as we chart a fresh and electrifying course for the Hospital, one that will lead to new programs, new investments, and new growth. We want to get the community jazzed about our Hospital and the future we plan for it," Douglas Harrison, CEO of Wheeling Hospital, said.

The WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, WVU Medicine Children's, and WVU Medicine Emergency Medicine already operate programs at Wheeling Hospital, and the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute opened a clinic at the hospital in late 2020. The WVU Cancer Institute is also actively working with Wheeling Hospital to open a clinic on its campus.

"I am very happy that the long and complicated process to affiliate Wheeling Hospital with the WVU Health System is coming to fruition. It will strengthen Wheeling Hospital in its fundamental mission to offer excellent healthcare to the people of the Northern Panhandle and continue to do so on the basis of the centuries-long experience of the Catholic Church in serving the sick and injured. This is a win-win situation, with WVU Medicine gaining a major hospital in this area and Wheeling Hospital gaining access to staff and resources to enhance its services," Bishop Mark E. Brennan said.

"I am grateful to Mr. Wright, Mr. Harrison, and the Wheeling Hospital and WVU Health System Boards of Directors for their focused and respectful consideration of this project. May it prosper for the good of all who walk or are carried through the doors of Wheeling Hospital."

Wheeling Hospital, founded in 1850, has served patients longer than any other hospital in West Virginia. Today, it is a 223-bed acute care facility with a medical staff of nearly 300 primary care and specialty physicians.



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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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.



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Holy Week with the Faithful across the Diocese



Martina Hart Photo

The faithful are gathered at St. Joseph Church in Huntington for Palm Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan March 28. Earlier that day, the bishop celebrated Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Chrism Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 29.

By Martina Hart

Bishop Mark E. Brennan celebrated the various liturgies of Holy Week with the people of different parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on church attendance and social distancing guidelines, seating in the various venues has remained limited. However, West Virginia Catholics have been able to follow many of the Masses via livestream on the diocese's website at www.dwc.org.

On Palm Sunday, March 28, Bishop Brennan presided over Masses at noon at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston and at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Huntington. In his Palm Sunday homily Bishop Brennan pointed out how the various scenes of St. Mark's passion narrative display that "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The crowds switch from shouting "hosanna" to "crucify him." The disciples leave Jesus. Peter denies him. Despite finding no charge, Pontius Pilate hands him over to be crucified.

"In contrast, Jesus' spirit makes his weak flesh obey him," Bishop Brennan said. "The cry 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me' reveals his acute inner anguish, greater than his physical pain. And yet his spirit keeps his flesh from rebelling," he said.

Jesus emptied himself of his divine prerogative, assumed lowly human nature, and out of love suffered and died. "The father approves his son's sacrifice by raising him from the dead, answering Jesus' anguished question from the cross and showing us how we will enter eternal life," Bishop Brennan said. The Eucharist, he added, "gives our spirit strength to compel our body to imitate Jesus' humility, his honesty, his mercy, and his patience."

He concluded with these reflective questions: "Will we follow him? Will we shout crucify him or cry out hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord?"

On Monday, March 29, Bishop Brennan celebrated the Chrism Mass at the basilica, where he gathered with the priests of the southern and central regions of the diocese.



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Chrism Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 29 with priests of the southern and central regions of the diocese concelebrating.

On March 30, he returned to Wheeling for the celebration of Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph gathering with the priests of the northern and eastern regions of the diocese.

During the annual Chrism Mass, the bishop blesses the Holy Oils: the Oil of the Sick, used for anointing the sick, and the Oil of Catechumens, used for the anointing of infants and adults who are preparing for baptism. He then mixes balsam and olive oil and consecrates it as chrism. This fragrant oil is used for anointing during the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination and during the dedication of altars and churches.

During this Mass the priests renew their commitment to priestly service, their dedication to Christ and his church. The bishop also asks the lay faithful present to support their bishop and

priests in their ministry.

On Holy Thursday, Bishop Brennan celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper at the cathedral. The people of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Weirton were to welcome Bishop Brennan to their church on Good Friday, April 2, for the Celebration of the Lord's the Passion at 7 p.m.

On Holy Saturday, the bishop will be in Wheeling to celebrate the Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. He returns to the cathedral for the celebration of the Mass on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. which will be televised live and broadcasted on WTRFDT3/ABC in the Wheeling area and WBOYDT/ABC for the Clarksburg area and livestreamed on the diocese's website.

The livestreaming and broadcast of the Holy Week celebrations are sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

Father Francis Leon Alexander

Father Francis Leon Alexander, 81, of Charleston, died Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at CAMC Memorial Division, Charleston. He was pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston, for over 20 years and had also served several parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Father Alexander was born in Huntington, where he was a member of St. Joseph Parish. He attended St. Charles College in Catonsville, Md., and St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling May 14, 1966.

Father Alexander founded the diocese's youth camp, Camp Tygart (now Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp) in Huttonsville, and served as director from 1965 to 1971. He served as associate pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley from 1966 to 1968 and of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg in 1968. He was director of Youth for the diocese from 1968 to 1971 and then served as associate pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Albans from 1971 to 1972. He went on to serve as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Montgomery from 1972 to 1981, Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield from 1981 to 1986, Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston from 1986 to 2006, and St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown from 2006 to 2010.

Father Alexander served as dean of the Bluefield Deanery from 1981 to 1986 and vicar forane of the Charleston Vicariate from 1986 to 2006. He retired from active ministry in 2010. He also served as temporary administrator of Ascension Parish in Hurricane from 2018 to 2019. Father Alexander served on Presbyteral Council, the Clergy Personnel Committee and the Priests Health and Retirement Board. He was an avid steam train lover and enjoyed acting with various acting guilds in the Kanawha Valley, but he was probably best known for his time spent at Camp Tygart in Huttonsville. Father Alexander was also an avid traveler where he visited many European countries of which Italy was his favorite. He will be greatly missed because of his life's mission and ministry where he influenced and encouraged thousands of people throughout his life. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter J.D. Alexander and Rita M. Miller Alexander; brother, Walter John Duane Alexander, II. Surviving, a niece and many nephews along with countless friends around the world.

The Mass of Christian Burial was March 13 at Blessed Sacrament Church in South Charleston with Bishop Mark Brennan as celebrant.

Donations be made in his memory to Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 305 E Street, South Charleston, WV 25303. Good Shepherd Mortuary, South Charleston, handled the arrangements.

Father William P. Linhares, TOR

Father William P. Linhares, TOR, of the Third Order Regular Franciscans of the Province of the Immaculate Conception, USA died Wednesday in Hollidaysburg, Pa. He was born to Jesse and Mary (Correia) Linhares in Taunton, Mass.

Father William entered the Franciscan Community on Sept. 14, 1978, and professed Solemn Vows Aug. 10, 1984. He was ordained to the priesthood on Nov. 22, 1984, in Wilmington, Del.

Father William — or Father Bill, as he was known to his friends — served the Church and the Franciscan Community in various roles. In the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., he worked in the Ministry of Evangelization. He was a Parochial Vicar in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, and directed retreat centers at St. Mary Star of the Sea in Key West in the Archdiocese of Miami, Fla., and Priestfield Pastoral Center in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Father Bill also served in internal ministries in the Province as Director of Postulants, Associate Director of Novices, Vocation Director, Provincial Econome, and Provincial Counselor. In recent years, he was in residence at St. Bernardine Monastery and, at the time of his death, at Garvey Manor, both in Hollidaysburg.

Father William is predeceased by his parents; brothers: Jesse, Edward, Robert and Richard; and sisters, Mary Harding and Eleanor McGreevy.

He is survived by his siblings: Jeanne, Joseph, Elizabeth Newman, Thomas and Stephen; many nieces and nephews; friends; and his Franciscan Community.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Saint Bernardine Monastery, Hollidaysburg. Very Reverend Father Frank Scornaienchi, TOR, Minister Provincial, was the principal celebrant and Very Reverend Father Robert J. D'Aversa, TOR, was the homilist. Interment was in the Community Cemetery in Hollidaysburg.

Memorial gifts in Father William's memory may be made to the Franciscan Friars' Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 139, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

Arrangements are by Santella Funeral Home.



Father Stanley Uroda, SVD

Divine Word Father Stanley Uroda, 72, died on March 18 following a battle with cancer. Father Uroda served as provincial superior for two three-year terms beginning in 1996. During his tenure, he recognized the need for more missionaries in Appalachia and expanded the Society of the Divine Word's presence in McDowell County.

Born in Detroit in 1948, Stan Uroda was the second of Joseph and Julia Uroda's four children. In 1962, he entered the high school seminary at Perrysburg, Ohio; professed vows in 1971; and was ordained to the priesthood in 1974. After earning a master's degree in Education from Loyola University in Chicago in 1976, Father Uroda was sent to Ghana for his first assignment, where he served as a chaplain and teacher at St. Paul's Technical School in Kukurantumi/Akim, Ghana. After eight years in West Africa, tropical illnesses, such as malaria and typhoid, took a toll on the young priest. In 1984, he returned to the United States. After a year of studies at the Institute of Religious Formation in St. Louis, Father Uroda was appointed as formation director of Divine Word Theologate in Chicago. He was elected vice provincial in 1990 and, at the behest of the Superior General in Rome, Father Uroda strengthened the bond between the religious congregation and the Catholic Church in Vietnam. He also served on the Techny Land Committee.



After completing his second term as provincial, he went to serve as a parish priest for St. Peter in Welch, Sacred Heart in Powhatan, Christ the King in War, and Our Lady of Victory in Gary. In 2005, he returned to the Divine Word Theologate, this time as rector. After nine years there, he was asked to go to Vietnam, where he

lived in the Divine Word Missionary community in Nha Trang and taught English classes for students in formation. In 2018, he became superior for the Divine Word Community in East Troy, Wis. In 2020, he moved to Techny for health reasons. Father Uroda also served as a board member for the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM-USA), an organization of lay missionaries who fostered peace, social justice and human empowerment of the poor and marginalized. He is survived by his sisters Antoinette Alwin, Dorothy Alwin and Mary Seder, as well as nieces and nephews.

Father Uroda's funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Wheeling, Ill., March 22. He was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery at Techny. A video of the wake and funeral can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/2zzQcW4Ktco>.

Memorial donations in the name of Father Stanley Uroda can be made for the education and formation of missionaries through the Divine Word College/Uroda-Schumacher Trust, 102 Jacoby Dr. SW, P.O. Box 380, Epworth, IA 52045-0380.

Sister Mary Florence Burke, CSJ

Sister Mary Florence (Rosemary) Burke (93) died peacefully at Mount St. Joseph on March 19, 2021 in the company of her sisters. Her death was considered natural and came after a period of decline attributed to aging. She was born in Wheeling on June 15, 1927. She was preceded in death by her parents, John J. and Agnes (Garrity) Burke, her brothers Wilbert and George Burke, her sisters Kathleen Arbogast and Margaret Reinbold and her nieces Virginia Susan Gallaway and Rosemary Robinson. She is survived by many nephews and nieces as well as grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

Sister Mary Florence Burke entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling on September 8, 1945, having been taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph for twelve years. She served as teacher and principal in schools throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston including Williamson, Weston, Charleston, Clarksburg and Wheeling. She worked as the librarian at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling for many years and was an active member of Cathedral parish. Sister Mary Florence loved her students and the faculty, staff and parishioners with whom she served. She was a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Auxiliary, the Wheeling Hospital Auxiliary, CCHS/SJA Alumnae Association, CCHS School Advisory Council, and the National Catholic Educational Association. In 2020, she celebrated 75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph.

Throughout her years of consecrated life, she says the joy of living in the house



of the Lord, participating in daily Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist, the rosary, prayers, and other devotions have been a blessing. In Sister Mary Florence's own words, "Life has been replete with its unforgettable joys and tragedy. I have played a role in the lives of children for nearly seventy

years, and I treasure the memories, the pictures, and the daily tidbits (thanks to modern technology) that keep me in touch with their lives and those of their offspring. My teaching career has enabled me to appreciate the diversity of religious beliefs and international cultures."

Sister Mary Florence was known for her quick smile and bright eyes. She had a great devotion to Our Lady and to St. Joseph, her patron. She was connected to family and friends with bonds of deep love. Even at age 93 Sister Mary Florence was able to serve her local CSJ community through prayer and action. She stayed in touch with many alumnae of Central Catholic High School. She lived a full life and at the end of her life told sisters and staff that she was ready to meet her Lord.

Sister Mary Florence's Mass of Christian burial was March 24 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling with Father Martin Smay as the celebrant and Msgr. Kevin Quirk as the homilist. The Mass was livestreamed via Tribu-Cast. A link is available at altmeyer.com by clicking on sister's name. Graveside services followed at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Arrangements by Alt-meyer Funeral Home, Wheeling.

Obituaries

Sister Mary Pellicane

Sister Mary Pellicane, co-founder of Cenacle Retreat House which is now called the W.Va. Institute for Spirituality



(WVIS) in West Virginia's capitol city, died Wednesday, March 17. She was 99 and this month marked her 75th year in the order of the Religious of the Retreat in the Cenacle.

"My mentor, Sister Pellicane, loved God and imitated Mother Therese Couderc, who saw goodness everywhere" said Sister Carole Riley, WVIS executive director and former staff of Charleston Cenacle.

Mary Pellicane grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, one of five children of a Sicilian immigrant father and a mother whose family also hailed from Sicily. She grew up a tomboy who also loved to dance, from ballet to the Lindy Hop, and later found work in Greenwich Village as an expeditor for an electric company.

At age 22, she attended her first retreat at the Ronkokoma, N.Y. House of Our Lady of the Retreat of the Cenacle, where a friend had joined. As she undertook more visits, the pace and quietude of life there attracted her, she recalled in a 2016 Gazette-Mail profile. "Around the grounds, you would see people walking silently and maybe saying the rosary. It was just a sense of harmony for me."

Against her parents' wishes, she joined the semi-cloistered order at age 24. As a Cenacle sister, her spiritual journey would take her from Boston to New Zealand, Pittsburgh to Rome, Lower Manhattan to Rochester, New York. Then, ultimately, to a final landing in West Virginia's capital city.

Over the years, streams of people would seek her out at Cenacle retreats or one-on-one for spiritual direction and guidance. Even though she began her religious life in a quiet order, her life didn't end up entirely in silence, she said. "I ended up listening to people my entire lifetime." People who come for retreats to the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality often "don't know how far away from themselves they are," she said of the experience.

"We're all very spiritual people, whether we're so-called 'religious' people or not. Anybody who thinks or who loves — knowing and loving is the basis of our lives. If you're looking to find happiness, those are two things you are looking for. So, to go away and stop the noise and wait — if you wait, it comes. Sometimes in two weeks, two months, two years. But sometime."

A memorial Mass will be celebrated Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston in person and livestreamed. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the WVIS by visiting <http://wvis.org> or calling (304) 345-0926.

Vatican Calls for Action to Assist People Displaced by Climate Change

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Whether people admit it or not, climate change and environmental destruction are forcing millions from their homes, and Catholics have a responsibility to assist them, Pope Francis wrote in the preface to a new document.

"When people are driven out because their local environment has become uninhabitable, it might look like a process of nature, something inevitable," the pope wrote. "Yet the deteriorating climate is very often the result of poor choices and destructive activity, of selfishness and neglect, that set humankind at odds with creation, our common home."

The papal preface appears in "Pastoral Orientations on Climate Displaced People," a document released March 30 by the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

In addition to offering parishes, dioceses and national bishops' conferences suggestions for offering pastoral care to people forced to move because of rising sea levels, desertification and increasingly strong storms, the document encourages Catholics to study and track climate change and to change their lifestyles to help mitigate some of its effects.

"The climate crisis has been unfolding since the Industrial Revolution," Pope Francis wrote. "For a long time, it developed so slowly that it remained imperceptible except to a very few clairvoyants."

"Even now it is uneven in its impact: climate change happens everywhere, but the greatest pain is felt by those who have contributed the least to it," the pope wrote. "The huge and increasing numbers (of people) displaced by climate crises are fast becoming a great emergency."

According to the document, "In the course of 2019 alone, more than 33 million people were newly displaced, bringing the total number to almost 51 million, the highest number ever recorded; and of these, 8.5 million (were displaced) as a result of conflict and violence and 24.9 million due to natural disasters."

"In the first half of 2020, 14.6 million new displacements were recorded; 9.8 million as a result of disasters and 4.8 million associated with conflict and violence," the document said, citing statistics from the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center.

In addition, it said, climate change is "a threat multiplier, intensifying existing conflicts where resources are scarce." Responding to the needs of people displaced within their home countries or forced to migrate because of climate-related catastrophes is "at the heart of being a credible and witnessing church, a caring and inclusive ecclesial community," the document said.

Many people either do not know about the

human cost of climate change or refuse to believe it, the text said.

"Blindness about these issues is widespread and its causes are mainly: a) plain ignorance; b) indifference and selfishness vis-à-vis phenomena that endanger the common good; c) the purposeful denial of reality to protect vested interests; d) misunderstanding."

"God gives the means to see, but human beings must be willing to journey from blindness to awareness," the document said, which is why many of the suggestions in the text involve education at all levels of the church, ecumenical and interreligious cooperation in sensitizing people to the issues and in responding to the needs of people displaced by climate crises and listening to and advocating for the real needs of displaced people and those threatened with displacement.

Presenting the document during an online news conference March 30, Salesian Father Joshtrom Kureethadam, an official at the dicastery, said, "Climate crisis and other ecological hazards are becoming the primary drivers for displacement, and could re-shape patterns of migration in the coming decades."

The crisis, he said, "is ultimately a moral problem. The poor and vulnerable communities whose carbon emissions are only a fraction of those of the rich world are already the early and disproportionate victims of the crisis."

Asked to clarify the moral teaching behind the document, Cardinal Michael Czerny, undersecretary for migrants and refugees, said, "I don't think the moral argument needs to be any more complex" than that all human beings were created by God, are brothers and sisters to each other and are living on the same planet. They have an obligation to each other and to the earth.

"We really seem to be at the point of deciding, actively or passively, whether we will take care of the one home we have or we destroy it," the cardinal said.

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Year of St. Joseph Opens in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

'Everyone Can Find in St. Joseph a Model of Loving Service to Others,' Bishop Says on Solemnity

By Colleen Rowan

"Everyone can find in St. Joseph a model of loving service to others," Bishop Mark Brennan said in his homily at the Mass opening the Year of St. Joseph in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. St. Joseph was the indispensable man to show the incarnate son of God what a truly good man and a truly good human father was like, the bishop said.

Celebrated on the Solemnity of St. Joseph March 19 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, the Mass gathered faithful and priests of the diocese to open this special year honoring St. Joseph, not only as the patron of the universal church but also as the patron of Wheeling-Charleston. Joining the bishop at the Mass were concelebrating priests: Very Rev. John S. Ledford, V.F., pastor of St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale; Very Rev. Leonard A. Smith, V.F., pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town; and Father Carlos Melocoton, Jr., pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. Father Martin Smay, vice rector of the cathedral, was master of ceremonies, and Deacon Doug Breiding served as deacon of the word. Also present were a few of the newly elected members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and of the Wheeling Vicariate Council as well as those gathered at the cathedral and watching the livestream on the diocese's website.

St. Joseph speaks no words at all in the New Testament, Bishop Brennan said in his homily. "We know him only through his actions," he said, "but they reveal why God the father wanted this man to be his son's adoptive father."

Joseph was obedient to God, the bishop said. Like Abraham, he put his faith in what God told him. Even when things were not entirely clear he did God's will. Joseph took Mary as his wife, the bishop said. He took her and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod and returned to Israel when God said the danger had passed.

"We too are challenged to obey God even when we don't understand everything," Bishop Brennan said. "We trust that he knows best."



Colleen Rowan Photo
Bishop Mark Brennan gives the final blessing at the Mass on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, opening the Year of St. Joseph for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 19. With him are concelebrants Very Rev. Leonard A. Smith, V.F., pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town; and Very Rev. John S. Ledford, V.F., pastor of St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale (right).

"Joseph also teaches us to sympathize with people who, like the holy family, leave their country because of threats of many kinds to themselves and their families and who come here in hopes of a better life as our own ancestors did," the bishop said.

In addition to being obedient and trusting in God's word, Joseph was a loving man, the bishop said. Even thinking that Mary had betrayed him he wanted to spare her public shame by divorcing her quietly, he said, and his tender consideration of her must have continued in their marriage. Joseph's love for Jesus led him to find a safe, warm place for him to be born when there was no room in the inn, Bishop Brennan said. It led him to protect the infant from Herod and later to look diligently for the boy when he was missing from the caravan returning to Nazareth from the temple in Jerusalem.

The bishop said that surely Joseph took time to teach his son how to

shape wood into useful objects and, for his faith, how to read the Hebrew Scriptures. "We do not know when Joseph died, but surely the Jesus who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus shed copious tears when such a loving father died," Bishop Brennan said.

Men, the bishop continued, especially learn from St. Joseph to cherish their wives and children and to serve them.

"Those of us who are fathers in another sense also learn from him," the bishop said, "but everyone can find in St. Joseph a model of loving service to others."

Joseph has many other admirable traits, the bishop said, but there was one more he wanted to mention: hard work. Joseph worked to provide for his family, the bishop said, noting that he is described as a righteous man.

"His integrity as a worker is a model for workers today," Bishop Brennan said. "We also see how necessary it is for people to have meaningful work

and earn a living wage. Our work on earth allows us to develop God's creation, making it bear fruit beyond its natural ability. So many people having lost their jobs during the pandemic, so many small businesses having been closed—we must pray that those capable act creatively to help them find work."

Along with the focus on St. Joseph's virtues the faithful should also invoke his intercession more intensely during this year dedicated to him, Bishop Brennan said. As he is the patron of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, "we have a special relationship with St. Joseph," the bishop said. "His intercession is very powerful before the Lord Jesus whom he raised and who loves him unreservedly."

The bishop then shared the story of St. André Bessette, who attributed everything he did to St. Joseph's power of intercession.

"My brothers and sisters in Christ," the bishop said in closing, "our people have been enduring difficult times not only the pandemic and its ... economic and educational maladies but the scandals we've witnessed or heard about in our church, divisions now so prominent in American society. We must pray to St. Joseph, that indispensable man in God's plan, to intercede for us that we may have the wisdom and the courage to continue our pilgrimage of faith and become more effective agents of God's integrity, justice, and peace. And as our patron saint models those very virtues so his prayers can help us to attain them and put them to work for the good of our people."

The opening of the Year of St. Joseph included other prayerful gatherings at the cathedral, beginning with vespers on the evening of March 18. On the solemnity, the cathedral had morning prayer, noon Mass which was followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 5 p.m., Stations of the Cross with Father Smay, and the Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan.

The Catholic Spirit will feature stories related to the Year of St. Joseph in all print editions, which are published on the first Friday of each month.

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Diocese Bestows Aquinas, St. Sebastian Awards

Aquinas Award Recipients



Corpus Christi School, Wheeling
Ciera Faulstick



Fairmont Catholic Grade School,
Lydia Hatten



Our Lady of Fatima Parish School,
Huntington
Claire Denning



Our Lady of Peace School, Wheeling
Madeline Potts



Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School,
Allison Lazor



Sacred Heart Grade School,
Charleston
Daniel Linton



Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School,
Oak Hill
Ashton Sheehan



St. Francis of Assisi School, St. Albans
Emily Jividen



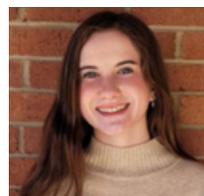
St. Francis Central Catholic School,
Morgantown
Julianna Ferrell



St. Francis de Sales School, Beckley
Thomas Spencer



St. Joseph Catholic School, Huntington
Lauren Holland



St. Joseph School, Martinsburg
Claire Freeman



St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, Weirton
Chloe Orecchio



St. Mary's Central School, Clarksburg
Katherine Urso



St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling
Ryan Blair



St. Patrick School, Weston
Brady Jordan



St. Paul School, Weirton
Grace Glover



St. Vincent de Paul School, Wheeling
Trinity Kimmins



Central Catholic High School,
Wheeling
Halea McCabe



Charleston Catholic High School,
Elizabeth Rushworth



Madonna High School, Weirton
Sydney Crawford



Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg
Elizabeth Renzelli



Parkersburg Catholic High School,
Joseph Ferch

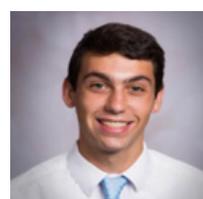


St. Joseph Central High School,
Huntington
Anne Blatt



Wheeling University,
Joshua Zimmerman

St. Sebastian Award Recipients



Central Catholic High School, Wheeling
Giulio Gentile



Tristen White



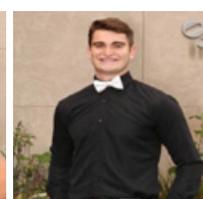
Charleston Catholic High School
Aubrie Custer



Aidan Paul



Madonna High School, Weirton
Madalena Daugherty



Luchenzio Pulice



Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg
Santino Earl



Paige Rinschler

By Colleen Rowan

Each year, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston honors young people enrolled in its Catholic schools for being model students. They are recognized at the annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Schools, where the Aquinas and St. Sebastian awards are bestowed. Although the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic caused the dinner to be cancelled again this year, the diocese still made this time special for the honorees. Each received a packet with their medals as well as letters of congratulations from Bishop Mark Brennan and Catholic Schools Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine. Also included were photos and comments from the recipients.

The Aquinas Medal is presented to one student from each school and Wheeling University who best embodies the qualities of Catholic school education: excellence in learning, faithful discipleship, leadership, and service to school, parish, and community. The St. Sebastian Award recognizes two high-achieving student athletes from each high school and WU who exhibit sportsmanship, teamwork, academics (maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA) and a high degree of respect for school, classmates, teammates, opponents, parish, and the community. The recipients of both awards are shown above.

"These awards openly recognize young people



Parkersburg Catholic High School
Aaliyah Brunny



Bradon Nguyen



St. Joseph Central High School,
Huntington
Nicholas Bias



Ava Lee



Wheeling University
Brian Gannon



Abigail Witucky

who exhibit the faith, character and skills that Catholic schools try to foster in the young," Bishop Brennan said in his letter. "Students, your hard work, concern for others and trust in God have brought you this far. I congratulate you and pray that you may advance even farther."

"These young people are exceptional examples of faith-filled students who represent the Catholic schools of West Virginia," Deschaine said in her letter. "I have had the pleasure to witness first-hand the wonderful Catholic heritage our schools bring to our communities. I congratulate the families, parishes and schools which are home to this year's honorees."

The annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Schools has been sponsored by the West Virginia Knights of Columbus for 25 years. Both the bishop and De-

schaine thanked the organization for its continuing support of Catholic education. Knights Catholic Education Program Chairman Greg Hilleary said the state council donates roughly \$11,000 each year in support of the diocese's Catholic schools.

"These donations have been made available to the Catholic schools of West Virginia for specific grant requests," he said.

Prior to the pandemic, Hilleary said, funds were presented to the bishop at the annual dinner for distribution to the various schools in fulfillment of their grant request. Although this year's dinner was cancelled, West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Deputy Paul Niedbalski recently traveled to Wheeling to present two checks to Bishop Brennan—one

See "Awards" on Page 8

Elkins Knights of Columbus Scholarship Honors Memory of Beloved Priest

By Colleen Rowan

ELKINS—Although he spent a short time in Elkins, the late Father Mark Gallipeau is fondly remembered by the people, the parishes, and the Knights of Columbus Council #603.

“While Father Mark was the parish priest at St. Brendan’s and the chaplain of Council #603 for only a very brief time, his impact on the knights, the parish and the community was profoundly positive,” said Rob Phillips, grand knight of the council. “By all accounts, he loved the faith, was a joy to be around and worked ceaselessly for the benefit of the parish.”

Father Gallipeau was appointed as the 12th pastor of St. Brendan’s and of St. Patrick’s in Coalton in 2016. He was also vicar forane of the Weston Vicariate, served the diocese as a



Father Mark T. Gallipeau

vocations promoter, and was friar of the Our Lady of the Mountains Assembly (chaplains to 4th Degree Knights of Columbus).

Father Gallipeau graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville and attended St. Vincent’s Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained to the priest-

hood for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston June 4, 2006, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, and served at a number of parishes in West Virginia before becoming the pastor of St. Brendan’s and St. Patrick’s.

Father Gallipeau died at the age of 61 on April 25, 2017. He is buried at St. Brendan Cemetery located beside the church he once served so well.

Following his death, the Elkins council wanted to do something in memory of their beloved chaplain, and so they established the Father Mark T. Gallipeau Memorial Scholarship, which Phillips said “is an effort by the knights to remember him and encourage the youth of our parishes to follow in his footsteps by not only achieving academically, but also by demonstrating a commit-

ment to the church, their school, and the broader community.”

Council #603 established the Father Mark T. Gallipeau Memorial Scholarship in 2018. Each year since then, the scholarship has been awarded to an active Catholic high school senior who is a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon, St. Patrick’s, or St. Brendan’s.

Council 603 Financial Secretary Jay Saseen said the scholarship is a great way to remember Father Gallipeau.

“He was loved by all those he met and served. And he enjoyed serving them, as he touched their hearts and souls with his gentle, caring smile,” Saseen said. “The ... scholarship has been designed to remember father’s kindness

and to continue to help the youth of our parishes.”

The scholarship is for \$2,000, divided into four, \$500 payments over four years as long as the student is enrolled full-time in an accredited four-year, two-year, or technical program in the United States.

“The Father Mark T. Gallipeau Memorial Scholarship is intended to recognize a Catholic student, high school senior, who has demonstrated commitment to their school, church, community and exhibited academic achievement,” council officials said.

More information about the scholarship and applications can be downloaded at <https://stbrendanwv.weebly.com>.

The deadline for applications for this year is April



Colleen Rowan Photo

West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Deputy Paul Niedbalski presents checks in support of the diocese’s Catholic schools and the education of seminarians to Bishop Mark Brennan. With them are Catholic Schools Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine and Brian Gordon of the Knights of Columbus Carroll Council of Wheeling.

Awards ...

Cont’d from Page 7

in support of Catholic schools and another in support of the education of the diocese’s seminarians.

“With the uncertainty of the pandemic still with us, the West Virginia Knights of Columbus remain steadfast in our support for Catholic education and to the children that attend our schools,” Hilleary said. “The Knights want to thank the families who make the sacrifice of providing a Catholic education to their children, and rest assured the West Virginia Knights will always continue our support.”



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A Special Six-Part Series on the Diocesan Pastoral Council

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has reestablished the Diocesan Pastoral Council originally created by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges in 1968. In this special series we bring to you a profile of the lay members of this commission. The membership is representative of all six vicariates in the state with three members per vicariate. Each series will highlight a single vicariate.

Boggess, Whelan, Copolo Eager to Work on Diocesan Pastoral Council for Beckley Vicariate

By Joyce Bibey

BECKLEY—Beckley Vicariate representatives for the reestablished Diocesan Pastoral Council are eager to work with Bishop Mark E. Brennan to enhance the work of the diocese in West Virginia.

Gina Boggess, Darleen Whelan, and Jim Copolo were all born and raised Catholic. Each have been very active in their parishes for decades, and each are happy to be part of the advisory group consisting of laity, religious, deacons, and clergy from around the state. Just as a parish council assists a pastor by providing advice and effort in support of the parish, DPC members will assist Bishop Brennan in his pastoral care for the entire diocese.

"This DPC group led by the direction of the Holy Spirit is made up of many wonderful people which include very informed and vocal young people," said Copolo of the Beckley Vicariate. "From the first meeting one could feel the respect from the total group for individual opinions."

Baptized and raised in McDowell County, Copolo is proud to represent the southern vicariate and his church, the 136-year-old Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan.

He has been actively involved in parish life soon after his First Holy Communion.

"I began serving the Latin Mass on this altar at the age of eight years old and continue today as Lector and Eucharistic Minister on this same altar," he said. "My Catholic faith and church have played an integral part of my personal, prayer and spiritual life. Much of this I attribute to the wonderful guidance and spiritual teaching of the many wonderful Sisters and Priests who have nourished my faith."

Copolo is a former Parish Council President and Finance Committee Member. He also proudly served as a Delegate to the Ninth Diocesan Synod.

"I am very humbled and honored to be elected to serve a three-year term on the DPC and thank Bishop Mark for al-

lowing important dialog to begin among the members of our Diocesan Church," he said, noting that the initial meeting in February was more invigorating "than words can express. It provided me an excellent opportunity to begin my Lenten journey, reflecting upon my appointment to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The beginning sessions were well organized led by Chancellor Mr. Chad Carter and Vicar General Msgr. Eugene S. Ostrowski. Bishop Brennan was present for every session; humbly led Stations of the Cross, morning and evening prayer; and daily Mass with other concelebrants attending."

Copolo is looking forward to contributing to the Peace and Justice Committee to which he was appointed.

"I must keep in mind what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, 'To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren (no. 1397). Catholic social teaching must be part of my life to be an example bringing about my mission as serving on this committee," he said. "Pope Francis calls us in 'Fratelli Tutti' to be brothers and sisters for all. I look forward to serving on this committee and investigating ways to promote social justice and peace issues in our diocese, parishes, and our local and state government. We must love one another as God loves us all."

Boggess has been a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton.

"My parents were married in this church and my grandmother sang in the choir," she said. "I have received all the sacraments (at Sacred Heart), my three children have received their Sacraments in this church, and my husband (Timm Boggess) became a member through (SH) RCIA."

Interesting fact, her husband's dad Ted Boggess, was an architect and one of the first non-Catholics to design a Catholic church in our area



Gina Boggess



Jim Copolo



Darleen Whelan

"never imagining his future grandchildren would attend," he said. Boggess is currently the Catechetical leader for Sacred Heart, overseeing youth and adult Faith Formation, including RCIA; and she serves as a Spiritual Director Intern for the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality based in Charleston. Throughout the years other ministries included: parish council, finance council, lector, Eucharistic minister, catechist, bookkeeper, past board member for Catholic Charities state and local, Anchor prayer group, building and grounds committee, women's prayer group facilitator, and married couples prayer group facilitator.

"I believe in accompaniment – traveling with others on this journey of faith," she said. "My love language is service – serving others is what gives me purpose and life. The Servants Song is my personal anthem and believe at the heart of everything, this is what we are called to be to one another – to the Bishop as members of the Diocesan Parish Council, to (Pastor) Father Paul Wharton on the Vicariate Pastoral Council, and to our

families and people of our parish.

The hymn she referred to includes these poignant words: "Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you, Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too. We are pilgrims on the journey. We are travelers on the road. We are here to help each other. Walk the mile and bear the load."

Boggess will serve the DPC for one year and is on the Pastoral Concerns Committee.

While each member brings a wide range of experience to the DPC, members acknowledge and focus on the fact that they represent the many faithful of their region, Whelan said.

"My prayer is that the DPC will be a voice - the voice of the laity and their lived faith experience, that will help Bishop Brennan shepherd this Diocese that has been so long without a true Shepherd," said Whelan, who for more than three decades has been a member of St. John the Evangelist in Summersville. She will serve on the DPC for a two-year term and sit on the Lay Life and Ministry Committee.

"I am a life-long Catholic; I grew up and went to elementary school at St. Ann's in Louisville, Ky. (taught by Ursuline Sisters)," she said. "I currently serve as the president of the Pastoral Council at St. John's and the lead catechist for the Family Catechesis Program. During the past 30 years I have served St. John's as a catechist and/or DRE concentrating primarily on Adult faith formation and catechist training. I hold a DRE certification from Franciscan University of Steubenville. I have served on the parish Finance Council (I am a practicing CPA), the Ladies of St. John women's group and have been deeply involved in the planning and execution of our yearly Food Baskets for the poor."

She said serving her church and community is a joy, knowing she is serving as Christ taught us. "St. John's is a family of families," she said. "We are called to share our gifts and talents - they are not given to us for our benefit; they are given to us so that added to others' gifts and talents we can build up God's people. 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.'"

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Petter Eager to Help Others on Faith Journey

As An Advocate for Youth, Young Adults, and Pro-Life

By Joyce Bibey
WHEELING—

Jessica Petter hopes to spark the fire within the souls of the faithful across the state of West Virginia as the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's new assistant director of evangelization and catechesis.

She is eager to fan the flame lighting the "fire to lead people to Christ."

Petter comes to the Mountain State from Arkansas, where she was the youth ministry director for St. Stephen Catholic Church in Bentonville, and before that at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Rogers, Arkansas. She earned her degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Petter grew up in a Eureka Springs, Arkansas, a charming resort town in the Ozark Mountain region. She was raised Catholic, but admits there was a time in her life, when her faith was more of a stale obligation than a joyful part of how she identified herself.

"I get it," Petter said. "I understand how we can get stuck and not grow in faith. It took me years to realize that God loves me for me. He loves me no



Jessica Petter

matter what, even when I think I'm just a hot mess."

Two things helped reignite her faith. The first was attending a Steubenville Youth Conference as a young adult and the second was meeting Betsy McNeil.

The Steubenville Youth Conferences are held across North America through Franciscan University of Steubenville to energize young adults

and adults about God and the Church.

"I came away with having that 'Mountain Top' experience," she said. "It's an incredible ah-ha moment when they build you up and tell you, 'God loves you for you.' I didn't want that feeling to end and I knew I needed someone to walk down the mountain with me. Ultimately that is Jesus."

She said she found someone else to walk alongside her too and that is Betsy McNeil. "I remember when I first went back to church and this sweet lady welcomed me with a loving smile and after Mass walked me into the Adoration Chapel, and said, 'Don't come out until the Lord directs you towards what you need to do,'" she said. "I was thinking, 'what? She wants me to just be in here silent.' I did and, in the silence, I had an internal conversation

with God."

She said McNeil continues to be a great guide and keeps her accountable.

"She wants the best for me and reminds me that Jesus loves us in our brokenness no matter how great or trivial that is," Petter said.

That is exactly what Petter hopes to be for the people of West Virginia, "a spiritual guide on their faith journey and reminder that we don't have to be perfect to be loved by God."

When the pandemic kept everyone from going to Mass and gathering with her youth ministry groups, Petter and her colleagues turned to the Mary Undoer of Knots Novena (www.praymorenovenas.com/mary-undoer-knots-novena).

"Throughout those nine days I felt like Mary was telling me to 'Prepare for a new adventure,'" she said. "I wasn't seeking anything new at the time. I just wanted to get through these uncertain days, but I was open to that thought that kept repeating in my mind. So, I started purging things I didn't need anymore; I reorganized closets and cabinets; and began a new exercise routine. However, months and months later the thought still kept coming back."

When October came, Petters continued to be alerted by job opportuni-

ties around the mid-west, but when she learned of the position in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in January, she was eager to return to the region close to her Franciscan alma mater.

She will be working with youth ministry programming, young adult ministry, and pro-life activities.

"Jessica is a dynamic, informed, and talented Catholic evangelist, who has extensive experience in parish youth ministry and pro-life activities," said Daniel Maul, director of the office of evangelization and catechesis for the diocese. "I'm absolutely certain she'll be a real asset for this diocese, because of her deep faith, her tremendous passion for serving God's people, her wealth of knowledge of Church teaching, and her excellent communication skills, in addition to her engaging personality."

Petter said she enriches her faith by learning and leaning on the saints and amazing Catholics whether from history or present day.

"As I contemplated this job, I kept thinking about St. Catherine of Siena's words, 'Be who God meant for you to be and you will set the world on fire,'" Petter said. "I'm excited and ready for this journey all over West Virginia. I'm happy to call it home."

Happy 81st birthday, Father Pat!



*We thank you for your
years of dedicated service
to Saint Francis of Assisi
church and school.*

We love you!

Living Her Faith Brings Life to Others

By Joyce Bibey

It's safe to say when Sadie Shields wakes up in the morning, the first thing she does is to choose joy!

She is a beautiful testament to the Greatest Commandment that is written in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – "Love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength...."

Through her work in Catholic school, her voice for the voiceless, and her energy she gives to young Catholics in West Virginia, Shields gives life to her faith.

"Ms. Shields is a constant reminder for me that true joy can be found in living the faith," said Father Douglas Ondeck, of St. Patrick Church in Weston. Shields attends St. Patrick's, and she works as the gym teacher, preschool aide, and after school program director for the parish school.

"My Catholic faith is such a huge part of me, my parents made sure the teachings and values of the Church were instilled in us," she said. "Growing up Catholic we were encouraged to live our faith. We were constantly reminded that God instilled great gifts in each of us that we are to share."

When Sadie Shields was 13, her parents moved their family from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to a 107-acre farm in Doddridge County. She said it was a labor of love by the whole family to bring their home and property to its glory. "The farm had been abandoned – there was no heating, no plumbing, and no electric. We spent years renovating it to make it amazing," she said. "It's a great place to grow up."

The family raised Scottish Highland Cows, bred German Shepherds, and even had a team of draft horses. Shields is one of 10 children of Ryan and Lisa Shields, so there were many helping hands.

"I absolutely love my big family and everything that having a big family brings," she said. "My parents also made sure we knew that every life has a worth, and every life is a gift."

A pivotal moment for Shields was during her senior year at Doddridge High School. She was assigned a 10-page research paper. She chose abortion as her subject.

"I remember I had to stand up and present it to my class," she said.

That day she became a voice for the voiceless. "I just knew I was meant to share the truth about abortion, share how there is help out there for anyone who feels alone, and encourage people defend life from conception," she said. "I knew I was called to do more."

As a student at Davis and Elkins, Shields started a pro-life club. Then at



Courtesy Photo Sadie Shields is confident in her Catholic faith, which has led to her mission for the pro-life movement.

West Virginia University, where she is currently finishing a multidisciplinary degree in education, she serves as an officer for Mountaineers for Life. Her resume doesn't stop there. She's served on West Virginians for Life and helped youth across the state begin their own pro-life clubs through Students for Life.

"In our culture right now, everyone is so focused on equality – we need to open eyes and hearts and remind everyone that equality must include the lives of the unborn," she said.

A few years ago, Shields traveled to Ireland with Students for Life to echo that message and most recently traveled to Georgia, where the group worked to raise awareness to 70,000 households not only about abortion and the laws and politics surrounding it, but also about the help that is available to expecting mothers and fathers out there, whose pregnancy was unplanned. "It is so incredibly important to reach the high school and college aged (population), who are often misled," she said. "Pro-life is a group about hope. Truth is on our side. We just have to go out and be that voice of truth."

When school lets out and summer begins, Shields will head to Huttonsville to work as the summer program director of Camp Carlo (formerly Camp Bosco). She attended the camp in high school and then became

a counselor.

"What can I say, 'I love everything Catholic'," Shields said. "I love working for the Church. We are excited to get Camp Carlo started with a new energy. Camp is a really good way to escape the world and everything going on and at the same time dive into faith, friendships, and adventure. I don't want people to leave on a spiritual high and it goes away when you go home. We aim to excite them and inspire them to love their faith and take that love home and spread it in their parish and community."

Working the camp will "also give me a chance to grow deeper into my faith, while making good friends who also recognize that we truly are God's servants and what it means to live that."

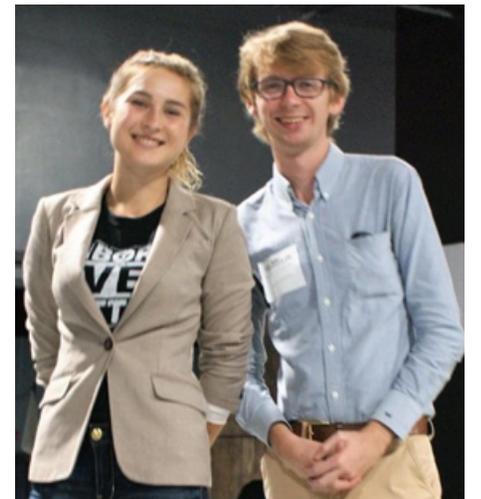
Shields is a dynamic asset to the Catholic summer camp and a truly compassionate person, said Camp Carlo Director Riley Keaton.

"Sadie Shields is a tremendous role model for young Catholics," he said. "Her example is instructive, particularly for young women, in how to simply be a faithful Catholic. We are so fortunate to have her working in camping ministry for our young people in the Diocese."

Without a doubt, Shields believes it is her Catholic faith, prayers, saints, and traditions that keep her focused and balanced, especially when times are tough.

Her favorite saint, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, is a role model for her.

"Saint Gianna's story is so inspiring," she said of the patron saint for physicians, pregnant mothers, unborn children, and anti-abortion. "I love learning about her and learning from her." She said, we are all precious from the start in God's eyes. Hence her favorite bible verse (Jeremiah 1:5), "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,



Courtesy Photo Sadie Shields and Riley Keaton met at a Student's for Life event. Now the two will be leading Catholic youth from across the state all summer long at Camp Carlo in Huttonsville.

before you were born, I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you."

When asked, "What is your advice to motivate other young Catholics?" without hesitation she said, "Pray the rosary every day." Whatever it is you seek for your life or seek to help others, calling on the Blessed Mother will bring you to peace, she said.

"Give it to Mary! Let her work in your life in a way that is so gentle, she will bring you to Christ," Shields said. "We are all called to serve God and help bring people closer to Him. We need to trust and be brave. There is always someone out there to help us – parents, parish members, Students for Life groups. Lean on others to help answer your call. God wants that relationship with us. We don't just fall in love with Him over night, be patient with yourself and allow it to happen in His time."



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Webster Springs Children Enjoy Catholic Charities Easter Egg Hunt



Children search for Easter eggs as part of the Catholic Charities West Virginia Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Webster Springs.
Courtesy Photo

Catholic Charities West Virginia's Webster Springs Outreach Office recently held its annual Easter egg hunt. Each year donors provide Easter eggs, and then local scout or youth groups fill them with candy. This annual event creates an opportunity for area residents to build community and gives families the opportunity to have some

outdoor fun.

"One family traveled from Kingwood, WV, to attend the egg hunt and visit family because there was no egg hunt in their area," said Tina Cogar, CCWVa Outreach Coordinator. "It was a wonderful, fun filled day." As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, our team at Catholic Charities West Virginia wishes a happy Easter to all!

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

To learn more, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

Accolades Continue to Roll in for Wheeling University

WHEELING—Even during a global pandemic, Wheeling University continues to flourish, and the accolades are piling up. Continuing to impress with a world-class education, Wheeling University was recently named the Best Small College in West Virginia by the online news site—Stacker—which analyzes data to compile a list of the best institutions in each state.

"Once again, national ranking services are recognizing what so many already know—Wheeling University provides students a quality Catholic education at an affordable price. Our dedicated faculty, small class sizes, beautiful campus, and rigorous curriculum offer students an environment conducive for learning," said Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede.

The University's faculty are the foundation of Wheeling University's educational experience. Wheeling's 17-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, along with average class sizes of 16 students, allows students to connect with faculty and get the most out of their college education.

Stacker agrees with two other ranking and review services—U.S. News & World Report and Niche.com—that Wheeling University is the best college in the Mountain State. Stacker has compiled a list of the best small colleges in every state using rankings from Niche.com, including data for the student to faculty ratios, graduation rate, six-year median earnings, and other essential information.

Small colleges rated by Stacker have less than 5,000 students and are four-year, degree-granting institutions. The ranking service leverages thousands of unique data sets, expert analysis, and objective editorial insights to determine the best institutions.

"Wheeling may be a small university, but we make a big impact in the academic lives of our students, as well as helping them understand their social responsibility to the community. Founded in 1954 to serve the needs of men and women from Appalachia, our small University has been educating students to excel in their given career, as well as to be servants in the community," President Favede added.

Wheeling's low student-to-faculty ratio and affordability make the university accessible to many, as well. Currently, 87 percent of students at Wheeling University receive financial aid. The Office of Financial Aid administers a variety of programs to assist in meeting student financial needs, including Federal and State financial aid programs, student loans, scholarships, and Federal Work-Study.

Stacker and other rankings service providers give prospective students and their parents clear, unbiased information when looking at what colleges or universities have to offer and how they compare to the competition.

The Catholic traditions of educational excellence and service to others guide all of the programs at Wheeling University. By integrating learning, research and economic development with classical knowledge and Christian revelation, the University seeks to foster competence, creativity and innovation throughout and beyond the campus community. Graduates of the University enter the world of work with socially responsible goals, a lifelong appetite for learning and the desire to make our universe a better place.

Inwood Third Grader Spearheads Project to Stock Parish Food Pantry



Courtesy Photo

Little Katie Nagy, a third grader and member of St. Leo Parish in Inwood, spearheaded a Lenten project to help support those in need in her community. She wrote letters to friends and family asking them for donations for the St. Leo Food Pantry. She and her mother Garland Nagy then drove all over the area picking up the food. Katie is pictured with the provisions donated for her project.

Discernment Event for Middle and High School Teens to be Held in Martinsburg

MARTINSBURG—A discernment event for middle and high school teens will be held at St. Joseph Church and School in Martinsburg April 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning in the church.

The girls segment will be presented by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, while the boys program will be presented by Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarians Deacon Phillip Szabo and Ryan Budd.

The gathering is open to all teens, as this is an opportunity for them to learn about discernment, and not just for religious vocations.

"We all need to learn how to listen to God's voice in our lives, so the day will start with a lesson and discussion on discernment in general," event planners said.

Later in the day vocations will be introduced.

"Learning about the priesthood and religious vocations is important for everyone, even if that is not going to be your vocation in life," event planners said.

To attend the gathering or for more information, contact Linda Abrahamian by e-mail to linda.abrahamian@gmail.com or by calling (304) 279-2315 by April 13.

OCP Now Offering USCCB-Approved Breaking Bread 2021 eMissal App

By Colleen Rowan

PORTLAND—Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) has announced the launch of its new Breaking Bread 2021 eMissal app, "a very practical resource for the church during unusual circumstances," OCP Publisher Wade Wisler said.

Designed for those who are watching livestreamed Masses at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic and for those who have returned to churches for in-person Masses, the app offers everything the faithful need for full and active participation in the Mass. This includes the Order of Mass, readings, and prayers for Sundays and holy days. There are other apps available that provide this, but what distinguishes OCP's app from the rest is that it also provides music. Eight hundred and fifty hymns and psalms to be exact, along with Mass settings.

"When we worship God, we sing," Wisler said. What a shame it would be, he continued, for someone following the livestream Mass at home or attending Mass at church to be without access to the music to follow along and, ideally, sing along.

"Because that is what we are called to, right? That full and conscious and active participation in the liturgy," Wisler said. "When we engage our whole bodies and our voices in worship, we can worship more fully."

The music is not just for following along during Mass, he noted. Many of the beloved hymns from Catholic tradition as well as newer compositions that are beloved as well are included.

"This is the poetry of the church," Wisler said. "These are the rich, poetic texts that we use for worship on Sun-

days, but they are also very beautiful tools to use in our daily prayer and reflection. So, a family can use this resource not only for a livestream Mass on Sunday but throughout the week."

There is also a morning and evening prayer section for families and individuals looking for ways to pray throughout the week. "The church has this beautiful rhythm of daily and weekly prayer," Wisler said. "I really believe this app makes it that much easier for people to participate in that rhythm of daily and weekly prayer that the church calls us to."

Wisler recalled early in the pandemic when churches were closed and missals had to be removed from the pews in many churches. When churches opened and people came back to in-person Mass, missals or hymnals could not be used in many places. "And that's still the case in many dioceses," he said. "So, we really wanted people to have something that would put the readings, the prayers, and the music right in the palm of their hands."

The response to the app has been very positive, Wisler said. He feels that this is a tool people have been eager to have.

"I think that as Catholics we want to have that resource in our hands, because sometimes you can't always understand what the lector has just proclaimed, or maybe you really want to pause and reflect on that reading a little longer," he said.

Another important aspect of the app, Wisler emphasized, is that it allows people to have the readings and prayers ahead of time. The best way to prepare for Mass, he said, is to meditate

on the word of God beforehand, "So that when the word of God is proclaimed we can receive it with hearts that are ready to hear God's voice in the readings."

OCP is a not-for-profit Catholic publisher whose mission is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ primarily through the publication of the "highest quality" worship programs, Wisler said. OCP will celebrate 100 years of service to the church in 2022. Through its parish grants program, OCP has donated \$3.3 million in direct financial assistance to parishes throughout the country since 2001. Its mission also involves serving the ever changing and evolving needs of the church. "When we recognize a pastoral need," Wisler said, "we always strive to meet it in some way. That is why we are continually innovating and looking for new and creative ways to serve the church."

Those needs changed dramatically in the past year in response to the pandemic. "We really wanted to get something out there and quickly so that people would have what they need to participate in the liturgy," Wisler said.

The app serves as an alternative to the Parishioner Personal Missal Program created by OCP last year to assist the faithful during the pandemic, OCP officials said. OCP is grateful to its partners at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for giving permission and approval in a short amount of time.

The new Breaking Bread 2021 eMissal app is available for purchase in the Apple and Google App stores for \$4.99. For more information about the app, visit OCP's website at ocp.org.

OCP Announces Open Application for Annual Grants Program for Parish and Campus Ministry Communities

PORTLAND—At a time when Catholic parishes and campus ministry programs are experiencing particular financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) has opened the application process for its annual Parish Grants Program. Created by OCP's Board of Directors, the Parish Grants Program provides vital assistance to parishes and campus ministry programs seeking to enhance the worship experience of their communities, develop and reinforce liturgical and music ministries, create and strengthen multicultural ministries, and expand

educational and charitable outreach.

"Our annual grants program demonstrates OCP's commitment to assist Catholic faith communities across the nation to enhance their liturgy and worship," said OCP Publisher Wade Wisler. "The pandemic has brought immense challenges to parishes and campus ministry programs over this past year and we are more committed than ever to doing our part to support the essential ministries they provide — and which so many depend upon — in the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Since its inception in 2001, the OCP Parish Grants Pro-

gram has awarded more than \$3.3 million to parishes throughout the United States. Parish Grants are commonly used for: Purchasing music, hymnals and other worship materials; Improving multicultural ministries with additional training and purchasing of bilingual worship materials; Providing online, digital or electronic resources to support liturgy preparation; Up-keep, repair and replacement of musical instruments, equipment and facilities; and Attending or hosting musical or liturgical conferences or workshops.

Parishes and campus ministries programs may apply for

the OCP Parish Grants Program until the deadline, May 30, 2021, at www.ocp.org. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click Parish Grants under Quick Links.

OCP, a not-for-profit publisher of liturgical music and worship resources based in

Portland, Oregon, has been in operation for nearly 100 years. Worship programs produced by OCP are used in over two-thirds of Catholic churches in the United States and are distributed worldwide. Find OCP on Facebook at [Facebook.com/OCPmusic](https://www.facebook.com/OCPmusic).

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El obispo viaja a la diócesis para la Semana Santa

Por **Martina Hart**

El obispo Mark E. Brennan celebró las diversas liturgias de la Semana Santa con la gente de diferentes parroquias de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston.

Debido a las restricciones vigentes de COVID-19 sobre la asistencia a la iglesia y las pautas de distanciamiento social, los asientos en los diversos lugares se han mantenido limitados. Sin embargo, los católicos de West Virginia han podido seguir muchas de las misas a través de la transmisión en vivo en el sitio web de la diócesis en www.dwc.org.

El Domingo de Ramos, 28 de marzo, el obispo Brennan presidió las misas al mediodía en la Basílica de la Concatedral del Sagrado Corazón en Charleston y a las 5:30 p.m. en la Iglesia de San José en Huntington. En su homilía del Domingo de Ramos, el obispo Brennan señaló cómo las diversas escenas de la narrativa de la pasión de San Marcos muestran que "el espíritu está dispuesto, pero la carne es débil".

La multitud pasa de gritar "hosanna" a "crucificarlo". Los discípulos dejan a Jesús. Peter lo niega. A pesar de no encontrar cargos, Poncio Pilato lo entrega para ser crucificado.

"En contraste, el espíritu de Jesús hace que su carne débil lo obedezca", dijo el obispo Brennan. "El grito 'Dios mío, Dios mío, ¿por qué me has desamparado?' Revela su aguda angustia interior, mayor que su dolor físico. Y, sin embargo, su espíritu evita que su carne se rebele", dijo.

Jesús se despojó de su prerrogativa divina, asumió la humilde naturaleza humana y por amor sufrió y murió. "El padre aprueba el sacrificio de su hijo levantándolo de entre los muertos, respondiendo a la angustiada pregunta de Jesús desde la cruz y mostrándonos cómo entraremos en la vida eterna", dijo el obispo Brennan. La Eucaristía, agregó, "da a nuestro espíritu la fuerza para obligar a nuestro cuerpo a imitar la humildad, la honestidad, la misericordia y la paciencia de Jesús".

Concluyó con estas preguntas reflexivas: "¿Lo seguiremos? ¿Gritaremos crucificarle o gritaremos hosanna, bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor?" El lunes 29 de marzo, el obispo Brennan celebró la Misa Crismal en la basílica, donde se reunió con los sacerdotes de las regiones sur y central de la diócesis. El 30 de marzo, regresó a Wheeling para la celebración de la Misa Crismal en la Catedral de San José reuniéndose con los sacerdotes de las regiones norte y



Foto de Martina Hart

El obispo Mark Brennan bendice las palmas el Domingo de Ramos en la Basílica de la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón en Charleston el 28 de marzo.

este de la diócesis.

Durante la Misa Crismal anual, el obispo bendice los Santos Aceites: el Óleo de los Enfermos, que se usa para ungir a los enfermos, y el Óleo de los Catecúmenos, que se usa para la unción de bebés y adultos que se preparan para el bautismo. Luego mezcla bálsamo y aceite de oliva y lo consagra como crisma. Este aceite fragante se usa para ungir durante los sacramentos del Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Ordenación y durante la dedicación de altares e iglesias.

Durante esta Misa los sacerdotes renuevan su compromiso con el servicio sacerdotal, su dedicación a Cristo y su Iglesia. El obispo también pide a los fieles laicos presentes que apoyen a su obispo y sacerdotes en su ministerio.

El Jueves Santo, el obispo Brennan celebró la Misa

de la Cena del Señor en la catedral. La gente de la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de María en Weirton iba a dar la bienvenida al Obispo Brennan a su iglesia el Viernes Santo, 2 de abril, para la Celebración de la Pasión del Señor a las 7 p.m.

El Sábado Santo, el obispo estará en Wheeling para celebrar la Vigilia Pascual a las 8 p.m. en la Iglesia de San Vicente de Paúl. Regresa a la catedral para la celebración de la misa el domingo de Pascua a las 10:30 a.m. que será televisada en vivo y transmitida por WTRFDT3 / ABC en el área de Wheeling y WBOYDT / ABC para el área de Clarksburg y transmitida en vivo en el sitio web de la diócesis.

La transmisión en vivo y la transmisión de las celebraciones de la Semana Santa están patrocinadas por Welty Corporation.

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 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.

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 eclesísticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la

Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Director of Human Resources Opening

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire a Director of Human Resources, a full-time position based at the Chancery Building in Wheeling, West Virginia. Reporting to the Vicar General of the Diocese, the Director of Human Resources develops policy and directs and coordinates human resources activities such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training and employee services. Essential duties includes overseeing the employee onboarding system, providing data on wage and salary information, explaining policy directives to department managers, consulting with legal counsel on a regular basis regarding employment issues, managing records in compliance with law or governmental authorities, delivering presentations to department directors regarding human resources policies and practices, administering all benefit programs and government regulatory standards, and maintaining all records required by the Affordable Care Act, including all necessary ACA reporting requirements. Qualification requirements include a Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred), 4-10 years of experience in an administrative position, expertise in federal and state employee legislation, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, ability to provide direction on personnel issues, familiarity with payroll databases and Microsoft Office suite, ability to work within a team environment and the successful candidate must adhere to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church and possess a clear sense of a Catholic Theology of work and compensation. Position will remain posted until filled. Applications may be directed to the Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Faith Formation Director Opening

Progressive parish of 600 families (St. Mary Parish) is seeking a vibrant individual to coordinate formation programs, enable the gifts of the faithful, and to engage our youth to live a life of faith. We are located in Morgantown, WV, home of West Virginia University. Our parishioners are ethnically diverse. Our people have a deep love for celebrating Mass, gathering for fellowship, opportunities for adult formation and growth and for mission to the least of these. The position is full-time and reports to the Pastor. Responsibilities & Duties: Coordinates and manages all Faith Formation ministries and volunteers including, but not limited to: Religious Education (PK-5th), Youth Ministry (Middle and High School), Children's Liturgy of the Word and Vacation Bible School; sacramental preparation program for Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Christian Initiation for adults and children (RCIA); and helps facilitate adult faith formation. The Faith Formation Director is also the Safe Environment Coordinator for the parish. Qualifications and Skills: BA in Theology/Religious Education or related educational field; Excellent organizational, supervisory and leadership skills; Excellent verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills; Works well in collaborative efforts with other parish ministers; Seeks ongoing educational opportunities to keep current on trends in catechetical ministry; Excellent computer skills including the use of Microsoft Office and communication via social media. Fluency in Spanish is beneficial but not required. Salary & Benefits Health, vision, dental, participation in 403B plan, paid vacation and personal days, and education stipend. If interested please submit a letter of interest and resume by May 15, 2021. Position will begin on August 1, 2021. Send letter and resume to Fr. John by email papajohnwv@msn.com or via mail to: Attn: Father John McDonough, St. Mary Parish, 3346 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505.

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A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs A.V.F., dhiggs@dwc.org. or mail to 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301 by April 23, 2021.

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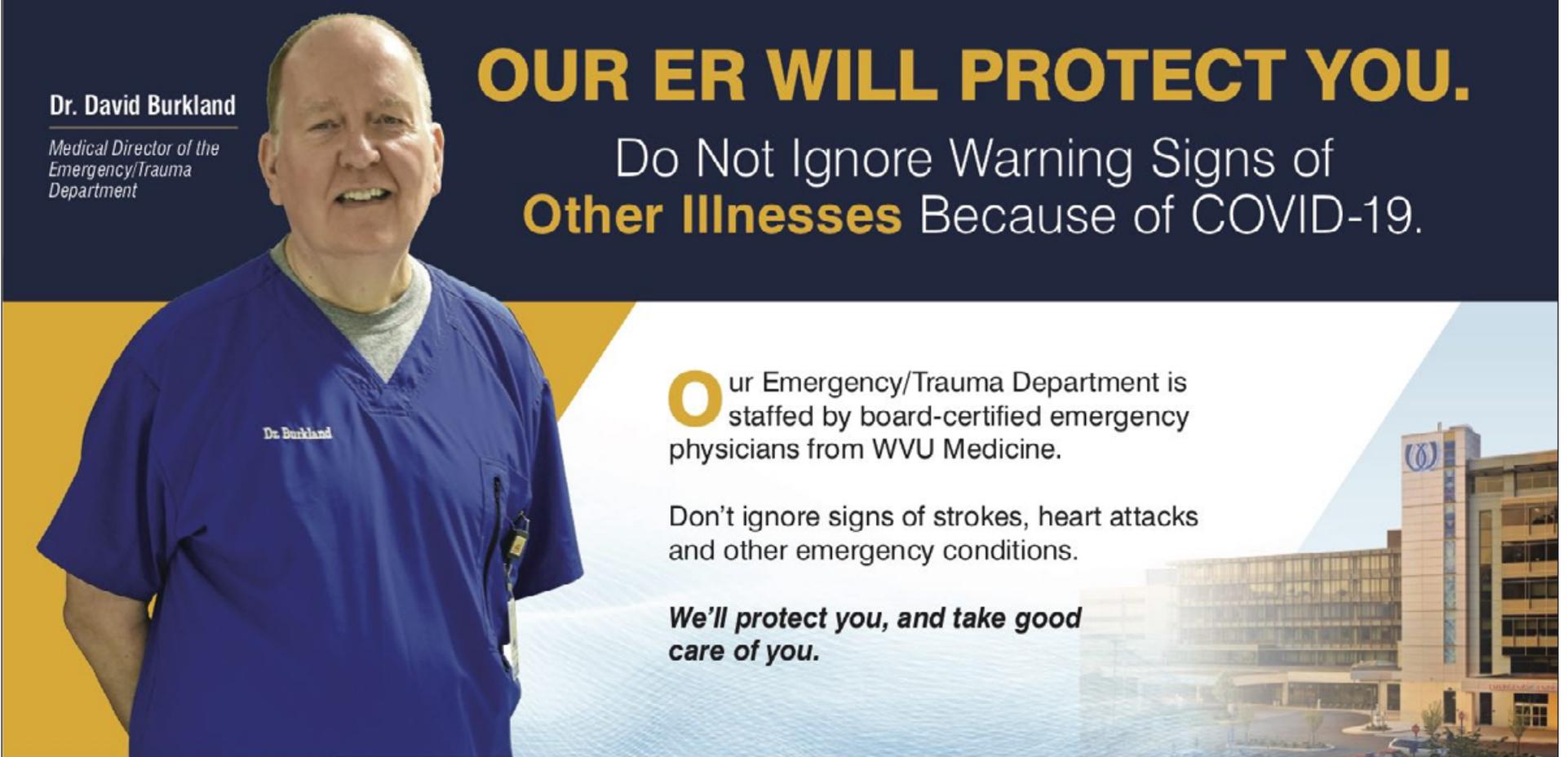
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