

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

## Pastor, Deacon Ask for Prayers in Aftermath of Pendleton County Wildfires



Photo courtesy of Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department

A firefighter battles one of two wildfires in Pendleton County April 17.

**By Colleen Rowan**

**PENDLETON COUNTY** — In the aftermath of two wildfires that engulfed parts of Pendleton County April 17, the pastor and deacon at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Franklin are asking for prayers.

“Please keep our parish and the entire neighborhood in your prayers,” Father Dan Pisano, pastor

of the parish, pleaded. “We ask for God’s blessings on all those in harm’s way.”

Deacon John Windett, permanent deacon at St. Elizabeth’s added, “Please continue to offer prayers for those affected by the fires.”

Emergency Services Coordinator for Pendleton County Rick Gillespie posted an update to Face-

book late April 19 on the 1,500-acre wildfire near Franklin in Hidden Valley/Entry Mountain.

“Crews from WV, VA and MD have worked hard to save threatened structures,” he said. “This evening, this crew saved a barn with no time to spare.”

The day before, Gillespie posted that one structure was destroyed and that both fires are believed to

have been started by “downed power lines due to falling trees in the high winds.”

The Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department posted on Facebook late April 19 that the first fire, which erupted in Smoke Hole, “is 100% contained” ... with Monongahela National Forest Service personnel in charge of the scene.

**See “Fires” on Page 2**

**Inside:** Faithful Can Make a Difference for Catholic Schools in Their Community, Page 3

Diocese Brings Back Training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Page 5

# Fires...

Cont'd from Page 1

"Prayers and support for everyone involved with the Franklin fire!" department officials said in the post.

Franklin's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church was not damaged in the fires, "due to prayer and intercession of what I believe was our Blessed Mother," Deacon Windett said.

Father Pisano said the fire came within 1 mile of the church. Residents who live a half mile from the church were evacuated.

A number of items were removed from St. Elizabeth's for protection, especially the Most Blessed Sacrament, oils, first/second class relics, vestments, the Roman Missal and important documents. The hand carved crucifix was also removed from the wall inside the church.

As of April 19, Deacon Windett said there remained a presence of visible smoke along the ridge line. "Smoke smell permeates the air," he said.

Responding to the fires were a number of volunteer fire departments and emergency services from throughout the area.

Father Pisano told *The Catholic Spirit* April 20 that he was traveling to affected areas of the county. He said, "I'm hoping and praying that we get the much needed rain that is predicted for Saturday."

Courtesy Photo  
Wildfires rage in Pendleton County  
April 17.



**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://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**

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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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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# Faithful Can Make a Difference for Catholic Schools in Their Community

**By Colleen Rowan**

It is a time set aside each year to support the Catholic school in one's community. One Mission One Day (OMOD) to Make a Difference, an annual giving event to benefit the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Catholic schools, will be held May 2.

"You can make a difference!" the OMOD website proclaims. And donations go directly to the school or schools of the donor's choice.

The site offers profiles of each of the diocese's 24 Catholic schools detailing the academic and spiritual opportunities they offer to young people as well as giving options.

The OMOD website at [OneMissionOneDay.org](http://OneMissionOneDay.org) will be open for donations from April 25 to May 3. Donors can also text GIVE to (304) 600-8123.

"One Mission One Day has provided resources for Fairmont Catholic School to continue their mission and tradition where 'Faith Meets Academic Excellence!'" said Diane Burnside, principal of Fairmont Catholic. "It's one day that makes a difference all year!"

This campaign has already proven to be fruitful for the growth and development of Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School, PCES officials said in the profile on the OMOD website.

"Since the kickoff of the campaign and our ongoing promotion of the WV Hope Scholarship opportunity, PCES has seen an influx of over 45 new students for the 2023-24 academic year," PCES officials said in the profile. "Please help us continue to grow and de-

velop our schools for the success of the next generation of Crusaders!"

Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, said that \$1.2 million has been raised for Catholic schools through OMOD over the last three years. Donations have helped with tuition assistance, building upgrades, classroom enhancements and more.

"Not only has OMOD become a tremendous FUNdraiser for all our Catholic schools - it has also become a FUNraiser because of all the hard work, dedication and creativity our schools put into it. From themes, to videos, prizes and contests -

they make it a fun and exciting day for students and donors alike!" Sforza added.

One Mission One Day has quickly grown into one of Sforza's favorite days of the year.

"The creativity, excitement, and generosity is overwhelming," she said. "It's exciting to watch the contests unfold online, and donations roll in on the website. I love seeing pictures and videos of the kids on social media and the various events being held in each school!"

Sforza said that donors can also check with their local schools about contests and matching gift opportunities for OMOD.

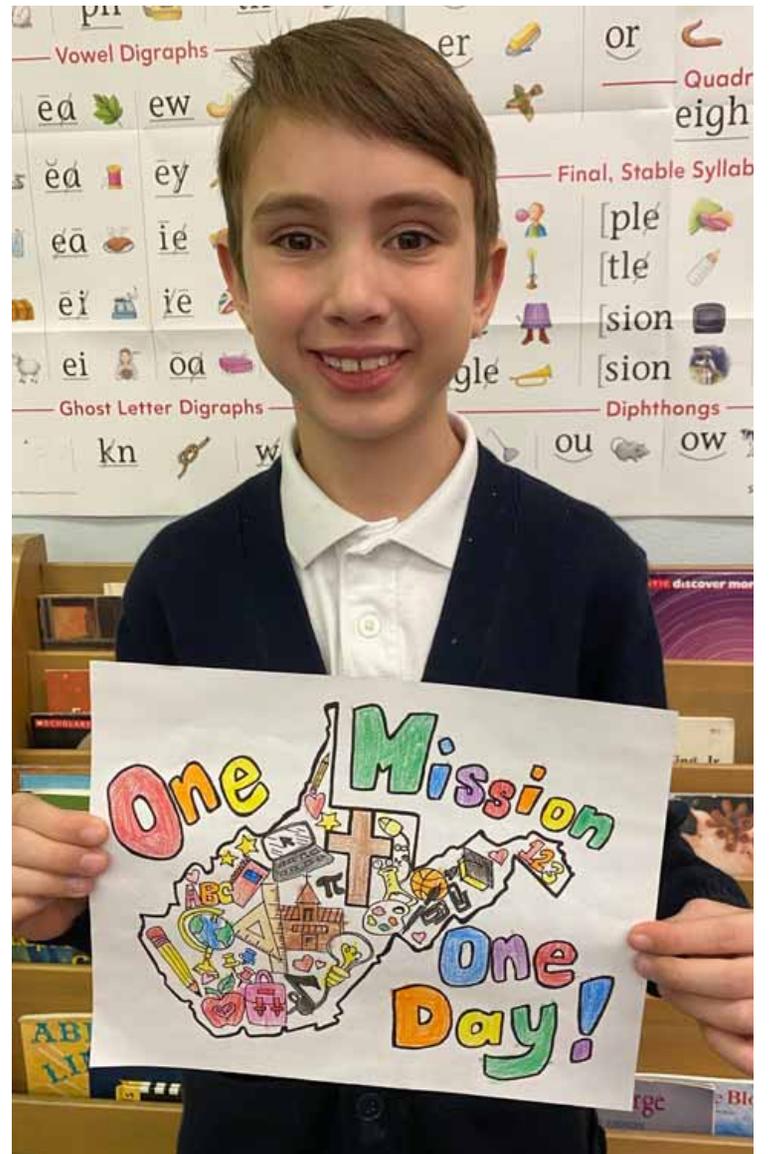
One Mission One Day  
to Make a Difference  
**May 2, 2023**

.....

Visit [OneMissionOneDay.org](http://OneMissionOneDay.org)  
or Text **GIVE** to 304-600-8123

Support Your  
Catholic School!

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
**ONE MISSION ONE DAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



Courtesy Photo  
At right, Gabriel Hill, a student at Corpus Christi School in Wheeling, shows his artwork promoting the annual One Mission One Day to Make a Difference.

**L/G**

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# Eastern Panhandle Parishes Help Make Catholic Daughters' Toy Drive for Mary's Refuge a Success



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #392 Martinsburg, show the toys collected by the Parishes of St. Joseph's in Martinsburg, St. Bernadette's in Hedgsville, St. Leo's in Inwood, St. James the Greater in Charles Town, and St. Agnes in Shepherdstown for the court's first annual Mary's Refuge Lenten Toy Drive.

**MARTINSBURG**—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #392 Martinsburg thanked the Parishes of St. Joseph's in Martinsburg, St. Bernadette's in Hedgsville, St. Leo's in Inwood, St. James the Greater in Charles Town, and St. Agnes in Shepherdstown for participating in their first annual Mary's Refuge Lenten Toy Drive the weekend of March 25-26.

The Catholic Daughters, are the sponsors of the playroom at Mary's Refuge, a safe space for pregnant women in crises.

During the court's monthly meeting on April 11, members received an update by Kimberley Roche, executive director of Mary's Refuge, on the happenings at the home.

"The court celebrated with a baby shower after the meeting where the many toys, books, etc. were presented to Mary's Refuge,"

said Lisa Ceravalo, CDA vice regent, Court #392.

Mary's Refuge is a 100 percent pro-life maternity home, welcoming mothers-to-be who are in a situation which is causing them fear and anxiety.

The home has nine bedrooms, a chapel, kitchen, laundry facilities, and rooms for infant care, relaxation and house meetings. Women staying at the refuge must be at least 18 years old; clean and sober; able to clear a background check; and have no debilitating mental-health issues. They also must come on their own accord, ready to work toward a positive and productive future.

Mary's Refuge is a place to call home, where women have access to budgeting and parenting classes, help with education and employment, and connections to resources for rebuilding their lives.

The Catholic Daughters of

the Americas, Court #392 Martinsburg meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. (except for July) at the Knights of Columbus on Stephen Street. CDA

is open to all Catholic women over the age of 18. For more information on Mary's Refuge visit <http://www.marysrefuge.com/> or see Facebook Mary's Refuge.

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CDU partners with the diocese to offer **free** non-credit continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry.

Visit [www.pathlms.com/cdu](http://www.pathlms.com/cdu) to browse the courses and register. Use the access code, **CDU20DIOCESEWC** when setting up your account to receive your free tuition! [cdu.edu](http://cdu.edu)

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# Diocese Brings Back Training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

## Catechist Formation Set for June 19-25 at St. Patrick Catholic School in Weston

**WESTON**—Catechesis of the Good Shepherd level one, part one catechist formation will be held June 19-25 at St. Patrick Catholic School in Weston.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston announced that after 10 years, it is bringing the training back to West Virginia.

“We know and believe that the good news message of Jesus Christ is meant for young ears to hear and little hearts to feel,” said Daniel Maul, director of the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis for the diocese. “We adults have the responsibility of making sure that that message is shared in meaningful and effective ways that truly reach children. CGS is a proven catechetical method that enables us to do just that.”

Maul said that CGS is in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is approved by the U.S. bishops, and conducted in numerous dioceses in the country.

“We pray that by undergoing this training our catechists will be able to bring many children to a love for Jesus Christ, an understanding of the Catholic faith, and a desire to live the Christian way of life,” Maul said.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to religious formation of children, 3 to 12 years of age, based on the conviction that God and the child are in relationship. Inspired by Montessori methodology, this catechetical approach was further developed by Dr. Sophia Cavalletti, a scripture scholar, and Gianna Gobbi a Montessori educator.

Class space is limited to 18 students. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has generously agreed to sponsor all parishioners from West Virginia.

The course objectives are: to explore the religious nature in the most vital religious needs of the 3 to 6-year-old child. To present the methodology and guiding principles of CGS in Montessori education. To

broaden the catechist’s ability to observe and learn from children, to listen with children to scripture, and to deepen the catechist’s enjoyment of God’s presence. To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the atrium environment, making the catechists album and designing catechetical material. To meditate on the scriptural and Catholic liturgical themes presented to the 3- to 6-year-old child.

After completing Part 1 (summer 2023) of catechist

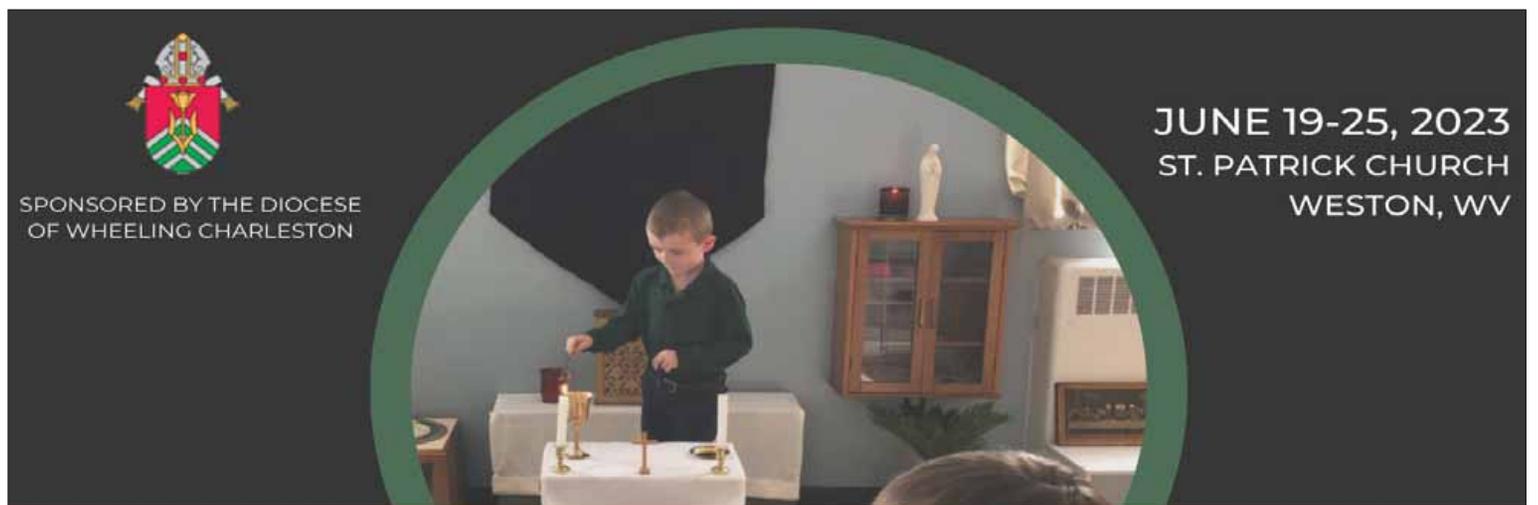
formation, participants will be able to develop the first year of a level I CGS program or serve first-year children in a level I atrium. Following the completion of Part II (summer 2024) participants will be able to develop the full level CGS program or serve as a level I catechist for all 3- to 6-year-old children in the atrium.

The training will be led by Sue Jett, formation leader. She began implementing CGS in 2003 while teaching at St.

Peter’s Catholic School in Beaufort, S.C. She is certified in levels I, II, and III and became a formation leader in 2010 after receiving her master of arts degree in discipline of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. She has directed religious education programs in the dioceses of Milwaukee, Chicago and north-west Indiana and has facilitated the development of CGS in several parishes. She currently serves as a

level I catechist at St. James the Less in Highland, Ind., and works with lower elementary children at the Montessori Children’s School House in Hamden, Ind. She is a wife, mother, and grandmother and she looks forward to sharing the gift of CGS and getting to know others who have been called to participate in formation classes.

For more information or to register visit <https://www.spchurchweston.org/cgs/> and see ad below.



  
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## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd -CATECHIST TRAINING-

### ABOUT CGS

*In this approach there is a room prepared for the children in which every object is a help to knowing God. It is a place of simplicity and order, prayer, work and community. Everything in this room, known as the atrium, is intended to be appropriate to the ages and sizes of the children who gather there. It is their religious needs that guide the catechesis. The atrium allows the children to come into contact with scripture, the liturgy of the church and, for the older ones, the whole of sacred history.*

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in a Parish Setting

### Questions? Let us know!

Kait Patterson  
Hosting Coordinator - Level 1 Catechist  
503-741-0980  
[kait.the.catechist@gmail.com](mailto:kait.the.catechist@gmail.com)

### DETAILS

#### Level 1

CATECHIST FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-6  
PREREQUISITE FOR LEVELS 2 (6-9) & LEVEL 3 (9-12)

Part A : June 19 – 25, 2023

Part B: TBD Summer 2024

Mon-Sat- 8:30am - 4pm

Sunday- 1-4pm

\*Please contact us if childcare is needed to attend

### COST TO ATTEND

Registration Fee: \$50\*

*The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has generously agreed to sponsor ALL parishioners from West Virginia who would like to attend formation!*

Contact us for details!

Out of State Tuition for both Part A and B: \$600

### REGISTER OR LEARN MORE:

[www.spchurchweston.org/cgs/](http://www.spchurchweston.org/cgs/)

# Encounter With Christ, Community Focus of 2023 Steubenville Summer Conferences

*Thousands to gather at Franciscan University, regional sites for inspiring talks, energizing fellowship, and life-changing encounters with Christ*

**STEUBENVILLE, Ohio**—In a Church and world still recovering from the isolation, loneliness, and spiritual decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebrated Steubenville Conferences will provide much-needed encounters with Christ and community with others this summer. That will be the focus of Franciscan University of Steubenville's 48th summer season of adult and youth conferences, as attendees enjoy inspirational speakers, engaging workshops, uplifting fellowship, and exciting opportunities for a life-changing encounter with Christ.

"Our experience during the pandemic was a powerful reminder why being together is so important," said Father Dave Pivonka, TOR '89, president of Franciscan University. "There is a reason why spiritual revivals don't happen online. They only happen when we gather as a family of faith. We have been hosting Spirit-filled summer conferences for almost 50 years, but I believe this year is going to be special."

Mark Joseph, vice president of the Franciscan Center for Evangelization and Renewal, agrees.

"At a Steubenville Conference, participants can experience their faith in a way like never before," he said. "Yes, it's the vibrant praise and worship, the inspiring talks that speak to real-life issues, the joy of being with so many like-minded, faith-filled people. But more than any of those, it's Jesus. It's Jesus in the Liturgy; it's Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration; it's Jesus in confession. His unconditional love is the heart and soul of our conferences, and it changes lives and captures hearts every time."

In addition to 5 adult conferences in Steubenville, Franciscan University will host 4 youth conferences in Steubenville as well as conferences in 12 cities across the United States and Canada. Host cities include Duluth, Georgia; Springfield, Massachusetts; Orlando, Florida; Irving, Texas; Springfield, Missouri (2); St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota; Tucson, Arizona; Spokane, Washington; Denver, Colorado; Alexandria, Louisiana; and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Kicking off the adult conference summer schedule, the Power and Purpose Conference will be held June 9-11. Focused on the theme "Faith, Hope, Love," this conference takes participants on a journey to come fully alive in faith, freedom, and joy of the Holy Spirit. Hosted by Deacon Ralph Poyo with worship led by Deacon Bob Rice, the conference will feature Father Pivonka, Mary Bielski, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Mari Pablo, and John Beaulieu.

The Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Retreat, June 12-16, will address the theme, "This Is My Body." This conference will renew the call and reinvigorate the passion for ordained ministry through hospitality, fellowship, prayer, and a profound encounter with Christ. Hosted by Father Pivonka and worship leader John Paul Von Arx, speakers include Deacon Ralph Poyo, Dr. John Bergsma, and John Beaulieu. Seminarians are invited to attend free of charge.

The St. John Bosco Conference, July 17-20, is for all those who hand on the faith to others, including those seeking certification or additional training in campus ministry, catechetics, youth ministry, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, and religious education. Focusing on the theme, "From the Father's Heart," the conference offers more than 75 workshops, moving worship, and outstanding fellowship to rejuvenate each participant's life and mission. Featured speakers include Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Katie Prejean McGrady, Dr. James Pauley, Father Jonathan St. André, TOR, and many more dynamic experts from around the world.

Hosted by Dr. Scott Hahn with worship leader Deacon Bob Rice, the Applied Biblical Studies Conference will be held July 26-28. The conference theme, "The Transforming Power of God's Holiness," focuses on the primacy of the commandment, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy" (Lev. 19:2). Featured speakers and world-renowned Scripture scholars include Jeff Cavins, Mike Aquilina, Dr. John Bergsma, Dr.

Edward Sri, Kimberly Hahn, Dr. Michael Dauphinais, Clement Harrold, Marcus Peter, and Father Charles Samson.

Wrapping up the summer conference season, the Defending the Faith Conference, July 28-30, will focus on "Hope and Holiness." During these trying times, this conference will inspire courage and confidence, sending participants forth to share the Lord's truth and love with joy. Joining host Dr. Scott Hahn and worship leader Deacon Bob Rice are speakers Noelle Mering, Jeff Cavins, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Michael Gormley, Kimberly Hahn, Clement Harrold, Trent Horn, Father Jeff Kirby, Patrick Madrid, and Dr. Edward Sri.

Franciscan University's 2023 Youth Conferences will center on the theme, "Refuge." Featuring inspiring and beloved speakers such as Father Mike Schmitz, Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Chris Stefanick, Jason Evert, Bishop Joseph Espallat, and Jackie Francois, the conferences are expected to reach up to 50,000 teens. For the complete 2023 Youth Conference schedule, plus details about registration, speakers, and musicians, visit [www.steubenvilleconferences.com/youth](http://www.steubenvilleconferences.com/youth).

For more information and online registration for adult conferences, visit [www.steubenvilleconferences.com](http://www.steubenvilleconferences.com).

One of only 15 faithfully Catholic universities endorsed by the Cardinal Newman Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville continues to lead the renaissance of Catholic higher education called for in *Ex corde Ecclesiae*.

Franciscan University, founded in 1946 by friars of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, integrates excellent academic programs with a dynamic faith environment to serve 2,500 students from all 50 states and 17 countries on campus and an additional 1,000 students online.

Franciscan's 87 percent first-year retention rate shows that when students come to Franciscan they stay, drawn to its Christ-centered campus

culture and integration of faith and reason in the classroom.

Ranked in the top tier of Midwest universities by U.S. News & World Report since 1998, Franciscan offers over 100 programs of study including 45 undergraduate degrees, 11 graduate programs, and 17 online programs—all grounded in Franciscan's acclaimed Catholic core curriculum.

A study abroad program in a beautifully restored 14th-century Carthusian monastery in Austria attracts up to 200 students each semester, broadening their horizons intellectually and spiritually through pilgrimages to historic and sacred sites.

Franciscan University has also led evangelistic conferences for Catholic adults and youth that have drawn over 1 million participants into a deeper relationship with Christ and the Church since 1975.

The Youth Conferences have played a measurable role in vocations to the religious life and priesthood. In a national survey of seminarians scheduled for ordination to the priesthood in 2022, for example, 15 percent of the respondents said participation in a Steubenville Youth Conference before entering seminary had an influence on their vocational discernment.

For more about Franciscan University of Steubenville and its mission to educate, evangelize, and send forth Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, visit [Franciscan.edu](http://Franciscan.edu) or connect with Franciscan on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

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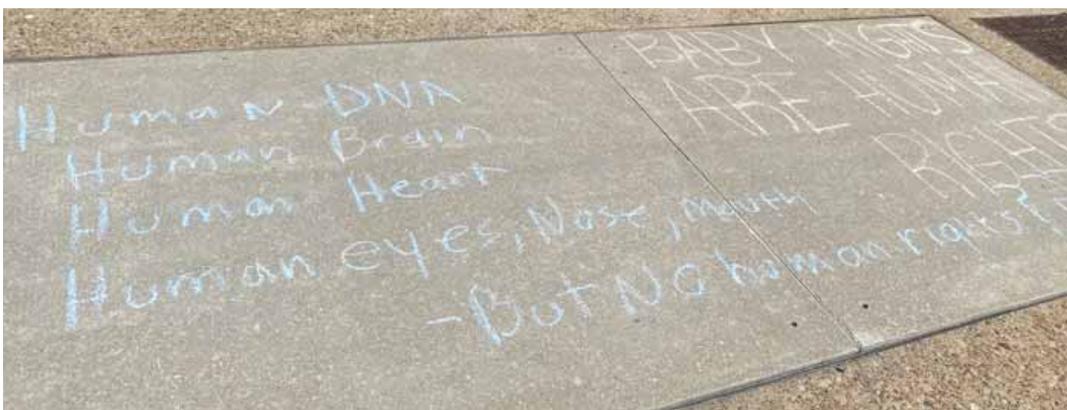
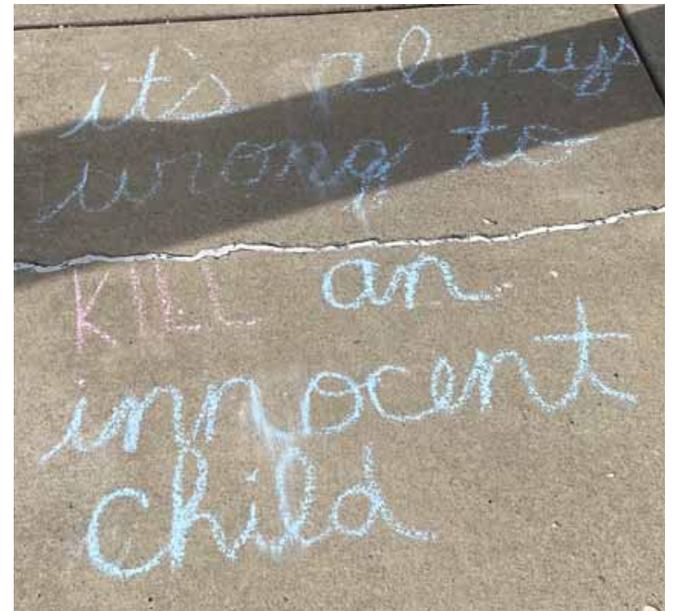
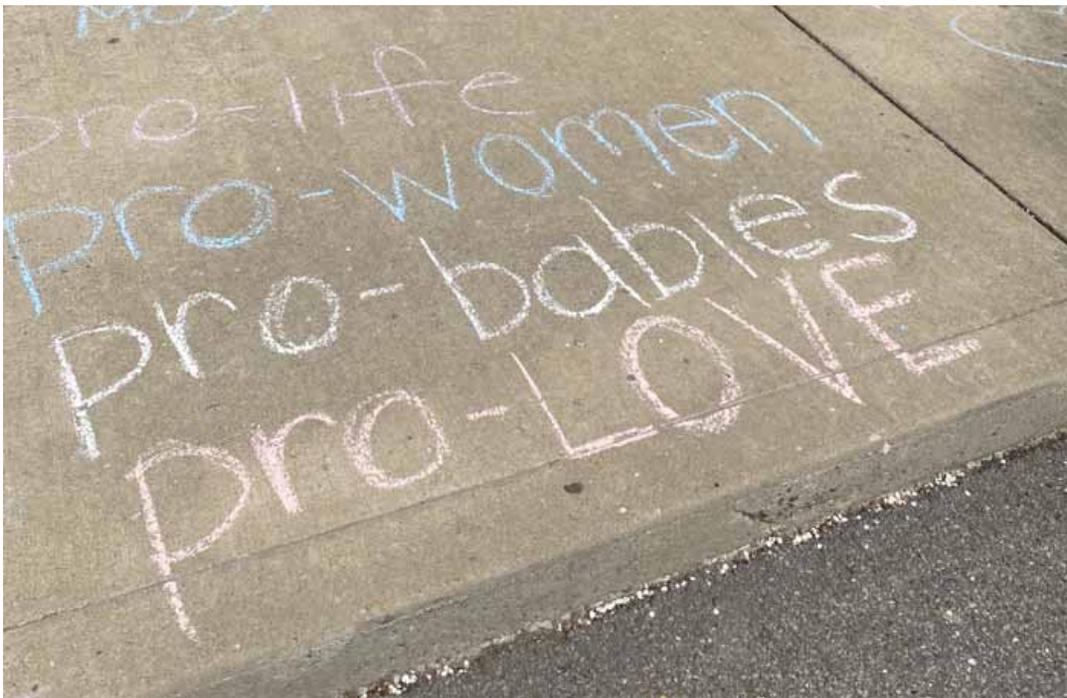


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# Central Catholic Students Take Pro-Life Message to the Streets of Wheeling

The students at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling took their pro-life message to the streets of Wheeling during Holy Week. They wrote their messages in chalk on the sidewalk in front of the school on 14th Street and on the sidewalk along the side of the building on Eoff Street beside the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Their messages reminded the community that “all life has value,” that “baby rights are human rights,” that “every child deserves a chance,” and that “it’s always wrong to kill an innocent child.” These are just a few of the messages from the students, many of which are shown on this page.

*AJ Mull Photos*



# Join in a Pilgrimage with Bishop Brennan

September 29-October 2, 2023

## Itinerary

DAY 1: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

DEPART USA, ARRIVE IN MEXICO

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

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- Breakfast at the hotel and then take your bus to the world famous Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
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- Return to the hotel for wrap-up

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Return to USA

- Return home on independent flights

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Fr. William Ryan - Togo, West Africa

Fr. Daniel Leary - Chaplain, Sisters of Mary



# Ascension Knights Reset Footstones at St. Patrick's Cemetery



Courtesy Photo  
Ascension Knights of Columbus in Hurricane recently spent time resetting footstones at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Scott Depot. From left are Ryan Justice, Luke Davis, Bob Matheny, Matthew Crytzer, and Will Dempsey.



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# Kansas City Catholics Turn to Faith, Dialogue after Ralph Yarl shooting

By **Gina Christian**

**(OSV News)** — Catholics in Kansas City, Missouri, are turning to faith, dialogue and discernment after a local Black teen was shot by a white homeowner for mistaking an address in the course of picking up his younger siblings.

Ralph Yarl, 16, sustained wounds to his left forehead and right arm when 84-year-old Andrew Lester shot the teen April 13 after Yarl knocked on his door. The teen was released from the hospital April 16, with his family's attorney, Lee Merritt, calling Yarl's recovery "miraculous."

In April 18 messages on his Twitter and Facebook accounts, Kansas City – St. Joseph Bishop James V. Johnston asked for prayers for "Ralph's full recovery as he and his family deal with his serious physical and emotional wounds."

The teen's aunt, Faith

Spoonmore, wrote on a GoFundMe page that her nephew — an accomplished musician and academically gifted student — still faces "a long road ahead mentally and emotionally."

Lester was charged April 17 with first-degree assault. He surrendered the next day and was released after posting bond. After pleading not guilty in court April 19, Lester — who told police he thought Yarl was attempting to break in — now faces a court appearance June 1.

The shooting has sparked outcry over both racial tensions and gun violence, with local and national leaders — including President Joe Biden — weighing in. Clay County prosecuting attorney Zachary Thompson has been quoted in the media as stating "there was a racial component in this case," but is pursuing first-degree assault rather

than hate crime charges. Some legal analysts have speculated Lester's defense will invoke Missouri's "stand your ground" law, which permits the use of deadly force if a person has reasonable grounds to fear for his or her life.

Father Philip Egan, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Kansas City, told OSV News his first reaction to the shooting — which took place some three miles away — was to "start praying for the community."

Gun violence, particularly "the shooting of young people," has become "a rampant epidemic," one that affects teens and youth "from East Coast to West, from north to south."

Holy Family parishioners of all ages "are carrying a heavy burden as more and more information comes out" about the Yarl shooting

and other incidents of gun violence, said Father Egan.

"They're struggling, as our young people are, with what to do, how to respond," he said.

As a result, the crisis demands "a call to prayer and to some kind of gathering of the people," said Father Egan.

Bishop Johnston said in his online message that "it is beautiful to see" how the Kansas City area is "rallying around Ralph Yarl and his family, refusing to accept that a Black teenager could be shot simply for ringing the wrong doorbell."

"Healthy communities must be founded on the bedrock of charity, respect, and trust rather than fear," said the bishop.

Holy Family pastoral associate Christen Cota told OSV News that she, Father Egan and their pastoral team "are having discussions about put-

ting together a prayer service for peace for the community."

In addition, Cota hopes to coordinate a parish event "for people to come together for discussion (to look) at the church's teaching on community, peace and the dignity of the human person."

The pastoral team is seeking "to give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to inform us of our call, our next step, and what we can do within our community," said Cota. "We will let the Holy Spirit be our guide."

The sacrifice of the Mass is at the heart of that effort, said Father Egan.

"We're making sure as we participate in the Eucharist that we're mindful our prayers go up," he said. "Our prayers go up."

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

## Major Catholic Organizations Partner with 2024 National Eucharistic Congress

**DENVER (OSV News)** — The executive team of National Eucharistic Congress Inc. announced April 17 that several leading Catholic organizations are investing in the July 17-21, 2024, congress in Indianapolis as "mission partners."

Relevant Radio, Augustine Institute, Franciscan University of Steubenville, EWTN, OSV (the parent company of the OSV News wire service and the weekly Our Sunday Visitor newspaper) and the Knights of Columbus have each made "a substantial financial commitment" and "pledged significant in-house resources toward the planning and promotion of the event itself," according to the April 17 news release.

"One thing has been consistent with every partnership that has developed from these organizations — they all have rolled up their sleeves and asked, 'How else can we help?'" Cande de Leon, chief advancement officer for National Eucharistic Congress Inc., said in a statement. "It gives me great joy to see the commitment of these organizations with regard to helping the Church and truly wanting to bring people to Jesus in the Eucharist."

The Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary Sending

2024-25 is the third and final year of the U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival.

Launched last year, the National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year campaign by the U.S. bishops to increase the Catholic understanding of and devotion to Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Part of the impetus for the campaign was a Pew Research Center study in the fall of 2019 that showed more than three out of 10 Catholics understand and believe in Jesus' Real Presence.

What will be the U.S. Catholic Church's 10th National Eucharistic Congress — but the first in 83 years — is expected to draw more than 80,000 people, and organizers have compared the event to World Youth Day, with prayer and liturgies, catechesis for individuals and families, and a festival-like atmosphere.

OSV, the Huntington, Indiana-based Catholic publishing company, has been a supporter of the National Eucharistic Revival and Congress from the beginning because "we saw this movement as not just a vehicle for reviving Catholic belief in the Real Presence of Christ but for fulfilling the Great Commission," said OSV Publisher Scott P. Richert.

"The church in the United States is facing unprecedented challenges that can only be solved by a return to the heart of Christianity, our encounter with Christ," he said, adding that the hope of the congress is Catholics will encounter Christ in Indianapolis, discover Christ in everyone they meet, and invite others to encounter Christ in his church.

"When we learned about the Congress, we immediately knew this would be a great benefit to the church and to souls, since the holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ himself," said Father Francis "Rocky" Hoffman, executive director and CEO of Relevant Radio.

"We encourage our listeners to attend and partner in prayer for a successful Congress," he said. "All positive, sustainable, and transformative change in the Church is rooted in our love for and encounter with the Holy Eucharist."

Founded in 2000 to bring Christ to the world through the media, Relevant Radio broadcasts on over 200 stations across America in all major markets, and globally through online streaming and a mobile app.

The mission of the Augustine Institute, based in the Denver suburb of Greenwood Village, "is to help Catholics understand, live and share their

faith" through its Graduate School of Theology, academic and parish programs and multimedia resources, said Tim Gray, the institute's president.

"Our hope is that the National Eucharistic Revival leads thousands upon thousands of Catholics to rediscover the love of God who draws close to us and gives himself up for us in the most holy Eucharist," he said.

The Eucharist has always been the wellspring of Franciscan University of Steubenville's spiritual life and at the heart of the school's Steubenville conferences, according to the university's president and Third Order Franciscan, Father Dave Pivonka.

"Year after year, we have seen the power of Jesus in the Eucharist heal, renew and unify our students, faculty, staff and conference guests, so we're excited to help stir up a greater love for the holy Eucharist," he said.

"We pray the Holy Spirit enkindles the fire of faith in the Real Presence in the hearts of our brothers and sisters across the country," he added.

EWTN's founder, Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration, "built the network around her community's chapel where the Eucharist was adored 24 hours each day" at Our Lady

**See "Congress" on Page 12**

# Martyrs Witness to the Power of Love, Pope Says

By **Cindy Wooden**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Martyrdom is primarily an act of love, not heroism, and while it often comes in the midst of persecution, it should motivate Christians to seek peace and reconciliation, Pope Francis said.

Persecution and martyrdom are not a thing of the past, he told people at his weekly general audience April 19. "Today there is persecution of Christians in the world. A lot. There are more martyrs today than there were" in the first centuries of Christianity.

As part of his series of talks about "zeal" for evangelization, Pope Francis spoke about the witness of "the host of martyrs — men and

women of every age, language and nation — who have given their life for Christ."

"The martyrs, in imitation of Christ and with his grace, turn the violence of those who refuse the proclamation (of the Gospel) into a supreme occasion of love, which goes as far as forgiving their persecutors," the pope said. "This is interesting: martyrs always forgive their persecutors. Stephen, the first martyr, died praying, 'Lord, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.' Martyrs always pray for their persecutors."

To illustrate his point about modern martyrdom, Pope Francis drew attention specifically to Yemen, "a land

that has for many years been afflicted by a terrible, forgotten war, that has caused many deaths and still causes many people, especially children, to suffer today."

Out of a population of about 31.6 million people, the Vatican estimates the number of Catholics in Yemen to be about 1,000.

In a situation of war and dire poverty, Pope Francis said, "there have been shining witnesses of faith, such as that of the Missionaries of Charity. They are still present today in Yemen, where they offer assistance to elderly who are sick and to people with disabilities. They welcome everyone, of any religion, because charity and fraternity have no boundaries."

The sisters' witness of love to others has cost them dearly though. The pope reminded the crowd in St. Peter's Square that three of the sisters — Sisters Aletta, Zelia and Michael — were "killed by a fanatic" in July 1998 as they were returning home from Mass.

"More recently, shortly after the beginning of the still ongoing conflict, in March 2016, Sister Anselm, Sister Marguerite, Sister Regnette and Sister Judith were killed together with some laypeople who helped them in their work of charity among the least," the pope said.

The dozen laypeople included "some Muslim faithful who worked with the reli-

gious sisters," he said.

"It moves us to see how the witness of blood can unite people of different religions," he continued. "One should never kill in the name of God, because for him we are all brothers and sisters. But together one can give one's life for others."

Pope Francis prayed that Christians would "never tire of bearing witness to the Gospel, even in times of tribulation."

"May all the martyr saints be seeds of peace and reconciliation among peoples for a more humane and fraternal world as we await the full manifestation of the kingdom of heaven when God will be all in all," the pope said.

# Vatican Sends Relic of True Cross to Britain's King Charles

By **Cindy Wooden**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — As Britain's King Charles III walks into Westminster Abbey for his coronation, he will walk behind a processional cross containing a relic of Christ's cross given to the king by Pope Francis.

While the Vatican provided no official details of the gift April 19, an official said the two fragments in the coronation cross came from a relic preserved in the Lipsanoteca Room of the Vatican Museums and were given as "an ecumenical sign."

The fragments now are under glass in the center of the coronation cross,

which is made of recycled silver bullion.

Anglican Archbishop Andrew John of Wales blessed the cross during a service April 19.

The Anglican Church in Wales, which refers to the cross as the Cross of Wales, said it is inscribed on the back with words, in Welsh, from the last sermon of St. David, a sixth-century bishop and patron saint of Wales: "Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things."

King Charles has given the cross to the Christians of Wales, and after the coronation it will be shared by the Anglican and Catholic churches there.

"With a sense of deep joy, we embrace this cross, kindly given by King Charles, and containing a relic of the true cross, generously gifted by the Holy See," said Catholic Archbishop Mark O'Toole of Cardiff in a statement published on the Church in Wales website.

The cross "is not only a sign of the deep Christian roots of our nation but will, I am sure, encourage us all to model our lives on the love given by our savior, Jesus Christ," Archbishop O'Toole said.

Chris Trott, the British ambassador to the Holy See, said on Twitter that "we are deeply moved and grateful to

Pope Francis for this extraordinary gift."

The gift of the relic, he said, reflects the strength of the relationship between the Holy See and Great Britain, a "relationship that developed over the course of the reign of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who met five popes!"

Msgr. Ervin Lengyel, secretary of the Vatican nunciature in London, tweeted: "In a significant ecumenical gesture, the Cross of Wales will incorporate a relic of the true cross, the personal gift of Pope Francis to His Majesty the King to mark the coronation."

## Congress...

Cont'd from Page 11

of the Angels Monastery in rural Alabama, said Michael Warsaw, CEO of the EWTN Global Catholic Network.

"Devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist still remains physically and spiritually at the heart of the

EWTN apostolate. There is no undertaking in the church today more important than the program of Eucharistic Revival, and EWTN is happy to fully support this effort," he said.

In August 2021, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, the CEO of the Knights of Columbus, announced the Catholic international fraternal order would be a major sponsor of the National Eucharistic Re-

vival.

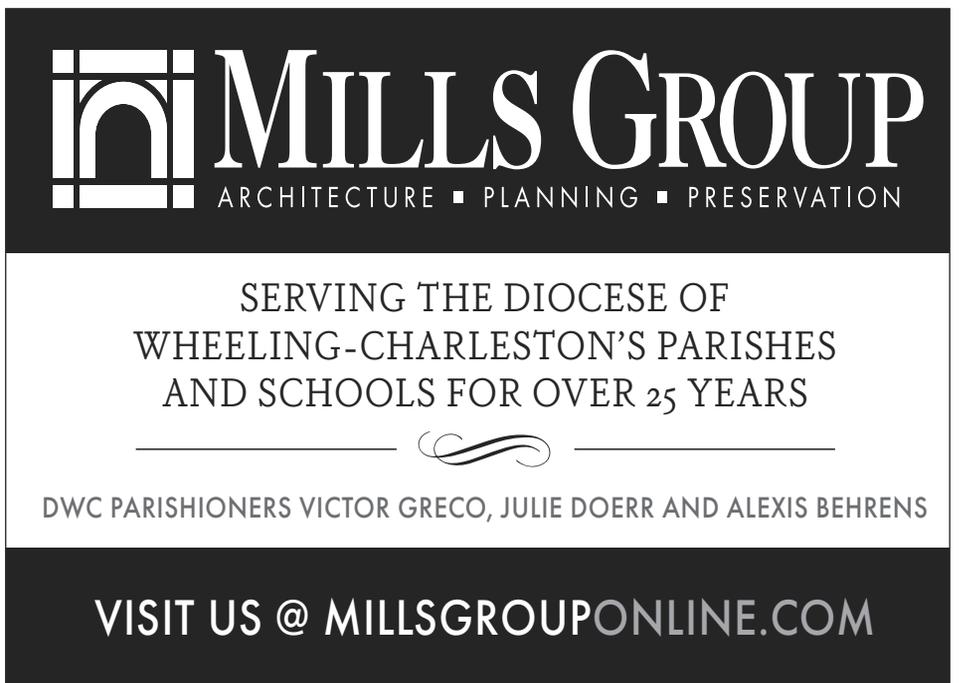
"The more we devote ourselves to the Eucharist, the more we will understand what it means to live a life of service and sacrifice for others — and to live a life of true unity, centered on the 'source and summit of the Christian life,'" he said in a statement about the organization's decision to be a mission partner for the 2024 congress.



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The Church teaches that: “Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church...”

This love was recently exemplified by a group of parishioners within the greater Parkersburg area. Members from every parish in Parkersburg attended weekly seminars presented by Catholic Charities Parish Outreach Specialist Bill Hagy throughout the seven weeks of Lent. The seminars were focused around the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

During the topic of “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,” the group discussed the Matthew 25 Bag project initiated in the Charleston area to help meet the basic needs of those who are homeless.

During the final meeting and, unbeknownst to Bill Hagy, the group presented him with M25 Bags in appreciation for the seven weeks spent sharing the principles of our faith. Hagy then shared the bags to be distributed within the Parkersburg area.

At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we are honored to work alongside our parish partners as we work toward our mission of providing caring and compassionate services to people in need and working toward lasting and meaningful change.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

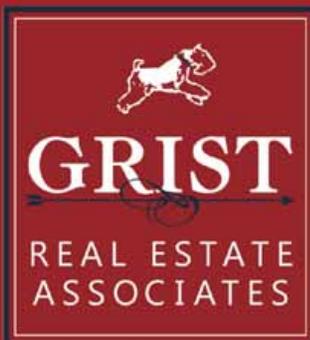


Courtesy Photo

**Parkersburg parishioners present Matthew 25 bags filled with basic necessities for those who are homeless to Catholic Charities’ parish outreach specialist.**

[CharitiesWV.org](http://CharitiesWV.org).

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



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# Papa: Los mártires son testigos del poder del amor

**Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — El martirio es ante todo un acto de amor, no de heroísmo, y aunque a menudo se produce en medio de la persecución, debería motivar a los cristianos a buscar la paz y la reconciliación, dijo el Papa Francisco.

La persecución y el martirio no son cosa del pasado, dijo a la gente en su audiencia general semanal del 19 de abril. "Hoy hay persecuciones contra los cristianos en el mundo, muchos, muchos. Son más los mártires de hoy que los de los primeros tiempos".

Como parte de su serie de discursos sobre el "celo" por la evangelización, el Papa Francisco habló sobre el testimonio de "la constelación de los mártires, hombres y mujeres de todas las edades, lenguas y naciones que han dado la vida por Cristo".

"Los mártires, imitando a

Jesús y con su gracia, convierten la violencia de quien rechaza el anuncio en una ocasión suprema de amor, que llega hasta el perdón de los propios verdugos", dijo el Papa. "Interesante esto: los mártires perdonan siempre a los verdugos. Estaban, el primer mártir, murió rezando: 'Señor, perdónales, no saben lo que hacen'. Los mártires rezan por los verdugos".

Para ilustrar su punto sobre el martirio moderno, el Papa Francisco llamó la atención específicamente sobre Yemen, "una tierra desde hace muchos años herida por una guerra terrible, olvidada, que ha dejado tantos muertos y que todavía hoy hace sufrir a tanta gente, especialmente a los niños".

De una población de unos 31.6 millones de habitantes, el Vaticano calcula que el número de católicos en Yemen es de unos 1,000.

En una situación de guerra y pobreza extrema, dijo el Papa Francisco, "ha habido testimo-

nios luminosos de fe, como el de las hermanas Misioneras de la Caridad, que han dado la vida allí. Todavía hoy están presentes en Yemen, donde ofrecen asistencia a ancianos enfermos y a personas con discapacidad. Algunas de ellas han sufrido el martirio, pero las otras siguen, arriesgan la vida y van adelante. Acogen a todos, de cualquier religión, porque la caridad y la fraternidad no tiene confines".

Sin embargo, el testimonio de amor a los demás de las hermanas les ha costado caro. El Papa recordó a la multitud en la Plaza de San Pedro que tres de las hermanas -- las hermanas Aletta, Zelia y Michael -- fueron "asesinadas por un fanático" en julio de 1998 cuando regresaban a casa después de Misa.

"Más recientemente, poco después del inicio del conflicto todavía en curso, en marzo de 2016, Sor Anselm, Sor Marguerite, Sor Reginette y Sor Judith fueron asesinadas junto a algu-

nos laicos que las ayudaban en la obra de la caridad entre los últimos", dijo el Papa.

Entre la docena de laicos "había fieles musulmanes que trabajaban con las hermanas", dijo.

"Nos conmueve ver cómo el testimonio de sangre puede unir personas de religiones diferentes", prosiguió. "Nunca se debe asesinar en nombre de Dios, porque para Él somos todos hermanos y hermanas. Pero juntos se puede dar la vida por los otros".

El Papa Francisco rezó para que los cristianos "no nos cansemos de testimoniar el Evangelio también en tiempo de tribulación".

"Que todos los santos y las santas mártires sean semillas de paz y de reconciliación entre los pueblos por un mundo más humano y fraterno, esperando que se manifieste en plenitud el Reino de los cielos, cuando Dios será todo en todos", dijo el Papa.

## **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](http://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](http://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 eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504.

También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en [www.dwc.org](http://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](http://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.

# Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

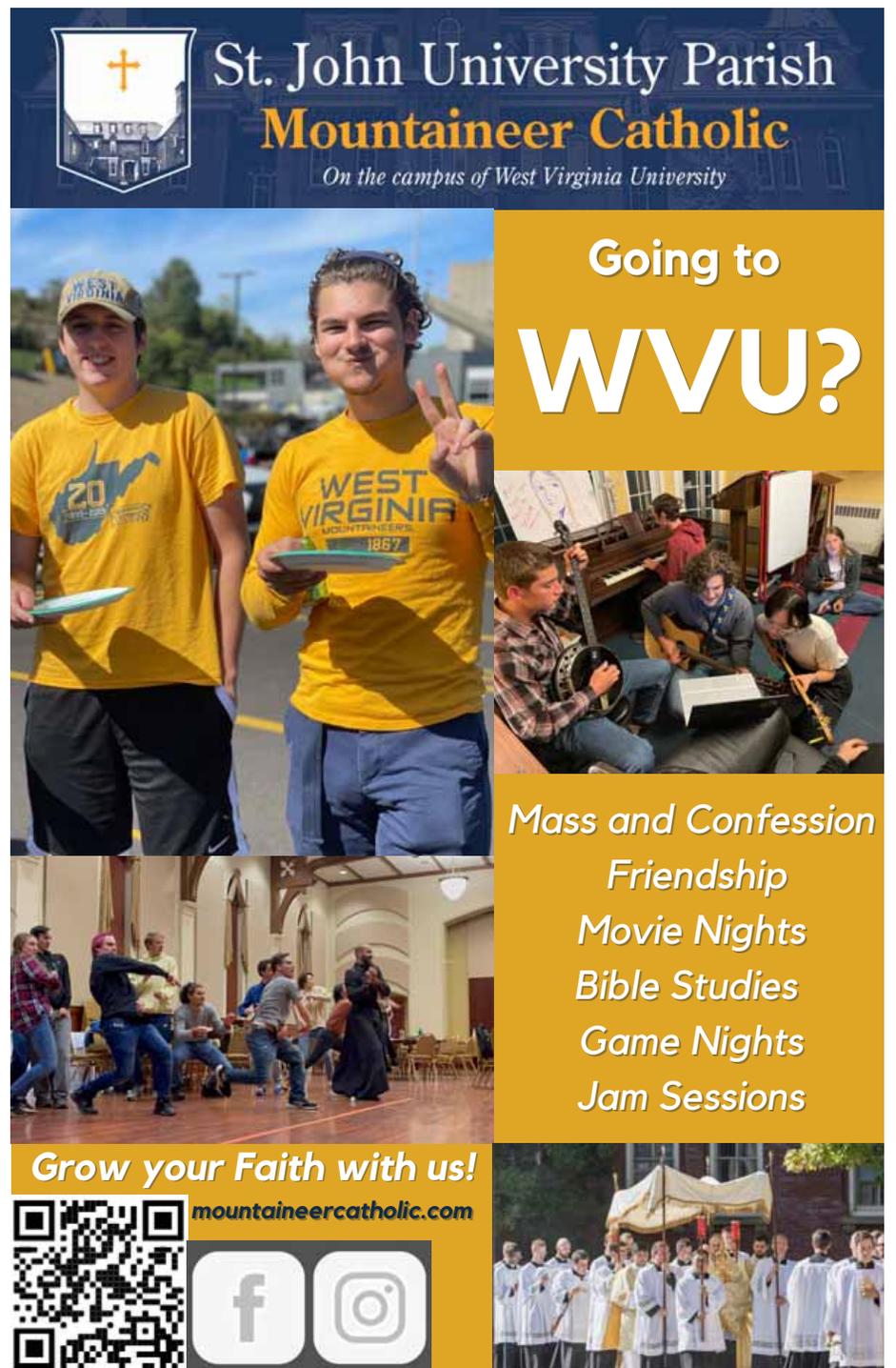
- Monday, April 24:** St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 25:** St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 30:** St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 6:** St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 6:** St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 11:**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



**Daily Living**  
with Fr. Chapin  
**Sunday Mornings**

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

Plus watch online at - [www.mydailyliving.com](http://www.mydailyliving.com) and YouTube



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*"Courage is doing the work of God!" - Pope St. John Paul II*

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"Boots" Jarvis, Co-Owner & Sec

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OFFERING AN

**EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

*For any grieving parent whose child of any age has died by any cause, no matter how long ago*

**ONE-DAY IN-PERSON SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

**October 14, 2023  
9:30am -7:30pm  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
2244 Marshall Avenue  
Wheeling, WV 26003**



*Give yourself the gift of getting away from everyday life to focus on your spiritual journey after the death of your precious child.*

**PRE-REGISTRATION\* REQUIRED**

See [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org) for more information and to register,

## Spiritual Retreats for Grieving Parents

*Join Us!*

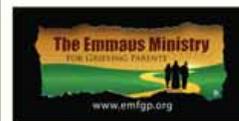
A Catholic Ministry serving the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago

Losing a child under any circumstances is horrendous. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously.

Just as He comforted his grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus comforts us and we comfort each other in this very special Catholic ministry.

With other Emmaus Parent Companions and Spiritual Leaders, find spiritual nourishment in a warm and loving place—to think, talk, feel and pray. Find compassion, rest and peace... at least for a time.

Space is limited! When maximum number is reached, registration will close. For more information or to register, see [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org) today!



Learn more at [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org) or call (800) 919-9332

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