Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling after traveling the state to gather with the faithful of many different parishes for Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Beginning in Richwood, Bishop Brennan celebrated Palm Sunday Masses at Holy Family Church. Parishioners Pam and Frank Hitt were very proud to have their grandsons Kevin and Nathan Herman, who were visiting from Virginia Beach, Va., to serve as altar servers at Mass. Bishop Brennan went on to celebrate the Chrism Masses at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston April 11 and the next day at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. He returned to Charleston for Holy Thursday Mass at the basilica, which was livestreamed on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Facebook page. The bishop then celebrated with the faithful of St. Brendan Parish in Elkins for Good Friday that Holy Week and Easter Celebrations Gather Bishop with Faithful from Richwood to Chester

See “Easter” on Page 2

Father Kuchinsky Reveals Role in DC Aborted Babies Case: ‘I Buried Them Myself’

By Katie Yoder Washington, D.C. Newsroom, Catholic News Agency
A West Virginia priest is speaking publicly about his role in providing a funeral Mass and dignified burial for more than 100 aborted babies that pro-life activists say they rescued outside of a Washington, D.C., abortion clinic.

“I buried the babies myself,” Father Bill Kuchinsky, 62, a longtime advocate for the unborn who also runs the Catholic prison ministry for the entire state of West Virginia, revealed in an interview with CNA. He declined to disclose the burial location other than to say it was in a private cemetery.

“They are in a peaceful place and will be well cared for,” Kuchinsky said, adding that a “proper headstone” will be added, eventually. “They do have a large statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary looking directly over them for now,” he said.

CNA also found that Kuchinsky’s bishop, Bishop Mark Brennan of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, fully supports the actions Kuchinsky took to ensure the babies’ remains were treated respectfully.

“Father William Kuchinsky’s Mass for and burial of around 100 children aborted at a Washington, D.C., abortion facility follow a long Christian tradition of practicing the corporal work of mercy for the dead, honoring their physical remains and burying them with love,” Bishop Brennan said in a statement to CNA Tuesday.

“I fully approve Father Kuchinsky’s caring actions. They remind us that these were real human children, not lifeless things—until their lives were unjustly taken from them,” the bishop added.

Activists Lauren Handy and Terrisa Bukovinac of Progressive Anti-Abortion Uprising (PAAU) first told See “Kuchinsky” on Page 2

Bishop Brennan Will Celebrate a Mass of Healing in Wheeling, Page 2

Temptation of Power, Money Can Obscure Easter Joy, Pope Says, Page 6
Bishop Brennan Will Celebrate a Mass of Healing in Wheeling

By Colleen Rowan

HEELING—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Safe Environment invites everyone to a special Mass for Healing to be celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan on Monday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at St. Michael Church in Wheeling.

“This Mass is for the Wheeling community to join together in prayer for healing for the abuse crisis, not only in our church but in our communities and families,” Safe Environment officials said. Concelebrating the Mass will be Father Carlos Melocoton, Jr., pastor of St. Michael’s, who shared that he is happy the bishop will be celebrating this Mass at his parish. Turning to Christ, Father Melocoton said, will always bring healing where needed.

“Miracles of healing can happen when Christ is present, ‘there is nothing impossible with God,’” he said. “Coming together to pray within the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, asking our Divine Physician for healing is a powerful profession of faith.”

Following the Mass, there will be a light reception in the St. Michael Parish School cafeteria.

Information about the diocese’s Office of Safe Environment, including ways to report abuse, can be found on the diocese’s website at dwc.org.

Kuchinsky...

Cont’d from Page 1

Kuchinsky recalled hearing reports on April 5 that they obtained 115 aborted babies from a driv- er for a sound recording company. Many outside Washington Surgi-Clinic on March 25, with the intention of giving the babies a dignified funeral and burial.

Five of the babies, who appear to be of late-term gestation, were located and collected by the Metropolitan Police Department on March 30. PAU says it arranged for D.C. police to collect and examine the babies, fearing that the babies’ injuries could be evidence of illegal abortions.

At the April 5 press conference, Hand, a Catholic, said that of the 115 victims of abortion violence were given a funeral Mass, and that the 110 babies not in police custody were buried “in a private cemetery by a priest.”

While the priest remained unnamed at the time, Kuchinsky has since identified himself.

During the babies’ burial, Kuchinsky said he recited burial prayers, blessed the grave, and placed a crucifix on it, marking where they lie.

‘Deeply honored’ to be involved

Kuchinsky said that Handy first contacted him the day that she received the babies, on March 25. When he called her back, two days later, he learned about the aborted babies remains.

“She asked that I come offer prayers for the babies in their apartment where the little ones were being kept in the refrigerator,” he said. “She said that would be good.”

Kuchinsky said he first met Bukovinac, an atheist, at the D.C. apartment where the funeral Mass was held on March 28. But he has known Handy from pro-life work for roughly seven years.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies in 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 Regarding to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshops. 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: 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 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 Schuemier, 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” in 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.


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April 22, 2022

Kuchinsky...
Cont’d from Page 2

could sing a song.

“What they chose was a beauti-
ful song, not unsuitable to the lit-
urgy, expressing a desire for a world
without abortion and, if I re-
member correctly, for peace,” he
said.

He remembered seeing “many
tears” that day.

“These babies were loved by
those present,” the priest said. The
burial, he said, took place a few
days later, on April 1.

In a joint statement to CNA,
Handy and Bukovinac praised Ku-
chinsky for the support he has
given them.

“We are impressed and inspired
by Fr. Bill’s continuous courage on
behalf of the unborn. In our great-
est time of need, he was there,”
they said. “We will forever be grate-
ful for all he has done to support us
and to ensure we were able to keep
our promise to the Curtis Bay whis-
tleblower: to give a proper funeral
and burial for these children.”

‘I felt an obligation to them’

The priest said that, in this cir-
cumstance, there was no time to
seek “special permission” from his
diocese.

“I do believe that, as a priest,
those permissions — the faculties
— were mine to use for the benefit
of souls and the faithful,” he told
CNA.

Kuchinsky said he did have
some concerns about the legal im-
lications of the private interment
but went ahead with the burial be-
cause his “overriding concern” was
that their remains be treated with
dignity.

“I remembered that these were
babies who were murdered and
being carted off to burn, possibly
for energy, as ‘medical waste,’” he
wrote in an email. “I felt an obliga-
tion to them, to God, and to hu-
mankind, to make sure they had a
proper burial.”

PAAU previously said that the
driver of a medical waste disposal
truck for Curtis Bay Medical Waste
Services gave Bukovinac and Hand-
y a cardboard box, which they
later found to contain the 115 babies’ remains. Kuchinsky said he
considered the driver a “hero as
well,” adding, “I hope, if he is in
need, he will turn to the pro-life
community for help, for another
job.”

In a statement, Curtis Bay,
which operates a medical waste in-
cinerator in Baltimore, denied its
driver gave away any boxes from
the clinic. The company also said
its policy does not allow for the dis-
posal of fetal remains. PAAU later
released time-stamped images of
boxes reading “Curtis Bay Energy”
by the street curb outside of the
abortion clinic. The group’s
members also have speculated that
the building’s security cameras may
have captured video footage of the
exchange.

Exposing the ‘reality’ of abortion

Kuchinsky said he wants people
to know first and foremost that
these babies “are loved by God”
and that “Jesus desires to forgive,
to save, and to heal, those who have
chosen to kill their babies.”

“I pray that this opening of the
veil into the abortion industry ... and
the reality of what abortion does:
takes the life in a most gruesome
way of a fellow human being — a
truth we can see with our own eyes —
in what the Church has called an ‘unspeakable
crime,’” he wrote in an email to CNA.

The Catechism of the Catholic
Church, which summarizes Church
teaching, recognizes the inherent
dignity and worth of the unborn
human person and considers abor-
tion a “crime against human life.”

Kuchinsky said he prays that the
babies, and the photos of them,
“may help to wake people up to the
atrocities being committed thou-
ands of times a day, that we might
close the baby.”

Kuchinsky went on to cite Pope
St. John Paul II’s remarks from a
1987 address in Detroit: “This is the
dignity of America: the reason she
exists, the condition for her sur-
vival — yes, the ultimate test of her
greatness: to respect every human
person, especially the weakest and
most defenseless ones, those as yet
unborn.”

‘I have been changed’

Kuchinsky shared that he is still
processing how this experience has
affected him.

“It may sound strange, but I
have been in a ‘mission mode’ to
help the heroes of this story, to be
with them as they mourn, to make
sure everything I could do was
taken care of ... setting my emo-
tions to the side to be there for
the babies and their adopted family,”
he wrote in an email. “But, it is safe
to say, I have been changed.”

There is “trauma to be dealt
with” from what he witnessed, he
acknowledged. “May Jesus and
Mary help me.”

Kuchinsky said he has been in
sporadic contact with Handy and
Bukovinac in the weeks since the
funeral and burial.

“I am proud of the work they are
doing,” he said. “PAAU seems to
be responding appropriately,” he said,
adding that the group is “providing
a needed witness” by sharing im-
ages of the babies and calling for
autopsies of the five later-term
babies.

He added, “I can’t help but think
how much more [we] as Christians,
as Catholics with the sacraments
and the fullness of faith could, and
should, be doing.”

“How should the Christian com-
munity react to this mass murder
happening around us thousands of
times each day? Peacefully of
course!” he stressed in an email, re-
ferring to abortion. “But, there is
much more we SHOULD be doing
given the reality of abortion and
the grave harm it causes: dead
babies, wounded mothers, and the
culture of death.”

A pending investigation

Since the discovery of the five babies’ remains,lawmakers have sent multiple letters and pro-
life groups have held rallies calling
for a full investigation and autopsi-
ies of the babies’ bodies. Ku-
chinsky said he attended rallies
outside D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser’s
office and the D.C. medical ex-
aminer’s office, where pro-life
groups believe the five babies are
located.

The mayor has given no indica-
tion that the city intends to au-
topsy the remains. Instead of ad-
ressing concerns about the abor-
tionist, she suggested Handy may
have violated a federal law. Handy,
along with eight others, was in-
dicted on March 30 for an incident
unrelated to the discovery of the
babies. The Justice Department
charged her and eight others with
consorting against rights and Free-
dom of Access to Clinic Entrances
Act (FACE Act) offense after a pro-
test they staged at the Washington
Surgi-Clinic in 2020. Handy has
pleaded not guilty.

While D.C. police previously
said that the five babies were
aborted in accordance with D.C.
law, pro-life leaders are concerned
that the abortions could have violated federal law prohibiting the
killing of babies outside the wom-

Washington Surgi-Clinic, where
PAAU says the babies’ remains
came from, is operated by Dr. Ce-
sare Santangelo, an OB/GYN and
well-known D.C. abortionist. In
2013, pro-life group Live Action re-
leased a video it secretly recorded
in which Santangelo says that he
would allow a child who survived
an abortion attempt to die if the
child was born during the proce-
dure.

The Metropolitan Police De-
partment told CNA that there were no
updates to provide regarding its in-
vestigation as of Monday. CNA has
contacted the Washington Surgi-
Clinic multiple times for comment
and has received no response. The
D.C. medical examiner’s office is
directing all questions to the mayor’s
office, which has not re-
sponded to CNA’s multiple requests
for comment.

(Katie Yoder is a correspondent
in CNA’s Washington, D.C. bureau.
She covers pro-life issues, the U.S.
Catholic bishops, public, policy,
and Congress. This story is courtesy
of Catholic News Agency.)
Easter...  
Cont’d from Page 1

Vigil at Sacred Heart Parish in Chester bringing six individuals (Zackery Eckenrod, Tanner Dudick, George McIntosh, Kelly McIntosh, Sean McIntosh, and Gina McIntosh) into full communion with the Catholic Church through the sacraments. The bishop confirmed all six, and they all received first holy Communion. The bishop also baptized one in the group.

Finally, Bishop Brennan was back in Wheeling for Easter Sunday morning Mass at a packed cathedral in Wheeling. The Mass was televised live and livestreamed on the diocese’s website and Facebook page.

In his homily, the bishop spoke of God’s profound love. Having watched his son put to death, Bishop Brennan said, God the Father demonstrated his enduring love for his son and his approval of his son’s sacrifice on the cross for us by raising Jesus bodily from the dead. The Father’s love was effective in a way that our love, in the face of death, never could be, Bishop Brennan said. Not only that, but the life to which the Father raised his son surpasses a simple return to this natural life because Jesus’ new life is eternal and immune to any injury or trouble—it is a supernatural, glorified life.

"This is the great victory, the victory of God that we celebrate this morning," Bishop Brennan said. "The destruction, in Jesus, of death through his resurrection."

The bishop then pointed to the words of Peter to Cornelius in the first reading (Acts 10:34a, 37-43), everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness for sins in his name. "Sin is the great barrier between us and God," the bishop said. "All sin offends God, but Jesus has won our forgiveness by taking on himself the burden of our sins, removing that barrier."

Bishop Brennan also pointed to the urging of St. Paul in the second reading: "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

The bishop continued, saying: "So, Easter is not only Jesus Christ’s victory over death by the loving will of the Father, it is our anticipated victory over death as well."

The story does not end with the testimony of Christ’s resurrection by his disciples, Bishop Brennan said. "We who have put our faith in Jesus Christ have through the ages experienced the power of his risen life. Invisibly, but really, he is involved in our lives. He strengthens us, especially through the sacraments of the church beginning with baptism. I had the pleasure of baptizing a young man last night at Sacred Heart Parish in Chester and then receiving five other people into the church at that same Mass."

Following baptism, the bishop said, "the Lord strengthens us and continues with the other sacraments, especially the Eucharist which is truly his body and blood. The Lord and inspires, encourages, consoles, and challenges us through the Scriptures and by his example. He is present where two or three disciples gather in his name, and he hears our prayers. He motivates us to engage in good works and to persevere in them when we encounter difficulties."

Good works such as schools, hospitals, and religious orders that were founded to carry on the work of Christ have endured for centuries, the bishop said. Our Christian movement, he continued, could only start when Jesus rose from the dead.

"This movement of ours continues to attract human beings despite persecutions, poverty, and scandals," Bishop Brennan said. "In all these ways, the risen Lord Jesus is still with his people according to his promise, ‘I am with you always until the end of the age.’ So, my brothers and sisters, there is more to come."

The bishop then recalled a time when he was a seminarian in Rome. On a bus going into the city, he sat down next to a man who turned out to be "perhaps the greatest American biblical scholar of his generation, Father Raymond Brown. He was the author of two books: “The Birth of the Messiah” and “The Death of the Messiah.” Although he had written articles for biblical journals and lectured on Christ’s resurrection, someone asked Father Brown if he was planning to write a book on the resurrection of the Messiah. He replied, “That is a mystery I prefer to encounter personally.”

Father Brown died a few years later, Bishop Brennan said, “and I trust—for he was not only renowned as a great scholar but as a faithful and kind priest—that the future resurrection is in store for him.

“My brothers and sisters,” the bishop continued, “it is in store for us too if only we will not lose heart and will, as St. Paul urges us, think of what is above and not only of what is on earth.”

Bishop Mark Brennan greets the faithful following his celebration of Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 17.

Bishop Mark Brennan administers the sacrament of confirmation at the Easter Vigil at Sacred Heart Parish in Chester April 16.
An Easter Treat for the Faithful at dwc.org

‘The story of Easter eagerly told by a group of spunky kiddos’

By Joyce Bibey

This year we bring to you an extra special Easter message. It is the story of Easter eagerly told by a group of spunky kiddos. The video is brought to you by a creative team at the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston lead by Mark Haas and Chris Cendaña. The video is titled An Easter Treat for the Faithful and may be viewed on the diocese’s website at dwc.org.

Enjoy this sweet conversation. Oh! At the end Bishop Mark Brennan shares a special memory from his childhood.

As we reflect on our own memories and focus on the meaning of these holy days, Bishop Mark said, “I encourage you to celebrate this Feast of Jesus with great Joy! God bless you all!”

Children around the diocese tell the story of Easter.

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For more information, please contact Ryan Schaefer at rschaefer@dwc.org.
Temptation of Power, Money Can Obscure Easter Joy, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The allure of power and money can be used to proclaim falsehoods and obscure the joyous announcement of Christ’s victory over death, Pope Francis said.

“Falsehoods — in words and in life — taint the announcement, they corrupt within, leading back to the tomb,” the pope said before quoting the “Regina Coeli” April 18 with visitors in St. Peter’s Square.

“The Risen One instead wants us to come out of the tombs of falsehood and dependency. Before the risen Lord, there is another ‘god’ — the god of money that dirties and ruins everything, that closes the door to salvation,” he said.

The pope reflected on the day’s Gospel reading from St. Matthew, which recalled the resurrected Christ telling the women who were at his tomb to not be afraid and instructing them to “go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Jesus’ words, he said, are “two pieces of advice that would be good also for us to welcome as an Easter gift.”

In telling the women to not be afraid, the pope said Jesus knows that “our fears are our daily enemies,” especially the fear of death. Yet, by conquering death, Jesus “invites us to come out of the tomb of our fears.”

“He knows that fear is always lurking at the door of our heart, and we need to hear ourselves say do not be afraid, fear not on Easter morning; as on the morning of every day, ‘Do not be afraid,’” the pope said.

Jesus’ instruction to “go and tell” the disciples to meet him in Galilee, the pope continued, is also an invitation for Christians to go out and proclaim the resurrection to those who are closed in by fear.

“The joy of Christ is strengthened by giving it, it multiplies sharing it. If we open ourselves and bear the Gospel, our hearts will open and overcome fear. This is the secret: We proclaim and overcome fear,” he said.

However, recalling the money given to the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb so that they would counter the story of Jesus’ resurrection, Pope Francis said the belief in their lies shows the power of money, which is “the other lord that Jesus says we must never serve.”

“Here is the falsehood, the logic of concealment that opposes the proclamation of truth,” he said. “Falsehoods take us backward, they lead right to death, to the tomb.”

Pope Francis said that while many are rightly scandalized “when in the news we discover deceit and lies in the lives of persons and society,” Christians should also reflect on “obscurity and falsehoods we have in ourselves.”

“Let us place our own darkness and falsehoods before the light of the risen Jesus,” the pope said. “He wants to bring hidden things to light to make us transparent and luminous witnesses to the joy of the Gospel, of the truth that will make you free.”
One Mission One Day to Make a Difference

May 3, 2022

Support Catholic Schools!

OneMissionOneDay.org
Mountaineer Catholic is Home Away from Home for WVU Catholic Students

West Virginia University students who stayed on campus during spring break enjoy a nice Easter dinner together April 17 at St. John University Parish’s Newman Hall in Morgantown. The hall is always open for students to spend time together, study, and grow in their faith. The parish’s campus ministry program, Mountaineer Catholic, sponsors weekly formational and recreational events for students such as Bible studies, Dinner for a Dollar, movie nights, prayer groups, and various socials. Students are encouraged to attend daily Mass and make frequent use of the Sacrament of Confession. Spring and Fall semester retreats also help students take time out of their busy school schedule to deepen their relationship with Christ. For more information, contact Colleen Criste, Campus Minister director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry, at (304) 296-8231.

Franciscan University’s Center for Beauty to Host Two Musical Events

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—The Franciscan University Center for Beauty will host two musical events on April 25 and May 2 that are free and open to the public.

“Mozart! A Listen-and-Learn Musical Performance” will feature violinist Stephen Tavani, assistant concertmaster with the Cleveland Orchestra; Stanley Konopka, director of Franciscan University’s Chamber Orchestra and assistant principal violist with the Cleveland Orchestra; and pianist Audrey Konopka, Franciscan University philosophy major. The performance is Monday, April 25, in the Gentile Gallery at 6:00 p.m.

On Monday, May 2, at 8:00 p.m., Franciscan University’s Chamber Orchestra will perform music from John Tavener and Johannes Sebastian Bach in Christ the King Chapel. The performance will feature Rodrigo Ojeda, principal keyboardist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Stanley Konopka.

For more information, go to franciscan.edu/monday-arts-and-culture-series.
‘Tilapia Walk In, Drive In To Go Dinners’ Continue in White Sulphur Springs

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS—The traditional Lenten season Friday night fish dinners are continuing in the Greenbrier Valley for April 22 and 29, under the auspices of the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus.

Served either drive up or walk in to go, the dinner of Tilapia, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, hard roll, drink, dessert, sauces and utensils are available 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Butler Hall of St. Thomas Episcopal Church on West Main St. (US 60)

In White Sulphur Springs. Tables are available for those who wish to eat with friends, but no table service is available.

“We started two weeks into Lent due to the weather pattern of bad conditions on Fridays thru December, January and February and hope to have good weather for the remaining two dinners,” notes Perk Berry, grand knight of Council 8689. Despite the poor weather on three of the first four Fridays, the Council has had a good turnout for all four dinners and excellent volunteers from the Knights’ Auxiliary, and the congregations of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ronceverte, St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs and Sacred Heart Church in Rainelle.

The volunteer culinary staff headed by Sue Moats from Pocahontas County, a chef at The Greenbrier, and Paul Cicorial, banquet chef at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, includes also Deacon and Knight Bill Strange, and retired Chef Debra Fabray.

For further information, telephone the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley, (304) 536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus (304) 645-1373.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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

A Prayerful, Lively Lent in Farmington

St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Farmington has been busy during Lent. The small Marion County parish had stations of the cross every Friday evening, Mass and Adoration every Wednesday, and “rosary with Tony” at 6:30 a.m. Friday mornings. The parish also had a food drive as its almsgiving to the Littleton Food Pantry, and celebrated first confession for children preparing for their first holy Communion. Coffee and donuts were served by the CCD Students for the parish, and successful Synod meetings were also held. Pictured above are Amber Aloi and Julian Aloi, preparing the donut trays for the donuts and coffee after Mass. They volunteered to do this through Lent, along with the CCD children.
Positive priest characters are certainly a rarity in contemporary films. So Catholics will welcome the uplifting fact-based biography "Father Stu" (Columbia).

While deeply moving, however, this dramatization of the life of Stuart Long (Mark Wahlberg) is also hard-edged, particularly in terms of its dialogue.

Yet that’s part of the point. The movie is fundamentally about God’s ability to use seemingly unpromising people to do his will, in this case a once-boozy ex-boxer.

With the continuance of his somewhat successful career in the ring rendered too dangerous by a medical condition, Stuart moves to Los Angeles and tries to reinvent himself as a Hollywood star. Instead, he winds up as a directionless supermarket clerk.

But things begin to turn around for him when he falls at first sight for Carmen (Teresa Ruiz), a devout CCD teacher. Determined to win her over, he goes through the motions of becoming a Catholic, though an awkward confession and other interactions show that he has yet to be won over in reality.

All that changes after a motorcycle accident and a close brush with death during which he experiences the presence of the Virgin Mary. The result is not only a genuine conversion but a prayer-inspired realization that God is calling him to the priesthood.

Predictably, the news of this radical change in direction proves crushing to Carmen. It’s also a source of consternation to his emotionally abusive father, Bill (Mel Gibson), an implacable atheist, and his caring but equally unbelieving mother, Kathleen (Jacki Weaver).

A tribute to a future cleric who showed dogged determination and grit in the face of a series of apparently insurmountable obstacles, writer-director Rosalind Ross’s profile also showcases Stuart’s unconventional but effective approach to preaching the Gospel. And Wahlberg brings his striking, memorable character vividly to life, skillfully portraying Stuart’s odd combination of crudity and idealism.

Grown viewers will easily get past the earthy language with which the script is filled to appreciate the picture’s faith-inspiring core. But the persistent vulgarity, while justified in context, may prove more problematic for younger movie fans who might otherwise benefit from this portrait of a vocation.

Still, at least some parents may feel that the credibility lent to Stuart’s struggles by the saltiness of his starting point outweighs what would normally be objectionable elements of speech and behavior. If the outcome of that calculation were either increased zeal or, in particular, openness to journeying down the path Stuart himself followed, his hard-won spiritual triumph might be replicated in real life.

The film contains some physical violence, a bloody accident, off-screen premarital sexual activity, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, several milder oaths and pervasive rough and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.
Wheeling University to Immerse New Cardinals in Campus Life During April Orientation

WHEELING—Wheeling University’s new student orientation Saturday, April 23 will engage students and their families in what life will be like when they join the Cardinal family in August.

The new student orientation is designed to provide students with essential information related to academic requirements and campus resources offered at Wheeling University. In addition, orientation activities offer the opportunity to connect with the resources available to the students.

The orientation will feature several interactive activities to immerse the students in all aspects of university life, including a panel discussion lead by current students. This panel discussion gives the prospective students the chance to have an open conversation about life on campus with current students.

The day will feature a welcome from Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede, a student panel and some fun student ice-breaker activities for the chance at winning prizes. The one-stop shop during lunch offers families a centralized location to talk and meet with various departments including financial aid, the registrar, residence life, campus activities, campus ministry, student accounts, information technology, campus safety and security, athletics and admissions. This is a convenient way for students and their families to meet face-to-face with University officials and finalize any outstanding items prior to the start of the Fall semester.

Wheeling faculty members will be on hand to meet with students who have any questions about their major and class schedule.

The Student Activities Office and Campus Activities Board (CAB) are planning breakout sessions that will immerse the new students in social media platforms and involve them in some fun activities to test their knowledge of Wheeling. The department also has plans to involve students in creating a social media hashtag for the day, with the best to be recognized.

The orientation shapes new students’ experiences by encouraging new friendships, allowing students to get comfortable before they begin in the fall. The experience takes the pressure off meeting new people, gives students a chance to learn their way around campus and get an in-depth look into resources available. Parents and students will even get a chance to walk around with a guided tour, visiting the Student Success Center, Starbucks, the 24-hour Student Lounge, Das Rathskeller campus pub, Bishop Hodges Library and the Alma Grace McDonough Center – that features an indoor track, Olympic size pool and several weight and fitness rooms.

“Getting the chance to meet the new members of the Cardinal family at orientation is a highlight for each of us at Wheeling University. I look forward to meeting and speaking to the class of 2027 and their families. This Cardinal Orientation puts those attending on a pathway to a successful experience at the University,” said President Favede. “The orientation puts all the pieces in place ahead of time so the students can begin their college careers with ease when they arrive on campus for the Fall semester.”

In order to attend the April orientation, prospective students must have paid their deposit and registered in advance. Any prospective students who wish to attend should contact the Admissions Office at 304-243-2359, email admis@wheeling.edu or register online at https://apply.wheeling.edu/portal/events.

Survey of Catholic Doctrine Course Begins April 25

Survey of Catholic Doctrine course is available April 25-May 15 (registration opened March 9). This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. We will look at the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms. By the end of the course we will have: Understood some arguments for the existence of God; Defined revelation as God’s communication with us; Articulated why the Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith and life; Articulated how Scripture speaks of God as creator; Described original sin as a condition we are born into where we are inclined toward choosing evil; Understood Jesus as God’s self revealed; Understood the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church; Understood the role of the Church in God’s plan of salvation and the relationship of the Catholic Church and other religions; Articulated how Mary and the saints are models of Christian holiness; Described the Church’s teachings in the area of eschatology.

This course will be facilitated by Dr. Rodica Stoicouiu. It is offered through the VLCFF program of the University of Dayton and underwritten by the diocese, which will cover the tuition and the book. To register, contact Jeanne McKee at jmckee@wvu.org

Catechetical Leadership Formation Program

“The importance of the ministry of catechesis… would suggest that there should be in a Diocese a certain number of religious and lay publicy recognized and permanently dedicated to catechesis who, in communion with priests and the Bishop, give to this diocesan service the ecclesial form which is proper to it.” ~ Directory for Catechesis, 123

2021-2022 Catechetical Leadership Formation Program Members

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to learn more about this wonderful program and consider joining!

Please visit dwc.org/clfp or scan the QR code below to learn more and join.
First Spanish Exemplifications in West Virginia Held in Martinsburg

MARTINSBURG—On Sunday afternoon, March 27, Knights of Columbus Msgr. Lackey Council 1169 hosted the First Spanish Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity in West Virginia. The Conferring Officer for the degree was West Virginia State Deputy, Frank Koeing, while the Honoree for this Degree was Bernard A. Slominski who recently obtained 68 years of Loyal and Faithful Service to the Knights. The council asks all to “please welcome our newest Knights: Domingo Tlapanco, Edy Herrera, Jorge Rodriguez, Jose Corona, Juan Portillo and Rogelio Lujan. 77.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Champions Hail from All over West Virginia

WESTON—The West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championships were held recently at the gymnasium at St. Patrick School in Weston.

Boys and girls winners at the local levels from across the state, came together to complete in the championship round. Each contestant tries to make as many three throws that they can from the free throw line in the allotted time.

This year’s “Free Throw Contest Champions” for each age group are: Jacob Mick, 14, Weston; Brady Jordan, 13, Weston; Jay Bordas, 12, Wheeling; Jackson Bell, 11, Wheeling; Conner Jordan, 10, Weston; Luke Bordas, 10, Wheeling; Matthew Crytzer, 9, Hurricane; Frank Koenig, State Deputy; Chris Todd, Free Throw Chairman. Kneeling L to R: Melah Paulus, 11, Wheeling; Madelyn Hunnell, 10, Wheeling; Gianna White, 9, Wheeling; Johna Cunningham, 9, Weston.

In honor of Father McGivney’s Beatification......

On-Line Membership is FREE until June 30, 2022.

Use Promo Code: MCGIVNEY2020
Papa: Tentación del Poder y el Dinero Pueden Oscurecer Alegria Pascual

Por Junno Archo Espeotes, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El encanto del poder y el dinero puede usarse para proclamar falsedades y oscurecer el gozoano anuncio de la victoria de Cristo sobre la muerte, dijo el papa Francisco.

"Las falsedades, en palabras y en la vida, contaminan el anuncio, corrompen por dentro y conducen a la tumba", dijo el papa antes de recitar el "Regina Coeli" el 18 de abril con los visitantes en la Plaza de San Pedro.

"El Réncido no cambia quiere que salgamos de las tumbas de la mentira y de la dependencia. Antes del Resucitado, hay otros 'dios', el dios del dinero que ensucia y arruina todo, que cierra la puerta a la salvación", dijo.

El papa reflexionó sobre la lectura del Evangelio del día de San Mateo, que recordó a Cristo resucitado diciéndoles a las mujeres que estaban en su tumba que no tuvieran miedo y mandándolas a "id y decid" a los discípulos.

"Aquí está la falsedad, la lógica del ocultamiento que se opone a la proclamación de la verdad", dijo. "Las falsedades nos llevan hacia atrás, nos lle- van directo a la muerte, al sepulcro".

El papa Francisco dijo que si bien muchos se escandalizan con razón "cuando en las noticias descubrimos engaños y mentiras en la vida de las personas y la sociedad", los cristianos también deben reflexionar sobre "la oscuridad y las falsedades que tenemos en nosotros mismos".

"Pongamos nuestras propias tinieblas y falsedades ante la luz de Jesús resucitado", dijo el papa. "Él quiere sacar a la luz lo oculto para hacernos testigos transparentes y luminosos de la alegría del Evangelio, de la verdad que os hará libres".

Primeras ejemplificaciones en español en Virginia Occidental celebradas en Martinsburg

El domingo 27 de marzo por la tarde, el consejo monseñor Lackey 1169 de Caballeros de Colón organizó la Primera Ejemplificación de Caridad, Unidad y Fraternidad en español en Virginia Occidental. El Oficial que otorga el título fue Bernard A. Skorniski, quien recientemente obtuvo 60 años de Servicio Leal.

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Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mal conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacón, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendir cuentas", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denunciar abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede descargar en línea en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar a la Oficina de la Diocesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988. Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mal comportamiento financiero, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis 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 "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denunciar abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede descargar en línea en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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Volunteers: Helping Work toward Our Mission

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Regional Director

The personal care closet at our Martinsburg office helps meet a basic need for many individuals and families by providing hygiene and cleaning supplies that cannot be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. It is often the first step in Catholic Charities staff members developing a supportive relationship with our clients who may not feel seen.

For more than two years, Cheryl Gregory has been doing a regular inventory of the personal care closet, developing shopping lists, finding the best prices, purchasing items and then helping us stock our shelves. Cheryl also serves on our fundraising committee and donates her homemade crafts for the auction. If that weren’t enough, she has convinced her husband, Jim, to make trips to the Martinsburg office every other week to pick up our recycling.

We appreciate Cheryl and all of our volunteers who help work toward our mission!

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

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

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

Principal Needed
St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, WV

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

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

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

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

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

Catechists Needed
St. Leo Parish, Inwood, WV

St. Leo Parish in Inwood, WV, is looking for individuals wishing to become certified Level I for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program (CGS). The CGS program is a religious based program in a Montessori environment. St. Leo currently has a Level I Atrium but is in need of additional catechists. The Level I training is divided into Part I & Part II. Part I will be offered this year, July 11 to 16 at Christ the Redeemer Church in Sterling, Va. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The diocese will pay the registration fee & St. Leo will give each person registered $100 towards gas. If you are looking for a way to give back to your church or a way to become involved this is an amazing opportunity. Please contact the office at (304) 229-8945 or e-mail familylife@stleo.com.

Pastoral Associate Needed
Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston, WV

Blessed Sacrament Church, a mid-sized, vibrant Catholic parish in South Charleston, WV, seeks to hire a full-time, salaried Pastoral Associate who will direct all faith formation programs and coordinate all liturgical ministries in close collaboration with the pastor, youth minister and music minister, along with a host of volunteers. The ideal candidate is a loving, faith-filled, practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, with either a masters level degree in education or theology, or equivalent experience. Good “people skills”, written and oral communication skills and familiarity with computers and social media are a must. Send questions, résumé, references and salary expectations to Rev. John H. Finnell at blessed sacrament305@gmail.com, preferably by May 5, 2022.
Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don't ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We'll protect you, and take good care of you.