

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

# An Easter Message from Bishop Brennan



Martina Hart photo

Gathered with the faithful, Bishop Mark Brennan begins the celebration of Palm Sunday at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 29.

Dear brothers and sisters in faith,  
 In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the author Qoheleth says: *What has been, that will be; what has been done, that will be done. There is nothing new under the sun* [1:9]. But Qoheleth’s perspective awaited the illumination of Easter.

When a dead man rises to a new kind of life in which he can no longer suffer or die, that is something truly new. Jesus’ resurrection from

the dead reveals that eternal life for human beings is not an empty hope but a reality. Just as he rose by the divine power in him, so our dead bodies will rise to new life when Christ returns in glory. Joined once again to our immortal souls, our bodies, too, shall enjoy the blessings God has prepared for us in heaven. Qoheleth’s faith in God was real but imperfect. Now in heaven, he knows the full truth.

Troubles abound in our world and we must endure much suffering, but we should remember that a bright future awaits us. The newness of life God wills for us will finally prevail. Reflect on St. Teresa of Avila’s words: “Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God

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**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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint 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://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org).

### 2026 Print Dates:

- Easter, April 10 (Easter Sunday, April 5)
- Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 15
- Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 12
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
- Triumph of the Cross, September 11
- Month of the Rosary, October 9
- Advent, November 20
- Christmas, December 18

**Sexual Abuse Awareness Training :** The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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# USCCB President Asks Catholics to ‘Pray Ardently’ for an End to War With Iran

**(OSV News)** — Catholics during Holy Week should continue to “pray ardently” for a de-escalation of violence in the Middle East, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement April 1.

“During this holiest of weeks, let us continue to pray ardently for mutually respectful and effective dialogue that leads to a ceasefire and a negotiated end to the conflict with Iran,” he said.

Archbishop Coakley underscored Pope Leo’s call for peace made on Palm Sunday, when the pope said: “Just as the Church contemplates the mystery of the Lord’s Passion, we cannot forget those who today are truly sharing in his suffering.”

“The longer the conflict with Iran continues, including the risk of deploying ground troops to the region, the greater the risk of a dramatic escalation risking an ever-greater regional conflict,” Archbishop Coakley said. “I welcome the Administration’s indications that the war with Iran may soon be coming to an end. And I join our Holy Father’s urgent calls for the Administration and all parties involved to take decisive action toward an immediate ceasefire, and for effective dialogue to resolve this dangerous impasse.”

In his first Palm Sunday homily March 29, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed that Jesus, the King of Peace, embraces all suffering in human history and cries out from the cross against war. Pope Leo repeated the phrase “King of Peace” seven times throughout his homily, weaving it through different moments of the Passion of Christ, pointing to Jesus as a victim of unjust violence who never took up arms in his own defense.

“Christ, King of Peace, cries out again from his cross: God is love! Have mercy! Lay down your

weapons! Remember that you are brothers and sisters,” the pope said.

Two days later, in comments outside Castel Gandolfo, Pope Leo told reporters: “I was told that President Trump had recently stated that he would like to end the war. Hopefully he’s looking for an off-ramp. Hopefully he’s looking for a way to decrease the amount of violence, of bombing, which would be a significant contribution to re-

moving the hatred that’s being created and is increasing constantly in the Middle East and elsewhere.”

Pope Leo continued: “So I would certainly continue to give this call to all leaders of the world: to say, come back to the table to dialogue, let’s look for solutions to problems, let’s look for ways to reduce the amount of violence that we’re promoting, and that peace, especially at Easter, might reign in our

hearts.”

Archbishop Coakley concluded his statement by calling on Christians to be “peacemakers.”

“Emboldened by Easter’s powerful, transformative grace, I urge the faithful to continue praying ardently for mutual respectful and effective dialogue, and that we Christians be true to our vocation as peacemakers, the ‘light of the world’ and the ‘salt of the earth’ (Matthew 5:13-14),” he said.

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Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan consecrates the Holy Chrism at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 31.



AJ Emery photo

Priests renew their priestly promises at the Chrism Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 30.

## Message ...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

lacks nothing; God alone suffices.”

As we celebrate Christ’s victory over sin and death, let’s keep strong our confidence in God. He has done something absolutely new: He gave immortal life to a mortal man. That mortal man, God’s own Son, died and rose to share his new life with us. We can face the struggles of life with the patience of St. Teresa because God will uphold us and, when all is accomplished, He will raise us up to the fullness of life. Christ has risen and so shall we!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



Colleen Rowan photo

Deacon Bryce Timberlake carries the Oil of the Catechumens at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 31.

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### MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Thursday | April 2

6:00 p.m. - Live Stream

### PASSION OF THE LORD

Good Friday | April 3

3:00 p.m. - Live Stream

## EASTER MASS

Sunday | April 5

10:30 a.m.

Streamed & Broadcasted Live

WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield

WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington

WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown

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by the Welty Corporation.

# Listening to the Spirit in the Easter Season

The Easter Season is the perfect opportunity to continue to celebrate both the 175th anniversary of our Diocese and the 50th anniversary of the Appalachian pastoral letter "This Land is Home to Me." Three months ago, Bishop Mark Brennan extended an invitation to the entire Diocese to participate in the Catholic Committee of Appalachia's (CCA) initiative commemorating this letter by using the same conversation method that was used during the Synod on Synodality. To participate is simple. The Catholic Committee of Appalachia has already provided all that a small group needs here: <https://www.ccappal.org/conversationsinthespirit>

and Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu (rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com) and Deborah Stollery (deborah.stollery@gmail.com) are here to assist you.

Why might you participate? As Bishop Brennan noted in his previous letter, these experiences of Conversations in the Spirit designed to hear the cries of the poor will

- be a sign of our unity,
- demonstrate a concern for the poor today,
- to listen attentively to the insights of those currently serving the poor,
- to understand how the themes from the first pastoral letter are or are not relevant today

• to consider how the Spirit might be calling your parish to respond to the cries of the poor

A final reason to participate is to add your parish's efforts to the rest of the Diocese in carrying out an element of the Diocesan Evangelization Plan while learning how to carry out this deep listening to the Spirit that is synodality. Together as one Church, diocesan and universal, by gathering as parish families in this way, we can learn what it means to be synodal while serving those whom Christ held close to his heart. Hence, we invite you to enter more deeply into the spirit of Easter as one communion, to listen to the cry of the poor.

## Sister Dolores Alexander Keyser, ESEH, Renews Vows on Her 10th Anniversary

Sister Dolores Alexander Keyser, ESEH, renews her vows on her 10th anniversary as a Eudist Servant of the 11th hour at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling March 25. Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and pastor of St. Alphonsus (left), is presiding. Serving as her witnesses are Joe Pangilian and Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Sister Dolores is the Social Ministry Project coordinator and Prison Ministry support for the diocese.

Courtesy photo

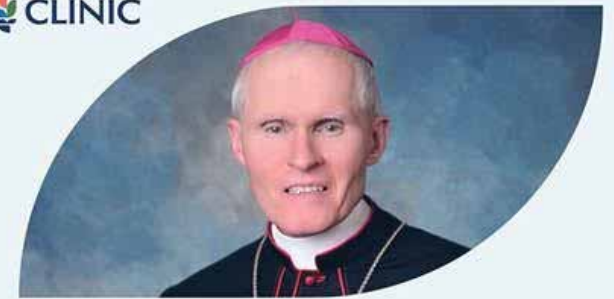


# Who is My Neighbor?

## A discussion on Catholic Social Teaching & Immigration

**April 8, 2026 | 6:30 – 8:00pm**

St. Mary Peace Hall Parish Center  
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**Bishop Mark Brennan**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston

**Msgr. Paul Hudock**  
Hispanic Minister, St. Mary Parish

**Father Freddy D’Souza**  
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# Sept. 24 Beatification of Archbishop Sheen to be ‘a Moment of Immense Grace’

## VATICAN CITY (OSV News)

— Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be beatified on Sept. 24 in St. Louis, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints announced March 25.

The beatification will take place in St. Louis, with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect for the Dicastery for Evangelization, presiding.

On Feb. 9, the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, had announced that the Vatican had given the green light for the beatification of Archbishop Sheen to move forward six years after the Holy See had postponed the beatification, initially scheduled for December 2019, only weeks before the event was to take place.

In a statement March 25, Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria said the beatification will take place at 2 p.m. CT at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

“With anticipation of a great number of people wanting to participate, we chose this location because of availability, being indoors, and the close proximity to the Diocese of Peoria,” Bishop Tylka said.

Bishop Tylka added that a “number of events in Peoria” will be held “to celebrate this wonderful occasion.”

“This is a moment of immense grace for the Church — especially for us in the Diocese of Peoria, where Archbishop Sheen was born, ordained, and first served as a priest,” he added. “His life and ministry continue to inspire countless people to know and love Jesus Christ more deeply.”

“The Beatification Mass will be a profound moment of prayer and celebration for the faithful near and far,” Bishop Tylka said. “I invite all who have been touched by



OSV News file photo

**Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, pictured in an undated photo, is remembered as one of the most influential and innovative evangelists in American history. On March 25, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints announced the beatification of Archbishop Sheen will take place on Sept. 24 in St. Louis.**

Archbishop Sheen’s life and legacy to join us in spirit or in person for this historic event.”

Msgr. Roger Landry, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies USA, received the news of the beatification date with “incredible joy” and said he was “thrilled” Cardinal Tagle has been chosen “to be the papal legate, celebrant and preacher of the beatification Mass.”

Archbishop Sheen — who himself was national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (1950-66) — “is an inspiration not only to

all of us who continue his work of prayer and support for the Church’s missionary work across the globe but for all those whose faith has been strengthened by his preaching, broadcasting, writing, and holy Catholic life,” Msgr. Landry said in a March 25 statement to OSV News.

“Cardinal Tagle, like Sheen,” he added, is “an incredibly gifted preacher, but he will no doubt be able to emphasize the contributions that soon to be Blessed Fulton Sheen made and in many ways continues to make to the Church’s

mission work.”

In February, when it was announced Archbishop Sheen’s beatification would go forward, Bishop Tylka called the prelate “one of the greatest voices of evangelization in the Church and the world in the 20th century.”

“I have long admired his lifelong commitment to serve the Church as a priest, rooted in his deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Eucharist,” Bishop Tylka said. “As he journeyed through the different stages of his life, his ability to share the Gospel and truly relate to people drew countless souls into an encounter with Jesus — one that transformed not only his life, but more importantly, the lives of those he touched.”

Archbishop Sheen is remembered as one of the most influential and innovative evangelists in American history. Once dubbed “God’s microphone,” Archbishop Sheen announced God’s truth in a nonconfrontational, yet no less life-giving, manner to untold millions through radio, print and television.

That the announcement of the date of beatification for the archbishop was made on the Solemnity of the Annunciation is likewise very fitting,” Msgr. Landry said in his statement. “Archbishop Sheen spent his life continuing the work of the Archangel Gabriel, calling us to rejoice because the Lord is with us, and imitating the response of Mary in placing himself as a servant of the Lord, allowing his whole life to develop according to the Lord’s word.”

The priest added, “I can’t wait to be in St. Louis on September 24 celebrating with Catholics from across the states and the world.”

# Supreme Court Backs Challenge to Colorado Conversion Therapy Ban

By **Kate Scanlon**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The U.S. Supreme Court March 31 issued a ruling finding that a Colorado law banning professional counseling services that practice “conversion therapy” for minors likely infringes on the First Amendment.

In an 8-1 ruling, the Supreme Court said the law banning “conversion therapy,” referring to efforts intended to change a minor’s gender identity that differs from the young person’s biological sex or to change their sexual orientation, likely violated the First Amendment rights of Kaley Chiles, a Christian counselor at the center of the *Chiles v. Salazar* case, who challenged the law.

The ruling did not strike down the law, but sent it back to lower courts. The ruling said the lower courts previously “erred by failing to apply sufficiently rigorous First Amendment scrutiny.”

Opponents of the law argue it restricts their ability to provide counseling to minors experiencing same-

sex attraction or gender dysphoria, the feeling of distress that one’s biological sex and gender identity are not aligned. But supporters of the law argue such treatments are discredited, and that the ban protects children from treatments they might otherwise be forced to undergo by their parents or guardians.

But in a ruling that centered on the First Amendment aspects of the case, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote for the majority, “The Constitution does not protect the right of some to speak freely; it protects the right of all.”

“It safeguards not only popular ideas; it secures, even and especially, the right to voice dissenting views,” he wrote.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the lone dissenter, argued the majority created “a slippery slope.”

“For the first time, the Supreme Court has interpreted the First Amend-

ment to bless a risk of therapeutic harm to children by limiting the State’s ability to regulate medical providers who treat patients with speech,” she argued.

But Justice Elena Kagan, joined by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, wrote a concurring opinion siding with the majority that argued the scope of the case is narrow.

Kagan argued the “content-based” rather than “viewpoint-neutral” Colorado law was a unique problem.

“We need not here decide how to assess viewpoint-neutral laws regulating health providers’ expression because, as the Court holds, Colorado’s is not one,” she wrote.

The Colorado Catholic

Conference said in a March 31 statement the state’s Catholic bishops “are thankful for the United States Supreme Court’s decision” and that they will “continue to advocate for parental rights and religious liberty in our state, relying on this new precedent.”

“*Chiles v. Salazar* precedent rejects Colorado’s ban on genuine care for minors by their parents and counselors who offer compassionate care for gender dysphoria, backed by longstanding research that shows children experiencing gender dysphoria naturally grow out of their distress and do not need life-altering medical intervention. Preventing this option to parents and practitioners

puts ideology before the healthcare of children,” their statement said.

Alliance Defending Freedom Chief Legal Counsel Jim Campbell, who argued before the court in October, told reporters on a March 31 press call the ruling was “a decisive win for free speech.”

**See “Court” on Page 10**

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## Court ...

**Cont'd from Page 9**

"It condemned Colorado's unconstitutional censorship on counseling conversations," Campbell said. "In this ruling, the court held that counseling conversations are speech protected by the First Amendment, and that Colorado's law targeted the viewpoint of people like Kaley and her clients. This means that Colorado can't enforce its law to censor voluntary conversations between Kaylee and young clients seeking help on issues of gender and sexuality."

Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group, argued in a March 31 statement the ruling was a "reckless decision."

"The Court has weaponized free-speech in order to prioritize anti-LGBTQ+ bias over the safety, health and wellbeing of children," she said.

But Chiles told reporters on the ADF press call that her clients often seek her out for their

"shared faith."

"I've worked with clients dealing with trauma, addictions and struggles with their gender and sexuality. I view my work as an outpouring of my faith," she said, adding, "it's crucial that families have counseling options, including options that allow kids to genuinely talk about experiencing discomfort with their bodies without the state dictating an outcome."

In a joint amicus brief filed on Chiles' behalf in the case before oral arguments in October, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Colorado Catholic Conference and The Catholic University of America argued, "Counseling would be impoverished without a sphere of pro-

tection for speech."

"If the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment protects anything, it surely must protect the right to seek and provide advice on these critical questions of human existence," it said.

During witness testimony at a March 16 hearing of the Department of Justice's Religious Liberty Commission, Chiles argued, "Young people wrestling with identity deserve counselors who are free to speak, ask questions, listen with compassion and walk alongside them in their search for hope and restoration."

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

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

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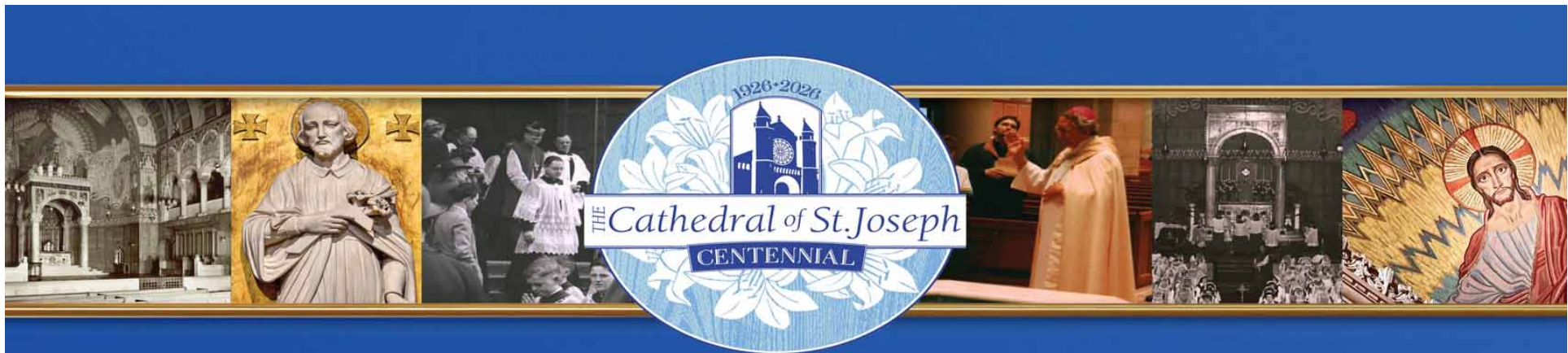
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Monday, April 20 • 6:00 PM



# Annual Hospital-Wide Ethics Lecture



## Bioethics for Aging Societies: Understanding Caregiver Burdens During Discharge Planning

**Nancy Berlinger, PhD, MDiv**  
*Scholar in the Ethics of Population Aging*

**April 24, 2026 | noon - 1 pm**  
**Wheeling Hospital Auditorium**

Lunch provided. Attendance by reservation only.  
CME and CNE credits available.

**Please RSVP to Deb Watson at 304-243-3883 or  
deborah.watson@wvumedicine.org by April 10, 2026.**

#### Outcome:

1. Identify ethical challenges that frequently arise during discharge planning involving older adults with continuing care needs, with attention to organizational duties concerning family caregivers, and to how these challenges differ from treatment decision-making and duties concerning surrogate decision-makers.
2. Analyze and discuss burdens that are frequently transferred to family caregivers during the discharge process, and the ethical implications of shifting burdens from institutions to families.
3. Engage with practical recommendations for professionals involved in discharge planning, in healthcare ethics, or in executive-level decisions about organizational investments benefiting communities, premised on advancing caregiver support as an ethical principle for healthcare organizations in aging societies.

WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. One (1) contact hour will be awarded to the participant attending the entire activity, signing a roll call and returning a completed evaluation form.

The WVU Office of CME designates this lecture for a maximum of one *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*<sup>TM</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

None of the planners for this activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies.

*Sponsored by WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Medical Affairs.*

# Pro-Life Leaders Condemn White House Extending Title X Grants To Planned Parenthood

By **Kate Scanlon**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The Trump administration signaled it would provide another year of Title X grant money to Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, the day before those funds were set to expire. The move prompted condemnation from leaders of pro-life groups.

Title X grant funds, part of a federal program that subsidizes family planning, are provided for up to five years to eligible groups. The fourth year's funding concludes March 31, and the fifth round of funding starts April 1.

The Trump administration previously froze about \$27.5 million in federal family planning grants to groups including Planned Parenthood as part of its probe into diversity, equity and inclusion programs, sometimes referred to as DEI, within federal agencies. However, it quietly released Title X family planning funds to Planned Parenthood in December, prompting the American Civil Liberties Union to drop its lawsuit that sought to restore the funds.

In a written statement provided to OSV News, Kush Desai, a White House spokesman, said the Trump administration "has issued the fifth and final year of Title X grants that were locked in place during the Biden presidency."

"The Administration

faced significant legal challenges in stopping any of these dollars from going out," Desai said. He also pointed to the law barring the use of Title X funds for abortion, and argued the Trump administration "remains committed to realigning the Title X program with the President's pro-life and pro-family agenda going forward."

He said, "HHS will soon be releasing a new Title X funding opportunity for the next five-year funding cycle that prioritizes life and promotes the pro-family agenda."

But Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said in a March 31 statement the decision was "an inexplicable slap in the face to the pro-life GOP base."

"Funding Planned Parenthood means propping up a business whose main purpose is to end the lives

of innocent unborn children," she said.

She described the move as the latest in a string of actions out of the Trump administration that

"amounts to political suicide" for the Republican Party with respect to the pro-life movement.

"Three out of four GOP base voters support defund-

ing Planned Parenthood. One third of those voters say they'd be less enthusiastic about voting this November if the GOP See "Leaders" on Page 14



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## Leaders ...

### Cont'd from Page 13

abandons pro-life policies," she said.

Dannenfelser called the Trump administration's move on Title X "a clear abandonment," pointing out the first Trump administration issued its Protect Life Rule "to stop Title X funding of Planned Parenthood."

Just days before, a group of senators who oppose abortion, led by Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., urged the Trump administration to reinstate the Protect Life Rule, arguing the rule "ensured that Title X family planning funds could no longer flow to clinics that perform, promote, or refer for abortions, and required clear physical and financial separation between Title X-funded projects and abortion facilities."

Dannenfelser said the rule "should have been 'Day One' policy in the second administration. Instead, we are 14 months in and this hasn't been prevented."

Dannenfelser also pointed out the Trump administration's Title X decision "comes on the heels of the administration undermining GOP states by allowing the shipping of abortion drugs into their borders, violating their laws."

She referred to the administration's Justice Department asking multiple judges to pause several state lawsuits seeking to roll back Biden administration-era eased restrictions on mifepristone. The drug is commonly used for first trimester abortion, but more recently has been used in some protocols for miscarriage care.

Those moves, Dannenfelser added, also follow upon President Donald Trump's suggestion back in January that the GOP should be "flexible" on the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits public funding of elective abortions, during negotiations on health care subsidies.

Title X funds represent a small fraction of the taxpayer funds Planned Parenthood receives annually. The group's 2023-2024 annual report showed it received more than \$700 million in taxpayer funds — in the form of government health services reimbursements and grants — for the fiscal year that ended June

30, 2024.

A provision of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — legislation that enacted key items of the president's legislative agenda on issues including taxes and immigration — eliminated funds for one year for health providers who also perform abortions.

However, that provision, which was embattled in legal challenges for much of the year, is scheduled to expire July 4.

On its website, Planned Parenthood Action Fund said its "health centers are proud to be part of the Title X network."

"Blocking access to quality, affordable sexual and reproductive health services through the Title X program upends the health of Planned Parenthood health center patients and puts lives at grave risk," their website stated.

Jennie Bradley Lichter, president of the March for Life, said in a post on X it was "absolutely maddening" that the Department of Health and Human Services "is continuing to fund an organization whose business model is built on ending human lives, misleading pregnant women into thinking abortion is their only option, and delivering substandard healthcare even in the rare cases when abortion is not involved."

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. funding Planned Parenthood, she argued, "is not, by any stretch of the imagination, Making America Healthy Again."

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life Action, expressed incredulity at the White House's move in a statement: "So let me get this straight, to comply with regulations, Title X funds would go to all of the abortion vendors who did the paperwork, while we wait for a regulation review."

She referred to the Food and Drug Administration's ongoing review of a Biden-era regulation allowing mifepristone's distribution by mail. The administration has argued the courts should dismiss a series of state lawsuits seeking to ban the practice — notably Louisiana, Missouri and Florida — until the FDA completes its review.

Dannenfelsner, Lichter and

Hawkins are all Catholic leaders in the pro-life movement.

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and as such, opposes direct abortion. Since the 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, church officials in the U.S. have reiterated the

church's concern for both mother and child, and called for strengthening social support for those living in poverty or other causes that can push women toward having an abortion.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

## A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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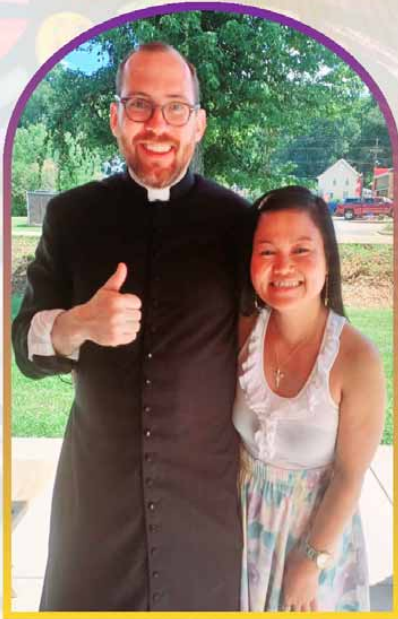
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# El presidente de la USCCB pide a los católicos que 'oren fervientemente' por el fin de la guerra con Irán

**Por OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — Los católicos deben seguir "orando fervientemente" durante la Semana Santa para que se reduzca la violencia en Oriente Medio, afirmó el arzobispo Paul S. Coakley, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB, por sus siglas en inglés), en un comunicado emitido el 1 de abril.

"Durante esta semana santísima, sigamos orando fervientemente por un diálogo eficaz y de respeto mutuo que conduzca a un alto el fuego y a un fin negociado del conflicto con Irán", dijo.

El arzobispo Coakley destacó el llamado a la paz del Papa León reactualizado el Domingo de Ramos, cuando el Papa dijo: "Mientras la Iglesia contempla el misterio de la Pasión del Señor, no podemos olvidar a quienes hoy participan de manera real en su sufrimiento".

"Cuanto más se prolongue el conflicto con Irán, incluido el riesgo de desplegar tropas terrestres en la región, mayor será el riesgo de una escalada dramática que ponga en peligro un conflicto regional cada vez mayor", dijo el arzobispo Coakley. "Acojo con satisfacción las indicaciones de la Administración de que la guerra con Irán podría estar llegando pronto a su fin. Y me uno a los llamamientos urgentes de nuestro Santo Padre para que la Administración y todas las partes involucradas tomen medidas decisivas hacia un alto el fuego inmediato, y para que se entable un diálogo efectivo que resuelva este peligroso impasse".

En su primera homilía del Domingo de Ramos, el 29 de marzo, el Papa León XIV proclamó que Jesús, el Rey de la Paz, abraza todo el sufrimiento de la historia humana y clama desde la cruz contra la guerra. El Papa León repitió la frase

"Rey de la Paz" siete veces a lo largo de su homilía, durante diferentes momentos de la Pasión de Cristo, señalando a Jesús como una víctima de la violencia injusta que nunca tomó las armas en su propia defensa.

"Cristo, Rey de la paz, sigue clamando desde su cruz: ¡Dios es amor! ¡Tengan piedad! ¡Depongan las armas, recuerden que son hermanos!", dijo el Papa.

Dos días después, en declaraciones a la prensa en Castel Gandolfo, el Papa León dijo a los periodistas: "Me han informado que el presidente Trump declaró recientemente que quiere poner fin a la Guerra. Esperamos que esté buscando una salida, que esté buscando una manera de reducir la violencia y los bombardeos, lo cual sería una contribución significativa para eliminar el odio que se está generando y que sigue creciendo constante-

mente en Medio Oriente y en otros lugares".

El Papa León continuó: "Ciertamente mantengo este llamado a todos los líderes del mundo: Vuelvan a la mesa para dialogar, busquemos soluciones a los problemas, busquemos maneras de reducir la violencia que estamos alimentando. Y que la paz, especialmente en Pascua, habite en nuestros corazones".

El arzobispo Coakley concluyó su declaración haciendo un llamado a los cristianos a ser "artífices de la paz".

"Animado por la poderosa y transformadora gracia de la Pascua, insto a los fieles a que sigan rezando con fervor por un diálogo mutuo, respetuoso y eficaz, y para que los cristianos seamos fieles a nuestra vocación de pacificadores, la 'luz del mundo' y la 'sal de la tierra' (Mateo 5, 13-14)", dijo.

## Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

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directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

## Mary Seville Brast Showalter

Mary Seville Brast Showalter of Parkersburg went to her Eternal glory on March 17, 2026, at her home at Love and Care Assisted Living at the age of 101. Mary lived a very good life. She was such a special, witty, patient lady. Mary was a wonderful, loving wife, mother, grandmother "Mamie", aunt and cousin. She married widower, George C. Showalter, in 1970, Wheeling WV. She was blessed and welcomed into his large family, 3 stepchildren, 13 step grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren and 38 great-great grandchildren. She spoke fondly of them and loved all of them very much.

Mary made her career and retired from G.E. Aerospace, Accounting Dept. She is proud to have been the 4th and last generation lifelong member of St. Francis Xavier Church. She was a member of the Rosary Altar Society (former president). Mary also served as the Organist/Choir Director and was active in her parish. Mary was a graduate of Parkersburg High School, 1942. She loved spending time with her East and West coast families, daily crossword puzzles, playing dominos and watching sports, especially baseball.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband George C. Showalter, her father William M. Brast, Sr., mother Es-

ther F. (Murphy) Brast, her only sibling, brother William M. Brast, Jr. (Novella), nephew William Mark Brast, special cousin Mary K. "Kitty" Brown. Her stepdaughters Josephine Canary (Ed), Jennie Stephenson (Henry).

Mary is survived by her nephews Mike Brast (Laurie) and Matt Brast (Robbin), nieces Mary Esther Gutierrez (Frank) and Maureen Middleton (Curt) and Kim Brast (Mark's widow). Several great and great-great nieces and nephews. Her stepson Deacon George "Jerry" Showalter, wife Bobbie, her many grand, great and great-great grandchildren.

We would like to thank Kyle Inman, Administrator of Love and Care Assisted Living and all the amazing staff of nurses and caregivers for their excellent care, devotion and all the love they poured out over Mary these past 6 years. They were her family and she loved them all very much.

Mass of Catholic Burial was held for Mary at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church March 23, 2026, with Very Rev. John Rice, V.G., as celebrant, and Deacon Steven Wharton, serving as deacon. The gravesite service was held at Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the St. Francis Xavier Restoration Fund.

## LisBeth Jagoda Trunzo

LisBeth J Trunzo (Beth), beloved wife, mother, and servant of God, passed away March 25, 2026 at the age of 76. She was a light to everyone fortunate enough to know her, and a woman of deep faith, fierce love, and remarkable resilience.

Born to Audrey and Joseph, she built a life defined by devotion: to her family, her community, and her God. She faced illness with grace and courage, inspiring those around her with her quiet strength and infectious smile.

For many years, she served her Catholic community as a Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education, where she had a rare gift for helping children's faith come alive. She carried one simple, powerful message wherever she went: God is Love. Alongside her husband Thom, she also co-led a Native American prayer circle, reflecting her deeply inclusive spirit and her belief that the sacred could be found in every tradition and every person.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Deacon Thom Trunzo ; her five daughters, Jennifer Tracy (Nancy), Valerie Tracy (Phil), Katie Kosydar (Matthew), Sarah Parrino (John), and Rachel Bunter (Joe); her ten beloved grandchildren, Tracy, Lily, Audrey, Jonah, Clairra, Scarlett, Simon, Nora, Sage, and Luke; and her sisters, Barb and Becky. She was also cherished by many dear friends, including the "Ya-Yas."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Audrey Jagoda Williams, Joseph Jagoda, and LeRoy Williams; and by her son, Joseph.

Her family invites those whose lives she touched to consider a donation in her memory to Nazareth Farm ([nazarethfarm.org/donate](http://nazarethfarm.org/donate)) or WVU Medicine Hospice ([givetouhc.org/hospice](http://givetouhc.org/hospice)) in lieu of flowers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at All Saints Catholic Church on Saturday, March 28, 2026 with Father Gary Naegele and Father Patsy Iaquina as celebrants.

In keeping with her wishes, LisBeth was cremated following the Mass.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family at [www.amoscarvelli.com](http://www.amoscarvelli.com).

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# Confirmation Schedule

*Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant*

- Saturday, April 11: St. Agnes, Charleston, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 12: Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 13: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 14: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
- Saturday, April 18: St. James, Charles Town, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 19: Assumption, Keyser, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 22: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, April 23: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 25: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 26: St. Brendan, Elkins, 11 a.m.
- Friday, May 1: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2: SS Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 3: St. Catherine of Siena, Ronceverte, 11 a.m.
- Saturday, May 9: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 10: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 11: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 13: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 16: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 17: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 9 a.m.
- Friday, May 22: Epiphany of the Lord, Moorefield, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23: St. Leo, Inwood, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 24: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 11 a.m.
- Sunday, May 24: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 6: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 14: St. Matthew / Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.
- Saturday, June 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood, 6 p.m.

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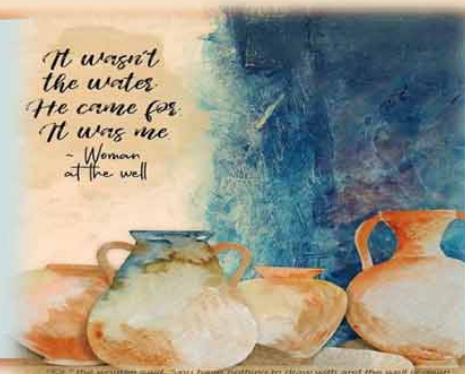
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### Retreat Leaders

**Liz Deal**, Spiritual Director, West Virginia Institute for Spirituality, Charleston, WV.

**Cindy Neely**, Spiritual Director, WVIS and St. Thomas More/ Newman, Chapel Hill, NC

Contributions from donors keeps the **cost to retreatants to \$200 each** If you would like to donate to support this effort, please contact Sally Orcutt ([sally.orcutt@wvis.org](mailto:sally.orcutt@wvis.org)).

# ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

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IN WEST VIRGINIA**

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

## OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD  
Cardiology

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