One Mission One Day Giving Event for Diocese’s Catholic Schools Underway

By Colleen Rowan
WEST VIRGINIA—“You can make a difference” for the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. This is the message of the One Mission One Day (OMOD) campaign, which is now underway.

The annual giving event kicked off April 27 and runs through May 4.

“One Mission One Day is an important event that helps our Catholic schools raise funding for tuition assistance, school renovations, and classroom upgrades,” said Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the diocese. “It is a chance for school families, alumni, supporters and friends to come together to build a stronger tomorrow across West Virginia and beyond.”

The campaign’s website OneMissionOneDay.org states that the Catholic school communities of the diocese are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. Gifts will help challenge children to recognize, develop and

St. Joseph’s Table Supports Community Bread Basket in Weirton

For the Year of St. Joseph, Weirton’s St. Joseph the Worker Parish received donations such as canned goods and other food items from generous parishioners for the Community Bread Basket located in downtown Weirton. Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor, is pictured with members of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council. Many parishioners will be participating in the “Consecration to St. Joseph” at the church on May 1, the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker.
Diocesan Official Appointments:

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Very Rev. Leonard A. Smith, V.F.,** is appointed pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 23, 2021.

**Very Rev. Paul J. Wharton, V.F.,** has been granted a one-year sabbatical, effective June 23, 2021, and ending on June 23, 2022.

**Father Timothy J. Grassi** is appointed pastor of St. James Parish in Charles Town and St. Peter Chapel in Harpers Ferry with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 23, 2021.

**Father Martin Smay** is appointed administrator of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Thomas, and Our Lady of Mercy Mission in Parsons with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 23, 2021.

After consultation with Very Rev. Joby John Edamuriyil, C.S.T., provincial superior of the St. Thomas Province of the Little Flower Congregation in Kerala, India, **Father Jojan Joseph, C.S.T.,** is appointed parish priest of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont, effective immediately.

**Father Jojan Joseph,** C.S.T., has been granted a one-year sabbatical, effective June 23, 2021.

**Visitation Information**

**Father Timothy J. Grassi** is appointed pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 23, 2021.

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**Sexual Abuse Awareness Training**

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

**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children**

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families’ Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.332.6513. 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 designatees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Bishop, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1304. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5856. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under “Accountability”, then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children’s sexual abuse hotline at 800.332.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. 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 800.332.6513.

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Schools ...

Cont’d from Page 1

share their God-given gifts and talents.

Visitors to OneMissionOneDay.org will find they are just a click away from making a donation to their chosen school. By selecting “Click Here to Find Your School,” donors can view a list of participating schools. There, they can click on their school’s profile which will offer information about the school and how to donate.

Principals of diocesan Catholic schools said this special day brings many great opportunities for school communities.

Dr. Carol Templeton, principal of St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, both in Huntington, said One Mission One Day provides the school communities the opportunity to come together as one family “to show our support, dedication, and appreciation of our Catholic schools. Through the generosity of our parents, faculty, staff, grandparents, alumni, and community members, the day of giving has an amazing ability to not only contribute to a need but also significantly enhance the learning experience for all our students enrolled within Catholic schools throughout the state.”

One Mission One Day is an opportunity to come together as a Christian community to support programs and other initiatives for students to grow in knowledge and faith, said Fairmont Catholic School Principal Diane Burnsise.

“We appreciate the support of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in their efforts to help our school with the tools students need to become productive citizens and servants of GOD,” she said.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling is using One Mission One Day to build a strong legacy for the future, said Advance-ment Director John Yelenic. He noted that the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Education Fund was recently launched building a $4 million endowment fund.

As for the actual day of the giving event, St. Vincent’s has plans for a celebration for students to enjoy.

“Since the national OMOD appeal is scheduled for May 4... our school community is focusing on the epic Star Wars line... ‘May the 4th (Force) be with you!’” Yelenic said.

“Several celebration parties (The Gathering) are planned for the parking lot ‘as a rite of passage’ for our SVS students! ‘DJ Yelenix will create the atmosphere as stu-

te
dents and families are safely surrounded by Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Andy the Aardvark from the Roadhouse and plenty more sights and sounds of Star Wars.

“All money raised will build our legacy!” Yelenic said.

“Through last year’s event, more than $40,000 was raised for St. Vincent’s.

“Our goal this year is $75,000!” Yelenic said. ‘WE ARE STAR WARS!’

Catholic schools across the diocese have been preparing for One Mission One Day and generating excitement online, Sforza said. She emphasized that there are a number of ways people can get involved and help their school.

“You can share your school’s photos and videos promoting the day, you can visit the OMOD website and make a gift, and you can post about your giving on social media using the hashtag #OneMissionOneDay to encourage others to do the same!” she said.

Yelenic also encouraged all to visit the campaign website on May 4 to watch as the donations roll in, and numbers change on the leaderboard. There will also be a hashtag generator that will share all social media posts that include #OneMissionOneDay.

“It’s definitely going to be an exciting day for Catholic schools across the state!” said Sforza, who went on to express her gratitude to everyone for their support of One Mission One Day.

“Your gifts,” she said, “will help our Catholic schools continue to provide exceptional academics in a safe and nurturing environment.”

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

April 27 - May 4
Support WV Catholic Schools at onemissiononeday.org

[Image of a child holding a sign that says THANK YOU! #OneMissionOneDay]
West Virginia Catholic Daughters ‘Zoom into Faith’ at State Convention

WEST VIRGINIA—
The West Virginia Catholic Daughters of the Americas held their state convention April 24 via Zoom due to pandemic restrictions. The theme was “Zoom into Faith.”

Many local courts gathered together, for the event and were honored to have Bishop Mark Brennan open the convention with a prayer as he joined, via Zoom, Court Bishop Donahue in Huntington.

Through the convention, “we learned how the Catholic Daughters can be a positive influence within the state of West Virginia,” said Lisa Ceravalo, West Virginia Catholic Daughters state regent.

National Regent Sherry Nilles, joined the convention from Sheldon, Iowa.

“Although she was sitting at her home on the farm, she still felt the connection and love from West Virginia,” Ceravalo said. “We plan on her visiting us in the future. Sherry was glad to see all those who joined the virtual convention.”

Members from the various Courts around the state shared projects that they have been doing even during the past year. Ceravalo said these included participating in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Education Contest, drive by dinners, Christmas gifts for an entire nursing home along with blankets, blessing boxes around the town, having a Lenten retreat, making palm crosses with parish youth, and even making homemade vanilla and Christmas chocolates to name a few.

The guest speaker for the conference was Deacon Phillip Szabo.

“Deacon Phillip joined us in the morning session from Mount Saint Mary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and spoke to us about how we can share our faith even during a pandemic, with the convention theme ‘Zoom into Faith,’” Ceravalo said.

During the past two years, the West Virginia Catholic Daughters of the Americas state project was focused on supporting the seminarians of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The afternoon session opened with a prayer from Very Rev. James R. DeViese, Jr., J.V., who also shared some inspiration to those in attendance, Ceravalo said. State court business was also discussed. It was also announced that there will be a training weekend in Morgantown next year, and the next convention will be hosted by Court Bishop Donahue in Huntington in 2023.

The convention closed with a prayer and a few words by Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington.

Some members of Court Martinsburg attended Mass Saturday evening together and were able to meet with Deacon Szabo, who was given a small token from the West Virginia Catholic Daughters for his participation in the convention.

The Catholic Daughters are open to any Catholic women age 18 and older. For more information, contact Ceravalo at regentcdawv@aol.com.

The Catholic Spirit April 30, 2021
Evangelization and Catechesis Office Announces Summer Catechist-Training Circuit

WEST VIRGINIA—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Evangelization and Catechesis has announced its Summer Catechist-Training Circuit.

Over the course of this summer, 12 weekends of trainings will take place throughout the diocese. Though the courses will be targeted toward catechists for the purpose of becoming certified in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, anyone and everyone is welcome to attend, from RCIA team members to nonvolunteering parishioners.

To become a certified catechist through these training days, one needs to attend six required courses. These can be taken at a pace that is comfortable for each individual catechist. However, catechists will be able to achieve certification within three years, without ever having to leave their own vicariates.

Those individuals wishing to become certified catechists will be assigned, at the trainings, five short readings and five short reflection papers, to be due five weeks after the attended course. Therefore, a certified catechist will have read 30 articles or chapters and will have written 30, one-page, typed reflection papers by the time of certification.

The six required certification courses are: (A) Introduction to Catechesis – the Ministry of Forming the Faith Lives of Children and Youth; (B) Introduction to Prayer and Praying with Children – Communicating Our Lives with God Simply; (C) Catholic Beliefs and a Survey of Catholic Doctrine – the Creed and Its Application to Our Lives; (D) Introduction to Scripture – the Bible for Living; (E) Jesus Christ – Lord and Savior of Our Lives; (F) The Seven Sacraments and Sacramental Living – Encountering Christ in Our Lives.

Trainings will be held in each of the diocese’s six vicariates: Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, and Wheeling. For dates and locations of each training, refer to the graphic on this page.

Each training day will have the following schedule: 8 a.m., registration and refreshments; 8:30-9:45 a.m. First Class (1); 10-11:15 a.m. Second Class (2); 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Third Class (3); 12:45-1:45 p.m., lunch break; 1:45-3 p.m., Fourth Class (4); 3:15-4:30 p.m., Fifth Class (5); 4:30-4:45 p.m., closing remarks, evaluations, and adjournment; 5 p.m., Mass (optional, when available).

There is no fee for the training; these days are entirely free for all participants. They will be sponsored by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis in conjunction with the hosting parishes.

Register by contacting Daniel Maul, director of Evangelization and Catechesis, by e-mail to dmaul@dwc.org, or by calling (304) 233-0880, ext. 376.

### Dates, Vicariates, and Summer Schedule of Courses

By the end of the summer, four courses will have been taught in each vicariate.

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Eucharistic Adoration on First Fridays at the Cathedral

WHEELING—In keeping with the devotional custom of the First Friday of the month, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Friday, May 7 from the conclusion of the 12:05 p.m. Mass until the celebration of Benediction at 5:45 p.m.

All are invited to stop by the Cathedral on Friday afternoon and spend time adoring Our Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Consecration of Children to Our Lady of Good Hope to be Held at Wheeling Parish

WHEELING—At St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, the Marist Laiity will again sponsor the Consecration of Children (born and unborn) to Our Lady of Good Hope, on Sunday, May 16 after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

Anyone who wishes to have a child or children consecrated or prayed for, is welcome to attend. For more information, contact the parish office at (304) 242-0406, or Jean Hohman at (304) 242-3295.

St. Joseph’s Students Doing Their Part in the Care for God’s Creation

MARTINSBURG—“The Earth gives so much to us,” officials of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg posted on the school’s Facebook page, so Pre-K 4 Teacher Stephanie Dardaris and Little Crusaders Aide Monica Power and their students wanted to return the favor. The duo and their students added worms to the soil of the pre-kindergarten garden so it will be fertile for all the plants that will call it home. They also sang a song in honor of Earth Day (“Happy Earth Day,” sung to the tune of “Happy Birthday”).

Meanwhile the school’s third-graders celebrated Earth Day by making biodegradable pots in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Shepherdstown Parishioner to Volunteer at Shelter for Asylum Seekers in Texas

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Siobhan Bertone, a parishioner of St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown, will be volunteering at Holding Institute, a humanitarian shelter for asylum seekers in Laredo, Texas. The shelter is receiving hundreds of families every week. To support the guests at the shelter, St. Agnes will receive cash or check donations between now and May 8.

Shepherdstown Parishioner to Volunteer at Shelter for Asylum Seekers in Texas

WEST VIRGINIA—This application will be used to determine the leadership team for the 2021-2022 school year. The DWC Youth Board will be comprised of Catholic youth representing each vicariate in our Diocese (West Virginia).

This application is open to all incoming high school Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors desiring to grow their relationship with God and are dedicated to leading others closer to Christ. Those interested in applying are asked to reflect seriously and prayerfully on why they are applying to be on the DWC Youth Board and if they are willing to commit fully to the requirements for one year. Total, individual commitment is crucial if the Youth Board is to be functional and effective.

Sponsoring Foster Care Awareness Month Audio Storytelling Project

WEST VIRGINIA—The West Virginia Council of Churches (WVCC) is sponsoring an audio storytelling project to highlight the stories of these families. Individuals can call (304) 449-4877 and leave a voicemail message up to three minutes long. The call is free and callers can remain anonymous. Callers can leave a message describing a special memory of the child/children they are caring for or they can share why they chose to foster, adopt, or provide kinship care. This is also an opportunity for those who wish to thank foster, adoptive, and kinship parents. These voice mail messages will be uploaded online and excerpts will be shared on the WVCC’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

Walk for Life in Charleston Will be Held May 2

CHARLESTON—All are invited to join in the Cross Roads Pregnancy Care Center’s Walk for Life which will be held on Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m. at the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston. The center is also located in Charleston.

Diocesan Youth Board Accepting Applications

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The number to call to leave a message is (304) 449-4877. Travel for in-person meetings is required. Attending occasional virtual meetings is also required. Students can apply online through this link http://bit.ly/DWCYB2021 or via the diocese’s website (dwc.org) under Evangelization and Catechesis.

Read each question carefully and answer it thoughtfully. Each applicant may be required to do a Zoom interview. Filling out this application does not guarantee acceptance to the DWC Youth Board. All applicants will be contacted by June 1.

For any questions or more information, contact Assistant Director of Evangelization and Catechesis Jessica Petter at jpetter@dwc.org or call (304) 233-0880, ext. 375.
By Catholic News Service

NEW DELHI (CNS) — As COVID-19 continues to claim thousands of lives daily in India, some Catholic leaders have called on the federal government to deploy the military to deal with the crisis before it worsens.

“The second wave of COVID-19 is surely a national calamity, and the entire nation is struggling as thousands are dying and hundreds of thousands are getting infected daily,” said Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas of Ranchi, former secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India.

“The federal government should consider deploying military personnel to assist the civil administration to effectively deal with this alarming situation of people living in fear,” he told ucanews.com April 27.

“Whenever the country faced national calamities such as a flood, drought, earthquake, cyclone or any such crisis, the Indian military played a crucial role to restore normalcy,” said Bishop Mascarenhas. “It is high time that the government deployed the army and other wings of the defense forces with their huge resources and trained manpower to tide over this calamity that has already crippled the economy and taken a huge toll on its population.”

Since mid-April, India has been reporting more than 300,000 new COVID-19 cases and 2,000 deaths daily. Several states and cities have resorted to lockdowns and night curfews and other restrictions on socio-religious gatherings to break the chain of the pandemic’s spread.

On April 27, India reported 323,144 new cases and 2,771 deaths. The stretched health care system in the country of 1.3 billion people has been reporting a lack of hospital beds, medical oxygen, vaccines and antiviral medicines as thousands seek medical care.

Divine Word Father Babu Joseph, former spokesman for the Indian bishops’ conference, also said military should be deployed.

“Certainly, our defense personnel played very important roles in calamities and rendered superb services,” Father Joseph said. The advantage of deploying military personnel is that they are disciplined and trained to deal with such situations, he added.

“Now we face a health emergency, and at a time like this their service would be more useful and effective,” Father Joseph told ucanews.com.

Father Varghese Vallikkatt, former deputy secretary-general of the Kerala Catholic Bishops’ Council, also supported the suggestion.

“It is sickening to see people dying without oxygen and hospital beds even in places like New Delhi, the national capital, and other big cities such as Mumbai,” Father Vallikkatt said. “Many have lost hope of returning to their homes from cities where they work. Their heartbreaking stories make me helpless.

“I strongly believe that at this hour of the crisis taking the service of our military personnel will be an added advantage to overcome this critical situation.”

The priest also wrote a post on Facebook urging the federal government to consider the suggestion to deploy the army.

Father Vallikkatt said the "real problem of oxygen supply is not its shortage, but distribution. If our defense personnel are deployed, they will airlift oxygen from available sources and fill the shortage," he said.

“What is more important is our lives. The sooner, the better,” he added.

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A health care worker wearing personal protective equipment pulls a patient suffering from COVID-19 on a stretcher outside Guru Teg Bahadur hospital in New Delhi April 24.
Christian Meditation is Path to Meeting Christ, Pope Says at Audience

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

Meditation is more than just a method of stress relief for the body, it is a way of encountering Christ in one’s soul, Pope Francis said.

During his weekly general audience April 28, the pope said that although it has become a “widespread activity among people who do not have a religious view of life,” meditation within the context of Christian prayer guides men and women “to advance, with the Holy Spirit, along the one way of prayer: Christ Jesus.”

“We Christians, meditating is a way of encountering Jesus. And in this way, only in this way, can we find ourselves,” he said.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on meditation as a form of prayer Christians use to “seek meaning” within the sacred mysteries and from God’s word.

Meditation, however, is also practiced by nonbelievers as well “because it represents a high barrier against the daily stress and emptiness that is everywhere,” he noted.

“Here, then, is the image of young people and adults sitting in meditation, in silence, with their eyes half-closed,” he said. “What do these people do? They meditate. It is a phenomenon to be welcomed: we are not made to run all the time, we have an inner life that cannot always be neglected. Meditating is therefore a need for everyone.”

Nevertheless, the pope said that for Christians, the use of meditation is not due to an aspiration of “full self-transparency,” but first and foremost “an encounter with the Other, with a capital O.”

“If an experience of prayer gives us inner peace, or self-master, or clarity about the path to take, these results are, one might say, side effects of the grace of Christian prayer, which is the encounter with Jesus. That is, meditating means going forward — guided by a verse from Scripture, from a word — to the encounter with Jesus within us,” he said.

Depriving his prepared remarks, the pope said that while there are many methods that are “important and worthy of practice,” Christian meditation “is not possible without the Holy Spirit.”

“Jesus told us, ‘I will send you the Holy Spirit; he will teach you and explain to you,’” the pope said. “In meditation as well, he is the guide to go forward in the encounter with Jesus Christ.”

Pope Francis said that the grace of Christian prayer is the knowledge that “Christ is not far away but is always in a relationship with us.”

He encouraged Christians to meditate on the Gospels so that the Holy Spirit “may guide us to be present there.”

“This is not a withdrawal into ourselves, no, no,” the pope said. Christian meditation involves “going to Jesus and from Jesus, to meet ourselves — healed, risen, strong — because of the grace of Jesus. And to encounter Jesus, the savior of all, including me. And this is thanks to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

Biden Administration Appeals Block on Transgender Health Care Mandate

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Biden administration has filed an appeal April 20 of a Jan. 19 federal court’s ruling to block an Affordable Care Act provision barring discrimination by health insurers and providers against transgender people.

The regulation was issued in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requiring doctors to perform these procedures in children and adults or be held liable for discrimination.

Catholic and other opponents of the provision, Section 1557, call it a “transgender mandate” and say forces doctors and hospitals to perform gender-transition procedures against their moral conscience and professional medical judgment.

“This is bad for patients, doctors and religious liberty,” said Luke Goodrich, senior counsel at Becket, a law firm in Washington that focuses on religious liberty cases.

In a series of tweets April 20, Goodrich said: “The Biden Admin shouldn’t have appealed. But we look forward to another ruling that protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren’t forced to violate their religious beliefs and professional medical judgment.

“The government’s own doctors during the Obama Admin agreed: ‘Based on a thorough review of the clinical evidence … there is not enough evidence to determine whether gender reassignment surgery improves health outcomes for [patients] with gender dysphoria.’”

This mandate, he tweeted, “not only threatens religious doctors and hospitals. It also threatens patients, as there is ample evidence that certain gender transition procedures can be deeply harmful.”

The Biden administration is appealing a ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota in Fargo in a case brought by several Catholic and other faith-based plaintiffs, including doctors, hospitals and clinics. The appeal is being handled by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, based in St. Louis.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, or RFRA, “bars the U.S. government from forcing Catholic health care providers to perform gender-transition related procedures and from forcing employers to provide insurance to pay for them,” the District Court said.

“Thus, the government’s interpretation of the Affordable Care Act’s Section 1557 and Title VII as prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person’s gender identity or transgender status can’t be enforced against entities that have sincerely held religious beliefs that preclude them from performing and covering such procedures,” it said.

This decision “protects patients, preserves the integrity of the doctor-patient relationship and vindicates crucial conscience rights in medical care,” a Becket statement said.

After the rule was first issued, Becket filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Texas, saying the rule violated RFRA.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Franciscan Alliance, a religious hospital network serving Indiana and Illinois that now goes by the name Franciscan Health, and the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. The states of Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Wisconsin also joined in the suit.

In December 2016, two different federal courts ruled “the policy was an unlawful overreach by a federal agency and a likely violation of religious liberty.”

The decision to undergo gender reassignment therapy is a difficult and deeply personal one, and it is especially complicated and sensitive in the case of children,” the courts said. “It is a health care decision that should be left between a family and their doctor, and not decided by politicians and government bureaucrats.”

Two other federal district court judges also ruled against the mandate in 2019 and 2020, followed by the District Court ruling in North Dakota this past January.

However, the courts didn’t issue a permanent injunction against HHS to prevent it from enforcing this rule in the future, so in early March of this year a group of doctors and hospitals sought such an injunction before the 5th Circuit, which is based in New Orleans.

In 2020, the Trump administration attempted “to fix the unlawful rule,” Becket said, but that effort was blocked by other courts.
By Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications Specialist

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” – Matthew 25:35

At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we honor the strength and courage of millions of refugees who are forced to flee their native lands due to conflict, violence and persecution.

“We celebrate the spirit and perseverance of those who have been displaced from their home-lands and denied the human right to a safe place to live,” said Beth Zarate, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) President and Chief Executive Officer.

CCWVa works in coordination with government and regulatory agencies to provide refugee resettlement and immigration services to newcomers to West Virginia.

Our refugee case managers assist families with job placement, housing, immigration assistance and other services to help families assimilate to their new communities.

Cultural orientation is an important part of the services we provide. Learning about the American culture is essential for newcomers to integrate into our society. By providing cultural orientation, we assist our clients in their journey to success in the United States.

We keep in mind that refugees were at one time self-sufficient in their native countries. They wish to regain that self-sufficiency; we are here to help them along their journey.

Our team also works closely with volunteers, parishes and sponsors of refugee families. Volunteers are crucial in welcoming refugees and helping them settle and adjust in their new home.

“The Works of Mercy give us a model for how to treat one another,” said Zarate. “Through our Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services program, we are welcoming the stranger and practicing our faith.”

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, 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.

Welcome the Stranger
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE  
Spring 2021

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

St. Patrick, Hinton – Saturday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m.

St. John, Summersville – Sunday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m.

St. Ann, Shinnston – Sunday, May 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling – Sunday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville – Saturday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Paul, Weirton – Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m.

St. Michael, Wheeling – Monday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Assumption, Keyser – Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 p.m.

St. James, Charles Town – Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Leo, Inwood – Friday, May 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

St. Bernadette, Hedgesville – Sunday, May 30 at 11:00 a.m.

St. Joseph, Martinsburg – Sunday, May 30 at 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

St. Patrick, Weston – Wednesday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi, Logan – Thursday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton – Wednesday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m.

St. Anthony, Fairmont – Friday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation in Morgantown

Bishop Mark Brennan administers the sacrament of confirmation at St. Francis de Sales Church in Morgantown April 18.

Catholic Youth Adventure Camp

Grow with us in the infinite love of Christ in the beautiful hills of West Virginia. Are you hoping to grow in your faith? The Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, affectionately known as Camp Carlo, is dedicated to leading young people to Christ & His Church.

Join us as we grow in Christ’s love while backpacking up a mountain, horse riding through hidden trails, sliding down mystic waterfalls and humbling ourselves in front of the true Presence of our Lord during Mass and Adoration. We want you to experience His immense love at Camp Carlo for Summer 2021!

June 27th - July 3rd Rising 3rd graders to 5th graders.
July 4th - July 10th Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.
July 11th - July 17th Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.
July 18th - July 24th A “catch all week” from 3rd grade thru 12th grade.

Take advantage of the $275 early bird rate at
Happy 81st birthday, Father Pat!

We thank you for your years of dedicated service to Saint Francis of Assisi church and school. We love you!
Book Reviews

New Books offer Unique Perspectives on Long Road to Sainthood

By Timothy Walch, Catholic News Service

“Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood,” edited by Michael R. Heinlein; “The Saint Makers,” by Joe Drape. These books are reviewed by Timothy Walch.

With the onset of the Korean conflict, Father Kapaun joined the 1st Cavalry Division on the field of battle.

The Saint Makers

Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood

By Joe Drape. These books are reviewed by Timothy Walch.

“Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood” is a compilation of personal reflections issued by the publishing division of Our Sunday Visitor. Editor Michael R. Heinlein focuses on six African American Catholics recognized by the church for additional consideration.

The six are Pierre Toussaint; Mother Henriette Delille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family; Mother Augustus Tolton; Mother Mary Lange, who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence; Julia Greeley; and Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration.

All six led exceptional lives of service and sacrifice and have been recognized as either “servants of God” or “venerable,” the first two steps on the road to canonization. “By their stories of faith and virtue,” notes Heinlein, “they show us how to respond to the call of holiness, bringing healing, reconciliation and peace to our wounded nation and world.”

This is a timely book that emphasizes the importance and contributions of people of color to our nation and our church. The book includes numerous testimonials from prominent Black Catholics as well as a foreword by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The Saint Makers” by Joe Drape provides a different approach to canonization. A Jesuit-educated journalist, Drape concentrates on the cause of Father Emil Kapaun, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, and a military chaplain during the Korean War.

Drape begins his journey with an introduction to Father Kapaun as a parish priest in Kansas and as member of the Chaplain Corps. With the onset of the Korean conflict, Father Kapaun joined the 1st Cavalry Division on the field of battle.

On the evening of All Saints’ Day, 1950, Father Kapaun and other members of his battalion were captured by Chinese troops. Even though he was a prisoner, Father Kapaun never stopped being a priest; his bravery and leadership provided great solace to his fellow prisoners.

Father Kapaun carried on for the next several months but shortly after Easter his health declined. He was malnourished and a blood infection put his life in peril. Dysentery further compounded his suffering, but still he ministered to his men. The Chinese took him away on May 21 and two days later he was dead. The body was dumped in a mass grave without ceremony.

Although gone, Father Kapaun carried on for the next several months but shortly after Easter his health declined. He was malnourished and a blood infection put his life in peril. Dysentery further compounded his suffering, but still he ministered to his men. The Chinese took him away on May 21 and two days later he was dead. The body was dumped in a mass grave without ceremony.

Father Kapaun was not forgotten among his fellow prisoners. The Chinese took him away on May 21 and two days later he was dead. The body was dumped in a mass grave without ceremony.

The balance of Drape’s book traces the campaign to take the cause to the next stage and convince the pope to declare Father Kapaun to be “Venerable.” This effort required additional research and the employment of a special canon lawyer to plead the cause. Drape traces this effort up to March 20, 2020, when Kapaun’s documentation was to be presented formally to the Vatican.

Unfortunately, the pandemic put Father Kapaun’s cause on hold and he still has the title “Servant of God.” A declaration he is “Venerable” would confirm he led a life of heroic virtues.

In general, the canonization process requires confirmation of two miracles occurring through the sainthood candidate’s intercession. The first would give Father Kapaun the title “Blessed,” and with the second he would be declared a saint.

On March 4, 2021, the U.S. Department of Defense announced the identification of Father Kapaun’s remains among those returned from Korea to the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. He is interred among the men he served at the U.S. military cemetery in Hawaii.

Why is the process of canonization so important? Drape asks that question of one Vatican official, and the response was plain and rings true. “We all need models of sanctity,” Drape was told. “They are the best images of Christ. They are the best of all of us. That is why we need saints.”

(Walch is a historian of American Catholicism and the author of “Parish School.”)
Papa en audiencia: La meditación cristiana es el camino al encuentro con Cristo

Por Junno Arocho Esteves,
Catholic News Service

La meditación es más que un método para aliviar el estrés del cuerpo, es una forma de encontrar a Cristo en el alma, dijo el papa Francisco.

Durante su audiencia general semanal del 28 de abril, el papa dijo que aunque se ha convertido en una "actividad difundida también entre personas que no tienen una visión religiosa de la vida", la meditación en el contexto de la oración cristiana es el "único camino de la oración: Cristo Jesús".

"Meditar, para nosotros cristianos, es una forma de encontrar a Jesús", dijo. "Y así, solo así, reencontrarnos con nosotros mismos", dijo.

Continuando con su serie de charlas sobre la oración, el papa reflexionó sobre la meditación como una forma de oración que los cristianos usan para "buscar significado" dentro de los misterios sagrados y de la palabra de Dios.

La meditación, sin embargo, también la practican los no creyentes "representa un auténtico tesoro", dijo.

"Ahí está, por tanto, la imagen de Dios con nosotros", señaló.

"En el encuentro con Jesús", dijo. "Y así, solo así, reencontrarnos con nosotros mismos", dijo.

"Jesús nos había dicho ‘os enviare el Espíritu Santo nos “guíe para estar presentes allí””, dijo. "Meditar, para nosotros cristianos, es una forma de encontrar a Jesús. Y así, solo así, reencontrarnos con nosotros mismos, y esto no es un encerrarnos en nosotros mismos, no", dijo. "Ir a Jesús y en Jesús encontrarnos a nosotros mismos, sanados, resueltos, fuertes por la gracia de Jesús. Y encontrar a Jesús salvador de todos, también mío. Y esto gracias a la guía del Espíritu Santo".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a util-izar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varian según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confiden- cialmente cualquier inci- dencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352. 6513. Puede informar anónimamente en línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext: 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext: 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schueleklens, Jr., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diocesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denunciar de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo del EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.


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

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

Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry Needed

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, WV seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (DRE/YM) to build and administer a total parish catechetical and youth ministry program for a parish of 1,000 + parishioners. The DRE/YM will oversee the recruitment and training of parishioners to lead various aspects of faith formation including prepa ration for the sacraments of initiation, adult RCIA, our Sunday Parish School of Religion and an annual Summer Camp for middle school and high school youth. Experience in Catholic schools or parish ministry required. Bachelor’s or Master’s in theology or Catechetics. Salary based upon education and experience. Benefits offered. Submit resume to Rev. Msgr. Paul Hudock, pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish 2244 Marshall Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003, (304) 242-0406

Principal Needed

St. Patrick Church of Weston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Patrick Catholic School, pre-school 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 an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification. · The candidate will have a minimum of five years of successful educational experience with preference for administrative experience. · A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Rev. Father Douglas A. Ondeck at dondeck@dwc.org or mailed to 210 Center Ave., Weston, WV 54 May 14, 2021.

Faith Formation Director Opening

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

Director of Human Resources Opening

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Human Resources Specialist for its Administrative Offices located in Wheeling. The Human Resources Specialist oversees the human resource components of employment with CCWVs from recruitment to an employee’s separation from the agency. The Specialist completes payroll and serves as a resource to staff about employee benefits and agency policies. The HR Specialist provides guidance and recommendations to executive leadership on various HR issues in conjunction with the Diocesan HR offices.

Essential duties include but are not limited to: oversee the CCWVs process for hiring employees, and assist supervisors with following the appropriate steps; process timesheets for payroll and track PTO and sick days; oversee the onboarding process for new employees; be a liaison between Catholic Charities and the Diocesan HR office; provide guidance to supervisors regarding disciplinary action when necessary; and oversee performance evaluation processes.

Qualifications include: Bachelor’s degree required, with at least two years of HR experience or strong knowledge of principles and practices of HR/personnel administration; proficiency using Microsoft Excel and Word, and ability to learn payroll program; knowledge of simple accounting principles; ability to maintain confidentiality at all times; and must be detail oriented with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Please send cover letter, up-to-date resume, and three professional reference by May 5, 2021, to Beth Zarate, CEO, Catholic Charities WV, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, or email to bzrate@ccwva.org.

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

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

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Advancement Associate for its Advancement Office in Wheeling. The Advancement Associate is responsible for all administrative office aspects of fund development and participates in all fundraising activities including donor relations, direct mail appeals, and special events. Occasional in-state travel is required.

Essential duties include but are not limited to: process donations, event registrations and sponsorships, and coordinate with Finance; coordinate acknowledgments, registrations, and other correspondence; coordinate appeal, newsletter and other publications, and email, print and mail projects; create monthly fundraising reports and other agency data reports as needed; continually update and correct donor database records; and coordinate administrative details associated with fundraising events.

Qualifications include: Bachelor’s degree or equivalent relevant experience required; experience working in Salsa CRM/Salsa Engage software; experience in fundraising (i.e., donor relations, special events); proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; knowledge of simple accounting principles; and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Please send cover letter, up-to-date resume, and three professional references by May 7, 2021, to John Catone, Chief Advancement Officer, Catholic Charities WV, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, or email to jcantone@ccwva.org.