



Pope Continues to Govern the Church, Says Vatican Secretary of State

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even on his worst days in Rome’s Gemelli hospital, Pope Francis was governing the Catholic Church, although on some days, he did not seem to have the energy to sign his full name, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

The cardinal, who as Vatican secretary of state, coordinates much of the work of the Roman Curia, said it was true that the pope simply initialed some documents “F.”

“He did,” Cardinal Parolin told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, “but now he is signing in full.”

“It was not the ideal situation,” he said in the interview published March

29. “But I emphasize that the pope is in a position to still govern the church, and we are happy that he was able to come home.”

Pope Francis was in Rome’s Gemelli hospital Feb. 14-March 23 for treatment of bronchitis, multiple infections and double pneumonia. His doctors said he had several breathing “crises” and was in danger of death.

The pope returned to his rooms in the Domus Sanctae Marthae with a recommendation from his doctors that he rest for two months, continue breathing exercises and physical therapy and continue taking medication for a persistent fungal infection.

See “Pope” on Page 2



CNS photo/Pablo Esparza
Massimiliano Strappetti, the nurse who is Pope Francis’ primary medical caregiver at the Vatican, adjusts a microphone for the pope as he greets a crowd of well-wishers at Rome’s Gemelli hospital before returning to the Vatican March 23.

Martinsburg’s St. Joseph School Hosts Event Aimed at Improving Health



Photo Courtesy of the Office of the West Virginia Governor
St. Joseph School in Martinsburg welcomed U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (front, right) and West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey (speaking) March 28 for the governor’s announcement about new initiatives geared toward improving the health of Mountain State residents.

Pope ...

Cont'd from Page 1

"There is no change in the essentials" of how the Roman Curia works, Cardinal Parolin said. While the pope needs rest, documents are brought to him for "issues on which he and only he can and must decide."

"The governance of the church is in his hands," the cardinal said. "But there are many more routine matters on which his Curia collaborators can proceed even without consulting him, on the basis of previously received indications and existing regulations."

All the Vatican dicasteries work in the pope's name, he said. "Obviously, the more important decisions must be made by the pontiff, but there are also others that can be taken within each dicastery following the guidelines the pope has given them."

Pope Francis also can delegate certain tasks, Cardinal Parolin

said, and Catholics may see that during the pope's convalescence.

For example, he said, "in the case of canonizations, it is the pope who pronounces the formula, but even this, if necessary, can be delegated to a collaborator, who pronounces it in the name of the pontiff."

The issue is particularly relevant given the scheduled canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis April 27 during the Jubilee of Teenagers. Blessed Acutis, an Italian computer whiz, died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15.

Pope Francis can delegate a cardinal to preside over the canonization rite and read the formula to "declare and define" Blessed Acutis a saint and to order that he be venerated as such by the universal church.

As of late March, the pope had not delegated anyone to take his place though, the cardinal said. "It will depend on how the Holy Father is feeling then."

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or 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, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** 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, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

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, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. 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.

2025 Print Issues and Dates:

Easter, April 18; Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23; Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19



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2025 Holy Thursday Church Pilgrimage to be Held in Wheeling

There is an ancient Roman tradition to visit multiple churches after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night and to pray and "keep watch" before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose in each of those churches. In the spirit of this tradition, everyone is invited to join the faithful of the Wheeling area for a Holy Thursday Pilgrimage this year on the evening of April 17.

During the pilgrimage, the faithful will have the opportunity to visit six churches in the Wheeling area to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. A special booklet has been created which allows the pilgrims to follow along the narrative of Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane as well as provide opportunities for personal prayer and meditation.

The bus will depart the Cathedral at 9 p.m. and return at approximately 11:45 p.m. If you are interested in riding one of the busses, please sign up by contacting Kim Stillion at (304) 233-0880, ext. 261, or by e-mailing kstillion@dwc.org to reserve a seat by April 14.

If you would like to visit the churches but would prefer to follow behind the bus in your own vehicle or go on your own, you can find the itineraries below:

Itinerary

Bus departs from the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 9:00p.m.

Stop 1 (9:15pm-9:30pm): St. Alphonsus (2111 Market St, Wheeling)

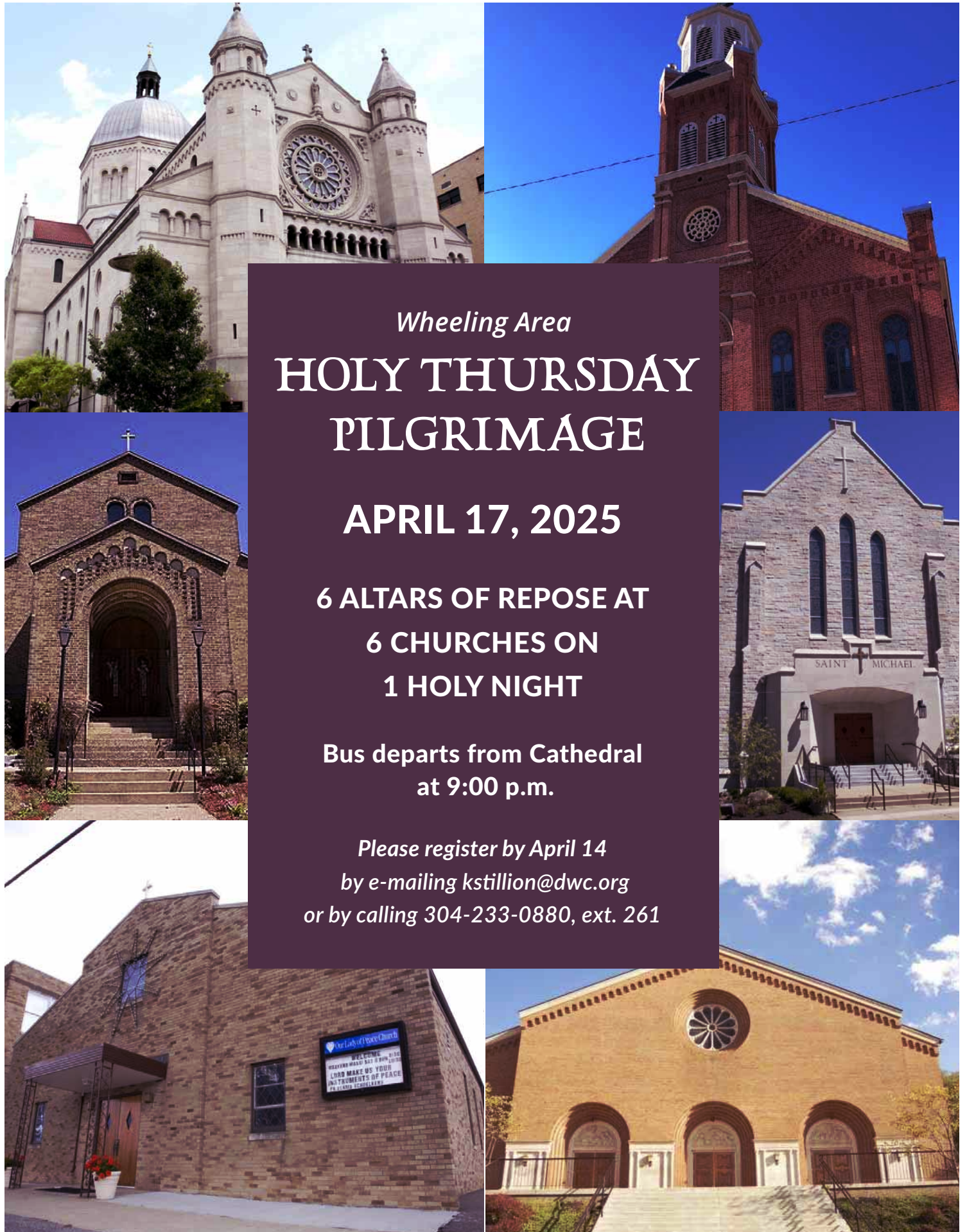
Stop 2 (9:45pm-10:00pm): Our Lady of Peace (690 Mount Olivet Road, Wheeling)

Stop 3 (10:15pm-10:30pm): St. Vincent de Paul (2244 Marshall Ave, Wheeling)

Stop 4 (10:45pm-11:00pm): St. Michael (1225 National Rd, Wheeling)

Stop 5 (11:15pm-11:30pm): Corpus Christi (1518 Warwood Ave, Wheeling)

Stop 6 (11:45pm-Midnight): Cathedral of St. Joseph (1300 Eoff St, Wheeling)



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APRIL 17, 2025
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 6 CHURCHES ON
 1 HOLY NIGHT**
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Congregation of St. Joseph's Annual Earth Festival Highlights Announced

WHEELING — The annual Earth Festival hosted by the Congregation of St. Joseph is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, from 1-5 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. The beautiful grounds of the historic property come to life for this fun-for-the-whole-family event celebrating the 10th year of Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home."

Festival goers can enjoy interac-

tive experiences with Ohio Valley Beekeepers, a local master falconer, and Trinity Farms Alpacas, as well as live demonstrations and educational chats with more than three dozen organizations and professionals working to lift up healing, health, and hope in our communities.

The Fun-Raiser Urban Mobile Playground – decked out with hula-

hoops, basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, bubbles, yoga mats, chalk, frisbee golf, kickball, corn hole, hacky sacks, and water squirters – delivers outdoor fun for children.

Butterflies and other pollinators populate the many garden spaces tended by the sisters. The annual Earth Festival gives attendees the opportunity to tour the lovely outdoor space while learning about sustainability programs available in the area that they can incorporate

into their daily lives.

This event is free for all and some vendors offer samples and informational materials at no charge. Some vendors have items for sale. Midge's Kitchen food truck and Cura Dining will sell food and snacks.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, May 18. Mount St. Joseph is located at 137 Mount St. Joseph Road, Wheeling. For information call (304) 907-0171.

20/20 Vision Series for 2025

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

"THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME" (1975)

"AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE" (1995)

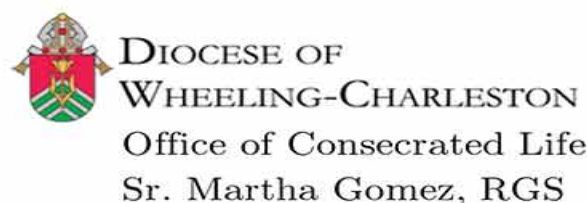
"THE TELLING TAKES US HOME" (2015)

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 27	OUR HOME, OUR HISTORY – Bishop Mark Brennan
February 24	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART I – Tom Breiding
March 31	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART II
April 28	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART III
May 19	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART I – Beth Collins
June 23	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
July 28	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
August 25	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART I – Rodica Stoicoiu
September 22	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART II
October 27	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART III
November 24	AN EVENING OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC – Tom Breiding
December 15	WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? – Bishop Mark Brennan

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.
RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org



This! You've Got To See! Seriously.

By Joyce Bibey (brought to you by FaithInWV)

CARLO ACUTIS: Roadmap to Reality the movie is premiering in theaters the same weekend of his canonization – April 27-29.

According to the movie promoters, “Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis and how he navigated the modern world.

“It tackles urgent technology-related questions, examining how the virtual landscape threatens our fundamental understanding of what it means to be human.

“The film also tracks the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Carlo’s tomb. A requirement for their pilgrimage: disengage from technology and leave their phones at home (for two weeks).”

You can get tickets now – discounts avail-

able if you go as a group

“In a world losing itself to screens, teenage mystic Carlo Acutis saw beyond our social media-addicted society and offered an answer—if we’re willing to listen. Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality explores the life of the first millennial saint while following teens on a phone-free pilgrimage to his tomb, immersing them in his story, his passion for Christ, and a search for meaning in a digital age,” notes producers of the film.

This film will get people talking!

In a recent survey of WV Catholics, it was reported that the overwhelming majority cherish their faith, but only 18% feel comfortable talking about it, said Very Rev. John Rice, V.G., in a recent homily at Mass for the Chancery staff.

Film marketing reps noted that the more advanced tickets sold will secure not only additional showing times, but also locations for areas not already on the schedule.

Carlo’s family and friends share their firsthand experiences and his impact on their lives. Many well-known voices in the Catholic Church today are also part of the film.

Where Can I See It?

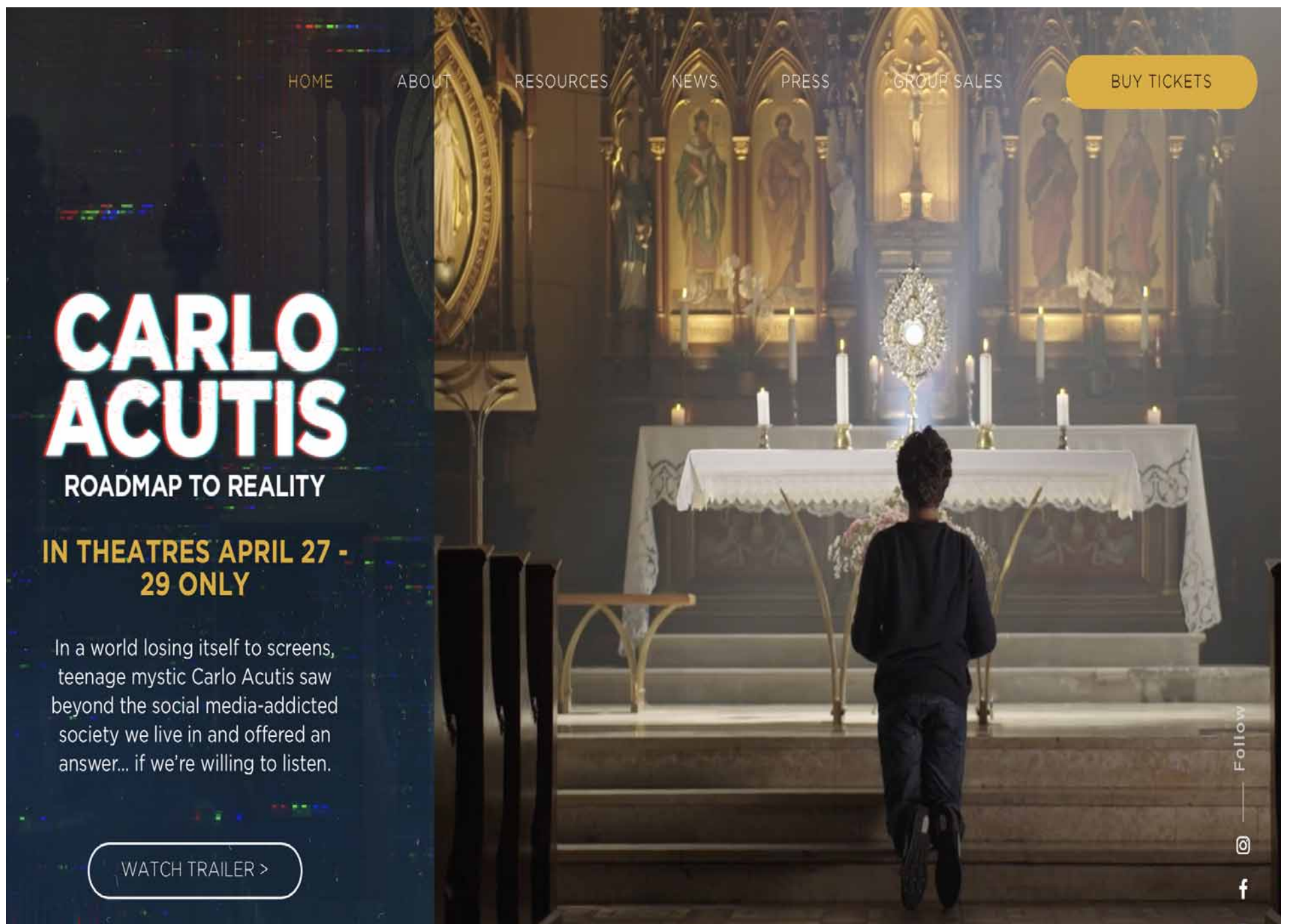
As of now the film will be shown in Morgantown, Bridgeport, Vienna, Nitro, Huntington/Barboursville, and bordering cities in KY, OH, MD, VA, and PA.

The movie is brought to us by Castletown Media and Wahl St. Productions, in association with the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc. and the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. They invite you to the Catholic film event of the year.

Links, Please!

For tickets go to: <https://youtu.be/keMMRdzMrN4?si=3nmz0eAEoRy4TJHJ>

For more information on the film go to: <https://carloacutisfilm.com>



April is National Volunteer Month

Catholic Charities West Virginia Volunteers Bringing Hope across the State

April is National Volunteer Month! Last year, 1,109 volunteers dedicated over 25,000 hours to making a difference across the Mountain State!

Be inspired by their stories and find out how you can get involved!

“Answering the Call to Serve: Volunteers Bringing Hope Across West Virginia” March 31, 2025 Blog, Volunteer: At Catholic Charities West Virginia, our volunteers are the heart of our mission. Whether they are feeding the hungry, connecting neighbors to vital services, or offering a kind word, their compassion brings hope to communities in every corner of the Mountain State.

“I’ve been blessed so much, and I want to give back,” shared Paula Curtin, a

dedicated volunteer at our Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center. For her, the joy of serving comes from making even a small difference in someone’s life.

Last year alone, 1,109 volunteers gave over 25,000 hours of their time across West Virginia. High school students, corporate teams, retirees, and many others came together to serve—building relationships, strengthening communities, and sharing hope in times of hardship.

“Our volunteers come from all walks of life, bringing unique gifts and experiences,” said Tracey Dickerson, CCWVa Volunteer Manager. “But they all share the same mission—to serve with kindness, compassion, and love.”



Courtesy photo
Sonia Galloway, Pattie Crawford, and Sandy Surber (pictured from left) are volunteers at Loaves & Fishes Outreach Center in Hinton.

For many, volunteering starts with friendship. Linda Seachman first came to Catholic Charities alongside a friend. Four months later, she’s preparing meals, lending a hand wherever needed, and finding joy in meeting new people.

Friends Vicki Smith and Mary Fillinger also serve together at the Neighborhood Center, each finding their own fulfillment in the experience. Vicki cherishes the new connections she’s made, while Mary finds happiness in serving others. “It teaches me to love more,” she shared.

In Hinton, West Virginia, our Loaves & Fishes Outreach Center flourishes thanks to volunteers in the food pantry and thrift store.

“I like being around people and helping out,” said Sonia Galloway. Like Sonia, Sandy Surber serves wherever she is needed most, saying, “I volunteer with everything” because she simply wants to help others.

For Patti Crawford, volunteering is a reflection of her faith. At the food pantry, she listens with an open heart, knowing that in service, “we are all one in Christ’s love.”

No matter where they serve, our volunteers are essential to the work of Catholic Charities West Virginia. Their dedication is a vital part of reducing poverty and creating lasting change. Join us in our mission—click here to find out how you can volunteer today!



Courtesy photo
Paula Curtin volunteers at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling.

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April 17 at 6:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

PASSION OF THE LORD - Good Friday

April 18 at 3:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

EASTER MASS - Sunday, April 20

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Closed Captioning Provided.



Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

St. John Paul II Tirelessly Served Church, Embraced World, Cardinal Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During his long and fruitful pontificate, St. John Paul II embraced the entire world, which stands yet again in need of his blessing, Cardinal Pietro Parolin said.

“Bless us, Holy Father John Paul II. Bless the Lord’s church on its journey, that it may be a pilgrim of hope. Bless this lacerated and disoriented humanity, that it may find the way back to its dignity and its highest vocation, that it may know the riches of God’s mercy and love,” the cardinal said during a memorial Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica April 2, the 20th anniversary of the late Polish pope’s death.

Hundreds of faithful attended the Mass, including Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, a small government delegation representing Poland as well as cardinals and bishops living in Rome and diplomats accredited to the Vatican.

Retired Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, who served as St. John Paul’s personal secretary from 1966 until the pope’s death in 2005, greeted and thanked all those who were present.

“Our hearts go out to the Holy Father Francis,” who could not attend as he continues to recover in his residence, the Polish cardinal said. “We know that right now, he is spiritually united with us.”

“We pray for his health, that the Lord will give him the strength he needs to lead the pilgrim church in this Jubilee Year, under the banner of hope in these difficult times for the church and also for the world,” the cardinal said.

Pope Francis had sent Cardinal Dziwisz a letter before his hospitalization Feb. 14, expressing his wishes for a peaceful Holy Year



OSV News photo/Paolo Cocco, Reuters
Pope John Paul II, who later became St. John Paul II, kisses a baby during a general audience at the Vatican in 2001.

lived in a spirit of hope and offering his blessings to all those taking part in events April 2.

Cardinal Parolin, who began serving in the Vatican Secretariat of State under the late pope starting in 1986, gave the homily, which recalled the legacy and spirituality of the Polish pope, whose pontificate of more than 26 years was the third longest in history.

Pope John Paul exclaimed “with impressive force from the very first unforgettable homily at the inauguration of his pontificate, ‘Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ,’” who knows what humanity is meant to be and points the way to eternal life, the cardinal said.

Because of that conviction, the late pope “could address with authority and firmness not only the Catholic faithful, but also peoples

and government leaders,” urging them to “be aware of their responsibility to defend justice, the dignity of human persons and peace,” he said.

“We remember with gratitude and admiration his tireless service of peace, his passionate warnings, his diplomatic initiatives trying to avert wars” even when he was experiencing difficult moments in his life and “the fragility of physical strength was already evident,” Cardinal Parolin said.

St. John Paul never gave up, he said, even while “many of his appeals remained unfortunately unheeded, as happens even to great prophets.”

Another unforgettable hallmark of Pope John Paul’s legacy, he said, was the great Holy Year of 2000 and his ushering the church and the world into the third millennium.

The pope invited the church to confidently set out to sea and cast wide its nets with the new evangelization, he said.

“His words continue to inspire us and are echoed today by his successor, Francis, in this new jubilee,” which also sees the church’s faithful as setting out into “troubled waters, but still pilgrims of hope,” he said, “guided by Peter’s successor and assisted by the Holy Spirit.”

Like the “countless pilgrims who continually come to this basilica and ask for his intercession at the altar where his body rests,” Cardinal Parolin prayed the saint would continue to bless all the faithful, the church and humanity so that everyone would know God’s mercy and love.

After the Mass, dignitaries processed to St. John Paul’s tomb to pray. Cardinal Dziwisz placed a lit white candle on the altar and four representatives of Poland set a large bouquet of red and white roses, the colors of the Polish flag, next to the tomb, which was adorned with many flowers.

Cardinal Baldassare Reina, the papal vicar of Rome, read a prayer, asking for the saint to bless the world’s young people and the faithful so they would be “tireless missionaries of the Gospel today.”

“Bless every family,” he said, underlining how the pope warned against “Satan’s assault against this precious spark of heaven that God has lit on earth. Make us strong and courageous in defending the family.”

“Pray for the whole world, scarred by so many injustices and lacerated by absurd wars, which turn the world into a bloody battlefield, deliver us from war, which is always a defeat for everyone,” Cardinal Reina said.

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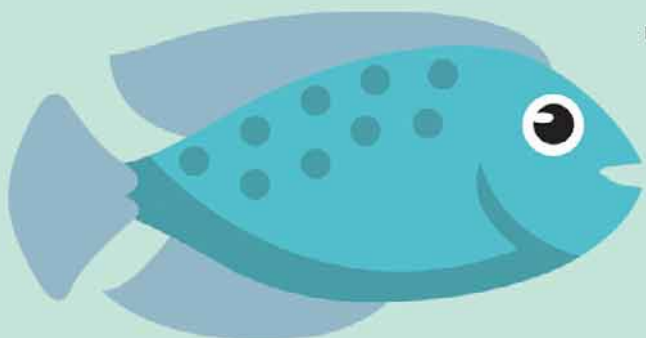
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Evening of Music at Mount St. Joseph Celebrates Black Heritage

Concert Can be Viewed on YouTube

On Sunday, February 16, amid an unpredicted snow storm in the Wheeling area, great musical joy filled the air at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. The Sisters of St. Joseph hosted an evening of music to celebrate Black Heritage Month.

The invited musical guests were voices of the choir of All Saints, Bridgeport, under the direction of Stephen Pishner.

The choir gave a 90 minute concert of uplifting energetic music by various African American Composers, including Leon Roberts, Brenda Joyce Moore, Richard Smallwood and Walter Hawkins, to name a few.

The evening began with the choir starting from the entrance doors of the chapel, as they sang a piece called "Nzamuraza", a

hymn from Mozambique, which translates: "I will praise Christ. There is no one like Christ". The song was sung with just voices and percussion, while the choir moved in procession to the front of the chapel and continued with several selections, including: "With Hands Lifted Up", "Perfect Praise", "Stop By Lord", "I Came to Magnify The Lord", and some psalm settings composed by Stephen Pishner, which were done in gospel-style.

Those who attended could sing along as well, during parts of the program.

Toward the end of the concert, a song entitled "Who Will Speak" by Marty Haugen was also sung.

The lyrics of the song were based on a homily text from Msgr. Ray East, an African American priest serving in the Washington,



Courtesy photo

The choir of All Saints, Bridgeport, under the direction of Stephen Pishner, performs at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling Feb. 16.

D.C. area.

The song asks a question, "Who will speak if you don't", referring to - who will speak on behalf of those who are marginalized in the world.

At the end of the concert, Anna Marie Troiani, executive director at St. Joseph Retreat Center, asked "When are you coming back"? The evening was also live-streamed

on the All Saints Bridgeport Facebook page, as well as the Facebook pages for Mount St. Joseph and our diocese as well.

Click here to watch the concert.

Quo Vadis

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St. James, Charles Town
Pontifical College Josephine, Columbus, OH
- Michael Tupta**
Co-Cathedral, Sacred Heart, Charleston
Pontifical North American College, Rome
- Joe Dericco**
St. Patrick, Weston
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Knights of Columbus Council # 504 Donates Funds from Tootsie Roll Drive



Courtesy photo
Knights of Columbus Council # 504 Trustee Ray Blust and Council Grand Knight Rex Lasure (left) present a \$1,300 check to Matt Angalich and his son Matt for Ohio County Special Olympics.

Courtesy photo
Pictured are Ohio County Special Olympics silver medalists. Knights of Columbus Council # 504 donated \$1,300 to the organization.

WHEELING — Knights of Columbus Council # 504 in Wheeling recently made two donations. Both donations were from funds collected through the annual Tootsie Roll drive.

A total of \$2,000 was donated to Russell Nesbitt Services. Their mis-

sion is to provide life opportunities for people with disabilities and enhance career growth and potential for those who share their journeys. Council Trustee Ray Blust and Council Grand Knight Rex Lasure presented the check to Tamika Joses, executive director of Russell Nesbitt

Services.

The council presented another check to Ohio County Special Olympics for \$1,300. Their mission is to offer Ohio County athletes of all

ages more opportunities to compete in a variety of sports year around.

Grand Knights Art Bertol and Lasure presented the check to Matt Angalich and his son Matt.



Courtesy photo
Knights of Columbus Council # 504 Trustee Ray Blust and Council Grand Knight Rex Lasure present a \$2,000 check to Tamika Joses, executive director of Russell Nesbitt Services.



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Myanmar Death Toll Surpasses 2,000; Cardinal Calls for Immediate Ceasefire Amid Tragedy

By Junno Arocho Esteves, OSV News

(OSV News) — People in Myanmar are in desperate need of humanitarian supplies and medical support as the death toll from the devastating earthquake that rocked central Myanmar March 28 continues to rise.

The president of Myanmar's bishops' conference called for an immediate ceasefire in a country already experiencing civil war and now hit with a new tragedy.

As the number of deaths exceeded 2,000, according to Reuters news agency, some 3,900 were injured. However, hundreds more are still missing or feared dead in the wake of the massive quake.

In an X post published March 30, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, in Myanmar said that the disaster has placed "more pressure on already vulnerable people facing an alarming humanitarian crisis."

"People urgently need shelter, medical care, and water and sanitation support," OCHA Myanmar said.

The epicenter of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck near Mandalay, the country's second largest city, destroying roads, buildings and religious sites.

The U Hla Thein Buddhist monastery in Mandalay was destroyed during the quake while an estimated 270 monks were taking an exam. According to The Associated Press, some 70 monks were able to escape. However, 50 were found dead and over a hundred more are still buried underneath the rubble.

Members of the city's Muslim community also suffered as the earthquake struck while hundreds were gathered in prayers at local mosques during the month of Ramadan. An estimated 700 Muslim worshippers were killed while dozens of mosques in the country were damaged or destroyed, AP reported.



OSV News photo/Reuters
Patients lie on beds outside Mandalay General Hospital in Myanmar, April 1, following a 7.7 magnitude earthquake that hit midday March 28. Rescue workers saved a 63-year-old woman from the rubble of a building in Myanmar's capital Naypyitaw April 1, but hope was fading of finding many more survivors of the violent earthquake that killed thousands, compounding a humanitarian crisis caused by a civil war.

Prayers and calls for immediate ceasefire increase.

Pope Francis, who continues to recover at the Vatican, called for prayers for Myanmar. In his Sunday Angelus address published March 30, the pope prayed for peace in several countries as well as for "Myanmar, which is also suffering so much because of the earthquake."

Burmese Cardinal Charles Muang Bo of Yangon, president of the Catholic bishops' conference of Myanmar, issued a statement acknowledging the pope's prayers and expressing condolences "for those who perished in places of worship in pagodas and mosques."

Assuring that the Catholic Church would

"mobilize support to assist with the life-saving needs of food, medicine, and shelter," Cardinal Bo said a ceasefire in the country's ongoing civil war was "imperative" to provide humanitarian relief "for those affected by both the earthquake and the prolonged conflict."

"This humanitarian crisis calls for an urgent cessation of hostilities. We urgently call for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire by all parties involved in the conflict to ensure the safe and unimpeded delivery of essential humanitarian aid by local and international supporters," Cardinal Bo wrote.

Prior to the earthquake, Myanmar was in the throes of a civil war being fought between the

military junta after overthrowing the democratically elected government in 2021. Since then, the governing military junta has been accused of violence against civilians opposed to

its rule and has been engaged in multiple conflicts with armed groups in the country.

While resistance movements in the country have unilaterally called for a two-week ceasefire in areas affected by the earthquake, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tom Andrews, expressed outrage following reports that the governing military junta continued bombing rebel-held areas after the quake.

In an interview with the BBC, Andrews said the bombings were "completely outrageous and unacceptable," adding that it was "nothing short of incredible" that the military continued to "drop bombs when you are trying to rescue people."

"Anyone who has influence on the military needs to step up the pressure and make it very clear that this is not acceptable," Andrews said. "I'm calling upon the junta to just stop, stop any of its military operations."

(Junno Arocho Esteves writes for OSV News from Malmö, Sweden.)

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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Spring 2025 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Monday, April 28: St. John University, Morgantown;
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 4: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington,
and St. Stephen, Ona, at Our Lady of Fatima; 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6: St. Joseph, Huntington; 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown;
5:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 11: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling;
10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 11: St. Mary, Star City; 4:00 p.m.

Monday, May 12: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: St. Michael, Vienna; 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 16: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 17: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 17: St. Leo, Inwood; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville; 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 18: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs;
5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton;
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 22: St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas;
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 25: St. Paul, Weirton; 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28: St. Patrick, Weston; 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31: Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby;
4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 1: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake;
2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 8: Sacred Heart, Bluefield, 4:30 p.m.

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

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Employment Opportunities

Principal – PK-8th Grade Fairmont Catholic Grade School, West Virginia

Fairmont Catholic Grade School is seeking a dedicated and dynamic individual for the position of PK-8th Grade Principal. The ideal candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church teachings and serve as a role model and motivator in upholding the Catholic philosophy of the school.

Qualifications:

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts.

The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration (preferred), or be in the process of completing the degree requirements; or the candidate should hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

A minimum of three years of successful educational experience is required, with preference given to those with administrative experience.

Application Instructions:

Please submit your resume, along with three professional references, in PDF format to Julie Link at jlink@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until April 25, 2025.

Head Volleyball Coach

Central Catholic High School, a co-educational college preparatory Catholic high school in Wheeling, W.Va., is accepting applications for the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach. CCHS is a member school of the WVSSAC and competes in Class AA and a member school of the OVAC in Class 3A. Job Type: Seasonal. Job Overview: CCHS is looking for a dynamic, knowledgeable coach who will embrace the CCHS mission and values. The Head Volleyball Coach is responsible for the overall vision, strategy and direction of the high school volleyball program. A successful candidate should be able to:

- Lead and manage the girls' volleyball team during the season.
- Develop training programs and strategies to enhance team

performance.

- Communicate effectively with students, staff, and parents.
- Foster a positive team culture that promotes commitment and hard work.
- Integrate the school's mission and values into coaching and team management.

Qualifications:

- Previous head high school coaching experience is preferred.
- Must be 21 or older.
- Candidates must complete a background check, Virtus training and currently possess or be able to meet all WVSSAC coaching requirements.

To apply, please forward a resume to Seth Staskey, Athletic Director, at staskey@cchsknights.org. For more information you can contact him at 304-233-6237.

Finance Director

Central Catholic High School, a Catholic co-educational college preparatory Catholic high school in Wheeling, W.Va., is accepting applications for the administrative position of Finance Director. Job Type: Full-time, 12 month employee.

Qualifications: Central Catholic High School is seeking an experienced and dynamic Finance Director who is responsible for the daily management of financial and administrative functions. This position involves overseeing all financial aspects of the school including accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, reconciliations, and financial reporting. The Finance Director will also be the liaison to the Diocesan Human Resource Office, ensuring the school follows best practices in hiring, onboarding, compensation, benefits, policy implementation, conflict resolution, corrective action, and compliance with all employment laws and diocesan policies. Additionally, the role involves collaborating with the Principal, Finance Council, and other stakeholders to determine the annual budget, manage benefit programs, and supervise school employees.

The Finance Director is a key con-

tributor to the continuing culture of excellence of Central Catholic High School.

A qualified candidate should have:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree with 3-5 years of comparable experience
- Understanding and ability to uphold the CCHS Catholic school mission.
- General understanding of accounting principles and preparation of financial statements
- Human resources experience preferred
- Exceptional leadership and communication abilities
- Skilled in collaboration
- Comfort with systems in general (QuickBooks, Excel, Word, etc.)
- Excellent analytical, and problem-solving skills
- Ability to meet deadlines and interact collaboratively with both internal and external constituents
- Process confidential and sensitive information with discretion and professionalism

To apply, please forward a cover letter along with a resume to Sarah Petry at spetry@cchsknights.org.

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8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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Employment Opportunities

Executive Assistant Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa)

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

The Executive Assistant schedules appointments, meetings and handles conference arrangements, agendas, notifications, etc., gives information to callers and otherwise relieves the Chief Executive Officer of clerical work and minor administrative duties and details.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Types correspondence, records, and reports; Answers telephone, gives information to callers, or routes calls to appropriate person; Maintains files, records, and correspondence; Coordinates and schedules Catholic Charities Board meetings, committee meetings and other meetings as directed by the Chief Executive Officer; Records, transcribes and disseminates minutes of Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and other Committee meetings; and Coordinates and schedules Maintenance Worker and duties for the Main building.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Orders and purchases materials and supplies for office; Add/delete/make changes to Diocesan Directory; Contacts Diocesan Building & Properties for building issues; and Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervises Maintenance worker at Main office.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily, demonstrating initiative and responsibility. The requirements are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required: Ability to type 60 WPM; Good interpersonal skills; Ability to follow directions and work well with others; Ability to maintain a high degree of confidentiality; Proficient in Microsoft Office and basic office procedures preferred; and Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit. The employee frequently is required to talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 20 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Click here to apply.

St. Joseph High School Biology Teacher, Martinsburg

St. Joseph High School is a newly established Catholic high school opening in August 2025, dedicated to providing a rigorous academic education and character formation in a faith-based environment. Our mission is to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and moral integrity, preparing students for success in higher education and beyond. We seek educators who are passionate about their subject areas and committed to creating an engaging and supportive learning experience.

We are seeking a qualified and enthusiastic high school biology teacher to join our founding faculty. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in science education, be skilled in creating engaging and challenging lesson plans, and be willing to be part of a collaborative and mission-driven school community. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a new school and contribute to building a dynamic and inspiring learning environment.

Responsibilities:

- Teach biology courses to high school students, incorporating hands-on labs, experiments and interactive learning experiences.
 - Develop and implement a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum aligned with national and collegiate-level science standards.
 - Foster a positive, inclusive and engaging classroom environment that encourages inquiry, collaboration and academic excellence to support student growth.
 - Integrate ethical discussions and a values-based approach into scientific topics, where appropriate.
 - Collaborate with fellow faculty and administration to build a strong academic foundation for the school.
 - Participate in school-wide activities, faculty meetings and professional development.
 - Communicate effectively with students, parents and colleagues to support student success.
- Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's degree in biology, science education or a related field
 - Hold valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure
 - Strong classroom management, communication and curriculum development skills
 - Willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution
 - Experience teaching high school science is preferred.

SJHS educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

The position will begin in August 2025 (contractually) and continue through July 2026 with a salary of \$40,000 to \$50,000, depending on level of education and experience.

Please email a résumé, cover letter and three professional references to Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D, head of school, at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org.

St. Joseph School Pre-Kindergarten Aid, Martinsburg

Saint Joseph School is seeking someone to work as a prekindergarten aide and after-school care worker. The hours are 12:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Successful candidates may also substitute in PK for additional hours.

The aides assist teachers and clock students in and out of after-school care. Must be comfortable working on a computer and operating hand-held radios. Classroom management skills are preferred.

We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

Job requirements include: Must be at least 21 years old and have a high school diploma; 2 years experience in regulated child care or relatable experience; ability to meet state licensing requirements.

Scheduling flexibility.

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Abby Hjort-Michel at ahjort@sjswv.org.

Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions.

Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area.

Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed.

Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Housekeeper

The Housekeeper at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning and preparing the facility, laundry and guest relations.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen as needed.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Wheeling University Nursing Program Receives \$750,000 from West Virginia's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program

WHEELING—Wheeling University has been awarded \$750,000 through West Virginia's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program, which is designed to address the state's nursing shortage through a multifaceted approach to attract, train and retain nurses in the Mountain State.

President Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D. said, "Wheeling University is grateful to the State of West Virginia and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for providing this essential funding that will enhance our nursing program."

According to the Nursing Workforce Expansion Program, it established this award program three years ago to fund nursing program expansion projects at colleges, universities, schools of nursing and career technical education centers across West Virginia.

Through this grant Wheeling University's Nursing program will use the funding to expand its enrollment, increase simulation ex-

periences for nursing students, update the curriculum, recruit and retain nursing faculty and increase NCLEX pass rates.

Director of Nursing Programs Jill Emery said, "This funding empowers Wheeling University to help build a sustainable, well-educated workforce, which is crucial for meeting the community's growing healthcare demands. We wish to thank the HEPC for this funding which will impact health care in communities across the state."

Twenty-three grant awards were distributed to nursing programs statewide for the third year of the program. Funded projects build upon progress made in the first two years and are focused on increasing enrollment in pre-licensure nursing programs, timely degree completion and licensure for graduates.

Since its launch, West Virginia's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program has helped yield a nearly 25 percent increase in filled seats



Courtesy photo

Wheeling University nursing students are shown above.

at nursing programs across the state.

The nursing program expansion awards, made possible by funding from the West Virginia

Legislature, are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System.

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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.

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Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



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