



Bishop Brennan's Easter Message

My brothers and sisters in Christ, may God who raised Jesus from the dead bless, protect and guide you.

Easter is the great game-changer in history. Everything is relativized by Jesus' breaking the bonds of death and rising to a new life which illness and pain and death can no longer reach. All the wounds of his crucifixion, though still visible, are healed in his risen body. He has triumphed over them.

Out of the love that led him to endure the cross for our sake, the Lord shares his victory with us. Like him, we will face our share of troubles and grief but, also like him, we will triumph over them. The grace he sends us through the Holy Spirit from his risen body enables us to bear the weight of our crosses in this life until death releases us from them. Then, when the Lord returns in glory, as he promised, he will raise us up to that new life that he now enjoys in its fullness.

We should never despair. The Lord is near, especially when we are broken-hearted. He builds us up by giving himself to us in the Eucharist, **See "Message" on Page 2**



Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the faithful and palms before Palm Sunday Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston April 2. Martina Hart Photo

Join Bishop Brennan on a Fall Pilgrimage to Mexico

Visiting the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Sisters of Mary's Girlstown

By Kevin Wells

Join Bishop Mark Brennan and Father William Ryan (Togo, Africa) for a weekend pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and to the Sisters of Mary's Girlstown community in Chalco, Mexico on Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2023.

For decades, Bishop Brennan listened to stories of the life-saving work of the Sisters of Mary and now is thrilled to finally get the opportunity to visit.

"It is an absolutely wonderful effort on the part of the Sisters of Mary," Bishop Brennan said. "At a time when there is much concern with the abuse of children in the country and around the world — the Sisters' work is a tremendous counterbalance."

"What Msgr. Schwartz founded all those years ago has given thousands of children a chance at succeeding in life that they wouldn't have otherwise had. This work of the Sisters

is vital, and I'm excited to see the work up close."

Girlstown and Boystown are safe havens for the current group of 21,000 poor and vulnerable children who have hope for a brighter future thanks to the Sisters. In a joyful and loving environment, they thrive as members of a loving family while receiving an education and faith formation. Upon graduation, many

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which we must acknowledge as his true Body and Blood. He forgives our sins, especially our grave faults, in the Sacrament of Penance. He gives us spiritual companions who encourage and strengthen us. When in need, his help is only a prayer away. Come to me, all you who are heavily burdened and I will refresh you, Jesus said. And St. Peter, who knew well the Lord's compassion, tells us: Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you.

Rejoice, then, Christians and all men and women of good will! God has triumphed over sin and death through the death and resurrection of His Son. By our baptism we have been joined to the victorious Christ. We need not be afraid of what life throws at us. With the Lord at our side, we can handle it. Enjoy the beautiful Easter season and remember that the Lord, risen in glory, is with you always, until the end of the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



AJ Mull Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates the Chrism Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston April 2.

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 Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

ocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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West Virginia Becomes 15th State to Bring Funding for Pro-Life Pregnancy Help Centers

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—West Virginia has become the 15th state to offer funding to pro-life pregnancy help centers with a new law that also brings adoption incentives.

West Virginians for Life (WVFL) President Wanda Franz and WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Keaton were among many pro-life supporters and advocates who gathered at the Crossroads Pregnancy Care Center in Charleston March 29 to watch West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice sign into law HB 2002, creating the Support for Mothers and Babies Program. With it comes increases of adoption tax credit and establishment of eligibility of adopted children of state residents for early intervention services.

Also present for the signing were representatives from Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, the Safe Haven Campaign in Beckley, and other representatives of WVFL.

The West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program establishes a fund of \$1 million by the state. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources will designate a third-party contractor which will manage the funding for pregnancy help centers. Eligible to receive funding are pregnancy help organizations, which provide a range of services to pregnant women. However, only pro-life organizations that do not commit or refer for abortions may qualify to receive the funding.

“Pregnancy help organizations do not perform, prescribe, refer for or encourage abortion ... nor do they affiliate with any organization that performs, prescribes, refers for, or encourages abortion,” the bill states.

West Virginia is home to almost 30 pregnancy help organizations which are also known as “crisis pregnancy organizations,” maternity homes, adoption agencies, and social services agencies that provide material support and other assistance to pregnant women. Funding can be used to purchase items for mothers, educational materials, equipment, perinatal hospice services, update facilities, hire medical staff, and more. The centers are non-profit, pro-life organizations whose sole purpose is to provide free services, resources and emotional support to

See “Funding” on Page 4

Baby Pantry Established by St. Albans Knights of Columbus Catches Attention, Admiration of Supreme Council

By Colleen Rowan

ST. ALBANS—The Little Blessings Baby Pantry in St. Albans, established by Knights of Columbus Archbishop Swint Council No. 4694, has caught the attention and admiration of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council for the U.S.

Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly commended the council on its excellent work in establishing the pantry, calling it a model for the order.

“The actions of the Archbishop Swint Council have taken ASAP to a new level and stand as a model for councils throughout the order.”

—Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly

“When the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program was announced last year, I called on all brother knights to redouble their efforts to help mothers choose life by surrounding them with a network of care,” Kelly wrote in a letter to Paul Niebalski of council 4694. “The actions of the Archbishop Swint Council have taken ASAP to a new level and stand as a model for councils throughout the order.”

The pantry and its services will be featured in an upcoming issue of the supreme council’s Columbia Magazine. A television program is also in the works for later this year. Representatives of the supreme council visited the pantry March 11 and spent all day filming and photographing the facility, which is located at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Albans.

“They were given a tour of our pantry and were impressed with what we had accomplished in a short period of time,” Niebalski told *The Catholic Spirit*.

Kelly also recognized the important role that the wives of the knights have played in this effort.

“As ever, our order remains a testament to the fact that the family is the essential agent of the work of evangelization,” Kelly wrote.

The name of the pantry came from Niebalski’s wife, Diane. Her belief is that “every baby is God’s



Courtesy Photo
Bother and sister, Megan and Mikey Estep, show provisions available at the Little Blessings Baby Pantry at St. Francis de Sales Parish in St. Albans to a videographer filming a program on the center for the Supreme Knights of Columbus Council. The Esteps are members of the parish and volunteers at the pantry. Mikey is a member of Archbishop Swint Council No. 4694, which established the pantry with the parish. On the wall behind them is a cross gifted to the pantry by Bishop Mark Brennan.

bleeding to the mother,” Niebalski said. “Thus, ‘Little Blessings’ came to be.”

Kelly specifically thanked Niebalski for his leadership in the initiative.

The council recently received a special gift from Bishop Mark Brennan for the pantry in honor of its commitment to helping mothers and children in need of assistance. He blessed and presented a cross for the pantry which hangs there today.

“It was a great honor for our pantry to receive this spiritual gift from Bishop Mark,” Niebalski said. “We feel blessed that he took time from his busy schedule to honor us with

the cross.”

The pantry is recognized in the **See “Pantry” on Page 4**

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When Your Meal is Interrupted: *A Lesson to be Learned*



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

Throughout this Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, each print edition of *The Catholic Spirit* (published on the First Friday of each month) will feature a guest article on the Eucharist.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

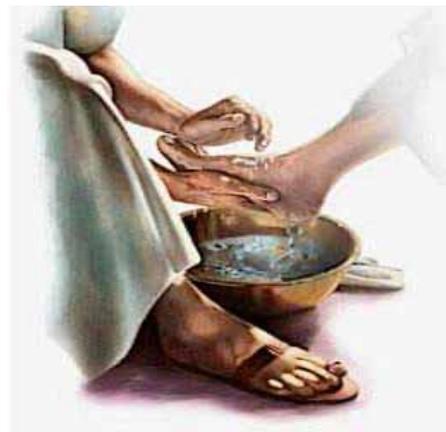
By Shirley Carter, Director of Hilltop Catholic Campus Ministry: West Liberty University & Bethany College

I recall many years ago as part of a class assignment, having to write a paper reflecting on the question “Is Eucharist a noun or a verb?” This will be easy, I thought as I immediately began to prepare some notes describing everything I had learned as a child about the Blessed Sacrament and the True Presence of Christ. I also fondly recalled the many experiences that confirmed what I was taught: my First Communion, Eucharistic Adoration, Forty Hours processions to name a few. The answer was obvious. Eucharist is a noun. Jesus is present in the Eucharist calling us to worship Him with reverence and humility. We hear it proclaimed at Mass. “Behold the Lamb of God.” And then we approach the altar and echo our belief with an Amen, as we hear the words, “The Body of Christ,” The Blood of Christ.” Yes, Eucharist is a noun.

But upon further reflection and research, my eyes were opened and my childlike faith was challenged to look deeper into this mystery. Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist, receiving Him sacramentally, calls us to yet another reality. As we are transformed by

Christ’s presence, we are called to be transformational as well by being a Eucharistic presence to others. My kneejerk response to the assignment was now being tempered with the thought that maybe, just maybe, Eucharist is a verb. This holy and sacred sacrament, this bread for our journey calls us to go forth and become that bread for others on their journey. It calls us to serve others, to make a connection between Sunday and Monday (and every other day of the week). At the conclusion of each Mass, we receive a blessing and hear this call verbalized as we are sent forth with words such as “The Mass is ended, go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.” The very word Mass comes from the Latin word missa from which the English word mission is derived. And what is this mission? It is going forth from the table of the Lord and making a difference in our world as we serve those in our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities.

I’ll save you all the details but as you can well imagine, I concluded (probably obvious to many) that it is not necessary to make Eucharist an either/or concept. Eucharist is a both/and, the source and summit, an opportunity for a personal relationship with Our Lord and Savior, and a



Courtesy Photo

call to action. A call to be Christ to our world.

This is best illustrated at the Last Supper. To Jesus’ friends, it was another Passover meal. And although the apostles weren’t aware of it, Christ knew what was going to happen afterward. He knew, as we now call it, that it was the “Last Supper.” He could have easily made it all about Himself, but what did He do? Before He gave them (and us) the gift of Himself, He interrupted the meal and got down on His knee to serve them by washing their feet! The King of the Universe doing something that servants did! How confusing and troubling that must have been! We read in John’s gospel. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” (John 13:6-9) In addition to this seeming confusion, wasn’t the timing really off? He interrupted the

meal....the Passover meal! But as we all know, God’s timing is perfect and this must have been the perfect time to teach all of us what it means to be a Eucharistic people, in the breaking of the bread and the washing of the feet.

“Why did Christ interrupt the Passover meal to do this wondrous deed? Christ and the apostles had already begun the supper. When Christ returned to the table after washing their feet, He began to teach. He underlined the message. ‘Do you understand what I just did for you ... If I washed your feet — I who am Teacher and Lord — then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: As I have done, so you must do.’ As a people who bend our knees in adoration before the Eucharistic Lord, we are sent out of the church door inspired, motivated, and driven to do what Christ has commanded. We must seek to transform our homes, our neighborhoods, and our society. As sweet as it is to worship God with our brothers and sisters at the Eucharist when we direct our gaze heavenward, we must go out the church door and direct our gaze outward to those around us.” (On Bended Knee pastoral letter, Bishop Anthony Bosco, 2001)

I have learned a lot since that written assignment many years ago. I don’t profess to understand all that there is to know about the most wonderful, sacred gift of the Eucharist. But I do know that I am blessed....blessed to be part of a church that professes Jesus’ presence in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and blessed to be part of a church that calls each one of us to be that presence in our world. Yes, Eucharist is a noun AND Eucharist is a verb AND Eucharist is profoundly so much more!

Funding...

Cont’d from Page 3

women and families in need.

In a statement released after the signing, Keaton expressed her gratitude for all who participated in making history by passing the act.

“Thank you to all who fight for our most vulnerable, and work tirelessly to create a culture of life in West Virginia,” she said.

Franz said the organization is proud to be able to participate with so many pro-life supporters in preparing and passing legislation “to help support the centers engaged in bringing

these innocent lives into a world where they can receive loving care.”

“West Virginia’s pregnancy centers empower women and impact lives for the better every day,” Caitlin Connors, southern regional director for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said in a statement. “These organizations provide free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, medical exams, counseling, parent classes, financial classes, and resources such as food, diapers, clothing, and financial assistance for housing and utilities. The pregnancy help centers are engaging in a labor of love.”

Pantry...

Cont’d from Page 3

St. Albans area as a place where all mothers in need can come to receive help with diapers, clothes, and more, Niedbalski said.

“From our humble beginnings,” he added, “we look forward to soon help our first 100 families.”

The Archbishop Swint Council opened the Little Blessings Baby Pantry with support from St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The pantry, located at the church, provides everything from clothing to diapers, to formula and anything else moms and their little blessings need.

The pantry is open to all families in the community who need

help, not just parishioners and not just Catholics. Niedbalski said, “No one in need will be turned away.” The pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. If demand necessitates, Niedbalski said, days will be adjusted to meet the requests of those in need.

For more information about the pantry or how to donate, contact Niedbalski at (304) 545-5100 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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A Letter from Bishop Brennan on the Upcoming Eucharistic Congresses

April 5, 2023

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

At a meeting of the American bishops a couple years ago, I voted for a Eucharistic Revival in our country to renew the faith of American Catholics in Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist. I did so because it is essential that we recognize the One whom we receive in Holy Communion so that we will benefit from the Sacrament and be strengthened to live our faith with integrity and joy.

We are in the first year of that Revival. As part of it, we will have three regional Eucharistic Congresses this spring: April 21-22 in Charles Town, April 28-29 in Wheeling and June 2-3 in Charleston. These events are being planned by a group of religious, lay and diocesan personnel out of love for you, the Lord and all his Church. Our desire is to rekindle in West Virginia Catholics a love for the Lord in his sacramental presence and to motivate our people to bring Christ beyond the walls of our churches to their homes, schools, workplaces and communities.

A nationally recognized speaker will illuminate for us the rich teaching of our Church on the Lord Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. This keynote address will be followed by a Q & A session and break-out sessions to encourage conversation among the participants.

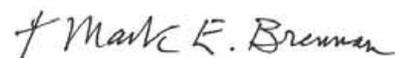
Times of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and a closing Mass will help us elevate our hearts so that we may live as children of God in faith and love and bear Christ effective witness in the world.

I hope you will join me in attending one of the regional Eucharistic Congresses. It will be time well spent if we let God's Spirit intensify in us true devotion to the Lord who offered his life for ours on the cross and now offers himself to us in the Eucharist.

Details of the Eucharistic Congresses will be shared with you in the FaithInWV e-bulletin, the Catholic Spirit, the diocesan website, your parish priest, and Catholic school principal.

Let us all pray that these regional gatherings in honor of Christ in the Eucharist will re-invigorate us, so that we may, in St. Augustine's words, become what we eat: men and women, strengthened by God, who serve one another in love as Christ has served us.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

He Lives, and He Lives in You! Four Holy Lives Model Unity for Eucharistic Congresses

By Joyce Bibey

As our focus during the National Eucharistic Revival centers around the Blessed Sacrament, we are called to draw closer to Christ by recognizing and celebrating His Presence in the Eucharist. It is in our Holy Communion that we receive Him — we become one body in Christ.

Who better to model and foster that love for us than the saints?

As part of our Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses this Spring, four holy men and women have been selected to illustrate for us the attainable devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament — St. Therese of Lisieux (the Little Flower), St. Thomas Aquinas, Blessed Carlo Acutis, and St. Gemma Galgani.

While there are countless saints who are elite Catholic role models, we can concentrate on these four amazing souls to give us grace and encouragement as we ask them to intercede for us before God.

Their messages of love, joy, and saving grace are recorded in their quotes.

St. Therese described her First Holy Communion as "the most wonderful day of my life ... that first kiss of Jesus in my heart — it was truly a kiss of love. I knew that

I was loved and said, 'I love you, and I give myself to you forever. It was a totally heavenly happiness which words cannot express.'

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the Eucharist is the perfect sign of Christ's Passion, "The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life. The Blessed Eucharist is the perfect Sacrament of the Lord's Passion, since It contains Christ Himself and his Passion."

Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose relics traveled throughout the diocese last Fall and is the namesake of our Catholic Youth Camp in Hutonsville, said, "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of heaven. By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy."

"When we face the sun, we get a tan... but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints. The Eucharist is the highway to heaven."

In a letter to her spiritual mentor Venerable Father Germanus, St. Gemma Galgani wrote, "Jesus shows all His sweetness in the Blessed Sacrament. Is it possible that there are souls who do not un-

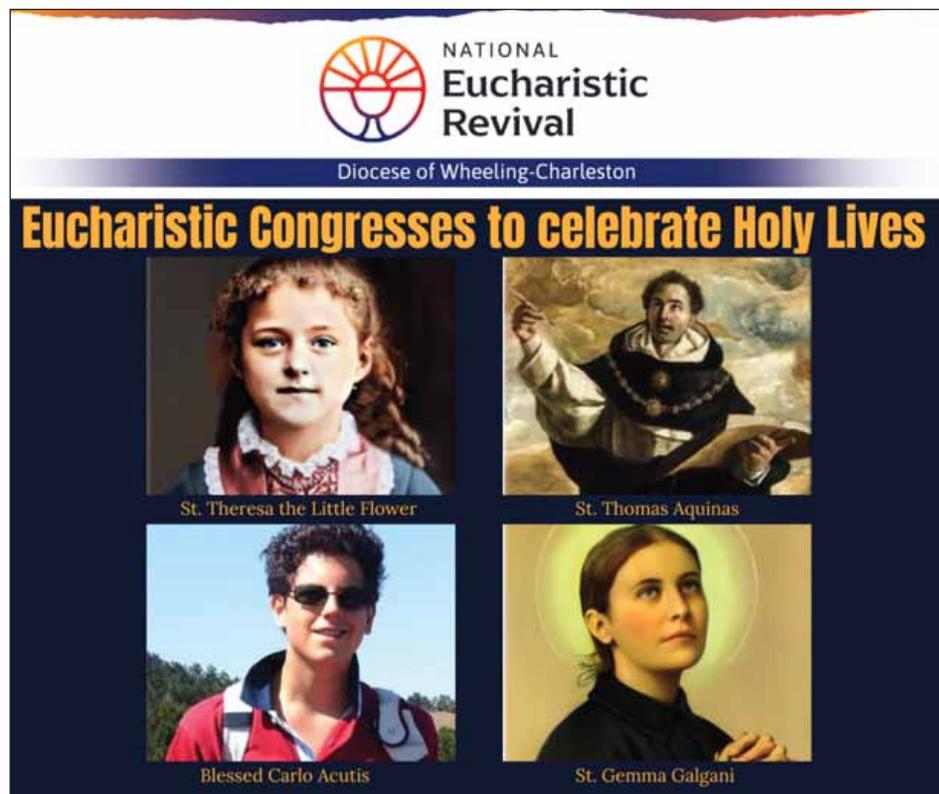


Photo Illustration by Joyce Bibey

derstand what the Blessed Eucharist is? Who are insensible to the Divine Presence... to the mysterious and fervent effusions of the Sacred Heart of my Jesus? The Eucharist is a school of paradise where one learns how to love."

Bishop Mark Brennan invites the faithful from all reaches of the state to attend any or all of the Congresses, regionally offered for your convenience in Charles Town, Wheeling, and Charleston. The Eucharistic Congresses are set for:

April 21-22 St. James Catholic Church, Charles Town

April 28-29 Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Wheeling

June 2-3 Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Celebrate these holy lives and Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist during the Taize music and prayer service on Friday's portion of the weekend, and throughout Saturday's events.

For more information about the DWC Eucharistic Congresses and to register go to: <https://dwc.org/eucharistic-congresses/>

Sister Norma Pimentel Speaks of Her Ministry with Migrants and Refugees at All Saints in Bridgeport

By Colleen Rowan

BRIDGEPORT — At Palm Sunday weekend Masses, the people of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport welcomed Sister Norma Pimentel who spoke about her ministry with migrants and refugees at the southern border of the U.S.

"There, I have been present to the many who have come from very far away," she said, "... families, children, mothers leave their homeland and journey through many hardships, with their only hope to find a new life."

Mothers want this new life for their children, Sister Norma said, as difficulties increase, and safety diminishes in their homelands.

"Especially the moms will say to me, 'It is my child that I want to save. I want to make sure that he can go to school, that he has a chance in life.' So, they dare travel and leave and risk their lives in those jour-



Courtesy Photo
Sister Norma Pimentel speaks at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport about her ministry with migrants and refugees at the southern border of the U.S.

neys that are not easy at all," she said.

As executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley in Brownsville, Texas, Sister Norma has seen the despair of families and the hardships and losses they have endured on both sides of the border. She visits migrants and refugees, prays

with them and advocates for them.

In her talk she shared heartbreaking stories, including one of a 15-year-old boy, whose father and older brother drowned in a river trying to get here. He had to continue alone. She shared the plight of a young mother with her infant trying to find safety.

She prayed with children in a facility. The children were crying and the border patrol agents looking on, she said, were crying as well. They thanked her for praying with the children.

Sister Norma told the congregation that we are called to care, especially for those on the peripheries.

"We're a country blessed extremely, but I believe that blessing comes with great responsibility to make sure we stand up for human life and protect it," she said. "To make sure that that blessing we can share with those that we can."

"So, I invite you, as we walk this journey with Jesus in this Holy Week," Sister Norma said, "he invites us also to welcome him in the stranger. That is, when we welcome them, we welcome Christ. So, let us open our hearts and care."

All Saints provided the following on Sister Norma: In January 2015, she received the Martin Luther

King, Jr. "Keep the Dream Alive" Award from Catholic Charities USA and awards from the University of Texas-Pan American, the Texas Medical Association, and nomination for "Texan of the Year." Around that same time, she testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the "State of Civil Rights in Immigration Detention Facilities." In March 2015, she spoke on "Women Upholding Human Dignity" at the United Nations. Sister Norma was awarded the 2015 Rio Grande Valley's "Citizen of the Year" for her advocacy for hundreds of immigrant/refugee families and individuals who journey to the Respite Center, fleeing the violence of their homelands and seeking out a better life.

She is one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020.

Sister Norma's full talk can be viewed on All Saints' Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Farmington Parishioners Inspired to Reach out to Mothers and Babies in Need

By Colleen Rowan

FARMINGTON—Mothers and babies in need in Wetzell and Marion counties have received a generous gift from their neighbors at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Farmington. Through a recent effort, the parish community collected more than 1,500 baby items that every family needs.

"Parishioners brought in everything from clothes to baby food, car seats, cribs, and diapers," said George Tippner, a parishioner who helped guide the project. Monetary donations were also received. All of the donations were given to Assumption Food Pantry in Littleton, a ministry that was established after Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church there closed in the late 1990s. The pantry operates out of the former church and rectory and is manned by parishioners of St. Peter's and St. Patrick Parish in Mannington.

"The area (of Littleton) is poverty stricken," said Tippner, who has been involved with the food pantry since he retired in 2010. "The need is so great in that area."



Courtesy Photo
Franchesca Aloï organizes items donated for mothers and babies in need at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Farmington.

To gauge the depth of that need, Tippner and volunteers of the pantry asked mothers, who receive provisions from the pantry, what their greatest needs were. A list of those

needs was then compiled and presented to St. Peter's parishioners at Masses and in the bulletin.

The response was immediate and generous, Tippner said. "As the items came in, they kept them in the vestibule so people could see what was being collected," he said.

Elsie Doshen, director of Assumption Food Pantry, said the items collected will help seven families of the area.

"The items we received were just phenomenal," said Doshen, who added that many of the donations were brand new. "People went shopping for the items," she said, "and that takes effort."

Doshen has been director of the pantry since 2016. She is a member of St. Patrick's, which also provides support and provisions for the pantry.

Seeing the enormous need of the mothers and babies in the community, St. Peter's has decided to make the collection a quarterly effort, with the next endeavor planned for late summer or early fall.

The people of St. Peter's were inspired to conduct the collection by the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops' Walking with Moms in Need Program, which Bishop Mark Brennan has been promoting in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the last few years. St. Peter's parishioners Franchesca Aloï and Diane Aloï learned more about the program at the by-monthly meeting of the Clarksburg Vicariate, which featured a zoom presentation about the program by Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministry for the diocese.

"The Walking with Moms program, introduced by our Bishop Brennan back in 2020, was very informational to our parish," Diane shared. "We jumped right on it."

Franchesca introduced the program at St. Peter's. She and parishioner Abbie Faith then spearheaded the collection of the items for mothers and babies.

The Assumption Food Pantry receives monthly donations of food from St. Peter's as well as St. Patrick's.

For information about the Walking with Moms in Need program, contact Barton by calling (304) 233-0880, ext. 289, or by e-mail to kbarton@dwc.org.

Nashville Shooting Was ‘Senseless Act of Violence,’ Pope Says in Telegram

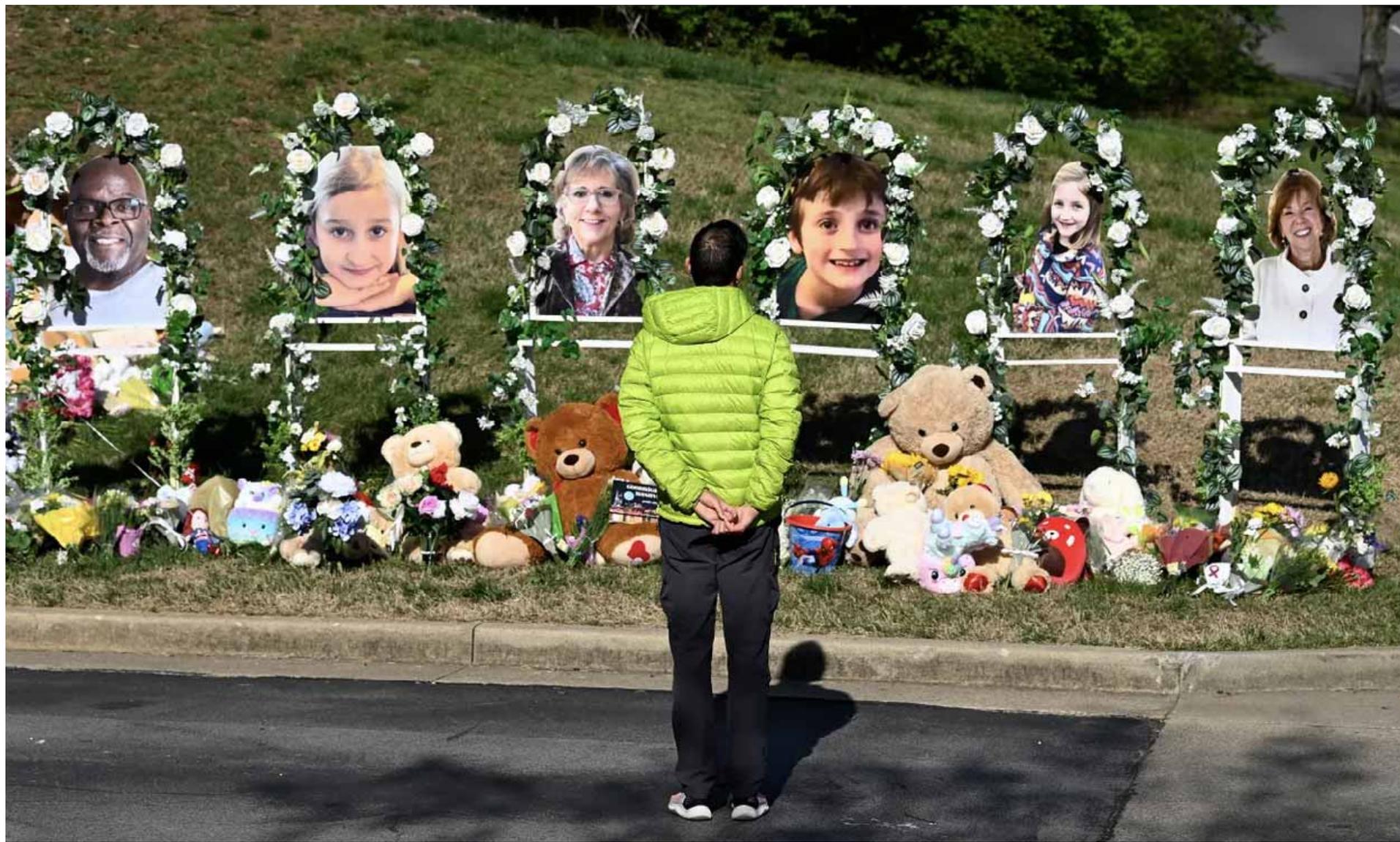


Photo by Mark Zaleski / The Tennessean

Photographs, from left, of Mike Hill, 9-year-old Evelyn Dieckhaus, Katherine Koonce, 9-year-old William Kinney, 9-year-old Hallie Scruggs, and Cynthia Peak were placed at a makeshift memorial by the entrance to The Covenant School March 30 in Nashville, Tenn.

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis called the deadly shooting at a school in Nashville a “senseless act of violence” and prayed that the grieving families hold strong to their faith and “bring good out of unspeakable evil.”

In a telegram sent to Bishop Joseph M. Spalding of Nashville and signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, the pope said he was “deeply saddened to learn of the recent shooting at The Covenant School.”

“Pope Francis asks you to convey his heartfelt condolences and the assurance of his prayers to all affected by this senseless act of violence,” said the telegram, released by the Vatican March 29.

“He joins the entire community in mourning the children and adults who died and commends them to the loving embrace of the Lord Jesus,” it said.

“He likewise invokes the consolation and strength of the Holy Spirit upon the grieving families

and prays that they will be confirmed in their faith in the power of the risen Lord to heal every hurt and to bring good out of unspeakable evil,” the papal telegram said.

Six individuals, including three children and school head Katherine Koonce, were fatally shot during the mid-morning hours March 27, at The Covenant School in the Green Hills neighborhood of Nashville. The private, Christian school educates students in preschool through sixth grade and was founded as a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Metro Nashville Police later identified the three child victims as 9-year-olds Evelyn Dieckhaus, William Kinney and Hallie Scruggs, who was the daughter of the senior pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Chad Scruggs. In addition to Koonce, the adult victims were substitute teacher Cynthia Peak and school custodian Mike Hill.

The shooter, identified as 28-year-old Audrey E. Hale, carried out the attack armed with a semiauto-

matic handgun and two short barrel, magazine-fed military-style semiautomatic weapons, including a foldable carbine and an “AR-pistol” with ammunition designed for the close combat needs of the U.S. military’s M4 carbine rifle.

Hale died following interactions with officers who had immediately responded to the scene.

According to Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Chief John Drake, the shooter had attended Covenant “at one point.” Hale identified as transgender, he said, adding that police had found detailed maps about the school, along with a manifesto, created by Hale prior to the shooting.

Bishop Spalding celebrated the 5:30 p.m. Mass March 27 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation to pray for the victims of the school shooting.

“On this day of such tragedy, we come here to gather as a people who live in hope, in faith and in love,” Bishop Spalding said at the beginning of Mass. “So, as we gather

today, mindful of what our faith teaches us, that darkness, sin, death does not have the final word, but light, love, and the victory of Jesus Christ does.”

President Joe Biden called the shooting at a school “sick,” “heart-breaking” and “a family’s worst nightmare,” in remarks from the White House. The Democratic president called on Congress to pass an assault weapons ban. In remarks during a small business summit at the White House, Biden addressed the still-developing situation in Nashville, saying, “We have to do more to stop gun violence.” Gun violence is “ripping our communities apart,” Biden, a Catholic, said. An assault weapons ban or universal background check legislation both face steep odds in a divided Congress.

(Contributing to this story were Katie Peterson, a reporter with the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville; and Kate Scanlon, a national reporter for OSV News.)

Join in a Pilgrimage with Bishop Brennan

September 29-October 2, 2023

Itinerary

DAY 1: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

DEPART USA, ARRIVE IN MEXICO

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- Welcome dinner with orientation talk

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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- Celebrate Mass with our pilgrim priests
- Time to pray, shop & explore the grounds of the Shrine
- Dinner presentation: Sisters of Mary programs around the world

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Sisters of Mary Girlstown

- Be inspired as you celebrate Mass with 3,500 girls
- Enjoy an amazing musical performance by the girls
- Lunch with the exceptional Sisters of Mary
- Tour Girlstown and see how the Sisters are transforming lives
- Time to play and enjoy the girls
- Light dinner with the Sisters before departing
- Return to the hotel for wrap-up

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Return to USA

- Return home on independent flights

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"Our Lady of Gaudalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love" by Carl Anderson and Eduardo Chavez

"Priest and Beggar" by Kevin Wells

Pilgrimage...

Cont'd from Page 1

receive scholarships to study at universities and others find good jobs. Visit the website — worldvillages.org — to read the amazing success stories and triumphs.

If you have an interest in attending the pilgrimage with Bishop Brennan and Father Ryan, please contact Susan Driscoll at the Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children at sdriscoll@worldvillages.org or call 1-800-662-6316.

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PILGRIMAGE CHAPLAINS

Bishop Mark Brennan - West Virginia

Fr. William Ryan - Togo, West Africa

Fr. Daniel Leary - Chaplain, Sisters of Mary



Chalco's Gift of Tears

By Kevin Wells

Father Bob Golas had been a priest for nearly two decades in the Archdiocese of Washington when something foreign — something uncontrollable — began to materialize in his body this past winter. It came on abruptly. Those in his presence observed it but out of courtesy stayed quiet.

While at prayer, in the middle of conversations with parishioners, and occasionally while presiding at Masses at Holy Redeemer in College Park, Md., he found himself on the verge of tears. He choked up in the middle of announcements and homilies. Sometimes he just let the tears run down his cheeks. It was a phenomenon. Never before had he experienced anything like it.

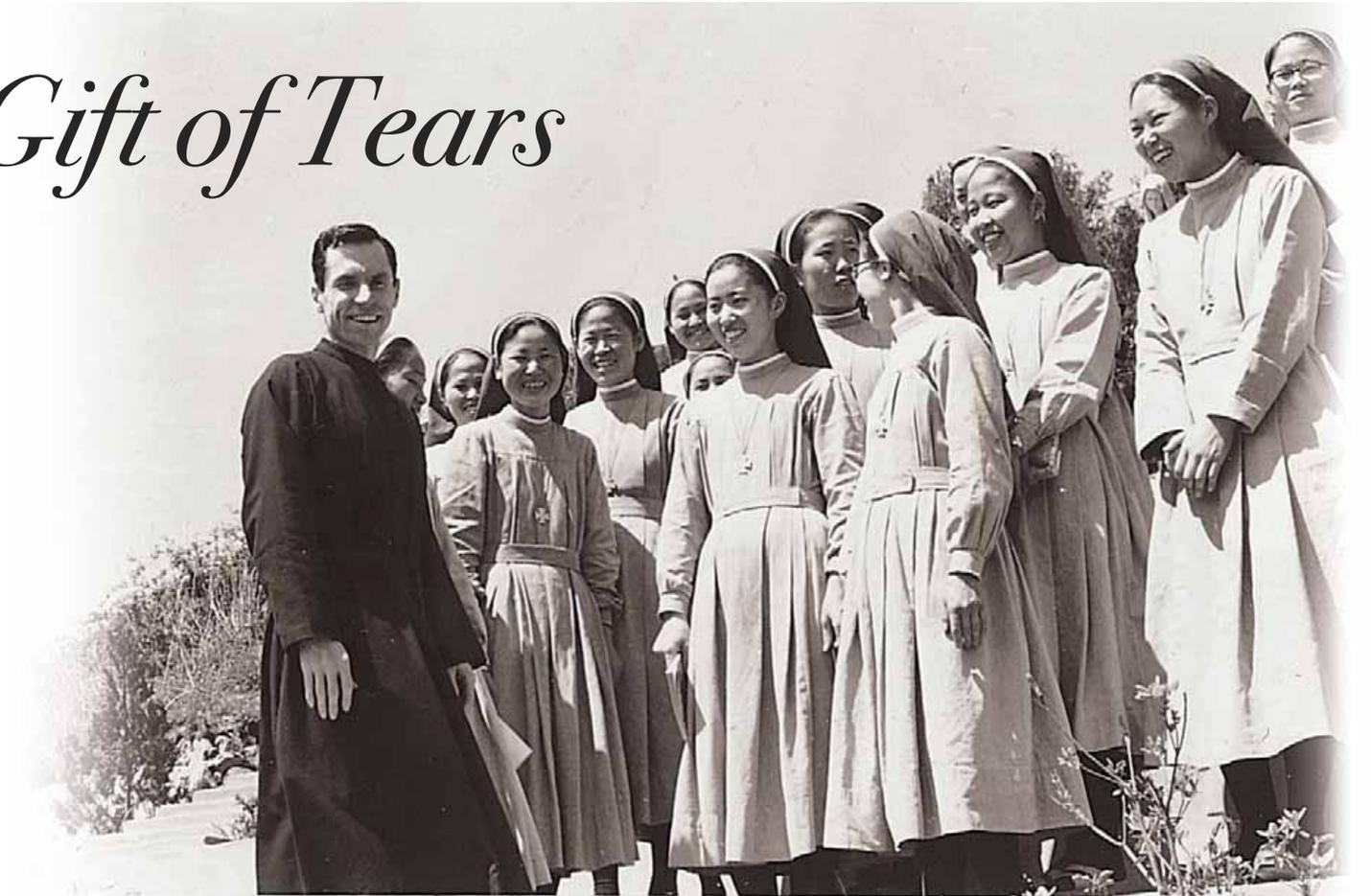
"Non sum ego eram," said Father Golas after celebrating Mass at his parish recently. "The Latin phrase keeps running through my head. I am not that I was. ... I was invited to Girlstown in Chalco and it was there that I found myself falling in love with a dead priest, and it began to affect me deeply.

"I came to know Venerable Aloysius Schwartz. His heroism and abandonment to God truly shook me — and really, I've found myself emotional since. ... Father Al basically showed me, and everyone that heard and knew him, that until we understood Jesus in the poor, that part of our lives would be stunted. And mine was stunted. I think I was doing the best I could as a priest, but really, Father Al showed me that I was partially going through the motions. Father Al was a priest who poured all of himself out for the poor."

As he traveled by plane to Mexico City, Father Golas began to thumb through the pages of Father Al's biography, 'Priest and Beggar: The Heroic Life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz', and soon found that he couldn't put it down. Thereafter, he observed the work of the Sisters of Mary and chaplain Father Dan Leary, who he perceived as tireless workers bringing about healing in places of deep brokenness. Father Golas saw that the Girlstown community of Villa de Las Niñas was a saving ground, acres and acres of an old carrot farm now covered in God's sacred graces, goodwill, and spiritual rebirth.

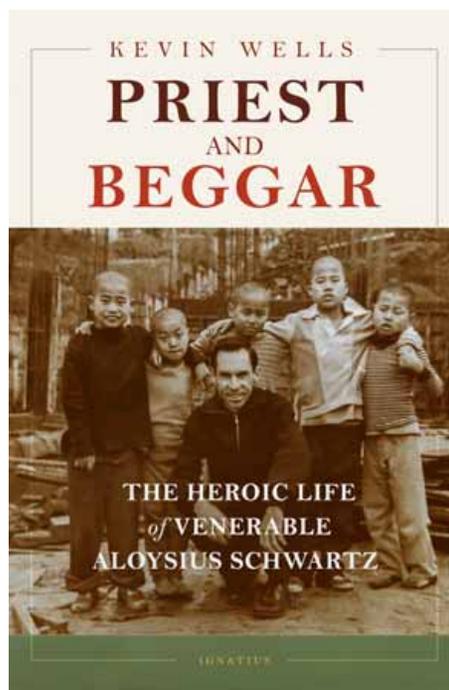
In a sense, Father Golas climbed a mountain in Chalco and became transfigured. What happened so powerfully for the priest in the community of Villa de Las Niñas?

After passing through the iron



Courtesy Photo

Venerable Aloysius Schwartz and the Sisters of Mary are pictured.



Courtesy Photo

The cover of Kevin Wells' book

gates and past the high stone walls of Girlstown, he entered what he soon regarded as an ordered place of joy. But as the week progressed, he began to view the community as a miraculous valley of risen Lazareuses. He was confronted by enormous shafts of teenage Catholic light. He saw a Girlstown community of 3,045 teenage girls who appeared to him as choruses of startlingly radiant angels.

The American priest was told of the shadows that lurked outside the walls. These were the same girls who had entered the five-year school having endured unspeakable wounds.

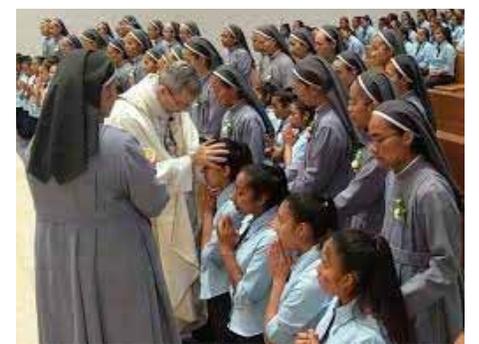
In many of the villages outside of the Girlstown community are

the human traffickers, drug runners, and gang members who the soul-bruised teenage girls managed to escape. Many of the teenage boys and girls in Boystown and Girlstown communities — in fifteen different locations throughout the world — have endured unimaginable pain in navigating the dysfunctionality, terror, and violence of drug- and alcohol-fueled poverty.

"The children suffered, but I saw the poor being greatly loved by Father Dan and the Sisters of Mary. They see Christ in them and work their hardest for them every day," Father Golas said. "I've always loved the spirituality in Eastern orthodox rite of the Church. I appreciate the asceticism, the mystical, the monastic life, their rituals, and sacred artwork — but then I saw the work that Father Al Schwartz created, I ask myself, 'How did I miss this?'"

"These poor girls were Jesus Christ. Jesus made it clear in the Gospel. And Father Al understood this 'Jesus in the poor' better than most ... I needed to experience that. Now, I feel like I need to go back every year to get away from the ever-running river of American consumerism and culture. It doesn't really stop here, but it does in Girlstown."

The children in these communities do not have cell phones or earbuds, they do not play video games or browse social media. Consequently, they have more time to hone their God-given skills. This was Father Al's pared-down "way." His desire was for children to have time to pray, play



Courtesy Photo

Father Dan Leary brings healing at Girlstown in Chalco, Mexico.

and pursue holiness.

"Father Al," as he is known in these parts, died at the age of 62 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, (ALS) Lou Gehrig's Disease. Prior to his death, the Washington, D.C. native fashioned one of the most remarkable non-governmentally-funded services to the poor in the history of the world, having begged for tens of millions of dollars to build hospitals, dormitories, tubercular wards, orphanages, gymnasiums, schools, and churches. His schematic, founded in Korea in 1964, would eventually pull nearly 170,000 children from abject poverty, many of whom lived in trash dumps with names like Smokey Mountain and Ragpickers Camp in Korea and the Philippines.

When he opened the doors to the Mexican poor in 1991, his body was already fading away in the grip of ALS. To Father Al, this suffering was no accident. He told the Sisters of Mary: "Our role is to mingle our blood with the blood of

See "Chalco" on Page 10



Courtesy Photo

Author Kevin Wells is pictured at the Sisters of Mary's Girlstown in Chalco, Mexico.

Chalco...

Cont'd from Page 9
Christ," he once said. "And to shed our blood with that of Christ to the poor. The way we serve is to have a constant crown of thorns."

In the days and weeks following his trip, Father Golas remains overwhelmed by the enormity of Father Al's spiritual and temporal work. With a heightened awareness of "Christ in the poor", Father Golas returned to parish life and dived further into Father Al's writings. He read his books, "Poverty: Sign of the Times" and "The Starved and the Silent." He's also been introduced to some of Father Al's homilies and letters to the Sisters of Mary's community.

"Father Al was a superhero; all of his power he received from the graces of God," Father Golas said. "God built his strengths within him so he could perform the work. He emptied himself out for the poor, and the Holy Spirit filled him."

Perhaps Father Golas's most jarring realization in Chalco was his level of comfort as a priest. "I was shaken out of my slumber," he said. "Academically, I knew, thought about, and helped the poor. But now I have been fully opened to their

dignity and value. They are Jesus."

Knowing the impact that Father Al and the experience that Girlstown had on his own priesthood, Father Golas has become a benefactor to the Sisters of Mary. He has since encouraged other priests in the Archdiocese of Washington — and outside the diocese — to commit to finding time to make the same pilgrimage.

Note: Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children is a non-profit organization that financially supports the Sisters of Mary as they help children break free from a life of poverty and lead them to Christ. WVC provides food, shelter, clothing, med-

ical expenses, Catholic education, and vocational training to more than 20,000 children in Boystowns and Girlstowns in six different

countries around the world. To donate to World Villages for Children, please go to www.worldvillages.org/poverty.



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CST 500. Foundations of Catholic Social Thought: This graduate course introduces the classical (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and St. Augustine) and medieval (St. Thomas Aquinas) roots of the fundamental principles that make up Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Simply put, CST is the Church's wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of the modern world. You'll gain a deeper and more holistic understanding of CST and delve into how these principles are fundamentally challenged by modernity, resulting in the so-called "social question." The course will be taught by faculty member Reverend Dr. Avelino Gonzalez-Ferrer of the Archdiocese of Washington, who served on the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2016-2021). Hear Father Avelino describe this fascinating course: <https://cdu.edu/new-course-on-catholic-social-thought-offered-in-summer-i-term/>.

THEO 280/PHIL 260. Catholic Bioethics I: This undergraduate course introduces students to bioethics and health care ethics from the Catholic perspective. It begins with the question, "How do I make ethical decisions?" by introducing students to foundational topics in Catholic moral theology,

including the nature of the moral act, virtues, and the formation of conscience. It then explores the moral principles that govern the patient-professional relationship and introduces students to the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, the guiding document for Catholic healthcare in the United States.

Students will learn to formulate appropriate, Catholic-based ethical responses to beginning-of-life challenges that they will face in their personal lives and/or in their work in the healthcare field. The course will be taught by Steve Bozza, director of the Office of Life and Family for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

PHIL 330. Contemporary Philosophy: This undergraduate course introduces students to contemporary philosophy and the developments of modern thought, beginning with phenomenology and the response to idealism and radical skepticism. Special emphasis will be given to Christian personalists such as Dietrich von Hildebrand and Edith Stein, who developed their work in the face of philosophical and political ideals that led to a reduction of the human person, including utilitarianism, nihilism, and subjectivism. Students will come to understand the key figures and philosophical undercurrents that greatly impacted the Church in the 20th century, especially Vatican II and Catholic Social Teaching. The course will be taught by Michael Grasiński, president of Evangelization for the Ruah Woods Institute.

Visit cdu.edu for more information, or reach out to the Admissions team by e-mail to admissions@cdu.edu or by calling 1-888-254-4CDU.

Obituary—John M. Lane

John M. Lane, retired Ohio County Educator and several other area school districts, died Friday, February 17, 2023 at the age of 92. He was born in Wheeling, WV, on August 19, 1930 and a life resident of Wheeling, a son of the late City Clerk Howard C. and Margaret Hughes Lane.

Mr. Lane was an area educator, retiring in 1988, from Ohio County Schools and completed his teaching career at Wheeling Park High School. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from West Liberty State College and a Master's Degree from West Virginia University. Mr. Lane also did advanced study at Fairmont State, Marshall Universities and the University of Maryland at College Park.

A classroom teacher for 32 years, he also taught at Bellaire High School and Follansbee High School. Mr. Lane took an active political role on educational issues and was President of Bellaire Classroom Teachers 1964-65, Ohio County Classroom Teachers 1968-70 and served two terms on the Ohio County Republican Executive Committee 1982-90. He was a Marine Sergeant, serving with the Second Engineer Battalion during the Korean War.

Mr. Lane believed he was the oldest lifelong member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Wheeling. He was baptized at St. Michael's in 1930 and was a member of the parish his whole life minus two years in the military. He was an active member of St. Michael's where he served as an usher for 55 years and a video technician for the communication office of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston 1986-98.

He was appointed to the Wheeling Creek Watershed Commission as an Ohio County citizen member in 1968, became chairman in 1970 until 1997 and remained a member until 2014, serving the Watershed for 46 years. He was honored by members of the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Resources with a certificate of commendation for outstanding leadership and dedication for furthering interstate cooperation upon completion of Pennsylvania Dam 648 in 1988.

Mr. Lane was a life member of WVU alumni, West Liberty alumni serving as Vice President in 1966, National and West Virginia Education Associations, Ohio and West Virginia Retired Teachers, Post #1 American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Carroll Council #504, Knights of Colum-

bus.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Margaret Ann Lane Snider, Elizabeth Lane King, and Eleanor Lane Engelmeier.

Surviving is his devoted and loving wife of 63 years, Elizabeth Traubert Lane; two sons, Michael (Deneen) and John J. (Linda), one daughter Betsy (Alan), four grandsons Mathew, Brian, Justin, and David.

Surviving is two sisters-in-law; Mary Ellen Traubert Madden, Margaret Ann Traubert Kellogg (Rolland) and brother-in-law; Dr. John Traubert (Nancy) and many nieces and nephews: Margaret King Fay (Stephen), Jane Kellogg Schultz (Jack), Dr. Ellen Kellogg, George Kellogg (Anne), James Kellogg (Nancy), Susan Kellogg Harley (Shawn), Paul Kellogg (Karen), John Madden (Julie), Patrick Madden, Jean Traubert Bridges (Thomas), John P. Traubert (Amy), Judge Steven Traubert (Amy) and David Traubert.

Visitation was Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at the Grisell Funeral Home, 1 Ridgecrest Road, Bethlehem/Wheeling with Rosary Devotion. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at St. Michael Catholic Church, Wheeling.

Interment with full Military Honors in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling.

Memorial contributions may be made to the John M. Lane endowment trust; West Virginia University Foundation, One Waterfront Place, P.O. Box 1650, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-9937 or the charity of the donor's choice.

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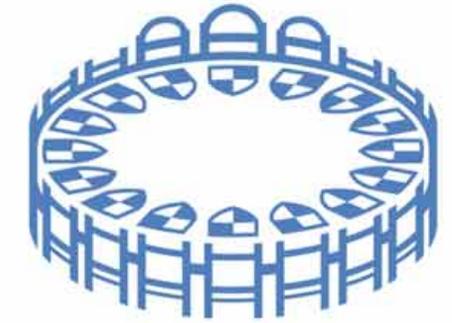


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Camp Carlo Announces New Leadership

By Colleen Rowan

HUTTONSVILLE— Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, also known as Camp Carlo, is under new leadership. Deacon Raymond Godwin is the new director and Maggie Moran is the new assistant director. “I’m so happy to have them onboard. They’re both so great,” Daniel Maul, director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the diocese, said.

“Deacon leads Camp WADE, has already worked with Camp Carlo on religious education and liturgies, is a catechetical leader in the diocese, and is extremely familiar with the camp property in Huttonsville,” Maul said.

Deacon Godwin serves as pastoral associate at St. Anne Parish in Webster Springs, and is the permanent deacon at St. Brendan Parish in Elkins and St. Patrick Mission in Coalton. He is also the ecumenical officer for the diocese’s Ecumenism Office and a member of the Diaconate Executive Committee.

Moran was a Camp Carlo counselor for the past two summers, Maul said, and is currently campus minister at

Shepherd University in Shepherdstown.

Maul thanked Deacon Godwin and Moran “for their tremendous work in preparing and eventually directing the weeks of camp. They, along with the counselors they hire, are a blessing to the diocese.”

Maul also expressed best wishes to previous Camp Carlo directors Riley Keaton and Sadie Shields (now Keaton) who decided to leave their positions after they married.

Preparations are underway for camp this summer, Maul said. There will be five weeks of Camp Carlo, the diocesan summer youth camp, along with a number of weeks when parishes will conduct their own summer camps on the property.

“Campers are currently being registered, and some wonderful, young, faith-filled counselors have already been hired,” Maul said.

“We hope numbers will continue to grow, as we believe our camping ministry is a beautiful tool of the diocese to lead young people to Christ Jesus and to bring them into membership in our church,”

Maul said. He also thanked parishes for their support in the ministry.

Dates for this summer are: June 25-July 1 – Rising sixth graders to eighth graders; July 2-8 – A “catch all week” for kids in third through 12th grades; July 9-15 – Rising freshmen to seniors in high school; July 16-22 – A “catch all week” for kids in third through 12th grades; and July 23-29 – “A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation” free program for 7- to 12-year-olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Char-

ities. For more information and to register, visit <https://campcarlowv.org>.



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JULY 23 - JULY 29 "A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation" free program for 7-12 year olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Charities.	

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- Paul Grist

La Semana Santa es tiempo para limpiar el alma, dice el Papa

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Durante la Cuaresma de este año, los residentes de la Domus Sanctae Marthae, donde vive el Papa Francisco, decidieron limpiar sus armarios y regalar cosas que otras personas pudieran utilizar. "No se imaginan la cantidad de cosas", dijo el Papa.

Dirigiendo su audiencia general del 5 de abril, el Papa dijo que la Semana Santa es el momento perfecto para simplificar la propia vida y desprenderse de cosas, especialmente de heridas, pecados y ofensas pasadas que impiden vivir con esperanza.

"Mira el armario del alma: ¿cuántas cosas inútiles tienes, cuántas ilusiones tontas?", preguntó.

El Papa Francisco contó que en su "otra diócesis", Buenos Aires, cuando recorría la ciudad — "ahora no puedo porque no me dejan" — miraba los rostros de la gente y siempre le llamaba la atención cuántos parecían tristes o completamente distraídos, "sin paz, sin esperanza".

Por eso, dijo, la tristeza y la decepción de los discípulos de Jesús tras su arresto y muerte son completamente comprensibles para la mayoría de la gente.

La gente se pregunta: "¿Por qué hay tanta maldad en el mundo? ¿Por qué siguen aumentando las desigualdades y la anhelada paz no llega? ¿Por qué estamos tan apegados a la guerra, a hacernos daño unos a otros?", dijo el Papa. "Y existe la sensación de que tiempos pasados fueron mejores y que en el mundo, quizá también en la Iglesia, las cosas no van como antes".

Tales pensamientos, dijo, son signos de que "la esperanza parece a veces sellada bajo la piedra de la desconfianza" al igual que Jesús fue sellado tras la piedra de su tumba.

Para los discípulos de Jesús, entonces y ahora, la cruz es la clave para restaurar la esperanza.

La cruz, "terrible instrumento de tortura", es el mayor signo del amor de Dios, dijo. "Ese madero de muerte, convertido en árbol de vida, nos recuerda que los ini-

cios de Dios empiezan a menudo en nuestros finales".

"En los agujeros negros de nuestras expectativas decepcionadas", dijo el Papa, el amor de Dios llena a los creyentes con una esperanza que nunca defrauda.

Con la esperanza nacida de la cruz, dijo, podemos ser "sanados de la tristeza con la que estamos enfermos, ser sanados de la amargura con la que contaminamos la iglesia y el mundo".

A través de las heridas de Jesús, Dios cura a la humanidad pecadora, dijo el Papa Francisco.

"También nosotros estamos heridos; ¿quién no lo está en la vida?", dijo. "Quién no lleva las cicatrices de decisiones pasadas, de incomprendimientos, de dolores que permanecen dentro y es difícil superar?"

"Dios no esconde a nuestros ojos las heridas que le han traspasado el cuerpo y el alma. La muestra para hacernos ver que en Pascua se puede abrir un pasaje nuevo: hacer de las propias heridas focos de luz", dijo el Papa, antes de imaginar que alguien respondía: "Pero, Santi-

dad, no exagere".

El Papa Francisco dijo a la multitud que no era una exageración.

"Y te pregunto: ¿qué haces con tus heridas, las que sólo tú sabes? Tú puedes dejar que se infecten de rencor, tristeza o puedes unir las con las de Jesús, para que también mis llagas se vuelvan luminosas", dijo.

"Sí, nuestras heridas pueden convertirse en fuentes de esperanza cuando, en lugar de compadecernos de nosotros mismos o esconderlas, enjugamos las lágrimas de los demás", dijo el Papa.

La elección, dijo, es "lamer mis propias heridas" o tender la mano "para sanar, para ayudar a los otros".

Al final de la audiencia, el Papa Francisco pidió a la gente que dedique tiempo en Semana Santa a rezar por la conversión de quienes fomentan la guerra.

Y, pensando en María parada al pie de la cruz, rezó por "las madres de los soldados ucranianos y rusos caídos en la guerra. Son madres de hijos muertos. Recemos por estas madres".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org 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 varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504.

También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

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



A Reflection on the Easter Triduum

The Sacred Triduum is a recounting of the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins. It serves as a recounting of God's plan of redemption for mankind through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ's life, death, and resurrection are the ultimate acts of charity. Catholic tradition states that charity is the greatest of the three theological virtues, which also includes faith and hope. Charity is a divinely infused virtue which lets us focus our will to cherish God above all things for his own sake and to cherish humanity for the sake of God. True charity seeks to give and to love without requiring anything in return.

Catholic Charities typifies the catechism definition of charity,

that is, "the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God." Daily, we "feed the hungry," "clothe the naked" and "care for the basic needs of others." We are guided by God's love to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and to work toward lasting and meaningful change.

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.

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6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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