

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

‘See with the Eyes of Faith,’ Bishop Says on Easter Sunday



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the faithful gathered for Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

By Colleen Rowan

Faithful of Wheeling-Charleston joined Bishop Mark Brennan for a joyful celebration of Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. Many attended in person, while others watched the livestream on the diocese’s website. Many others watched the television broadcast of

the Mass on WTRFDT3/ABC in Wheeling and WBOYDT/ABC in Clarksburg. The livestreaming and TV broadcast of the Mass and of Holy Week celebrations were sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

Bishop Brennan began his homily recalling his only pilgrimage to the Holy Land, during which

he visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There, he prayed at the tomb where Jesus was buried. More than 2,000 years ago St. Peter and St. John, having been alerted by Mary Magdalene, came to the same tomb the morning of the first day of the week and found it empty, the bishop said. Peter

See “Easter” on Page 3

Inside: Martinsburg Discernment Event Aims to Help Teens Consider God’s Call, Page 5

Saints Accompany, Intercede for Christians in Prayer, Pope Says, Page 9

Obituaries

Sister Dolores (Joseph Ann) Hudson, OSU

Ursuline Sister of Louisville Sister Dolores (Joseph Ann) Hudson, OSU, 82, died at Baptist East Hospital on April 2, 2021. A native of Cumberland, Maryland, she entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1957.



Sister was principal of St. Francis de Sales School, Morgantown, from 1977 to 1984 and served as a teacher at parochial schools in Louisville and Columbia, South Carolina. In Cumberland, Maryland, she taught at SS. Peter and Paul School from 1969 to 1977 and was principal of St. John Neumann School from 1987 to 1997, where a new school yard was named for her as she retired from that position.

Sister Dolores also taught at St. Peter School in Columbia, South Carolina, and at St. Helen, St. Elizabeth and St. Vincent de Paul parish schools in Louisville. She served her Ursuline Sisters at their nursing facility from 1998 to 2010 and then at their Motherhouse in Louisville until 2017. Sister Dolores was known for her kindness and generosity to all, always willing to help others and had a special place in her heart for children.

Sister Dolores earned a bachelor's degree in education from Ursuline College, Louisville, a master's degree in elementary education from Frostburg State College, Frostburg, Maryland and later a second master's degree in education administration and supervision from Frostburg State College.

Sister Dolores is survived by Mary Margaret Wilhelm, brother James Hudson, both of Cumberland, several nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass was held at the Motherhouse Chapel on Friday, April 9 with burial in St. Michael Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Ursuline Sisters and mailed to the Mission Advancement Office, 3115 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.

Sister Martina Keitz, OSF

Sister Martina Keitz, OSF (baptized Agnes Elizabeth "Betty") was born March 20, 1929 in Buffalo, N.Y. She was the daughter of the late Peter and Anna (Follett) Keitz. Sister Martina died on March 17, 2021 at the age of 91.



Sister Martina entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara September 5, 1948 and was professed August 17, 1951. She received her Bachelor's degree in Education in 1965 from Rosary Hill (Daemen) College, Amherst, N.Y. Sister Martina's principal ministry was education. She taught at St. Lawrence, St. Joachim and St. Benedict Schools, Buffalo, N.Y.; St. Anthony School, Charleston; St. Agnes School, Atlantic Highlands and St. Mary Elementary School, New Monmouth, New Jersey; Our Lady of the Rosary School, Greenville, S.C.; Holy Rosary School, Columbus, St. Paul School, Athens, St. Bernadette School, Lancaster and St. Rose School, New Lexington, Ohio. She also spent three years teaching at St. Francis International School, Rome, Italy.

Before moving to Stella Niagara in 2008, Sister Martina taught at Francis Center, Niagara Falls, N.Y. She became a resident of the Stella Niagara Health Center in 2010.

Sister Martina is survived by her sister-in-law Norma Cooperdock (the late Frank) Keitz, many nieces, nephews and cousins and her Sisters in the Stella Niagara Community.

She was predeceased by siblings: Rose Mary Keitz, Frank E. Keitz, Elmer E. Keitz, James W. (Arlene Altschafer) Keitz, Florence F. Keitz (Bronislaus) Stadnicki, Marion L. Keitz, George E. (Mildred Dubay) Keitz, Arthur H. (Annabelle Meinke) Keitz, Philip W. (Margaret Heav-ern) Keitz, Charles J. (Mary Tribula) Keitz, and Mildred L. Keitz (Pasquale) Cimato.

A Celebration of Sister Martina's life will be held at a later date. Interment at Stella Niagara Cemetery.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and fore- most if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbish- opabuse.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 ap- plicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforce- ment: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in im- mediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspect- ed 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 Di- ocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Di- ocese'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 En- vironment", 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 per- sonal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where ap- plicable 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.



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“The risen Lord makes us participants in his new life through the Holy Spirit he has sent to us from the father.”

—Bishop Mark Brennan, Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph

Easter ...

Cont'd from Page 1

seems, on the occasion, not to have known what to think; he later realized the truth, the bishop said. But John, seeing the burial clothes and the head wrapping, saw and believed.

“It is a choice to believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. A choice some make, and others do not,” Bishop Brennan said. “To believe in it, is not an irrational choice. It doesn’t violate the canons of our intellect.”

Some people will not believe based on natural grounds: the resurrection of a dead body is impossible. “But if you admit there is another dimension to reality, a supernatural dimension: God and all that that belongs to God, then the God who created the universe and all of us can surely intervene in his creation for his purposes,” the bishop said. “There is also the fact from that first reading, Jesus was seen by others after his resurrection. Peter now convinced that the Lord rose to new life tells the Roman centurion Cornelius, ‘This man God raised from the dead on the third day and granted that he be visible not to all the people but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.’”

Two things about this are important, Bishop Brennan noted. First, Jesus was seen by those who knew him and could testify that he was the one who had been crucified and whom they had seen afterwards risen in a glorified body.

“St. Paul tells us of many appearances of the risen Lord, once to more than 500 people,” Bishop Brennan said. “Those who didn’t know the Lord could not testify that the crucified had risen.”

Second, the bishop said, some who knew Jesus had rejected him, the high priest and his followers mocking him as he was dying: “Let the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

“That would not be faith, would it?” Bishop Brennan said. “That would be proof in worldly terms, unlike John who saw an empty tomb and believed.”

Those who did not believe in him, who rejected him will see the risen Lord when he returns in glory, “Then they will see him whom they have pierced.”

Many do not believe in an after-life or in Christ’s resurrection, the bishop said. He stressed that Christians, for 2,000 years have testified



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Easter Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

that they have found in their faith in Christ a power to sustain them and give them hope in this life and hope for something beyond.

“Many of you, if not all, can testify to that reality—the power of the risen Christ at work in your lives now,” Bishop Brennan said, “that Christ’s resurrection is true, that it responds to a deep human desire that we not simply vanish after we die.”

Still, he said, others are afraid to believe in the risen Christ because they would have to take his life and his teaching seriously.

“That could interfere with their lifestyle choices if they prefer malice and wickedness to sincerity and truth,” Bishop Brennan said, noting that St. Peter tells Cornelius that Jesus is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. “If we are repentant and believe in him, we will be forgiven our sins,” Bishop Brennan said. “If we balk at changing our sinful ways, here comes the judge.”

“The risen Lord makes us participants in his new life through the Holy Spirit he has sent to us from the

father,” the bishop said. “We really can live differently from nonbelievers.” The bishop then offered real life examples of this. The first of a New York City policeman who was shot by a teenage boy that he was trying to apprehend after a robbery. The police officer was left paralyzed from the neck down.

“The policeman could have turned to hatred and bitterness and cursed his attacker but he, a baptized and confirmed Catholic, instead prayed hard and fought to overcome his natural feelings of bitterness and for revenge and eventually was able to forgive the young man, which he made public,” the bishop said. “That policeman went on to give talks to young people about asking God’s help to forgive others and urging them to pledge not to use violence.”

Bishop Brennan also told the story of a husband who cared for his bedridden wife for years. When she recovered, the husband became sick and it was his wife’s turn to take care of him until he died. The bishop said the risen Lord gave them both strength to keep their marriage vows:

for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health. The bishop also shared the story of a boy at a confirmation retreat who saw other boys picking on a newcomer. The boy told them to stop, and he asked them if this was how they were supposed to prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The boy was popular, Bishop Brennan said, he was a leader among his peers and he risked his popularity to stand up for someone that his friends were mistreating. “I witnessed it,” the bishop said, “and I believe the risen Lord was with him to give him the courage to do what he did.”

“Jesus Christ rose from the dead not just for himself but for us too, to give us the sure hope of eternal life in the confidence that with him at our side we can face the challenges that come our way,” Bishop Brennan said. “The tomb is still empty and everyone has to decide what that means. I believe, with St. John, that Jesus rose to new life and has the power to sustain me as I try to follow him. I encourage you all to see with the eyes of faith and to believe.”



Dressed in Their Best for Easter Sunday

Courtesy Photo
 On Easter Sunday at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, little ones who participated in the Children's Liturgy of the Word take a moment to show off their Easter outfits in front of the church.

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Martinsburg Discernment Event Aims to Help Teens Consider God's Call

By Colleen Rowan

MARTINSBURG—It is important for teenagers to know that God has a purpose for each person, said Linda Abrahamian who works in youth ministry for both St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg and St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville. To help them see this and to help them consider where God may be calling them, Abrahamian and others are planning a discernment event for middle and high school teens.

The gathering is not just for those thinking about the priesthood and religious life, but for all teens just trying to figure out God's call in their lives. The discernment event will be held at St. Joseph Church and School in Martinsburg April 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., beginning in the church.

This is the time in young people's lives when they are thinking about their future, Abrahamian said, and with so much in the world vying for their attention it can be confusing. The goal of the discernment event is to help them

navigate through that confusion.

"God has a plan for each of us, but the confusing part is how do we hear and respond to God's will," Abrahamian said. "That is what I hope we can address through this event."

The primary focus in the morning will be what discernment is, and how to discern. "Yes, we will learn about those vocations in the afternoon, as that is important as well," Abrahamian said, "whether that vocation is on one's mind now or not."

The girls segment will be presented by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, while the boys program will be presented by Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarians Deacon Phillip Szabo and Ryan Budd.

"The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia is a vibrant and growing order," Abrahamian said. "They have many young women entering each year. And although they are based in Nashville, Tennessee, they have a House of Studies in Washington, D.C., so they are such a

close resource. They are wonderful and are excited to come out and do this for us!

"We are also so blessed to have two great seminarians, Deacon Phillip Szabo and Ryan Budd to give of their time," Abrahamian continued. "And Deacon Phillip is a familiar face to many of our teens in this area, as he has actively helped with a great number of teen events we have had."

Deacon Szabo will be ordained to the priesthood next month at the neighboring Parish of St. James the Greater in Charles Town. He was ordained to the diaconate at St. James last year.

Through the discernment event, Abrahamian hopes to impart a deeper understanding of the priesthood, "as we often focus on the functionalism of the priesthood: the priest says Mass, doing social work, presides at a wedding, etc."

"In many ways, we have lost the mystery of the priesthood, that the priest through ordination is an Alter Christus, another Christ: a

mediator, offering sacrifice to God, but also being an oblation. And we will present religious life for women, and the many charisms of the different orders, and the beauty of being called to be a Bride of Christ," she said.

The idea for the discernment event actually came from the young people themselves. Abrahamian recalled coming back with a group of teens from Mt. 2000 and asked each of them what the best part of the retreat was. One of the girls answered, "To meet and talk with a real sister; I have never met or talked with one."

That is when Abrahamian saw there was a need to have something for young women.

"So we will address that in the afternoon, along with the priesthood for our young men," she said.

To attend the discernment gathering or for more information, contact Abrahamian by e-mail to linda.abrahamian@gmail.com or by calling (304) 279-2315 by April 13.

Weirton Knights of Columbus on Mission for New Members

WEIRTON—The Knights of Columbus Weirton Council #3734 is on a mission to recruit new members and is asking all Catholic men 17.5 years of age and older to consider becoming a member of the council.

At the entrance of St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton, the council has placed literature about the organization and what a membership can do for those who join, the Catholic Church, and one's fellow man.

"If you have never been asked to join the Knights of Columbus, consider this an invitation," members said. "You can join online or in person and there will be no dues this year for new members. Please read the information cards and fill out the interest card and put it in the collection basket, give it to any K of C member or mail it to K of C #3734, P.O. Box 2796, Weirton, WV 26062."

Those interested may contact Larry DeRosa for more information at (304) 564-5031 or e-mail lderosa.kofc@yahoo.com.

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Basilica Co-Cathedral Planning Livestream Upgrade

CHARLESTON—The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston is looking to make significant upgrades to its livestreaming capabilities, parish officials announced.

The upgrades will include three new optical zoom cameras; a control station in adjacent room to the choir loft; and a large LED TV screen for overflow seating in the gathering space. Two

cameras will be placed in the choir loft and one camera will be placed behind the ambo.

“Upgrades will allow recordings of Masses including funerals and weddings upon request,” parish officials said. “This livestreaming investment will allow the parish to continue weekly broadcasts—even beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Mass at the basilica is livestreamed on the parish’s

Facebook page Sundays at 10 a.m. The parish offered livestreaming on Good Friday in the afternoon and later that evening, the Easter Vigil, and two Easter Sunday Masses.

The total cost of the livestreaming upgrades is \$17,082. Those who would like to make a donation to this new service, can send their donation to the parish office, 1114 Virginia St. East, Charleston, WV 25301.

Madonna High School’s Brick Project Leaves Lasting Tributes, While Beautifying Grounds

By Colleen Rowan

WEIRTON—Alumni, supporters, and friends of Madonna High School in Weirton are invited to commemorate something or someone special, while at the same time helping to beautify the school’s grounds.

The new sidewalks in front of the school are being lined with personalized bricks. These adornments will leave lasting tributes to special times, memorialize loved ones, or just show support for the beloved school which has provided Catholic education to area youth for more than 65 years.

“Madonna is very excited to offer the engraved bricks to our Blue Don Family!” said Christine Holmes, advancement director for the school. “We have already had a great response from those who want to honor or memorialize friends, teammates, siblings, parents, and teachers.

Donors to the project can customize one or more bricks as a permanent reminder of cherished memories and to show their Blue Don pride, school officials said.

“Honor your class, your parents, an influential teacher, a life-changing coach, yourself, a championship season, or a loved one,” school officials said.

Donors will receive notification of where their bricks are located once they are installed.

“Don’t miss out on this opportunity to memorialize your part in Madonna’s history,” school officials said.

The cost is \$100 per brick or \$110 per brick with clip art. Available clip art options include a kneeling angel, a cross, an image of Our Lady, and the Madonna High School logo. Examples of clip art and brick design may be found on the online order form. Visit www.polarengraving.com/Madonnahighschool to order a brick online. To request a paper order form or for any questions, contact Holmes at cholmes@weirtonmadonna.org.

Huntington’s St. Peter Claver Parish Preparing Community Garden; Special Collection for Support Set for April 18



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is last year’s Community Garden at St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington. Preparations are underway for this year’s garden. A special collection for the garden will be held April 18 at the parish.

HUNTINGTON—St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington announced to parishioners that the 2021 Community Garden beds have been weeded and bushes and vines have been trimmed. Seeds for greens and root vegetables have been sown. Compost will be arriving in the near future, and transplants will be planted on Saturday, May 15.

There will be a special collection to support the activities of the garden on Sunday, April 18. Donations can be placed in the baskets with the regular collection. Checks should be marked “Community Garden” in the memo line. Donors are asked to place cash donations in an envelope and write “Community Garden” on the envelope. The Garden Committee thanks everyone for their support.

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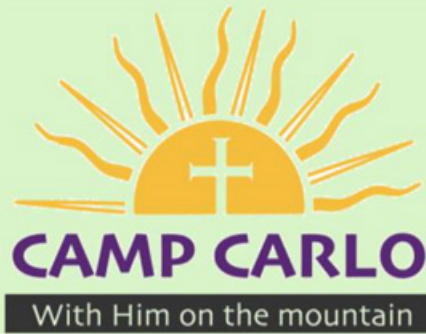
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<https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/youth-camp-registration/>

Wheeling University Engineering Department Project Cutting Energy Cost

Providing Students with a Valuable Learning Experience

WHEELING—Installation of new high efficiency LED lights inside Wheeling University's McDonough Center is cutting energy costs while increasing the lumens inside the athletic complex.

For the last five years, Engineering Science students under the direction of Bob Yahn, assistant professor of Engineering, have replaced more than 100 florescent lights with LED fixtures inside the University's facility.

"By installing the LED fixtures, several areas inside McDonough are much brighter, and our tracking shows we've reduced our electricity usage. By reducing peak power and kilowatt usage we have cut our energy bill, saving nearly \$2,000 a month," Yahn explained.

Over the course of a year, Yahn said the high energy lighting is saving the University about \$24,000.

Not only has this project had a positive impact on the University electric bill, Yahn noted, it's providing Engineering students valuable hands-on training. "The students are installing the new fixtures, as well as analyzing and tracking electric usage inside the building. This project, as well as internships, provide the students with real-world learning experiences, which will make them more marketable to companies when they are seeking employment following graduation." To date, Yahn and his students have upgraded



Courtesy Photo

Students in the Engineering Science program at Wheeling University install new LED lights inside the McDonough Center. Over the past five years, Assistant Professor of Engineer Bob Yahn and his students have replaced more than 100 lights, which have reduced the University's electric costs by \$2,000 a year.



Courtesy Photo

Wheeling University Assistant Professor of Engineering Bob Yahn helps students replace old lighting fixtures with energy efficient LED lights inside the McDonough Center.

the lighting in the McDonough Center lobby, first floor athletic administrative offices, the auxiliary gym and the performance gym. Yahn said the lights in the performance gym can be dimmed, allowing for special lighting effects to be incorporated into University events.

"I am grateful to Professor Yahn for this project and seeing the real-world work experience that this provides our students. Their work not only broadens our students' skillset, it is having a positive impact on the University's energy cost. Bob is just one example of how the faculty at Wheeling University incorporate innovative learning experiences into their programs' curriculum," said Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University.

Wheeling University's Engineering Science program offers students the best of two worlds – liberal arts and technology. The engineering science program provides students a rigorous and challenging curriculum, which prepares them for successful careers in engineering. Today, engineers are expected to be professionally competent, as well as aware of the ethical dimension of their work and its impact on the quality of human life. The combination of a

strong scientific background with a liberal arts core, positions Wheeling's graduates for a competitive edge to advance in their careers. Structured around electrical, industrial and mechanical engineering topics, the curriculum combines mathematics and sciences with fundamental engineering courses that stress analytical study with hands-on laboratory work. The curriculum is designed to allow students to seek professional licensure while working as engineers or to enter graduate study in a variety of engineering fields.



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Saints Accompany, Intercede for Christians in Prayer, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

Christians are never alone in prayer but instead are accompanied by myriad saints who protect them and seek God's intercession, Pope Francis said.

Whenever men or women open their hearts to God, they will always be in the "company of anonymous and recognized saints who pray with us and who intercede for us as older brothers and sisters who have preceded us on this same human adventure," the pope said April 7 during his weekly general audience.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on the connection between prayer and the communion of saints who are "not far from us" and are a reminder of Jesus Christ because they have also "walked the path of life" as Christians.

"In the church, there is no mourning that remains solitary, no tear that is shed in oblivion, because everything breathes and participates in a common grace," he said.

The tradition of having graveyards around churches is a sign of that sharing, he said. It is "as if to say that every Eucharist is attended in some

way by those who have preceded us. There are our parents and grandparents, our godfathers and godmothers, our catechists and other educators," who have not only transmitted faith but also "the way of praying."

The saints, he explained, are "witnesses that we do not adore — that is understood, we do not worship these saints — but whom we venerate and who in thousands of different ways bring us to Jesus Christ, the only Lord and mediator between God and human beings."

Departing from his prepared remarks, the pope said the lives of saints also serve as a reminder that "even in our lives, though weak and marked by sin, holiness can blossom."

"In the Gospels, we read that the first 'canonized' saint was a thief and he was 'canonized' not by a pope, but by Jesus himself," he said. "Holiness is a path of life, of encounter with Jesus, whether long or short, or in an instant, but always a witness" of God's love.

The pope also highlighted the need for Christians to pray for one another, which is "the first way of loving" others.

In times of tension, he said, "one way to dissolve the conflict, to soften it, is to pray for the per-

son with whom I am in conflict. Something changes with prayer; the first thing that changes is my heart, my attitude. The Lord changes it to make an encounter possible, a new encounter, and prevents the conflict from becoming a war without end."

Pope Francis said the first thing people must do in times of anguish is to ask "our brothers and sisters, the saints above all, to pray for us" because they will "give us hand to obtain from God the graces we need most."

Christians who "have not reached the breaking point" and persevere in times of trial perhaps owe it to the intercession of the saints who are not only in heaven, but also the holy men and women here on earth, the pope added.

Once Again, Catholic Agencies Step in to Help Minors at the Border

By Catholic News Service

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — As the U.S. took in almost 19,000 migrant children, labeled "unaccompanied minors," in March, faith-based organizations such as Catholic Charities throughout the U.S. have been doing their part to help.

In Texas, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Antonio set up over 2,000 cots for their guests at the Freeman Coliseum to "welcome and care for unaccompanied migrant children," the organization said March 30 on its website.

Staff and volunteers from local churches have assembled hygiene kits of toothpaste and soap to give

to minors who have been allowed into the country at its southern border with Mexico and are waiting to be reunited with family or who will soon go live with sponsors.

"It is a privilege to serve the community and an honor to help as much as we can these children who have been separated from their parents for some time, especially in a country that is not their own," said Antonio Fernandez, president and CEO of San Antonio's Catholic Charities. "While I understand that this could be considered a political issue for many, it is strictly a humanitarian one to us at Catholic Charities."

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Catholic News Service Movie Review

Francesco



CNS Photo/courtesy FrancescoFilm

This is a digital movie poster for the documentary film “Francesco.” The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

By Sister Hosea Rupprecht, Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Award-winning documentarian Evgeny Afineevsky (“Cries From Syria”) issues a call for action with his film “Francesco” (Discovery+).

The unspoken summons comes through allowing viewers to witness the influence one man, Pope Francis, has succeeded in having over the many social and other issues of our time.

Rather than present a linear biography, the movie takes its form from the Holy Father’s own agenda. As depicted here, the pontiff’s primary goal is to bring the message of human dignity to the world by shining a light into some of the darkest corners of the globe, where political, social, economic and religious injustices have taken — and, in some cases, are still taking — place.

Afineevsky, for instance, brings his audience to the Philippines, ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, as Francis talks about climate change and the call to protect our common home.

The plight of refugees is highlighted through the pope’s visit to Lampedusa, a modern-day Ellis Island in the Mediterranean Sea through which thousands of Tunisian and Libyan migrants have passed, fleeing political upheaval in their home countries. The passage from the North African coast to Lampedusa is considered one of the world’s deadliest migration routes.

The pontiff also visits the island of Lesbos in Greece to which many Syrian migrants fled in the wake of their nation’s civil war. One interviewee calls the Syrian refugee situation “the greatest humanitarian crisis since World War II.” Pope Francis not only gave words of comfort to refugees — he followed them up with action, sponsoring the im-

migration to Italy of three Muslim families.

“Francesco” also address other hot-button topics such as clergy sexual abuse, homosexuality and the building of walls between peoples.

Through the experience of Juan Carlos Cruz, a Chilean survivor of clergy sexual abuse recently appointed to the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Afineevsky takes us through the journey Pope Francis experienced from initially making comments many viewed as hurtful to arriving at a better understanding of the plight of victims.

The film’s treatment of homosexuality and same-sex marriage may leave viewers confused. By taking some of the Holy Father’s words out of context, the movie makes it appear the pope supports same-sex unions, which is not the case.

Rather, Pope Francis calls for respect to be shown toward all, based on each individual’s inherent dignity as a human being. Thus, when asked by a same-sex couple whether they should take their children to their home parish, Francis encourages them not to deny the graces of the church to their kids, while also saying that not all will understand their choices.

Where does the pontiff get the inspiration to do all he does? Afineevsky takes us back to the life of young Jorge Bergoglio, especially stressing the influence that his grandmother, Nonna Rosa, had on his growing faith and spirituality.

From his decision to become a priest, to joining the Jesuits, to becoming the archbishop of Buenos Aires and a cardinal, Pope Francis has been consistent in his action on behalf of others. In other words, the film shows that what Francis has done since his 2013 election to the papacy is just a continuation of what he had done up to that time.

Of special interest to American viewers will be the interviews with Sister Norma Pimentel, a Missionary of Jesus. As head of Catholic Charities in South Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, she has worked closely with refugees from Mexico and Central America.

During a virtual papal audience, Sister Norma was recognized by the pope and, as a representative of all the religious women in the United States, was thanked for her service to the church.

Francis also has been instrumental in appointing women to important posts in the Vatican. They include Silvia Monica Correale, the first female postulator on the staff of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and Barbara Jatta, the current director of the Vatican Museums.

With a running time just under two hours, “Francesco” is quite long for a documentary. But, among other things that sustain viewer attention, Afineevsky uses news headlines and posts from the @pontifex Twitter account to great effect.

In fact, an April 23, 2020, message from that account aptly summarizes the basic theme the documentarian seeks to promote.

“The pandemic reminds us,” the pope tweeted, that “there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken: Now is the time to eliminate inequalities and heal the injustice undermining the health of the entire human family!”

The film contains mature themes and some scenes of war violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.

(Sister Rupprecht, a Daughter of St. Paul, is a guest reviewer for Catholic News Service.)



Furthering Technological Literacy in West Virginia

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist

Southern Region

WELCH—Kevin, a resident of Northfork, had lost his job due to cutbacks related to COVID-19. He came to our Catholic Charities McDowell County Adult Learning Center in Welch with two goals: to improve his computer skills and to obtain gainful employment.

Our adult learning center provides services to help adults pass the High School Equivalency (HSE) exam, learn basic computer skills, prepare for vocational program testing or conduct a job search.

Kevin has greatly improved his computer skills and knowledge and even obtained a LinkedIn computer certificate.

Kevin is enjoying his newfound confidence. "I've learned so much since I started and I feel much more confident using computers now," he said.

Kevin has applied to enroll in a Commercial Driver Licensing Program and hopes to start that training during the next available class.

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.

To learn more, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

Courtesy Photo

Since January, Kevin has worked with Catholic Charities' adult education instructor in McDowell County to improve his computer skills. He continues to achieve and work toward his goals!




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En Español

Papa: Los santos acompañan, interceden por los cristianos orantes

Por Junno Arocho Esteves,
Catholic News Service

Los cristianos nunca están solos en oración, sino que están acompañados por una miríada de santos que los protegen y buscan la intercesión de Dios, dijo el papa Francisco.

Siempre que hombres o mujeres abren su corazón a Dios, estarán siempre en la "compañía de santos anónimos y reconocidos que rezan con nosotros y que interceden por nosotros como hermanos y hermanas mayores que nos han precedido en esta misma aventura humana", dijo el papa el 7 de abril durante su audiencia general semanal.

Continuando con su serie de charlas sobre la oración, el papa reflexionó sobre la conexión entre la oración y la comunión de los santos que "no están lejos de nosotros" y son un recordatorio de Jesucristo porque también "han recorrido el camino de la vida" como cristianos.

"En la iglesia no hay duelo solitario, no hay lágrima que caiga en el olvido, porque todo respira y participa de una gracia común", dijo.

La tradición de tener cementerios alrededor de las iglesias es una señal de ese intercambio, dijo. Es "como para decir que la multitud de los que nos precedieron participa de alguna manera en cada Eucaristía. Están nuestros padres y abuelos, nuestros padrinos y madrinan, los catequistas y otros educadores... Esa fe transmitida, que hemos recibido:



Foto CNS/Vatican Media
El papa Francisco dirige su audiencia general desde la biblioteca del Palacio Apostólico en el Vaticano el 7 de abril de 2021. El papa dijo que los cristianos nunca están solos en oración, sino que están acompañados por innumerables santos que los han precedido.

con la fe se ha transmitido también la forma de orar".

Los santos, explicó, son "son testigos que no adoramos —por supuesto, no adoramos a estos santos—, pero que veneramos y que de mil maneras diferentes nos remiten a Jesucristo, único Señor y Mediador entre Dios y el hombre".

El papa dijo que la vida de los santos también sirve como un recordatorio de que "en nuestra vida,

aunque débil y marcada por el pecado, la santidad puede florecer".

"Leemos en los Evangelios que el primer santo 'canonizado' fue un ladrón y fue 'canonizado' no por un papa, sino por el mismo Jesús", dijo. "La santidad es un camino de vida, de encuentro con Jesús, ya sea largo, corto, o un instante, pero siempre es un testimonio".

El papa también destacó la necesidad de que los cristianos oren

unos por otros y que "rezar por los demás es la primera forma de amarlos y nos empuja a una cercanía concreta".

Agregó que "incluso en los momentos de conflicto, una forma de resolver el conflicto, de suavizarlo, es rezar por la persona con la que estoy en conflicto. Y algo cambia con la oración. Lo primero que cambia es mi corazón, es mi actitud. El Señor lo cambia para hacer posible un encuentro, un nuevo encuentro y para evitar que el conflicto se convierta en una guerra sin fin".

El papa Francisco dijo que lo primero que debe hacer la gente en momentos de angustia es pedir a "es pedir a los hermanos, a los santos sobre todo, que recen por nosotros" porque ellos pueden "echarnos una mano para obtener de Dios las gracias que más necesitamos".

Los cristianos que "no han alcanzado el punto de ruptura" y perseveran en tiempos de prueba tal vez se lo deban a la intercesión de los santos que no solo están en el cielo, sino también de los santos y santos aquí en la tierra, agregó el papa.

"Ellos no lo saben, nosotros tampoco lo sabemos, pero hay santos, santos de todos los días, santos escondidos o como me gusta decir los 'santos de la puerta de al lado', los que viven con nosotros en la vida, que trabajan con nosotros y llevan una vida de santidad", dijo.

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.report.bishopabuse.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.reportbishop-abuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán 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.

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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.

Director of Human Resources Opening

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

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

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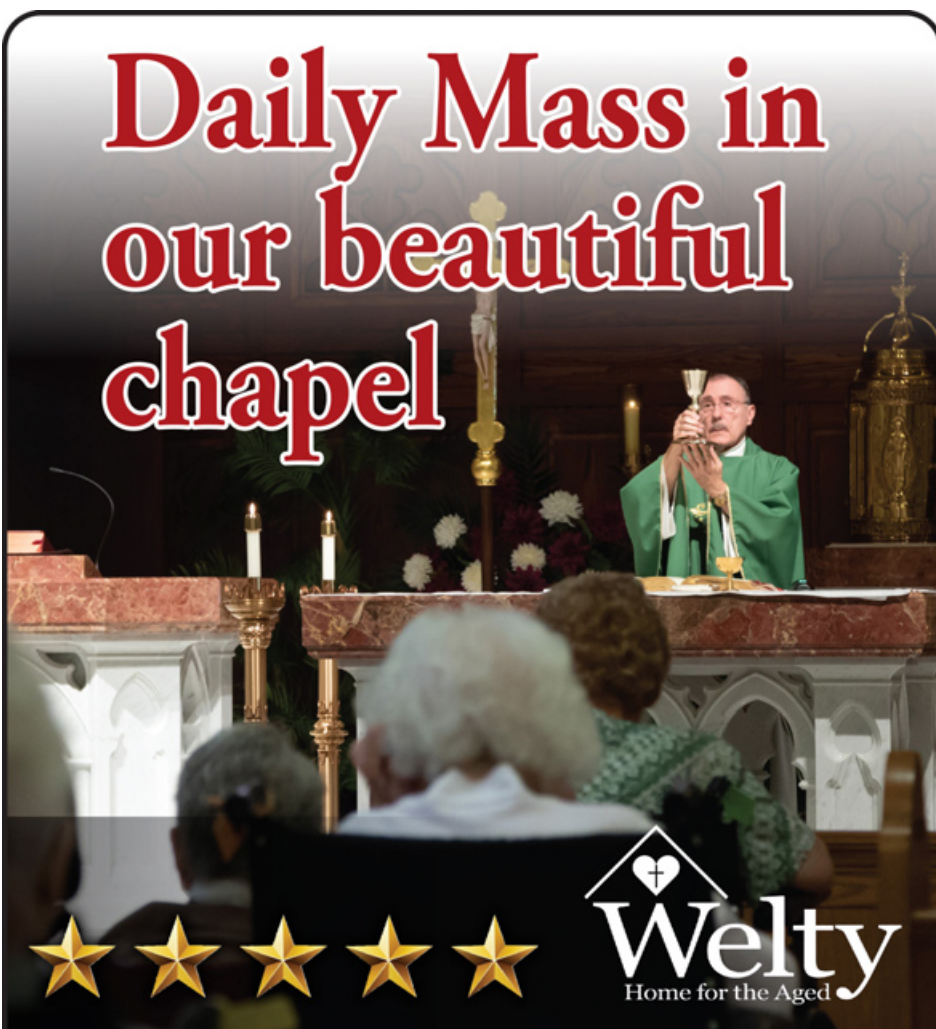
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-The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs A.V.F., dhiggs@dwc.org. or mail to 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301 by April 23, 2021.

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