THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Bishop Menjívar Celebrates Feast of the Divine Savior of the World in Charles Town

By Andrea Acosta

On his first visit to St. James Parish in Charles Town, Bishop Evelio Menjívar arrived with a message of encouragement and was welcomed by 700 Hispanic faithful who participated in the procession and Mass in Spanish on Sunday, Aug. 9, reaffirming through their presence the deep devotion of the immigrant community.

"We celebrate with great joy the feast of the Divine Savior of the World, patron of our beloved homeland, El Salvador... who today speaks to us once again with the same words the disciples heard during the storm: 'Take heart! It is I. Do not be afraid,'" said the bishop, reviving a tradition he has celebrated since childhood in his homeland.

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At St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, Bishop Evelio Menjívar joins more than 700 Hispanic faithful in procession on the feast of the Divine Savior of the World, patron of El Salvador, Aug. 9. *Mario Martínez photo*

St. Patrick Parish Continues Outreach to Weston Flood Victims

By Colleen Rowan

WESTON—The response from St. Patrick Parish and its parishioners in the aftermath of devastating flash floods that struck the area July 21 has left an impression on the community and planted the seeds of faith within many hearts.

"We have eight new families that have been coming to Mass over the past two weeks," seminarian and Weston native Joe Derico said. "People that were fallen away or they're coming for the first time. Because who showed up to help them? Catholics."

Evangelization was not on Father Doug Ondeck's mind as flood waters receded and the devastation was clear. It just came naturally as he began checking on his parishioners.

"The first phone calls were to the elderly and those who I knew were probably in harm's way," said Father Ondeck, pastor of St. Patrick's. "We just started going to their houses and assisting them. We saw someone next door in need of help and we would help them."

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Inside: More Than 2,000 Catholic Scouts Gather for Mass in the Mountains of West Virginia, Page 7 | U.S. Bishops Ready Nationwide Prayer and Action Effort Amid Rising Abortion Rate, Page 9

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV.EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. At right are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2026 Print Dates:

Triumph of the Cross, Sept. 11

Month of the Rosary, Oct. 9

Advent, Nov. 20

Christmas, Dec. 18

Feast ...

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"God, the Divine Savior of the World, never abandons his people, He walks alongside us through history, no matter how turbulent it may be," he told them.

"Many times, in life we sail across stormy seas," experiencing storms such as illness, economic problems, family conflicts, loneliness, anxiety, or the burden of sin—and (for some immigrants) "uncertainty about the future, the fear of family separation, and the fear of not knowing what tomorrow will bring."

He says that we all, in one way or another, know those dark nights when we feel the wind blowing against us, when the boat is sinking, and when God seems absent from our lives.

He explained that, amid our distress, Jesus appears to bring calm and tell us: "Be at peace; I am with you."

"God is never indifferent to human suffering. He cares about us and is always ready to reach out to us. He never leaves those who place all their trust in Him alone… God continues to speak to us in the silence of the heart, in prayerful reflection, and, above all, in the Eucharist."

The bishop asked the faithful to remain in prayer and not to lose hope. He prayed to God for peace, justice, and progress in his homeland.

He entrusted all immigrants to God. "We know the sacrifices they make, the hard work they do, and the uncertainties many face; yet they continue to contribute to the well-being of their families, the country that welcomes them, and their country of origin."

The bishop reiterated his commitment to his flock. "My heart is very close to you. My only desire is to love and serve you as best I can. I want to walk alongside all of you, share in your joys and hopes, and accompany you in your sufferings and anxieties."

In this Church, everyone has a place, he said, regardless of country of origin, skin color, or language. "We all belong fully to this diocesan family, and together we can grow in faith."

Filled with Joy

Parishioners from the "San Santiago el Mayor" parish turned out in large numbers for the meeting with Bishop Evelio.

"It's wonderful that he came, and we hope he'll always come. Every year we come to this celebration with the whole family because we must not lose this tradition that unites the community," said Salvadoran parishioner Fátima Brizuela (30), who traveled from Winchester, Virginia.

"We're happy. It's the first time we've seen the bishop and our first celebration of the Divine Savior of the World," said Rosa Pérez, accompanied by her husband and other family members. They are from Mexico, have been living in the U.S. for more than two decades, and joined the celebration of faith.

"It's a tremendous joy that he's sharing this with our community. We're happy to have a new bishop who is also Salvadoran, and we thank God and the Holy Father for appointing him," said Juan Pablo Márquez.

He considers the bishop to be a shepherd "who smells like sheep"—close to the people and to those who suffer. "He walks with us; he knows our struggles, our culture, and our people," said the immigrant from El Salvador, who has been in the United States for 22 years, is the father of three children, sings in the choir, and works as a chef at the "Priest Field" retirement home.

The parish has celebrated this feast in honor of the Divine Savior for several years. It began in 2011 at the initiative of Salvadoran Father José Manuel Escalante.

"For those of us who are far from El Salvador, it's a joy to keep this tradition alive—one we've celebrated since we were children—and a way to show other communities our vibrant culture, history, songs, and customs," said Juan Pablo.

Salvadorans observe this feast for a week in their country, with Masses, processions, fairs, gatherings, dances, and traditional dishes. "It's a religious festival that showcases our culture

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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly or indirectly, with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

Feast ...

Cont'd from Page 2

and customs, and we celebrate it with fervor," he said.

St. James Community

The parish has about 150 registered Hispanic families, and an estimated 400 people attend the two Spanish-language Masses each week: Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. The Sunday Mass includes the anointing of the sick, a Holy Hour, confessions, and the recitation of the Rosary. The parish also operates a food bank to serve those in need.

Although there is no youth group, some young people participate in the St. James Folk Dance Group and attended the special Mass with the bishop wearing their traditional costumes.

"Normally, 250 people attend this Sunday Mass, but this time 700 came. In 20 years, this has been the largest number of people we've ever counted. So, we've had record attendance," said Juan Pablo.

"In Charles Town and the surrounding area, the Hispanic community has grown significantly, and you can also see this in the Latino restaurants and stores that didn't exist before," said Keiry Martínez, who heads the Hispanic ministry at St. James.

"It is a great honor to be able to continue this beautiful celebration, and this is the first time we've had a bishop visit us. It is a great joy for us and a great blessing," said Martínez who is also Salvadoran.

"Besides, he's Hispanic like us; we identify with him, and he brings a little bit of our culture to the community. At the same time, remembering and celebrating our Divine Savior of the World encourages us to keep moving forward during these difficult times that Hispanics are facing in this beautiful country that has welcomed us.

Mario Martínez photos

Clockwise from top left: Bishop Evelio Menjívar joins more than 700 Hispanic faithful in celebration of the feast of the Divine Savior of the World, patron of El Salvador, Aug. 9 at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

The bishop's message of encouragement is particularly timely for the Hispanic community, which has been affected by immigration raids, detentions, family separations, and fear.

Juan Pablo describes what is happening to the immigrant community as "a tragedy." "The situation is very difficult in West Virginia: every day, people are detained while driving their trucks or vans on their way to work. Police departments are working in conjunction with immigration authorities, and they themselves carry out the detentions"—they transfer them to ICE, and it becomes difficult to secure their release.

St. James will celebrate the feast of the Filipino martyrs St. Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Pedro Calungsod on September 27 and the feast of the Lord of Miracles, a Peruvian tradition, during the month of October. In December, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Mexican tradition, is a must.

The parish is located at 49 Crosswinds Dr., Charles Town. For more information, call (304) 725-5558 or visit stjameswv.org.

The Mass can be viewed at: youtube.com/watch?v=AAOHTK5aDIM

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Flood ...

Cont'd from Page 1

As he and parish volunteers went back and forth between sites, they would see others in need and ask them how they could help.

In a phone call after the flooding, Bishop Evelio Menjívar asked Father Ondeck, "What do you need?"

Father Ondeck said, "Well, I need manpower. I need people to shovel mud and debris."

The bishop told him, "I'll be down."

And Bishop Menjívar was there on the ground in Weston, cleaning out basements, clearing debris, working, walking with flood victims in their distress. He was joined by Tim Bishop, diocesan director of Communications, and diocesan seminarians who worked with Father Ondeck in recovery efforts. Parishioners recognized the bishop immediately, Father Ondeck said. Their shepherd was there with them.

Bishop Menjívar, Father Ondeck, and the seminarians also went to outlying areas of Lewis County where agencies had not yet reached to check on people. St. Patrick's was the first to be in those areas, Father Ondeck said.

The bishop recalled helping clean the flooded house of the parish's deacon, Deacon Michael Brumley, and how sad it was to see him and his wife Elizabeth Ann throwing away pictures and their children's paintings—memories destroyed in the flood.

St. Patrick's was also faced with a severely damaged parish school. On the day of the flood, the water poured into the ground floor widows of St. Patrick School completely submerging the basement, rising beyond the ceiling, school officials said. The preschool and art classrooms and a Title 1 room were severely damaged. Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic Schools, helped Father Ondeck and volunteers in clean up of the school, which is ongoing (see story on Page 5).

Even with the damage at the school, the parish was committed to helping their neighbors in need.

"We basically turned the gym into a furniture showroom," said Derico, who is also a graduate of St. Patrick School and grew up in the parish. "People could come in and take what they wanted."

All of this was provided through the generosity of the people of the diocese who donated these items. St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town came to Weston with 12 box trucks filled with much of the furniture, appliances, hot water heaters, and so much more. Sacred Heart parishes in Princeton and Bluefield sent a van load of supplies and secured a rental van filled with furniture. St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg sent down construction materials.

All of those donations have been distributed, Father Ondeck said, but the parish is still helping. As flood victims call with requests for what they need, the parish purchases the items with monetary donations it has received. Recent purchases include hot water heaters, drywall, and construction materials.

"As fast as calls comes in, we try to get things out just as fast," Father Ondeck said.

Courtesy photo

After clearing mud and debris from a flood-ravaged house in Weston, Bishop Evelio Menjívar (second from left) and Father Doug Ondeck (left) talk to volunteers.

As the community continues to recovery, Bishop Menjívar said, "It's important to let people know that we are praying for them and the church is with them in this difficult time."

The bishop told The Catholic Spirit there were many people in the community who came together to help others while they were experiencing their own loss.

"Even people who have lost their house or their house was affected, they are out there helping others," the bishop said. "I was inspired to see the pastor there, Father Doug Ondeck, and the parishioners of St. Patrick working together. I was so happy to see the seminarians step up."

As the images of flood waters engulfing the small town and news spread of the devastation—especially two residents who lost their lives—parishes and Catholic schools in the state's Catholic community and beyond responded.

Mercy Chefs, a faith-based, nonprofit disaster and humanitarian relief organization, was on the ground serving upwards of 1,500 hot meals each day. Joining them were some of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas from the parish. Elderly parishioners volunteered in manning the distribution center in the gym. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston held a special collection for recovery efforts and funds are being managed by Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Father Ondeck thanked everyone in the diocese, parishes, and Catholic schools, who supported recovery efforts in any way to help with repairs at St. Patrick School and to help those in need in the community. The list of those who have helped is long, he said.

"We want to formally thank them," Father Ondeck said. "Everybody in the diocese and certainly our bishop."

Father Ondeck also thanked parishes and individuals from the Ohio Dioceses of Columbus of Steubenville and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa., which sent donations and support as well.

Weston's St. Patrick School on the Road to Recovery

First Day of School is Aug. 25

By Colleen Rowan

WESTON — St. Patrick School in Weston is on the road to recovery after suffering severe damage in the July 21 flash flooding that left catastrophe in its wake. Father Ondeck, pastor of the school and St. Patrick Parish, said they are planning for the first day of school to be Aug. 25.

On the day of the flood, water poured into the ground floor widows of the school completely submerging the basement, rising beyond the ceiling, school officials said. The preschool and art classrooms and a Title 1 room were severely damaged.

Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration was on site as Father Ondeck spoke to The Catholic Spirit Aug. 12.

"They've been drying out and cleaning the preschool," Father Ondeck said. Diocesan Director of Buildings & Properties John Reardon dispatched the company to the school on Aug. 6.

"In the preschool they're putting in new drywall, new carpeting, new tile in the kitchen," Father Ondeck said. "We are going to install new appliances—a range and refrigerator, tables and chairs and things for learning stations," for students.

In an Aug. 2 Facebook video update, St. Patrick School Principal John Riley said it was hard to find the words to express how grateful the school and parish are for all the support they have received. Many, he said, have reached out asking how they can help, and he has been humbled by their generosity. At this time, he said, monetary donations are the greatest need, "because it allows us to quickly replace what we've lost and purchase exactly what our teachers and our students need as we prepare for the start of the school year in just a few short weeks."

"We lost tens of thousands of dollars in classroom supplies, educational materials, and resources that our teachers use every single day," he said. "Like so many in our community, we are now beginning the difficult work of rebuilding."

Both Father Ondeck and Riley thanked all from across the diocese and beyond for their generosity and support and asked for continued prayers for all those affected by the flooding.

"To our parents, students, alumni, parish family, faculty volunteers, and everyone who prayed, donated, served meals, cleaned homes, or simply reached out to someone in need, thank you," Riley said in the video. "We have also been overwhelmed by the support of the diocese, our fellow Catholic schools, churches, businesses, and people from across our state and beyond. Your prayers, encouragement, donations, and willingness to serve have been powerful beyond comprehension."

Click this link to make a donation to help the school: stpatswv.org/donate/

Courtesy photo

St. Patrick School in Weston is shown July 23, just days after devastating flash floods. View a video message from Principal John Riley by clicking this link https://www.facebook.com/reel/944897101955711

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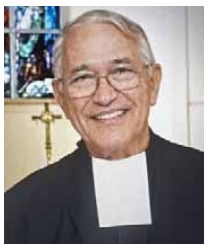
Obituary—Brother Rene Roy, FMS



Brother Rene Roy, FMS died unexpectedly on August 3, 2026, at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He was four days shy of his 86th birthday and in his 66th year of Marist religious life. Born on August 7, 1940, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Rene P. and Rita L. (Bourget) Roy.

A graduate of Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Brother Rene entered the Marist Brothers' St. Joseph Novitiate at Tyngsboro, Ma. in 1959. He received the habit in 1960 and made first profession of vows in 1961. He made his final profession of vows in 1966 and took the vow of Stability in 1976.

Brother Rene graduated from Marist College in 1964 with a BA in English. Subsequently he studied at the University of Notre Dame (MA English 1971) and Marygrove College (MA Education 1976). He served in a wide variety of ministries. Upon completion of his scholasticate, he was a cook at St. Joseph Novitiate in Tyngsboro, Ma. (1964-65), a teacher at Central Catholic High School, Wheeling (1965-72), and at Mount de Chantal Academy, Wheeling (1972-73). He served on the staff of the Marist Novitiate at Cold Spring-on-Hudson, N.Y. (1973-76) and as a campus minister at St. Agnes Boys High School, New York City (1976).

In 1977, he participated in the Marist Brothers Second Novitiate Renewal Program in Fribourg, Switzerland. Upon completion of the program, he joined the Marist Community in Pine Ridge (Oglala), South Dakota where he was pastoral assistant at Our Lady of the Sioux Parish. He then served the Province as vocation director based in Chicago (1991-95).

In 1995, Brother Rene was asked to go to Africa to the Marist Brothers school in Byimana, Rwanda where he served as a teacher until 2000. Upon his return to the USA, after a brief sabbatical, he went to Bishop Donahue High School in McMechen, where he was principal (2000-05). He then returned to his alma mater, Central Catholic in Lawrence, Ma. where he was President (2005-09) and then Vice President for Mission (2009-24). He retired to the Marist Community at Leeds Terrace in Lawrence. Due to health issues, he moved to Mary Immaculate Health Care Facility in Lawrence where he was in residence until the time of his death.

In addition to his parents, Brother Rene was pre-deceased by his two brothers, R. Paul and Robert. He is survived by his brother, Raymond, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and great-grandnephews, as well as his Marist Brothers.

The Funeral Mass was August 6, 2026 at St. Theresa Church in Methuen, Ma. Burial was August 7, 2026 at the Marist Brothers Cemetery in Esopus, N.Y.

"Oh, what consolation we have, when about to appear before God, to remember that we have lived in the favor of Mary, and in her own Society." – St. Marcellin Champagnat

Beloved Marian Grotto Successfully Moved to Pennsboro Chapel

By Colleen Rowan

Courtesy photo

The Marian grotto is shown in its new location on the grounds of St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro.

"I could have cried because I was so happy," said Nettie Glasure as she recalled seeing the Marian grotto that stood in West Union for roughly 40 years at its new location on the grounds of St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro. "The movers did a wonderful job; not one stone looked like it was disturbed and the moss still clings to the top of the grotto."

The grotto was built by her late husband Art Licot in the 1980s on the grounds of the former St. Patrick Church with creek stones collected by children of the parish and houses a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother.

Glasure and her current parish of St. John's in St. Marys led a fundraising campaign to resettle this sacred place of prayer 13 miles away to Pennsboro for future generations.

It was a risky endeavor, and the fear was that the grotto and statue, which are together one piece, would have to be broken apart for relocation.

Diocesan Director of Buildings & Properties John Reardon said the success of the project is due to JD & E Construction Services. The project, he said, required excavation underneath the existing pad and footing , use of proper straps to lift it as one piece, place it on a truck, transportation to Pennsboro, and securing it in the new location.

"I wanted to give a special thanks to JD and E for coming up with the means and methods to move it successfully in one piece in lieu of us having to try to break it down into pieces," Reardon said. "The diocese is just extremely grateful for their ingenuity and expertise."

"It is so beautiful and I am so very pleased," Glasure said. "God's blessings to the people who orchestrated this move. May God bless all those who contributed to this cause. Our dear Mother Mary is worthy of our praise as she is the mother of our wonderful, wonderful Lord. This grotto will serve as a memorial to the former St. Patrick Catholic Church of West Union and the thousands who worshiped there over many years dating back to the 1800s."

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More Than 2,000 Catholic Scouts Gather for Mass in the Mountains of West Virginia

Photo courtesy of Scouting America

Bishop Evelio Menjívar of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, seventh from left, and Bishop Michael Fisher of Buffalo, N.Y., sixth from left, are pictured with clergy and scouts following Mass at the Scouting America National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope July 26. Behind them are more than 2,000 Catholic scouts who attended the Mass.

By Colleen Rowan

MOUNT HOPE — Every four years, thousands of Catholic Scouts from across the U.S. gather for Sunday Mass in the mountains of West Virginia. As faith is the first of the core principles which they hold dear, they joyfully observe their Sunday obligation while participating in the Scouting America National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope, which was held this year July 22-31.

"It was a wonderful Mass filled with joy, with hope," said Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Evelio Menjívar, who celebrated the July 26 Mass for more than 2,000 Catholic scouts who filled a field at the reserve that morning. "For the church, seeing so many young people is always a sign of hope." The scouts, he said, are devout, willing to serve, and pledge to honor God and country. "It is just beautiful," Bishop Menjívar said.

The Catholic scouts were among the more than 20,000 scouts from throughout the country who attended the 9-day jamboree which is held every four years at the reserve.

Concelebrating the Mass and giving the homily was Bishop Michael Fisher of Buffalo, N.Y., the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' episcopal liaison to Catholic Scouting America, which is the largest of the faith-based Scouting America groups.

A scout is reverent, Bishop Fisher said in his homily. "That's what brings us here today as God's people," he said, "to give thanks, to give prayer, and to offer that ultimate prayer in this holy Eucharist."

Scouts, he said, are first reverent to God; faithful in his or her religious duties; and respect the convictions of others in matters of religion and custom.

Noting that they were surrounded by God's beauty and creation, Bishop Fisher told the scouts that reverence comes naturally to human beings and, in a particular way, to Catholics.

"When we look at the mountains and forests," he said, "we can't help but praise our creator. For truly we are in God's country."

In the gospel for the Mass (Matthew 13:44-52), Bishop Fisher said that Jesus reminds us that reverence is about finding hidden treasure and gives numerous examples of those who are searching.

"It's not just an outward posture, but it's about being transformed internally in our hearts and in our souls," he said.

In the gospel, Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of

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Scouts...

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great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

A critical question to all, Bishop Fisher said, is: "What is that true treasure that you're seeking in your life?"

To answer that, he pointed to the first reading (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12), where God appears to a young King Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you."

Solomon doesn't ask for riches, or a long life, or power over his enemies, Bishop Fisher said. Instead, he admits his limitations and says, "I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act." He asks God for an understanding heart, Bishop Fisher said, to discern between right and wrong. He asked for wisdom.

"This is exactly what we promise every time we stand at attention and make this Scout Sign, and repeat the Scout Oath," Bishop Fisher said. "When we say we will do our duty to God and country and keep ourselves lawfully straight, we are asking for Solomon's gift of wisdom. We are asking for a wise heart to navigate a complicated world."

Bishop Fisher, an Eagle Scout himself, reminded all of the national jamboree's theme— "Elevate," and that Jesus is calling all to elevate what they treasure in life. "The treasure," he said, "is God's grace, his love and truth acting within us. To elevate means to stop digging for that cheap, temporary treasure like popularity or selfishness in material things," he said. "Instead, hopefully, we sell out completely for what lasts: kindness, purity, reverence, and justice."

A scout who lives out the Scout Law is a living sign of God's kingdom on earth, Bishop Fisher said. "Have you ever thought of yourself in that way?" he asked the scouts.

In the second reading for the Mass, Bishop Fisher said that St. Paul reminds the Romans that we are called to be conformed to the image of God's Son.

"Jesus is, you might say, that ultimate scout leader," Bishop Fisher said. "He did not come to be served, but to serve. He did a good turn daily. He prepared. He navigated the wilderness. He gathered a patrol of disciples. And he laid down his life to show that ultimate trail, that trail map to heaven.

"When you leave this jamboree and pack up your dirty laundry, your gear, and your cool patches, as well as great memories, the most important thing you should take home with you is a renewed spirit," Bishop Fisher said. "God wants to elevate our character so that we become leaders and guides to others to what is right, and what is truly lasting in God's kingdom."

Jesus concludes the gospel for the Mass with the warning about a net thrown into the sea that catches fish of every kind, Bishop Fisher said. At the end of the day, the good are gathered, he said, and the bad are thrown away. "Our lives are kind of like that net," Bishop Fisher said. "Every day, we gather choices, words, and habits."

He encouraged the scouts use the wisdom of Solomon, the great gift he asked for from the Lord, to sort through all of it and to be prepared. Bishop Fisher urged them to throw away gossip and dishonesty and keep the treasures of faith, service, and the scout spirit.

"Let us pray today for the courage to sell out for the kingdom of heaven, for the kingdom of God," Bishop Fisher said, "to elevate our thoughts and actions, and to always seek the true treasure—a heart that knows, that loves, and serves God always. A scout is reverent. Amen."

The Catholic scouts also prayed for the nation in the celebration of its 250th anniversary. With them was Father Mark Carr, SJ, national chaplain for Catholic Scouting America, who led the Novena Prayer for America. Together, they prayed, "that the Church in the United States boldly proclaims the Gospel. May we all, especially our young scouts, be joyful witnesses of Christ in our neighborhoods and schools."

For more than 100 years, Catholic Scouting America has provided young people adventure, character building, and values-based lessons grounded in the Catholic faith, the organization's website states. And this, Bishop Menjívar said, the church must continue to support.

"It's a good place for children to learn and to grow, mature as a person but also in their faith and in their commitment to serve. I really encourage parents to look at those opportunities that the scouts offer, especially at this time when we need to take the kids out of social media, the screens," he said.

Catholic Scouting America is formerly known as the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Organization officials announced the name change on June 11, stating that while the organization will legally remain the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, the transition to the public name of Catholic Scouting America is designed to make its mission immediately clear to the Catholic families, parishes and dioceses it serves.

For more information about Catholic Scouting America and to explore resources for parishes, families, and councils, click link CatholicScoutingAmerica.org

U.S. Bishops Ready Nationwide Prayer and Action Effort Amid Rising Abortion Rate

By Peter Jesserer Smith

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The U.S. Catholic bishops are getting ready a nationwide call to prayer and action, with an official launch date of Aug. 18, to mobilize Catholics to address the rising abortion rate and the increased availability of an abortion-inducing drug.

"Every abortion involves the death of a child and harm to the mother. Now with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks," Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said in joint remarks.

According to an estimate from Guttmacher Institute, a research firm for the abortion industry, 1.12 million abortions took place in 2025, marking a 21% increase from 2020. Guttmacher said 2020 marked "the last year of comprehensive national estimates" before the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision. Dobbs overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and its related abortion precedents, returning the matter of abortion back to the legislative branch.

Guttmacher found the figures for 2025 were largely unchanged from the prior year, but suggested abortion numbers overall may be an undercount due to people acquiring abortion pills in advance or obtaining them by means other than U.S. abortion clinic providers.

Abortion rates in the U.S. bottomed out in 2017, when they were estimated to be just over 862,000, and began increasing again in the first Trump administration, which also approved the first generic for mifepristone, commonly called "the abortion pill," in 2019. The pill is commonly used in combination with misoprostol for early abortion, although the same combination is also used in some miscarriage care protocols that were more recently recommended for consideration by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

More than six of 10 abortions in the U.S. are performed through a combination of mifepristone and misoprostol, according to recent estimates.

A federal policy permitting distribution by mail of mifepristone was first issued by the Biden administration following the Dobbs decision. The policy has thus far been left in place by the second Trump administration, which approved a second generic for mifepristone in 2025 to the shock of pro-life groups.

The Department of Justice, under the current Trump administration, has also sought to block state challenges to the policy pending a promised safety review by the Food and Drug Administration. But the status and timeline of the FDA review are unclear.

Archbishop Coakley and Bishop Thomas stated that the FDA "has enabled a nationwide mail-order abortion industry by allowing abortion pills to be prescribed in telehealth appointments and sold both at neighborhood pharmacies and online, circumventing state laws that protect life in the womb."

"This leaves women vulnerable to suffering an abortion alone at

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home, without any medical supervision," they said. "It also sets up additional opportunities for exploitation by violent partners or human traffickers."

The bishops said that from the official start of the campaign through the end of October, when the Church in the U.S. marks Respect Life Month, "the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills."

They urged Catholics to seek "the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life" as well as to send messages to pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies that are involved.

The USCCB is gearing up to mobilize Catholics all over the U.S. with resources in time for the Aug. 18 launch of the campaign.

"We are setting up a simple on-line platform allowing users to click and send one message that will go to multiple entities, such as brick-and-mortar pharmacies and online pharmacies, distributors, and pharmaceutical companies," Kat Talalas, assistant director for pro-life communications at the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, told OSV News. "We are also developing educational resources about the abortion pill, which will help explain distinctions between miscarriage care versus ending the life of a child in an abortion."

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and as such, opposes direct abortion. Following the Dobbs decision, U.S. Church officials have reaffirmed the Church's concern for both mother and child, and have called for enhancing support to those made vulnerable to abortion through poverty and other factors.

Peter Jesserer Smith is the national news and features editor for OSV News. OSV News staff contributed to this report.

The Respect Life Prayer to St. Joseph can be found in English by clicking this link https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph and in Spanish by clicking this link https://es.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph. To stay informed by the USCCB on its upcoming prayer and action campaign, click this link https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/iLd6hbl

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One Deacon Remembers His Path of Faith

By Bobbie Showalter

Deacon Jerry Showalter was peacefully called to eternal life just weeks after clergy, family, and friends gathered to mark his long life of service in the Church. Jerry was ordained a Permanent Deacon on May 24, 1981, and the 45th anniversary of his ordination was remembered with a celebration on Pentecost Sunday at St. Margaret Mary Church in Parkersburg. Jerry had lived to be the longest-serving Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. His earthly service ended with his death on July 22, 2026.

Shortly before his passing, Jerry gathered with his wife, Bobbie, and his children to recall his journey of faith. Born October 28, 1937, Jerry was raised by his father, George, a lifelong Catholic, and by his mother, Olive, who had converted to Catholicism at the time of her marriage. Jerry described his early spiritual life as typical for a Catholic boy of the period. His family — Jerry, his parents, and his two sisters — attended Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Parkersburg and sat in the same pew each week. Olive took her role as a Catholic mother seriously and set aside her career as an elementary school teacher to raise her children. She enrolled her children at the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, operated by Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus in Parkersburg, and supported the school's activities whenever she could. This included "volunteering" Jerry in the first grade to play the role of young Jesus in a school play. Jerry's lasting memory of the performance was that his mother used a curling iron heated on the stove to curl his hair and then draped him in long robes, leading him to go on stage with burns on his head and straight pins sticking him from all directions.

Jerry attended Catholic elementary school from kindergarten through sixth grade and remembered how the Sisters would file their students to St. Francis Xavier Church for morning Mass each week. Jerry described how important those weekly Masses, delivered in the beautiful nave of St. Francis Xavier Church, were to the early formation of his faith. He also remembered that the Sisters would allow students who had fasted before receiving Communion to stop at the S.S. Kresge five-and-dime store for breakfast on their walk back to school. When the building housing the Catholic elementary school was closed for extensive renovations in 1949, Jerry transferred to public school, which he attended from seventh through twelfth grades.

Courtesy photo

At Mass celebrating Deacon Jerry Showalter's 45th anniversary of ordination are, front row, from left: Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.E.; Father John Gallagher; Msgr. Samuel Sacus; Deacon Showalter; Msgr. Jeremiah McSweeney; and Father James McCafferty. In the back row, from left: Deacon John Maher, Deacon David Lester, Deacon Tom Trunzo, Deacon Harry Evans, Deacon Vince Olenick, Father Clifton Mastran, and Deacon Stephen Wharton.

While Jerry's mother ensured he would have a strong foundation in Church doctrine, his father helped develop his personal spirituality by introducing him to the forests of West Virginia. When Jerry's father brought the family to spend weekends at a modest cabin on the bank of the Hughes River, Jerry would spend his days in a johnboat, dipping oars in the water to row upstream, then drifting downstream through quiet shadows. Jerry said he truly heard God for the first time on that silent water, and for the rest of his life he found spiritual strength and clarity in the stillness of nature.

Shortly before Jerry graduated high school in 1955, his father, a union ironworker, fell at a construction site and was seriously injured. Although he had not expected his life to take this turn, Jerry answered the call to support his family and went to work on the iron at age 17, wearing clothes that were borrowed from his father and too large for him. After three days' ironworking, Jerry took a single day off to graduate with his high school class, then returned to the job.

Jerry soon met Bobbie (Brown) and used the stipend his mother allowed him to keep from his paycheck to take her on dates. Jerry and Bobbie were married in the Catholic Church in 1957, Bobbie soon converted to Catholicism, and the couple raised their quickly growing household of children as members of St. Francis Xavier Parish. Jerry again described this period of his spiritual journey as simply "doing what was expected" — attending weekly Mass, ensuring the children received religious education, and joining together for evening prayers — but the family only occasionally participated in parish activities. This changed when their insightful parish priest, Monsignor Robert F. Weiskircher, recommended the couple explore St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg, which at the time offered more programs for younger Catholic families.

At St. Margaret Mary, Jerry and Bobbie soon joined the Christian Family Movement and entered a vibrant fellowship of families that met each week in each other's homes to talk, worship, and form a powerful network of faith. In parallel, reforms brought about by the Second Vatican Council made the Mass increasingly accessible and personal. Although they continued to love "St. X," Jerry and his family meshed with the St. Margaret Mary community and joined the parish. Jerry made new friends, immersed himself in the Church, and now frequently found himself washing up after a day of ironworking to attend parish activities of all kinds. This new-found community deepened Jerry's faith and nourished his spirituality.

Ironworking often required Jerry to travel, and on a cold night in 1974, while staying in Buckhannon, Jerry was called to Catholic service. As he lay in bed reading "Great Lion of God" by Taylor Calwell, Jerry heard a clear voice tell him to "Be about my business." The command was so forceful and urgent that Jerry quickly rose from bed, got dressed, and left his boarding house to walk the streets

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of Buckhannon, expecting to discover someone in dire need of assistance. Finding nothing, Jerry returned to his room and prayed for clarity.

The answer came when Bishop Joseph H. Hodges introduced the Permanent Diaconate to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston the following year. Jerry immediately applied to the program, was accepted, and studied and ministered for four years while overcoming countless obstacles posed by his role as a father of eight and by his continuing work as an ironworker. For Jerry, the diaconate training program was both incredibly hard and tremendously rewarding. Among many other blessings, the program immensely broadened his understanding of the Faith, and it commenced a decades-long relationship with Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt.

Prior to his ordination to the episcopacy, Bishop Schmitt served as rector of St. Joseph Preparatory Seminary in Parkersburg and as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Albans. While rector, then-Father Schmitt had championed Jerry's admission to the diaconate training program and had agreed to serve as his spiritual advisor and mentor — a relationship that continued until Bishop Schmitt's death in 2011. Jerry loved and admired Bishop Schmitt as a good priest, a godly man, and a fountain of wisdom and strength that enabled Jerry to be a good deacon.

Jerry's ordination as a Permanent Deacon was the single most profound moment in his spiritual life. Jerry said taking the Sacrament of Holy Orders was like "coming home after a long trip," and he deeply felt it brought a change of state that carried serious responsibilities. Jerry was assigned to St. Margaret Mary Church and supported members of that parish, as well as other parishes in Parkersburg and surrounding communities, by assisting at Mass and by serving as a homilist, an instructor for both adult and children's religious education, a lead for preparatory marriage and conversion programs, a coordinator for varied church activities, a facilities coordinator, a rector, a conference delegate, a Chaplain at the Wood County Jail, and in other roles. As he supported the Church, Jerry's faith was informed by his personal understanding of the earthly challenges to serving God. He often thought of how St. Paul had built the Church while also facing the practical burdens of living a life on the road. As he prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary, he would sometimes contemplate that, in addition to being a saint, she had been a good mother.

Courtesy photo

Deacon Jerry Showalter proclaims the gospel at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg in this undated photo.

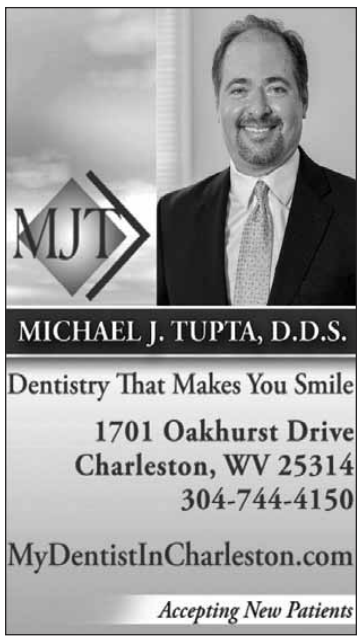
Jerry believed the diaconate called him to be an instrument of lived faith to those around him. As he continued ironworking, he sought to model Catholic virtues rather than explain them. In two cases, after men on jobs suffered mortal injuries, Jerry stepped through groups of onlookers to hold a dying man's hand, or rest a dying man's head in his lap, to comfort those souls as they passed. When the cooling tower collapse at Willow Island killed fifty-one men in a single moment, Jerry led his crew to help recover the bodies and, later, listened as fellow construction workers spoke of their horror and pain. As men of all faiths increasingly sought out Jerry for guidance on how to manage the financial stresses, family pressures, anxieties, and other worldly concerns that come with a life in construction, Jerry saw that God had not only given him the religious knowledge, but also the first-hand experience of these exact challenges required for him to minister to people in need.

Jerry's spiritual growth continued after injuries forced him to leave ironworking. He earned a master's degree and pursued a second career as a K–8 public school teacher in Parkersburg/Wood County and the surrounding area. He was rewarded by ending his working life assisting his youngest son in surveying sites across the plains of Ohio and the mountains of West Virginia. After he retired, Jerry viscerally experienced his faith when he visited the excavated necropolis under the Vatican to view St. Peter's tomb, visited St. Paul's burial site at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and attended Easter Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

When Jerry finished describing his lifelong spiritual journey to his family, they asked what advice he would give to a person who felt a call to Holy Orders or Consecrated Life. His simple response was that those people should understand the path they are on will lead to a serious change in their life — but if they are feeling the call, that change has already begun.

Photo courtesy of Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Archives

Pictured with Bishop Joseph Hodges (center), following their diaconate ordination on May 24, 1981, are (from left) Deacon Richard J. O'Donnell, Deacon Jerry Showalter, Deacon Lewis Belldina, and Deacon Edwin T. Mullavey.



Obispo Menjívar celebró fiesta del Divino Salvador del Mundo en Charles Town

Por Andrea Acosta

En su primera visita a la parroquia St. James de Charles Town, el obispo Evelio Menjívar-Ayala llegó con un mensaje de ánimo y fue recibido por 700 fieles hispanos que participaron en la procesión y misa en español el domingo 9 de agosto y reafirmaron con su presencia la profunda devoción del pueblo inmigrante.

"Celebramos con gran alegría la fiesta del Divino Salvador del Mundo, patrono de nuestra querida patria, El Salvador... que hoy vuelve a decirnos las mismas palabras que escucharon los discípulos en medio de la tormenta: ¡Ánimo! Soy yo. No tengan miedo", dijo el prelado reviviendo una festividad que viene celebrando desde su infancia en su tierra natal.

Dios, el Divino Salvador del Mundo, nunca abandona a su pueblo, pues camina junto a nosotros a través de la historia por convulsa que esta sea -les dijo.

"Muchas veces navegamos en la vida por mares embravecidos", experimentando tormentas como son las enfermedades, problemas económicos, conflictos familiares, soledad, ansiedad o el peso del pecado y (algunos inmigrantes) "la incertidumbre sobre el futuro, el temor de la separación familiar, el miedo a no saber qué sucederá mañana".

Afirma que todos, de alguna manera, conocemos esas noches oscuras cuando sentimos que el viento sopla en contra, que la barca se hunde y que Dios no está presente en nuestras vidas.

Fotos/Mario Martínez

En estas fotos, el obispo Evelio Menjívar se une a más de 700 fieles hispanos para celebrar la Fiesta del Divino Salvador del Mundo, patrono de El Salvador, el 9 de agosto en la parroquia "St. James the Greater" en Charles Town.

Explicó que, en medio de la zozobra, Jesús aparece para traer calma y decirnos: "Tranquilícense, tengan paz, yo estoy con ustedes".

"Dios nunca permanece indiferente al sufrimiento humano. A Él le importamos y siempre está dispuesto a tendernos la mano. Nunca deja solos a quienes ponen toda su confianza en Él... Dios sigue hablándonos en el silencio del corazón, en el recogimiento y, sobre todo, en la Eucaristía".

El obispo pidió a los fieles mantenerse en oración y no perder la esperanza. Clamó a Dios por la paz, justicia y progreso de su patria natal.

Encomendó a Dios a todos los inmigrantes. "Sabemos los sacrificios que hacen, el trabajo fuerte que realizan y las incertidumbres que muchos enfrentan, sin embargo, siguen contribuyendo al bienestar de su familia, del país que los acoge y al país de origen".

Monseñor reiteró su compromiso con su grey. "Mi corazón está muy cerca de ustedes. Mi único deseo es amarlos y servirlos lo mejor que pueda. Quiero caminar con todos ustedes, compartir sus alegrías y esperanzas, acompañarlos en sus sufrimientos y angustias".

En esta Iglesia todos tienen un lugar, dijo, sin importar el país de origen, el color de la piel o el idioma. "Todos pertenecemos plenamente a esta familia diocesana y juntos podemos crecer en la fe".

Llenos de gozo

Los feligreses de la parroquia "San Santiago el Mayor" acudieron masivamente al encuentro del obispo Evelio.

"Es excelente que haya venido y esperamos que venga siempre. Cada año venimos a esta celebración con toda la familia porque no hay que perder esta tradición que une a la comunidad", expresó la feligresa salvadoreña Fátima Brizuela (30) que llegó desde Winchester, Virginia.

"Estamos felices. Es la primera vez que vemos al

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obispo y nuestra primera fiesta del Divino Salvador del Mundo", comentó Rosa Pérez acompañada de su esposo y otros familiares. Ellos son de México, tienen más de dos décadas viviendo en EEUU y se unieron a la fiesta de fe.

"Es una alegría enorme que comparta con nuestra comunidad. Estamos contentos por tener un nuevo obispo que además es salvadoreño y damos gracias a Dios y al Santo Padre por haberlo nombrado", dijo Juan Pablo Márquez.

Considera que el prelado es un pastor 'con olor a oveja', cercano al pueblo y a los que sufren. "Camina con nosotros, conoce nuestras luchas, nuestra cultura, nuestra gente", dijo el inmigrante de El Salvador que lleva 22 años en Estados Unidos, es padre de tres hijos, colabora en el coro y es chef en la casa de retiro "Priest field".

La parroquia ha celebrado esta fiesta en honor al Divino Salvador desde hace varios años. Comenzó en 2011 por iniciativa del padre salvadoreño José Manuel Escalante.

"Para los que estamos lejos de El Salvador, es una alegría mantener esta tradición que celebramos desde niños y una manera para mostrar a otras comunidades nuestro colorido, historia, cantos, costumbres", dijo Juan Pablo.

Los salvadoreños en su país viven esta fiesta religiosa durante una semana, con misas, procesiones, ferias, convivios, bailes y platos típicos. "Es una fiesta religiosa que hace un despliegue de nuestra cultura y costumbres y la celebramos con fervor", dijo.

Comunidad de St. James

En la parroquia hay como 150 familias hispanas inscritas y se estima que 400 personas acuden a las dos misas en español cada semana: los jueves a las 7PM y los domingos a la 1:30PM. En la misa incluyen la unción de los enfermos, hora santa, confesiones y rezo del rosario. Igualmente, disponen de un banco de alimentos para servir a los necesitados.

Aunque no hay un grupo juvenil, algunos jóvenes participan en el Grupo de danza folclórica St. James y se hicieron presentes con sus trajes típicos en la misa especial con el obispo.

"Normalmente asisten 250 personas a esta misa dominical, pero esta vez llegaron 700. En 20 años ha sido la mayor cantidad de personas que hemos contado. Así que hemos tenido asistencia récord", dijo Juan Pablo.

"En Charles Town y sus alrededores, la comunidad hispana ha crecido significativamente y se puede ver también en los restaurantes y tiendas latinas que antes no existían", dijo Keiry Martínez, encargada del ministerio hispano en St. James.

"Es un gran honor poder continuar con esta hermosa celebración y es la primera vez que tenemos la visita de un obispo. Es una gran alegría para nosotros y una gran bendición", dijo quien también es salvadoreña.

"Además, es hispano como nosotros, nos identificamos con él y nos trae un poco de nuestra cultura a la comunidad. A la vez, recordar y celebrar a nuestro Divino Salvador del Mundo nos anima a seguir adelante en estos momentos difíciles que los hispanos están pasando en este hermoso país que nos ha acogido.

El mensaje de ánimo que transmitió el obispo cae muy apropiadamente en la comunidad hispana, afectada por redadas de inmigración, detenciones, separaciones familiares y temor.

Juan Pablo describe como "una tragedia" lo que le está sucediendo a la comunidad inmigrante. "La situación es muy difícil en Virginia Occidental: todos los días detienen a personas que manejan sus camionetas o vans rumbo a sus trabajos. Los departamentos de policía trabajan en conjunto con las autoridades de inmigración y ellos mismos hacen las detenciones", los transfieren a ICE y se hace difícil que los liberen.

St. James celebrará la fiesta de los mártires filipinos San Lorenzo Ruiz y San Pedro Calungsod el 27 de septiembre y la fiesta del Señor de los Milagros, tradición peruana, durante el mes de octubre. En diciembre no puede faltar la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe, una tradición mexicana.

La parroquia de "Santiago el Mayor", está ubicada en 49 Crosswinds Dr. Charles Town, WV 25414. Para más información, llame al (304)725-5558 o visite stjameswv.org.

La misa puede verse en: youtube.com/watch?v=AAOHTK5aDIM

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

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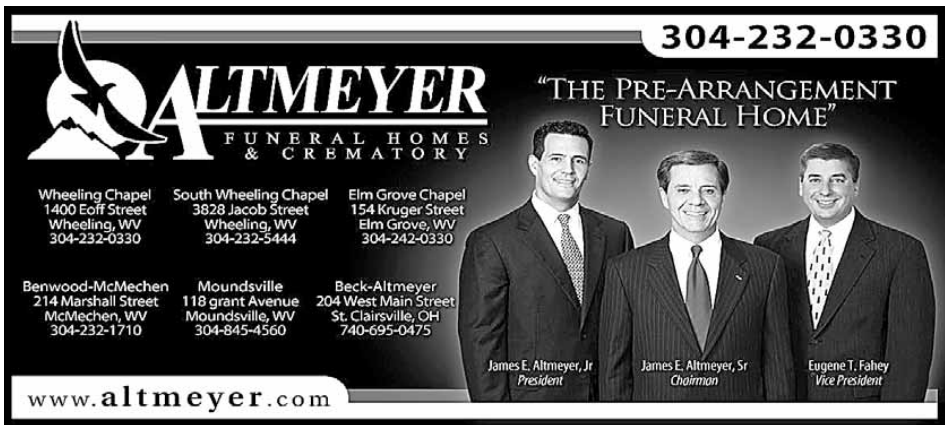
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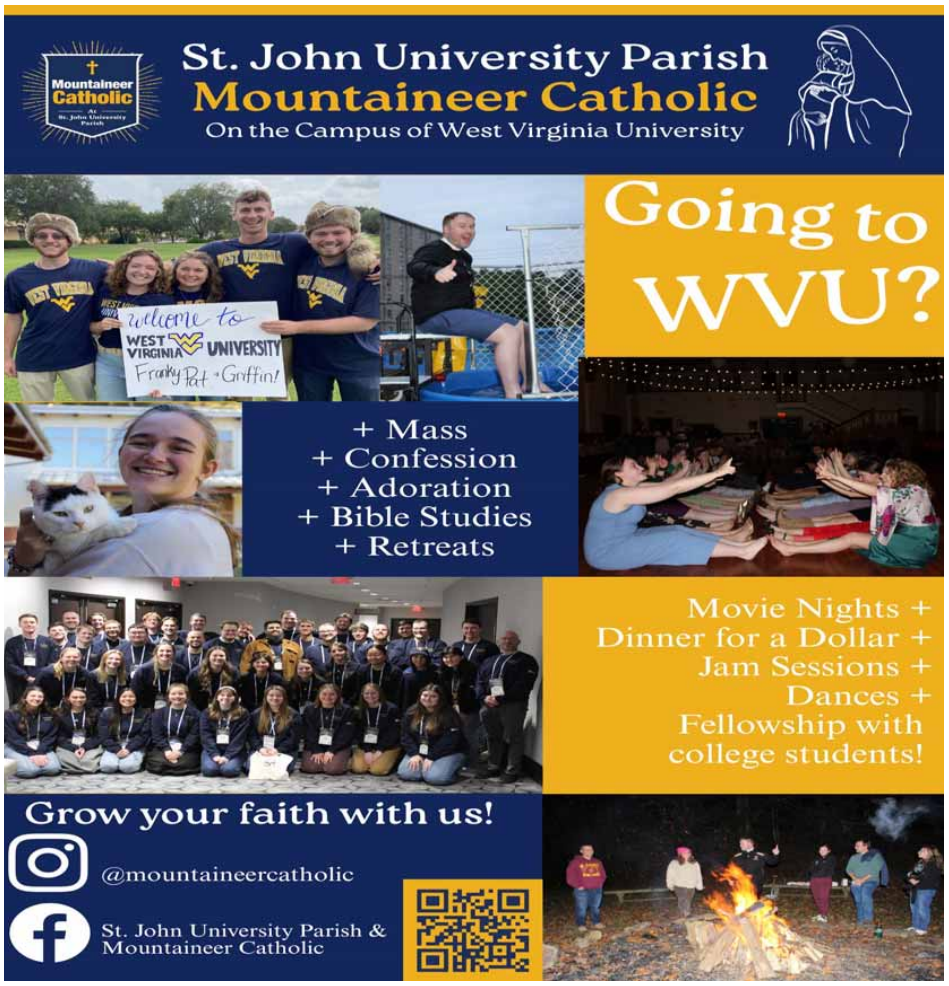
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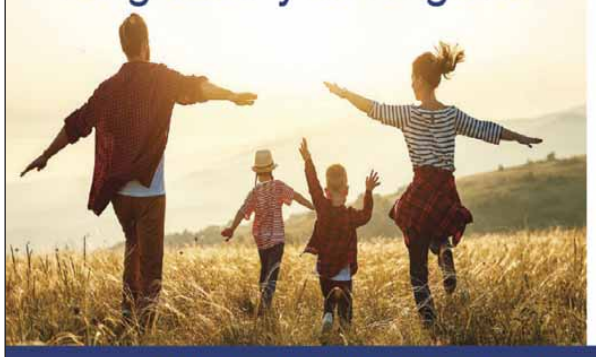

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