

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

# A Pastoral Letter on the Current Immigration Crisis from Bishop Mark Brennan

July 31, 2025

We are a nation built on the backs of men and women who came from other countries, whether freely or in chains. Now we see our government adopting harsh measures to deport as many immigrants as possible, often without distinguishing between true criminals and law-abiding persons. A government that says it wants to help families is willing to separate immigrant parents from their children. A government that oversees the economy wants to expel millions of workers upon whom the economy depends.

Some of you have told me that you were happy to support a presidential candidate who would install order at the southern border and keep out drug traffickers, terrorists and violent criminals, but that you didn't expect this wholesale assault on the majority of immigrants, who work hard, are raising their families and live peacefully in our communities. You expected a laser beam approach, not a floodlight.

Our Catholic faith sheds light on this situation. Mary and Joseph had to flee their homeland because a jealous king wanted to kill their son. That son would later say: *I was a stranger and you welcomed me.* Our Church looks at the

person, not his or her legal status, and, following Christ's teaching and example, reaches out to help the immigrant. A person is more important than legal status. Even prisoners in jail are fed, clothed and have their health problems addressed, at least in well-run prisons. This Catholic Diocese will continue to advocate for and assist our immigrant brothers and sisters in our parishes and through Catholic Charities.

Keep in mind that entering the United States without official government permission is a misdemeanor – a crime but a lesser one, on the level with loitering, public intoxication and

**See "Letter" on Page 3**

## Department of Catholic Schools Welcomes New Principals as They Prepare for an Exciting School Year



Courtesy photo



Pictured left to right: Dr. Rhonda Combs, director of Curriculum and Instruction; Jenn Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic schools; Julie Peroni, principal of St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling; JoAnn Gilbert, principal of Fairmont Catholic Grade School; Bishop Mark Brennan; Barb Been, principal of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown; Jeff Mennillo, principal of Parkersburg Catholic High School; Very Rev. John Rice, V.G.; and Tammi Secrist, office manager, Department of Catholic Schools.

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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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

### The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org).

**2025 Print Issues and Dates:** Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19

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## Letter ...

Cont'd from Page 1

shoplifting; it only becomes a felony, a more serious crime, if a person is deported and then enters again without our government's permission. Consider, too, that immigrants tend to be younger, marry sooner and have more children than the average American-born couple. In a nation whose fertility rate is now only at 1.6% when 2.1% is needed just to maintain the current population level – and especially in West Virginia, which has been losing population for many years – we should welcome immigrants because we need them and the vitality they bring.

The main problem is that our immigration laws discourage legal immigration. Unless you are a celebrity or a person with a special skill that our government wants, it can take years to work your way through the complicated and expensive immigration process. Then there are quotas, favoring some nations and disfavoring others. In this scenario it should be obvious why some people simply cannot wait for the legal immigration process to slowly and painfully unfold. They could be killed for their religion or political views or see their children starve to death before they are granted a visa to come here legally; so, they come anyway because they are desperate.

Both political parties have avoided dealing seriously with immigration reform. They have benefited by keeping immigration a live issue in their campaigns. Republican President George W. Bush presented an acceptable if imperfect plan to reform immigration laws, but his own party shot it down. Democratic President Barack Obama said he would act on immigration reform but, with Democrats in control of Congress his first two years, he did not do so. Our politicians have failed us.

Why should this matter to us? *"Am I my brother's keeper,"* Cain asked God after he killed his brother, Abel. God makes clear His answer by expressing His outrage at what Cain had done. We can hurt people not only by hostile actions but by our indifference. We are our brother's and sister's keepers. On our journey to eternity, the Lord expects us to help one another. Why else would He command us: *Love your neighbor as yourself and Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?* We may not have the large number of immigrants in West Virginia that

we see in other parts of our country, but some are here, and they are our neighbors, coworkers, fellow students and, in many cases, our fellow Catholics. They deserve our support in the current climate of fear and intimidation.

In the light of these Christian principles, we the people must act. How? As people of faith, we should pray intensely for God to touch the minds and hearts of our political leaders and move them to be more reasonable and humane in their policies; and for those who implement those policies to do so with respect for their fellow human beings. I pray alone and have prayed with others for immigrants who are threatened by the government's policies and actions and for a change of heart on the part of the officials ordering those actions. Could you not do the same?

We the people can also act to befriend immigrants. We can encourage those we know to avoid gathering in large groups and remind them of their rights, including the right to remain silent and the right to see a properly executed warrant from a judge. We can welcome immigrant friends into our homes. We can speak up when we hear grossly inaccurate talk about undocumented immigrants being uniformly criminal, when only a few commit violent crimes. (A police chief where I used to serve said publicly that the immigrants in that city were more law-abiding than the native-born citizens.) We can also let our public officials know that we want immigration enforcement to be less cruel and more focused on violent criminals.

We the people should also remember our history. The Fugitive Slave Act, passed by Congress as part of the Compromise of 1850 – an attempt to calm the tensions between slave states and free states – required not only local police but ordinary citizens to assist federal marshals in returning escaped slaves to their Southern masters or face heavy fines and jail time. Many Northern citizens refused to cooperate with a law they saw as manifestly unjust. It is Catholic teaching that an unjust law does not bind in conscience. But one must be willing to accept the consequences of civil disobedience. Martin Luther King, Jr., was willing to go to jail rather than acquiesce in unjust laws, a willingness shared by prolife activists and people protesting nuclear arms. As the English statesman, Edmund Burke, is reported to have said, "The only thing necessary for

the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We must pray for the courage to do the right thing.

I encourage even those whose official duty is to enforce the current Administration's immigration policies to consider whether a specific action is morally justified. I recognize that they have sworn to uphold the law. Yet the manner in which a law is enforced matters. Those acting on the government's behalf cannot escape personal responsibility for an unjust action with the excuse that it was ordered by their superiors. That defense was not allowed during the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals at the end of World War II. The judges held that a soldier, guard or official, who authorized or engaged in gross violations of human rights, was personally responsible for his acts.

What has been reported about excesses in immigration enforcement does not approach the horror of Nazi treatment of prisoners but the principle of personal responsibility for one's actions remains the same. Challenging a superior's unjust or cruel order risks retaliation, so the degree of injustice a government agent perceives in such an order must be weighed against the potential for severe repercussions against the agent. Still, we should all keep in mind that the final judge of our actions is God. Our Church would have no martyrs if the highest good was to preserve one's life. Some things are worth taking a principled stand for. How would God judge actions that pull a man away from his wife and children in order to deport him? How would He judge arresting a person just because "he looks like an immigrant?" How does He look at a large, rich nation that turns away the world's poor and suffering?

I urge you to affirm the humanity of all immigrants, regardless of legal status. Our government's own inaction is the main reason why many oppressed and struggling people feel obliged to enter our country without legal documents. Now our government is overreacting by trying to force them out. We Catholics must welcome the stranger and feed and clothe him. *For whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me* [Matthew 25:40].

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

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Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



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# USCCB International Policy Chair urges Trump to Expand Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza

**By Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — Amid growing concern from humanitarian organizations and Catholic leaders, including Pope Leo XIV, about a hunger crisis in Gaza, President Donald Trump acknowledged the crisis and said the U.S. is “going to be even more involved” in the response.

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, issued a statement July 31 commending Trump “for acknowledging that starvation is happening in Gaza, especially affecting children, and I urge him to demand the immediate expansion of humanitarian assistance through all channels in Gaza.”

Trump said July 28 during a meeting with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland that children in Gaza are suffering “real starvation.”

“I see it, and you can’t fake that,” Trump said.

Trump’s longtime ally Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has denied that starvation is occurring in Gaza, an account contradicted by international humanitarian organizations.

Catholic Relief Services and its on-the-ground partners are among those trying to deliver aid to those in need.

Israel launched a blockade on aid to Gaza in March in an effort to pressure Hamas to release the remaining Israeli hostages taken in Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which sparked the current war. CNN reported that on July 26, Israel’s military announced that it would open corridors for humanitarian aid to enter Gaza and pause combat operations in certain areas.

In a July 31 post on his social media website Truth Social, Trump said, “The fastest way to end the Humanitarian Crises in Gaza

is for Hamas to **SURRENDER AND RELEASE THE HOSTAGES!!!**”

Bishop Zaidan, who heads the St. Louis-based Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, said in his statement, “As the world watches in horror the heart-rending images of starvation in Gaza, I call on Catholics

and all men and women of good will to ardently pray for the alleviation of the suffering of the Gazan people — a crisis already ranked as one of the worst humanitarian disasters of the 21st century.”

Pope Leo, Bishop Zaidan added, “has often reiterated his ‘heartfelt appeal for a ceasefire, for the

release of hostages, and for the full respect for humanitarian law’ in Gaza, and I add my voice and prayers to that of our Holy Father.”

“Reflecting Christ’s mandate in the Gospel to love one another, Pope Leo XIV’s challenge to us is clear: ‘We cannot pray to God as ‘Father’ and then be

harsh and insensitive towards others. Instead, it is important to let ourselves be transformed by his goodness, his patience, his mercy, so that his face may be reflected in ours as in a mirror,’” he said.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

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# Massacre 'of Faithful in the House of God' in Congolese Catholic Church Leaves 43 Dead

By **Fredrick Nzwili, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — At least 43 people, including children, were killed July 27 in a brutal overnight attack on a Catholic church in Komanda in eastern Congo.

Militants from the Allied Democratic Forces — an Islamist group linked to the Islamic State group — targeted faithful gathered for a youth retreat, opening fire and using machetes before looting homes and attacking displaced persons sheltering nearby.

The United Nations' mission in the country called the attack a "heinous" act of violence in a July 27 statement. Victims were buried in a mass grave July 28 following a funeral Mass at the Komanda church with Father Aime Lokana Dhegoïn presiding.

Pope Leo expressed "deep sorrow" over the attack in a July 28 telegram, signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican's secretary of state, and sent to Archbishop Fulgence Muteba Mugalu of Lubumbashi, who is president of Congo's bishops' conference.

The pope joined "the mourning of the families and the Christian community," expressing his closeness and assurance of prayers.

"This tragedy invites us to work even harder for the integral human development of the wounded population of this region," the pope said.

"His Holiness implores God that the blood of these martyrs may be a seed of peace, reconciliation, brotherhood and love for all the Congolese people."

According to reports, the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, descended on Komanda, a township about 46 miles southwest of the city of Bunia, the capital of the province, in the early morning hours of July 27. Targeted were Catholics gathering for a retreat in the Caritas hall of the Blessed Marie-Clémentine Anuarite Nengapeta Catholic Church in the township.

The militants had ambushed the night prayer vigil, catching by surprise the youth who were preparing for the Sunday service. The armed men gunned down some of the worshippers, butchered others with mac-

hetes and abducted others.

Father Marcelo Oliveira, a Comboni missionary who has been in the Congo for many years, told the pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need that the victims were part of a movement called Eucharistic Crusade and were participating in a prayer vigil as part of a summer holiday formation session.

"The attack occurred at around 1 o'clock in the morning. The rebels entered the church and murdered a large number of children, both inside the church building and in the compound," he said in a message sent to the Portuguese office of ACN.

Nearby homes, shops and banks were looted by the militia, who also attacked displaced people camping in the town's hospital.

"The people — both the youth and adults — had gathered to celebrate the jubilee of the parish church, when the attack occurred. Those who came from other regions left, but the local worshippers converged in the church hall to wait for the Sunday service," Father Justin Zanamuzi, vicar general of the Diocese of Bunia, told OSV News in a telephone interview.

"As the church, we condemn this attack in the greatest terms possible. We feel the pain of this attack."

ADF, an organization blamed for the attack, is a murderous militia group that was launched in Uganda in 1995, and currently operates in the mountainous region between Uganda and Congo. The group has been recruiting child soldiers, maiming, killing, and raping women and children. In 2019, the militant group pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and increased its attacks.

There is an ongoing joint military offensive against the group, but Father Zanamuzi explained that the militia had recently stepped up its violence and was still carrying out killings in villages and towns in the region.

The attack in Komanda, a commercial hub connecting Tshopo, North Kivu and Maniema provinces, is the latest one. The town is an easy target of the Congolese militias due to its geographical location and economic signifi-



OSV News photo/courtesy Father Justin Zanamuzi  
**Men stand around caskets during a burial in Komanda, in Congo's province of Ituri, July 28, for victims of a horrific attack on the Catholic church in Komanda, where at least 43 faithful were shot or killed with machetes during an overnight vigil in the church July 27.**

cance.

On July 26, the priest said, the militant group had earlier begun to attack villages before targeting the church gathering at night.

"I think they are everywhere now. We cannot also rule out religious motivation. They are Muslim extremists and are known to attack Christians," he said.

The Orthodox Public Affairs Committee, a New York-based global advocacy wing of Orthodox Christians worldwide, condemned the attack in Ituri, saying the members of the militant group had killed innocent worshippers during an overnight prayer vigil.

"The attackers ... used guns and machetes, setting the church ablaze and slaughtering those in the pews. This was not a battle. This was a massacre of faithful in the house of God," said the committee in a statement dated July 27.

The United Nations' mission in Congo, MONUSCO, detailed the 43 killed in the church, saying they included 19 women, 15 men and nine children.

"These targeted attacks against defenseless civilians, particularly in places of worship, are not only appalling but also in violation of all human rights standards and international law," said Vivian van de Perre, deputy special representative of the sec-

retary general in Congo in a July 27 statement.

Days before the attack in Komanda, another militia known as CODECO, the Co-operative for the Development of the Congo, had desecrated the St. John of Capistrano in Lopa, in Ituri, on July 21.

The attack on the church came a day after the Congolese army and CODECO announced an alliance to fight a new militia known as the CRP, or the Convention for Popular Revolution.

In the attack, the tabernacle was violated, consecrated Hosts spilled, the Marian shrine vandalized, and sacred and liturgical objects destroyed.

"This serious and deliberate desecration of the Catholic church in Lopa is part of a series of violent attacks announced and claimed by the CODECO spokesperson in the trading centers of Lopa and Nizi," said Bishop Dieudonné Uringi Uuci of Bunia in a July 26 statement, which also expressed great sorrow and dismay at the attack. "It

can be recalled that since 2017, this militia has been responsible for numerous gruesome atrocities against Church facilities, members of the clergy, and pastoral workers."

These latest attacks are part of the deadly cycle of conflict that has unfolded for decades in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu of eastern Congo, a mineral-rich region the size of Western Europe. Fueling the conflict is an intricate mix of regional politics, ethnic and national rivalries, and a fight for control of the mineral resources, according to analysts.

In the July 28 statement, ACN said: "ACN urges all parties to strive to protect civilians and places of worship in the Democratic Republic of Congo and calls on its friends and benefactors to pray for the victims of this horrific attack, and for peace to finally arrive in this African country."

(Fredrick Nzwili writes for OSV News from Nairobi, Kenya.)

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# Pope Paves Way for St. John Henry Newman to be Formally Named Doctor of the Church

By **Gina Christian, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — St. John Henry Newman — the 19th-century theologian, intellectual and preacher who journeyed from Anglicanism to Catholicism, powerfully shaping religious thought in both faith traditions — will be named a doctor of the church by Pope Leo XIV.

The news was announced by the Vatican shortly after Pope Leo's July 31 audience with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The Vatican press bulletin stated that the pope had "confirmed the affirmative opinion of the plenary session of cardinals and bishops, members of the dicastery" for sainthood causes, on conferring the title, which since the early church has been bestowed on saints whose doctrinal writing and teachings are held to have special authority. St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great and St. Jerome were the first four doctors of the church, and excluding today's announcement, there have been 37 saints so named — including four women, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Hildegard of Bingen.

The move had been supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who at their November 2023 plenary assembly voted almost unanimously to support a request by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that Newman be named a doctor of the church by Pope Francis.

Speaking at the 2023 plenary, Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, said the USCCB doctrine committee, of which he is chair, "considered this matter back in 2019 and concluded that the writings of St. John Henry Newman are truly eminent and of great relevance for the church today, especially in the areas of the development of doctrine, the moral foundations of education, the primacy of conscience, the role of the laity

and the search for the truth, amongst many others.

"The committee therefore determined that St. John Henry Newman is indeed worthy of this high honor," said Bishop Flores at the time, who was joined in his remarks by several bishops.

According to an online biography by the Oratories of England, prepared for his canonization cause, John Henry Newman — born 1801 in London and raised in a middle-class Anglican family — displayed an early interest in Scripture.

In his "Apologia Pro Sua Vita" ("A Defense of His Life"), his 1864 autobiography, Cardinal Newman recounted "a great change of thought" he experienced at the age of 15, one that enabled him to "rest in the thought of two and two only absolute and luminously self-evident beings, myself and my creator."

With the revival sparked by John Wesley, Newman converted to evangelicalism during his final year at Great Ealing School. At 16, he went on to study at Oxford, which along with Cambridge University offered seminary formation for Anglican clergy — a vocation Newman sought out, even looking to take what for that clerical tradition was the unusual vow of celibacy. He was ordained in 1825, and dedicated himself to making pastoral visits to the sick and the poor while also tutoring college students, said the Oratories biography.

However, Newman's zealous sharing of his faith with the students led to a clash with the administration, and deprived of the opportunity to teach, he began reading the works of the Fathers of the Church, which he described in part as "music to my inward ear" and "response to ideas ... I had cherished so long."

Newman's preaching began to attract national attention, and a near-fatal bout of illness in 1833, contracted while in Sicily — which saw him feverishly repeat, "I have a work to do in England" — in-



OSV News file photo/Crosiers  
**St. John Henry Newman, a British-born scholar who dedicated much of his life to the combination of faith and intellect at universities, is pictured in an undated portrait.**

tensified his desire for the renewal of the church. Upon returning to his homeland, Newman teamed up with like-minded others who feared the Church of England had become complacent and politicized, said the Oratories. The group formed what would become known as the Oxford Movement, publishing tracts to rouse faithful from their torpor and reclaim the Gospel.

The future saint fell afoul of the university and Oxford's bishop by arguing that the Church of England's doctrines were more Catholic than Protestant. Newman left Oxford, and took up residence in the nearby village of Littlemore, where he pursued study and prayer. Resigning from his parish, he began to discern — albeit not without struggle, as the Oratories observed — a calling to embrace the Catholic faith.

In the canonization cause biography, the Oratories pointed out that Newman's battle with sacred tradition on matters such as purgatory and papal supremacy spurred further historical study, leading to his 1845 "Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine," in which he described ideas and doctrines as organic, with "old principles"

reappearing "under new forms." Newman observed in the work that "in a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

That same year, he was formally received into the Catholic Church — making his confession right in his home to a Passionist missionary priest, Father Dominic Barberi, and speaking at such length that the priest had him resume the following morning.

Newman's conversion led to the loss not only of his Oxford fellowship, but of most of his Anglican friends and his family. Yet, said the Oratories, he also wrote of a great peace amid the isolation — describing the conversion as "like coming into port after a rough sea."

In 1847, Newman — having completed additional study — was ordained a Catholic priest in Rome, where he became acquainted with the Oratorians of St. Philip Neri, whose communal way of life recalled the college fellowship of his university days. A year later, with papal approval, he established the first Oratory of St. Philip in England at Birmingham, with a second founded in London the following year.

Expanding his ministry to Ireland, Father Newman became the rector of the newly established Catholic University of Ireland, now University College Dublin, under the leadership of Ireland's Catholic bishops. Through his religious, spiritual and intellectual thought, Newman synthesized the pursuit of knowledge and of God, writing that "knowledge is one thing, virtue is another."

The demands of his role in Dublin — which saw him make 56 sea crossings from Britain to Ireland in just seven years — proved exhausting, said the Oratories, and in 1858 he returned to the Birmingham Oratory.

The succeeding two decades were marked by struggles with both Catholics and Angli-

cans — with some of the former distrustful of his conversion, and the latter claiming he had never been an honest Anglican in the first place. In response, Father Newman penned his massive 1864 *Apologia* to "show what I am ... I wish to be known as a living man, and not as a scarecrow."

The candor of his writing helped to assuage both Anglican and Catholic fears, and Father Newman was even invited to serve as an expert theological adviser at the First Vatican Council in 1868 — although, the Oratories noted, he declined in order to complete "The Grammar of Assent," which considers the process by which an individual espouses convictions.

In 1874, he countered Prime Minister William Gladstone's assertion that Catholics could not be loyal subjects due to their papal allegiance, with Newman writing in an open letter that his coreligionists did not deserve "this injurious reproach that we are captives and slaves of the Pope," quoted the Oratories.

Three years later, Father Newman returned to Oxford and received the first honorary fellowship of Trinity College. In 1879, Pope Leo XIII named him a cardinal, extolling his fidelity to the faith, and granted his request to remain in Birmingham and forego consecration as a bishop. The elevation was lauded by Catholics and Anglicans alike, said the Oratories.

In Birmingham, Cardinal Newman continued to write, pondering in one of his final works — quoted by the Oratories in the online canonization biography — that God "has provided for the creation of the Saint out of the sinner ... He enters into the heart of man, and persuades it, and prevails with it, while He changes it."

Cardinal Newman died at age 89 in 1890 and was canonized in 2019 by Pope Francis.

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)

# Steubenville Conferences ‘Radically’ Change Participants’ Lives, Say Organizers

By **Simone Orendain, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — For 50 years, the Steubenville Conferences have been forming teens in the faith and deepening adults’ faith journeys.

The summer conferences, which sprouted from a single priests’ retreat in 1975, have been known to make an impact on service to the U.S. church in parishes, dioceses and national apostolates.

Four youth conferences, and all six of the adult conferences this year, are on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, where the series started. The rest of the 15 youth meetings are happening across the country and in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Between 600 to 4,500 attend these, according to organizers.

They said adult conferences draw 150 to 900 participants and include a weeklong retreat for priests, deacons and seminarians, and three intensive days for the laity. Some lay conference topics include growing one’s faith with Scripture, dealing with the culture through faith and the Holy Spirit’s healing work in one’s life.

For high school-age young people, organizers create a three-day program built around the person of Jesus Christ, according to Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka, who directed the conferences for 30 years. Father Pivonka, president of Franciscan University, also presents at the conferences.

He said youth come to know the love of God in the proclamation and preaching of the Gospel, or “kerigma” (proclaiming God’s kingdom, Jesus’ saving death on the cross and the meaning of a life in Christ), raising awareness of the Real Presence at Mass and adoration, “and that’s the extent of it. God does really great works in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

“Young people love to have the bar raised for them,” he told OSV News. “We’re not compromising. We speak about eternal re-

alities, we speak about sin and we speak about mercy. And when presented with the entire Gospel, our experience is, the young people actually respond quite beautifully. So you’ll find ... (people) that are in their 60s that 45 years ago had the encounter with the Lord that radically changed their lives.”

Father Pivonka said clergy specifically requested that youth conferences be started at their first retreat at Franciscan 50 years ago. Every year since, the school has hosted the conferences, which officials said have grown significantly.

Surveys in 2024 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate show 15% of seminarians to be ordained that year had attended a Steubenville youth conference and 14% of religious who made solemn professions of vows then also attended a conference.

Brian Kissinger, executive director of Steubenville Conferences, said many who staffed and led sessions at last year’s National Eucharistic Congress, such as known Catholic personalities Father Josh Johnson, Heather Khym of the Abiding Together podcast and Catholic media writer and host Katie McGrady, had attended the conferences as teens.

Kissinger grew up in the city of Steubenville, which is in eastern Ohio. He said the conferences have been part of his life, “for as long as I’ve been alive.” Kissinger, 43, attended his first conference when he was 3 weeks old, he recounted to OSV News, when his par-



OSV News photo/courtesy Franciscan University of Steubenville  
Young people gesture inside Finnegan Fieldhouse at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio July 18 during one of the university’s numerous Summer Youth Conferences.

ents brought him along. In high school, he attended them multiple times, helped out during his college years and was a conference host for 17 years until he became executive director.

“We try to wrap our annual theme around the questions that seem to be surfacing right now. We believe that, of course, Jesus Christ is the answer to all of our questions, always,” he said.

For instance, he said, this year’s theme “consumed” is a take on God’s all-consuming love as found in Deuteronomy 4:24. They explore what young people are consumed by nowadays: social media, too much “screen time” and seeking popularity, said Kissinger. And at

the conferences, they find the antidote is God, who “wants to consume us in a way that doesn’t take away our freedom or individuality, but really makes us fully alive.”

Annaleigh Gidosh said she had planned to purposely “be reckless” once she entered high school, after years of strict Catholic schooling. But, the summer before high school, a deacon at her parish convinced her father to have her join a Steubenville conference at the last minute.

Gidosh, 33, said it “changed (her) life.” The newly assigned youth minister at her parish in Orefield, Pennsylvania, said after attending adoration and then going to confes-

sion, she walked into the Portiuncula chapel, a replica of the chapel near Assisi, Italy, where St. Francis of Assisi first heard God tell him to rebuild his church, on Steubenville’s campus. There, she laid down on the floor “and told God that I was going to serve him and that I was going to make an

See “Lives” on Page 8



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## Lives ...

**Cont'd from Page 7**

oath to continue to serve him for the rest of my life."

Gidosh, also a communications specialist at the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, said at the conference she discovered that the God she read about in Scripture was real, he was not a figment of her imagination. After this experience, she suspected she became the most prayerful student at her high school, leading her volleyball team in prayer before every game, and being the go-to friend for prayer advice.

This year, she brought her first group of 35 kids from the diocese to a Steubenville conference.

"Many (are) from public schools and each of these kids came away from this experience transformed. They were so thankful to get the opportunity to go ... and they're excited to engage with each other back here. ... I am already providing them with opportunities for adoration, music and then a Bible study and social afterwards," said Gidosh.

Continuing with the themes of the conference afterward has been Erica McCleskey's main focus, ever since attending her first meeting two years ago. She said she and five other women who went to a "Power and Purpose" conference formed a group of now one to two dozen women for a monthly "peace, power and purpose" meeting. They listen to Catholic podcasts and deepen their faith together. Early on, McCleskey said, they watched breakout session videos from the conference.

McCleskey, 44, who lives near Raleigh, North Carolina, told OSV News that she was a Sunday Mass-only Catholic, but then she started joining Bible study groups in 2019 before attending the conference in 2022. She said since that conference she has felt compelled to share what she experienced when

her senses were awakened during adoration and Father Pivonka walked through the room holding the Blessed Sacrament inside a monstrance.

"You have the music, you have the incense, and the visual, and it is just so powerful," she said. "I was kneeling. And when he passed, I just fell flat on my face and I didn't get hurt or anything, but I was just in such peace and calm. Like he (God) was with me and he overpowered me and he was just so loving and peaceful and just like, you can't describe it except using those words and it still doesn't do it justice."

McCleskey said she learned the true meaning of the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and her faith life grew exponentially after that. She said God's love is real, that she is reassured of being able to go back to him always even after turning her back on him.

Today, she goes to daily Mass, has a spiritual director and said when life becomes more mundane and less like the electrifying conference experience, she can always do standard devotions such as the rosary or Divine Mercy chaplet, all while continuing to invite more and more people to her faith-sharing group.

Kissinger, the executive director, said technology makes the content of the Steubenville Conferences accessible to anyone. But being together in the faith is essential.

He said, "You cannot replicate the in-person experience or just the experience of community, especially in a time when many of us, young and old, feel like we are the only ones remaining faithful or remaining in the heart of the church, as we see the culture kind of going here or there."

Kissinger said he was "excited to see what the Lord has in store for the next 50 years."

(Simone Orendain writes for OSV News from Chicago.)



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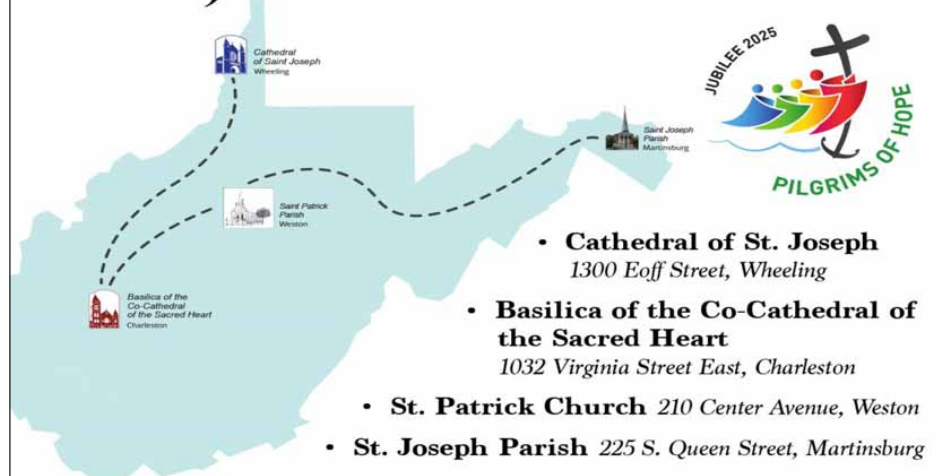
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with Fr. Chapin

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8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont  
6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)  
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## The 2025 Jubilarians are listed below:

Please note, there are no deacons or brothers celebrating 25th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, or 75th.... jubilee anniversaries in 2025.

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Father James McCafferty, SM

50 Years

Father Larry W. Dorsch  
Father Paul Morrissey, SM  
Father T. Mathew Rowgh

25 Years

Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F.  
Father Jojan Joseph, CST  
Father Godwin G. Olugbami  
Father Paul D. Yuenger

### Sisters

75 Years

Sister Joan Hartlaub, CSJ  
Sister Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ  
Sister Eva Marie Schlag, CSJ

70 Years

Sister Karen Lester, SAC

65 Years

Sister Barbara Kupchak, CSJ  
Sister Francesca Lowis, SAC  
Sister Marguerite O'Brien, CSJ

60 Years

Sister Molly Bauer, CSJ  
Sister Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ

# Weirton Madonna Valedictorians Share in the Journey of becoming Physicians

Marshall University JCESOM (Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine) held its annual white coat ceremony on July 25 to welcome the class of 2029. Joining this class is Kelsey Crawford (center) of Weirton, who is pictured with two other Weirton natives, Rebecca Garan (right), class of 2027, and Andrea Alimario (left), class of 2028. All of them are graduates of Weirton Madonna High School (Garan '17, Alimario '19, Crawford '20) where each earned valedictorian honors in their respective graduating classes. From Weirton to Huntington, the trio shares in the journey of becoming physicians destined to provide expert medical care to future patients.

Courtesy photo



  
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# New Dean of Students Mike Geibel to Enhance Student Experience at Wheeling University

**WHEELING** – When Mike Geibel came to Wheeling University in October 2019, he took a successful men’s rugby program and built it into a two-time national championship team. In his new role as dean of students, Geibel has a plan to take the student life experience to new heights.

University President Dr. Dianna Vargo named Geibel the Dean of Students on July 1.

“Mike is a respected member of the Wheeling University community. As our Dean, Mike will help foster a sense of community and togetherness among the students,” Vargo said.

Geibel had been filling in as the Dean since March. While a student at Eckerd College in Florida, he worked in Student Affairs and continued to work at his alma mater following graduation. He held two different positions at the college, Campus Activities Coordinator and Coordinator of Club Sports and Recreation.

He believes his previous experience will be beneficial to expand the campus life opportunities across the University. Providing students with experiences outside the classroom will keep them engaged in the campus, Geibel said.

“I am grateful for this opportunity to serve Wheeling University. By teaming

up with Student Government, the Campus Activities Board and Residence Life, we plan to change the culture around campus. I want to offer events and programming that reflect our commitment to help students grow socially, spiritually and emotionally,” Geibel added.

One goal is to offer activities every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, he noted. “By offering more on-campus events such as game nights, dances, intramurals and faculty-student socials, we can make the campus experience better for all.” Also, he would like to build on longstanding traditions, such as Last Blast. “I would like to grow Last Blast into a campus-wide celebration that the entire campus can participate in and enjoy.”

Geibel explained Student Affairs also must offer students ways to engage in the greater Wheeling area. “I want to offer shuttle rides to places like the Highlands, so students have an easy way to go shopping or just enjoy some time with friends off-campus. We also want to look for ways to bring some of the local culture to campus for our students to enjoy.”

He said he would like for students to be active in planning and suggesting new activities to offer. “If someone is a



Courtesy photo

Mike Geibel is the new dean of students at Wheeling University.

yoga instructor, maybe they would like to offer a class. We want the students to suggest activities that we can offer on campus.”

As the Dean, Geibel will oversee Residence Life, Student Government, the Campus Activities Board, Campus Security and the Counseling Center.

Geibel earned a Bachelor of Arts de-

gree in International Relations and Global Affairs from Eckerd College in Florida. He also has an associate’s degree in Political Science from Georgia Highlands College. Before coming to Wheeling, Geibel worked as the marketing and events coordinator at Tech-Data while coaching the women’s rugby team at Eckerd.

# WU Graduate Cameron Gibson Becomes Director of Residence Life

**WHEELING** — Wheeling University’s new director of Residence Life said taking on this role takes him to his roots, while allowing him to serve the students.

Cameron Gibson said stepping into the new position will provide him the chance to help the Wheeling University student population immerse itself in college life.

“As a student at the University, I was a resident assistant (RA) and president of the Campus Activities Board. Taking on this position is a return to my roots – residence life. I look forward to working with the dean of students and our RAs to provide our students with an enjoyable experience in the halls and around campus,” Gibson said.

Dean of Students Mike Geibel said he excited to have Gibson in the Office of Student Affairs.

“Cameron’s experience as an undergrad student, graduate assistant and admissions representative will be invaluable in his role as director of Residence Life. He has a unique perspective regarding living on campus, having seen it from the inside during his own studies, and also having helped so many students

begin their Wheeling careers. I am very confident that we are assembling a strong team in Student Affairs who will help elevate the student experience for everyone who comes to Wheeling University,” said Geibel.

Gibson graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. While an undergraduate student, Gibson was a member of the Cardinal Track team. Also, he participated in the Kairos retreats and has remained a group leader since finishing his degree.

He remained at Wheeling University after earning his undergraduate degree to pursue an MBA while serving as a Graduate Assistant for the swimming program. For the past three years, Gibson worked in the Wheeling University Office of Admissions, recruiting students to attend his alma mater.

A native of Fairmont, Gibson said one of his priorities is to enhance the residence life experience for all students.

“We will implement programming in each of the residence halls to help build a sense of community. Robust programming will help the students become more active around campus and help



Courtesy photo

Cameron Gibson is the new director of Residence Life at Wheeling University.

them grow socially,” he explained.

Additionally, Gibson said it is important to pay close attention to the students’ day-

to-day life inside the resident halls, including interactions with roommates.

“I want the students to have unforgettable experi-

ences during their four years at Wheeling and make lasting memories. I believe we can make this happen,” Gibson added.

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# Masacre 'de fieles en la casa de Dios' en una iglesia católica de Congo deja 43 muertos

Por **Fredrick Nzwili, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** -- Al menos 43 personas, incluidos niños, murieron el 27 de julio en un brutal ataque nocturno contra una iglesia católica en Komanda, en el este del Congo.

Militantes de las Fuerzas Democráticas Aliadas — un grupo islamista vinculado al grupo Estado Islámico— atacaron a los fieles reunidos para un retiro de jóvenes, abriendo fuego y usando machetes antes de saquear las casas y atacar a los desplazados que se refugiaban cerca. La misión de las Naciones Unidas en el país calificó el ataque de acto de violencia "atroz" en un comunicado del 27 de julio. Las víctimas fueron enterradas en una fosa común el 28 de julio, tras una Misa funeral en la iglesia de Komanda presidida por el padre Aime Lokana Dhegoín.

El Papa León expresó su "profundo dolor" por el atentado en un telegrama del 28 de julio, firmado por el cardenal Pietro Parolin, secretario de Estado del Vaticano, y enviado al arzobispo de Lubumbashi, Fulgence Muteba Mugalu, presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal del Congo.

El Papa se unió "al duelo de las familias y de la comunidad cristiana", expresando su cercanía y asegurándole sus oraciones. "Esta tragedia nos insta aún más a trabajar por el desarrollo humano integral de la martirizada población de esta región", dijo el Papa.

"Su Santidad implora a Dios que la sangre de estos mártires sea semilla de paz, reconciliación, fraternidad y amor para todo el pueblo congoleño".

Según los informes, las Fuerzas Democráticas Aliadas (ADF por sus siglas en inglés) irrumpieron en Komanda, municipio situado a unos 65 kilómetros al suroeste de la ciudad de Bunia, capital de la provincia, en la madrugada del 27 de julio. El objetivo eran los católicos reunidos para un retiro en la sala de Cáritas de la iglesia católica Beata Marie-Clémentine Anuarite Nengapeta de la localidad.

Los militantes habían tendido una emboscada a la vigilia de oración nocturna, cogiendo por sorpresa a los jóvenes que se preparaban para el oficio dominical. Los hombres armados mataron a tiros a algunos de los fieles, masacraron a otros a machetazos y secuestraron a otros. El padre Marcelo Oliveira, misionero comboniano que lleva muchos años en el Congo, declaró a la organización caritativa pontificia Ayuda a la Iglesia Necesitada que las víctimas formaban parte de un movimiento llamado Cruzada Eucarística y participaban en una vigilia de oración como parte de una sesión de formación durante las vacaciones de verano.

"El ataque se produjo alrededor de la 1:00 de la

madrugada. Los rebeldes entraron en la iglesia y asesinaron a un gran número de niños, tanto dentro del edificio como en el recinto", dijo en un mensaje enviado a la oficina portuguesa de Ayuda a la Iglesia Necesitada, o ACN por sus siglas en inglés.

Los militantes saquearon casas, tiendas y bancos cercanos, y atacaron a los desplazados que acampaban en el hospital de la ciudad. "La gente—jóvenes y adultos— se había reunido para celebrar el jubileo de la iglesia parroquial, cuando se produjo el ataque. Los que habían venido de otras regiones se marcharon, pero los fieles locales se reunieron en el salón de la iglesia para esperar el servicio dominical", dijo a OSV News el padre Justin Zanamuzi, vicario general de la Diócesis de Bunia, en una entrevista telefónica.

"Como Iglesia, condenamos este ataque en los términos más enérgicos posibles. Sentimos el dolor de este ataque", expresó.

ADF, la organización a la que se atribuye el ataque, es un grupo miliciano asesino que fue lanzado en Uganda en 1995, y actualmente opera en la región montañosa entre Uganda y el Congo. El grupo ha estado reclutando niños soldados, mutilando, matando y violando a mujeres y niños. En 2019, el grupo militante prometió lealtad al Estado Islámico y aumentó sus ataques. Hay una ofensiva militar conjunta en curso contra el grupo, pero el padre Zanamuzi explicó que la milicia había intensificado recientemente su violencia y seguía llevando a cabo asesinatos en pueblos y ciudades de la región.

El atentado de Komanda, centro comercial que conecta las provincias de Tshopo, Kivu Norte y Maniema, es el más reciente. La ciudad es un objetivo fácil de las milicias congoleñas debido a su situación geográfica y a su importancia económica.

El 26 de julio, dijo el sacerdote, el grupo militante había comenzado a atacar aldeas antes de atacar la reunión de la iglesia por la noche. "Creo que ahora están por todas partes. Tampoco podemos descartar la motivación religiosa. Son extremistas musulmanes y se sabe que atacan a los cristianos", afirmó.

El Comité de Asuntos Públicos Ortodoxos, ala de defensa global de los cristianos ortodoxos de todo el mundo con sede en Nueva York, condenó el ataque en Ituri, afirmando que los miembros del grupo militante habían matado a fieles inocentes durante una vigilia de oración nocturna.

"Los atacantes (...) utilizaron armas de fuego y machetes, incendiaron la iglesia y masacraron a quienes estaban en los bancos. No fue una batalla. Fue una masacre de fieles en la casa de Dios", declaró el comité en

un comunicado fechado el 27 de julio.

La Misión de Estabilización de las Naciones Unidas en la República Democrática del Congo (MONUSCO), detalló que entre los 43 muertos de la iglesia había 19 mujeres, 15 hombres y nueve niños.

"Estos ataques selectivos contra civiles indefensos, especialmente en lugares de culto, no sólo son atroces, sino que violan todas las normas de derechos humanos y el derecho internacional", afirmó Vivian van de Perre, representante especial adjunta del secretario general en el Congo, en una declaración fechada el 27 de julio. Días antes del ataque en Komanda, otra milicia conocida como CODECO, la Cooperativa para el Desarrollo del Congo, había profanado la iglesia de San Juan de Capistrano en Lopa, en Ituri, el 21 de julio.

El ataque a la iglesia se produjo un día después de que el ejército congoleño y CODECO anunciaran una alianza para luchar contra una nueva milicia conocida como CRP, o Convención para la Revolución Popular.

En el ataque se violó el tabernáculo, se derramaron Hostias consagradas, se vandalizó el santuario mariano y se destruyeron objetos sagrados y litúrgicos.

"Esta grave y deliberada profanación de la iglesia católica de Lopa forma parte de una serie de ataques violentos anunciados y reivindicados por el portavoz de CODECO en los centros comerciales de Lopa y Nizi", declaró el obispo de Bunia, Dieudonné Uringi Uuci, en un comunicado del 26 de julio, en el que también expresó su gran pesar y consternación por el ataque. "Cabe recordar que desde 2017, esta milicia ha sido responsable de numerosas atrocidades horripilantes contra instalaciones de la Iglesia, miembros del clero y trabajadores pastorales".

Estos últimos ataques forman parte del ciclo mortal de conflicto que se ha desarrollado durante décadas en las provincias de Ituri, Kivu del Norte y Kivu del Sur del este del Congo, una región rica en minerales del tamaño de Europa Occidental.

Según los analistas, el conflicto está alimentado por una intrincada mezcla de política regional, rivalidades étnicas y nacionales y una lucha por el control de los recursos minerales.

En la declaración del 28 de julio, ACN afirmó: "ACN insta a todas las partes a reforzar la seguridad para proteger a los civiles y los lugares de culto en la República Democrática del Congo y pide a sus amigos y benefactores que recen por las víctimas de este terrible ataque y para que finalmente llegue la paz a este país africano".

(Fredrick Nzwili escribe para OSV News desde Nairobi, Kenia.)

## 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 Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web [www.repostbishopabuse.org](http://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 eclesiales 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](http://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, Diocese 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 ofrece 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](http://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.

# Employment Opportunities

## Theology Teacher, Charleston Catholic High School

Charleston Catholic High School is seeking a high school theology teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. The theology program forms students intellectually, morally and spiritually through Catholic teaching, striving to help students grow in faith by fostering gospel values. The candidate should be a practicing Catholic, have knowledge of Catholic teaching, hold at least a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field, and demonstrate a willingness to pursue certification as specified by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to colleen.hoyer@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

## St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, Maintenance Worker

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is in need of a full-time, experienced maintenance worker.

Responsibilities include sweeping; mopping; dusting; emptying trash cans; cleaning restrooms, doors and windows; vacuuming; cleaning out flower beds; shampooing carpets; and stripping floors.

The hours are 3 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The pay starts at \$14 per hour, based on experience.

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

Please send a letter of introduction and resume to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

## Stem Coordinator/Teacher, Central Catholic High School, Wheeling

Central Catholic High School is seeking a full-time Stem Coordinator/Science Teacher.

The position of the STEM Program Coordinator will collaborate with the principal, instructional team, and teachers to plan, organize, and promote STEM curriculum and expanded learning opportunities through the integration of successful strategies and multiple technologies to best prepare CCHS students for college and beyond. The STEM coordinator will facilitate the completion of the STEM certification, identify areas of growth for STEM education, develop our current curricular offerings, and expand community engagement. The candidate must also be able to teach Physics and preferably lead our Robotics program.

A teacher at CCHS must possess the ability to teach using 21st century instructional methods and educational technology; be able to work in a dynamic, collaborative, technology rich environment with fellow teachers; and demonstrate a deep commitment to facilitating learning of all students while being willing to fully participate in the CCHS community and embrace our mission as a Catholic high school.

How to Apply: Applications are being accepted through July 1, 2025. A cover letter, resume, and letters of professional reference can be sent to the administrative assistant to the principal, Sarah Petry, at spetry@cchsknights.org

## Housekeeper, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

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

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

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

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

## Cook, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

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

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

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

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

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

Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

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

## Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker, Wheeling

The Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker performs maintenance tasks, grounds maintenance and other duties to open and close grave sites.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Opens and closes graves, crypts or niches; assists in disinterment and disinterments; performs all general maintenance on grounds such as snow removal, grass cutting, digging, sodding, mulching, leaf collection, marker setting, etc.; operates equipment as needed and assigned.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Other job related as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform the job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, and ability required: High School Graduate or GED; valid driver's license; ability to follow directions; must work well with others; knowledge, understanding and use of basic buildings and grounds maintenance tools and equipment; referred experience in use of dump truck, ex-

cavators (backhoe and mini), folk lift and riding mowers.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform this job: The employee is regularly required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle or feel. The employee is required to reach with hands and arms; climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl, talk and hear. The employee must be able to move or lift up to 50 pounds and in excess occasionally. The employee must use close and distance vision, peripheral and depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described are those an employee encounters while performing this job: Employee regularly works outdoors in varying weather conditions. The employee regularly works with and near moving equipment and mechanical parts noise level can be loud. Employee may work irregular schedule and hours.

[Click here to apply.](#)

## Elementary and Middle School Music Teacher, St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

St. Michael Parish School is accepting applications for a part-time Elementary and Middle School Music Teacher.

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across the school.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in music education or related field, valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure, experience working with children in a classroom setting, strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills, willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution, fluency in piano preferred but not required, should be willing to discuss extra curricular activities such as middle school choir and participation in a spring musical

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

## Middle School Mathematics Teacher, St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

St. Michael Parish School is accepting applications for a full time Middle School Mathematics Teacher.

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual

development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across our middle school grade levels. A knowledge of teaching 5th grade math through Algebra 1 is essential.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in edu-

cation or related field, valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure, experience working with children in a classroom setting, strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills, willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution.

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org Send a resume with three references.

# Employment Opportunities

## Campus Minister – Concord University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Concord Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Concord Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

### ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

### SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.

- Support volunteer peer ministers.

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Word processing and related computer skills.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

## Campus Minister, West Liberty University and Bethany College

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

### ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Wheeling Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

### SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.
- Support volunteer peer ministers.

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Word processing and related computer skills.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

## Campus Minister – Marshall University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Marshall Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

### ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Charleston Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

### SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.

- Support volunteer peer ministers.

### QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Word processing and related computer skills.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

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-Bishop Mark Brennan



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