Don’t be Afraid to Change the World, Pope Tells Youths at WYD Closing Mass

By Justin McLellan

LISBON, Portugal (CNS) — To end “Catholic Woodstock” — as World Youth Day has been called by the Portuguese press — Pope Francis told 1.5 million weary-eyed and sleep-deprived young people in Lisbon not to let their “great dreams” of changing the world be “stopped by fear.”

In his homily for the closing Mass of World Youth Day Aug. 6, the pope asked for “a bit of silence” from the pilgrims who, after staying overnight in Lisbon’s Tejo Park following the previous night’s vigil, at 6 a.m. were already dancing to techno music mixed by a DJ priest before the pope’s arrival.

“Let’s all repeat this phrase in our hearts: ‘Don’t be afraid,’” he told the hushed crowd. “Jesus knows the hearts of each one of you, the successes and the failures, he knows your hearts,” Pope Francis said. “And today he tells you, here in Lisbon for this World Youth Day: ‘Don’t be afraid.’”

As dawn broke over the riverside park, pilgrims emerged from tents, tarps and sleeping bags to prepare for Mass. Violeta Marovic, 19, from Chicago, told Catholic News Service that the pilgrims spent the 10 hours between the previous night’s vigil and the papal Mass “sleeping very little,” dancing, playing games and exchanging gifts with other young people from around the world; she was wearing bracelets given to her by pilgrims from Italy and Poland.

See “Pope” on Page 2

Pope Francis prays in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fátima before beginning his celebration of the closing Mass for World Youth Day at Tejo Park in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 6. CNS Photo/Vatican Media
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese’s Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click “Diocese”, then “Offices”, then “Office of Safe Environment.”
The One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV official start day of August 15 – the Feast of the Assumption – is finally here!

Our parishioners, Catholic schools, PSR programs, campus ministries, Catholic organizations, and religious are the key players – or we should say PRAY-ERS – to its success.

Beyond making a personal prayer pledge for the amount of rosaries you will say this year for vocations it is also vital that you share the campaign with others outside the state and country to join us! That is how we can be difference makers.

“I’m encouraging others to be that radical change we need,” Joyce Bibey of the Office of Communications and Marketing said. Bibey has accompanied Sister Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, to a variety of Catholic organizations as the two promote One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV.

“I’ve decided personally, I need to stop joining the complaining chorus – voices echoing negativity – and actively be a part of a solution for the Church,” Bibey said to the St. Michael Parish Christian Mothers group last week. “The Rosary is a great means to that end. If I’m not praying for vocations to religious life, faith-filled marriages, and people to hear God’s call to holiness then I am choosing to continue to be a part of the problem.”

Supported by Bishop Mark Brennan the One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV extends through the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7. You can go to the site repeatedly and enter the rosaries you have said with the intention of increased vocations in WV or the ones you commit to saying.

“You are not sharing your name, address, or phone number – this truly the honor system at its finest,” Bibey said. “The fulfillment of this pledge is in your hands to God.”

She urges Catholics in the state to not just have good intentions and not to make this just a one and done check list.

“We take too much for granted, we want to put blame on others, while what we need to be doing is put our actions in front of our words,” she said. “We have groups doing just that for this campaign. One group shared with me that they entered the number of rosaries they hoped to say for vocations, but after checking with their members they have already reached their goal. So, they are going to set another goal and enter that amount on the diocesan website, as well as share the site with their friends and family.”

“I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer also changes us, and WE CHANGE THINGS.”

-Saint Teresa of Calcutta

One Million Rosaries for Vocations in West Virginia Start Date is Here!
Rosaries...  
Cont’d from Page 3

relatives around the country and other parts of the world. Talk about being on a mission. It’s a friendly competition that will result in great spiritual gifts for the Church.”

Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, “I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer also changes us, and we change things.” “Let’s be that change,” Bibey said.

Making your prayer pledge count is simple:
1. GO TO: https://dwc.org.
2. CLICK: “One Million Rosaries” banner
3. CHECK: if you are with a parish, school, mission, or other (ie out of the state, out of the country, university, seminary, religious order, congregation, etc.)
4. ENTER---- the number of Rosaries you will say for WV vocations (from 1-999)
5. CLICK SUBMIT!

Pledges can also be called into Bibey at (304) 233-0880, ext. 357.

In WV we have nearly 67,000 Catholics. “In a perfect world if each of us said only 15 we would have more than one million,” Bibey said.

In an effort to help everyone along, the diocese has provided a plethora of resources on the website. Continue to check it and The Catholic Spirit, FaithInWV e-bulletins, your parish bulletins, and your Catholic school newsletters for more encouragement.

#MillionRosaries4WV

Blue Mass

to honor law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMT and all first responders

Saturday, September 16, 2023 | 6:00 PM

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, West Virginia

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

A reception will follow in the Great Hall of Wheeling Central Catholic High School. All are welcome.
The oldest Catholic Church still in use in West Virginia in the village of Sweet Springs in northeastern Monroe County will be open to the public on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Aug. 15. St. John the Evangelist Chapel will be open for tours, beginning at 4 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. with music provided by members of Hymns and Hers, the choir of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ronceverte. The public is invited to the tours and the Mass.

Following the Mass, there will be ice cream and cookies and soft drinks on the grounds of the chapel, compliments of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Catherine of Siena and the women of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs. St. John’s will be open for a short time after the Mass.

Father James Conyers, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Charles Borromeo parishes, will celebrate the Mass. Concelebrants will be visiting priests from neighboring dioceses as well as the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Other than this Mass, the chapel is used occasionally for weddings, anniversary exchange of vows, or funerals.

The following are directions to the chapel: From West Virginia, take I-64 to the Crows exit and proceed on VA/WV 311 to the intersection with WV 3 West; from Virginia, take I-64 West to the Callaghan exit and proceed on VA 311 to Sweet Springs which is only one mile from the WV/VA border with Alleghany and Craig counties. From the south take US 219 north to downtown Union and WV 3 East to Sweet Springs.

Two other special Masses are scheduled at the oldest Catholic church in Greenbrier County on the first Saturdays in September and October. At the Church of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg, devotions begin at 10:30 a.m. and daily Mass at 11 a.m. with a covered-dish lunch on the grounds following Mass.

For additional information, telephone the office of the Catholic churches in the Greenbrier Valley at (304) 536-1813 or the Greenbrier Valley Council of the Knights of Columbus at (304) 645-1373.

Cathedral to Celebrate St. Monica Mass for the Conversion of Lost Souls

WHEELING—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling will celebrate a Mass for the Conversion of Lost Souls on Friday, Aug. 25, at 6 p.m. In addition to being one of the patron saints of mothers, St. Monica is most often invoked for the conversion of those who have left the practice of the faith. During this Mass, celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan, everyone present will have an opportunity to write the names of their loved ones and entrust them to the powerful intercession of St. Monica.

Elkins Knights of Columbus Conducting School Supplies Drive

ELKINS—The Knights of Columbus Council 603 in Elkins is conducting a school supply drive to collect school supplies to be donated to local schools. “So that every student has the supplies they need in the classroom,” council officials said.

Supplies that are needed include pens, pencils, crayons, scissors, glue or glue sticks, spiral or composition notebooks, notebook paper, two-pocket folders, three-ring binders, colored markers, colored pencils, pencil boxes, construction paper, art supplies, sanitary wet wipes, and hand sanitizer.

No backpacks are being collected.

Supplies can be dropped off at St. Brendan Church in Elkins in the box marked “School Supplies.” The school supply drive will run through the end of August. For questions, call Joe Super at (304) 614-3687.
Father Gerona Becomes a U.S. Citizen

Father Rene Gerona, SVD, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville (left), became a U.S. citizen Aug. 4. Standing with him following the Naturalization Ceremony at the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia at Elkins are Chief District Judge Thomas S. Klee, (center), and Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon.
By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—“We are always blessed to be here and to know of the Serra Club’s support for us and for your daily prayers,” Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, said to members of the Wheeling Serra Club at their 54th Annual Burse Dinner at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling July 27.

Among those joining Serrans for the evening were Bishop Mark Brennan; Father Joseph Wiley, chaplain of Wheeling Serra and pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling; Msgr. Joseph Peterson, V.G., and Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor of the Weirton Parishes of St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart of Mary. Also attending were many other priests as well as deacons, deacon candidates, and men and women religious. The master of ceremonies was Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration, Administration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.

To all gathered, Father Crenwelge introduced the diocese’s 11 seminarians who received a round of applause. They are Deacon John Soplinski, Michael Aiello, Donvito Cortese, Joe Derico, Timothy KAwash, Clifton Mastran, Dominic Re, Peter Russman, Nathan Schmidt, Bryan Tedeschi, and Michael Tupta. They stood and spoke of their home parishes and the seminaries they are attending.

In giving his address at the dinner, Dr. Frank Carenbauer, president of the Wheeling Serra Club, spoke of the organization’s purpose.

“The Serra Club fosters vocations, but also we help the seminarians,” Carenbauer said. “We also raise money through the burse dinner.”

He then presented the burse of $5,000 to Bishop Brennan in support of vocations.

The bishop thanked the Serrans for their financial support. He shared that, in his original diocese before becoming a bishop, he served as a Serra Club chaplain. “And I came to appreciate the value of the Serra movement in the church.”

They are lay people, deacons, men and women religious, and those married and single. The bishop told Serrans that it was good to gather with them to renew their commitment to support those preparing for holy orders and for religious life. The bishop shared that he has a list of 100 names of men in this diocese who have a possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. He prays for them and asked the Serrans and all to continue to pray for vocations.

“It is the most important thing you do,” Bishop Brennan said.

The prayers, he continued, are having an effect.

“Two years ago, we had four seminarians,” he said. “We will now have 11 in different stages of formation. … So please, keep your prayers going because they are bearing fruit.”

According to Serra International, the organization is a global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church. The purposes are to foster and promote vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life and to encourage its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service.

West Virginia is home to three chapters of the organization — Wheeling, Charleston, and Clarksburg. For more information about Wheeling Serra, visit: wheelingserra.org. For more information about the Serra Club of Charleston, visit: www.serracharleston.org. For more information about Clarksburg Serra, call Leigh Shorr, treasurer, at (304) 842-0498.
Diane and Ed Poach (pictured below) recently celebrated their 50th anniversary of marriage at Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon. Above, Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, pastor of the parish (third from right), blesses the couple. Their family participated in the Sunday morning Mass by providing music and serving as lectors and gift bearers. Their four children, along with their spouses and 12 grandchildren, were present for the celebration.
As part of our on-going Eucharistic Revival efforts we welcome Dr. Tom Octave, Director of Lay Ministry for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as he speaks to us about creating a Eucharistic culture in our parishes and beyond.

*This presentation will be held in three different locations in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Please choose the one that is most convenient for you. NO CHARGE TO ATTEND!*

**6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

**August 21—St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling**

**August 22—St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown**

**August 23—Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton**

Using Dr. Timothy O’Malley’s book, Creating a Eucharistic Culture, we will explore ways that we can be intentional in our parish and local communities about sharing the Eucharistic presence of Christ.
As Russia attacks Ukraine’s grain exports — which feed millions in several nations — a U.S. bishop is calling on global leaders to ensure food security.

“Russia’s recent decision no longer to allow Ukraine to export tons of grain means more people are likely to go hungry,” said Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, in an Aug. 7 statement.

Last month, Russia walked away from the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which expired July 17. Brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July 2022, the agreement enabled vitally needed food supplies from Ukraine to reach global markets amid Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which was launched in February 2022 following aggression begun in 2014.

Global food prices soared as Russia blocked Ukraine’s ports, preventing crucial agricultural exports from the nation known as “Europe’s breadbasket.”

Under the Black Sea grain deal, close to 33 million tons of grain and agricultural products were exported from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports — Odesa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi — to 45 countries.

More than half of the shipments were maize, with wheat, sunflower product and other agricultural goods comprising the balance. Sixty-five percent of the wheat exported through the initiative reached developing countries.

As a result of the grain initiative, the World Food Program transported more than 725,000 tons of wheat to vulnerable populations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. In both 2022 and the year prior, Ukraine supplied more than half of the program’s wheat grain.

Since walking away from the Black Sea grain deal, Russia has relentlessly struck Ukraine’s ports, including Odesa and Mykolaiv, as well as Izmail, located on the Danube River across from Romania. In addition, Russia announced it would regard all ships heading for Ukrainian waters to be military targets. (An Israeli cargo vessel became the first to defy the blockade on July 31, followed by other ships registered with Greece, Turkey and Georgia, according to at least one report.)

“Russia’s decision to withdraw from the BSGI and its bombing of grain storage facilities in Ukraine will greatly impact the availability of food supplies at a time when more people are in dire need of food,” said Bishop Malloy. “With the number of forcibly displaced people at a record high, the World Food Programme estimates 345 million people will face acute hunger this year, with 129,000 potentially facing famine in places like Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, the Horn of Africa and Myanmar.”

The bishop quoted a plea made by Pope Francis during a June 1, 2022, audience, during which the pope issued “a heartfelt appeal that every effort be made to resolve this issue and to guarantee the universal human right to food.”

“Please do not use wheat, a staple food, as a weapon of war!” Pope Francis said at the time.

Noting that “the food crisis is intertwined with persistence of conflicts,” Bishop Malloy said he joined with Pope Francis “in calling on global leaders to look beyond narrow national interests, focus on the common good, and join in ensuring that critical food supplies can flow to those most in need.”

“The most vulnerable are crying in hunger,” said Bishop Malloy. “With the compassion of Christ, we need to heed their cries and help.”

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.)
Miracle at Fátima? World Youth Day Pilgrim Receives Her Sight after Communion at Mass

By Almudena Martínez-Bordiú, ACI Prensa (adapted by Catholic News Agency)

“I opened my eyes and I could see perfectly,” said Jimena, a 16-year-old Spanish World Youth Day pilgrim who said she miraculously recovered her sight after receiving the Eucharist at Fátima, Portugal, during a Mass there.

This possible miracle has moved hearts and filled hope all those who have been following the events at WYD, which brought together more than a million young people in the Portuguese capital last week.

Jimena traveled to Lisbon from Madrid with a group from Opus Dei. During the days prior, relatives and acquaintances of the young woman organized a novena to pray to Our Lady of Fatima. She is “super happy” and “very much asked God please [cure me],” said Omella, the archbishop of Barcelona and president of the Spanish Bishops’ Conference, referred to the possible miracle as “a grace from God” during the press conference at the end of WYD held at Eduardo VII park in Lisbon.

The cardinal said he was “really struck” by other testimonies that took place during WYD from young people who “have also recovered their interior vision.”

(Story was first published by ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish-language news partner. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.)

The young woman also thanked all those who were part of the prayer group. “This has been a test of faith; the Virgin has given me a great gift that I will not forget,” she said.

In an Aug. 6 statement to ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish-language news partner, Cardinal Juan José Omella, the archbishop of Barcelona and president of the Spanish Bishops’ Conference, referred to the possible miracle as “a grace from God” during the press conference at the end of WYD held at Eduardo VII park in Lisbon.

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When I opened my eyes, I could see perfectly,” the young woman continued, “it was overwhelming; very many thanks must be given for the miracle, because I saw the altar, the tabernacle, my girlfriends were there, and I could see them perfectly.”

In addition, she said that she was able to read the novena prayer that she was praying and that she still reads “quite well” — she hadn’t forgotten at all how to read.

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Bishops Protest Biden Administration’s Addition of Abortion to Pregnant Workers Protections

By Tyler Arnold, Catholic News Agency

Catholic bishops are criticizing the Biden administration’s proposed rules related to the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act that would force employers to make accommodations for women who receive abortions.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which passed Congress with bipartisan support in 2022, established new protections for workers who are pregnant or recently had a child. It requires that employers make reasonable accommodations for women based on known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or other related medical conditions as long as such accommodations do not create an undue hardship on the operations of the business.

Although the law makes no mention of accommodating women who abort their children, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on Monday issued proposed regulations that defined abortion as one of the “related medical conditions.” Under the draft regulations, employers would need to accommodate women for limitations that arise from “having or choosing not to have an abortion.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) initially supported the bill for its new protections for pregnant women. Now, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities chairman Bishop Michael Burbidge is accusing the EEOC of distorting the law.

“We supported the bipartisan Pregnant Workers Fairness Act because it enhanced the protection of pregnant mothers and their preborn children, which is something that we have encouraged Congress to prioritize,” Bishop Burbidge said in a statement. “The act is pro-worker, pro-family, and pro-life. It is a total distortion to use this law as a means for advancing abortion and the complete opposite of needed assistance for pregnant mothers.”

Bishop Burbidge argued that the proposed rules are contrary to the legislative intent.

“To include accommodations for obtaining an abortion is wrong and contrary to the text, legislative history, and purpose of the act, which is to help make it possible for working mothers to remain gainfully employed, if desired, while protecting their health and that of their preborn children,” Bishop Burbidge continued. “We are hopeful that the EEOC will be forced to abandon its untenable position when public comments submitted on this regulation demonstrate that its interpretation would be struck down in court.”

The EEOC defended its inclusion of abortion as a related medical condition based on previous judicial interpretations of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, which the agency argued included abortion as a medical condition related to pregnancy.

Some Republican supporters of the legislation have also accused the EEOC of disregarding the legislative intent and the text of the law. Sen. Bill Cassidy, who was the lead Republican co-sponsor of the legislation, issued a statement that argued the bill received bipartisan support because it excluded abortion.

“The Biden administration has gone rogue. These regulations completely disregard legislative intent and attempt to rewrite the law by regulation,” Cassidy said. “The Biden administration has to enforce the law as passed by Congress, not how they wish it was passed. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act is aimed at assisting pregnant mothers who remain in the workforce by choice or necessity as they bring their child to term and recover after childbirth. The decision to disregard the legislative process to inject a political abortion agenda is illegal and deeply concerning.”

EEOC Chair Charlotte Burrows issued a statement along with the release of the new rules but did not make any mention of the inclusion of abortion. She said the proposal “furthers the agency’s leadership role in fulfilling the promise of the PWFA’s protections.”

“The PWFA is a step forward for workers, families, and the economy,” Burrows said. “This important new civil rights law promotes the economic security and health of pregnant and postpartum workers by providing them with access to support on the job to keep working, which helps employers retain critical talent.”

The proposed rules will undergo a 60-day public comment period, after which the EEOC can either revise the rules or hold a vote on whether to adopt them.
By Kate Scanlon
WASHINGTON (OSV News) — A Massachusetts couple alleged the commonwealth denied them the opportunity to foster or adopt children into their family due to their religious beliefs.

Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm, said Aug. 8 it is representing Mike and Kitty Burke, prospective foster and adoptive parents who said they are Catholic and were allegedly denied the ability to participate in the program due to their religious beliefs about marriage, sexuality, and gender.

Mike Burke is an Iraq war veteran, Becket’s statement said, while Kitty Burke is a former paraprofessional for children with special needs; the couple run a business and perform music for Mass. They said they began applying to become foster and eventually adoptive parents, but claim the state disqualified them over their religious views.

“After months of interviews and training, and after years of heartbreak, we were on the verge of finally becoming parents,” the couple said in a joint statement. “We were absolutely devastated to learn that Massachusetts would rather children sleep in the hallways of hospitals than let us welcome children in need into our home.”

Lori Windham, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, said in a statement, “It takes the heroic effort of parents like Mike and Kitty to provide vulnerable children with loving homes through foster care.”

“Massachusetts’ actions leave the Burkes, and families of other faiths, out in the cold. How can they explain this to children waiting for a home?” she said.

According to Becket, the Burkes underwent training and interviews in their application process, receiving high marks from instructors; however, during home interviews, the couple received questions about their Catholic faith’s beliefs about sexual orientation and gender dysphoria. The couple responded they would love and accept any child into their home, regardless of the child’s future sexual orientation or potential struggles with gender identity.

However, the couple allege their application was rejected after their home study called their religious views “not supportive.” They claim the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, or DCF, officials said that despite their strengths as applicants, their answers about sexuality and gender prevented them from being licensed.

In their Aug. 8 filing with the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts, the Burkes’ attorneys stated, “As faithful Catholics, the Burkes believe that all children should be loved and supported, and they would never reject a child placed in their home. They also believe that children should not undergo procedures that attempt to change their God-given sex, and they uphold Catholic beliefs about marriage and sexuality.”

The filing cited U.S. Supreme Court precedent which “unanimously — rejected the attempt to exclude Catholic foster care agencies from the child welfare system,” and a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision holding “the First Amendment prohibits retaliation against foster parents for sharing their religious beliefs on marriage.”

“Exclusion of Catholic couples is equally unconstitutional,” the brief argued, saying the DCF’s rules would extend to Muslims, Jews and Christians with similar beliefs, meaning “any Massachusetts family with similar religious beliefs on human sexuality will be banned from ever fostering or adopting children through Massachusetts’ child welfare system.”

The Massachusetts DCF did not immediately respond to a request for comment from OSV News on the case.

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

Let Us Pray,

USE ME GOD,
SHOW ME HOW TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,
PRAY PURPOSEFULLY,
AND SERVE JOYFULLY
FOR A PURPOSE GREATER THAN MYSELF.

Amen.

The Catholic Sharing Appeal delivers essential support for ministries and programs including funding for Camp Carlo, social ministries, tuition assistance, parish food pantry programs, emergency services, and outreach efforts.

Click the Link to Donate Today!

dwc.org/CSA
Calling all Cursillistas!

Would you like to gather with other past participants in Cursillo weekends for an Ultreya meeting? Well, you can, on Saturday, August 19th, and you have two locations and times to choose from!

The Diocesan Cursillo community will gather, on Saturday, August 19th, first at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, in Charleston, at 10:30 AM. Then, the other Ultreya option will be a gathering at the Parish Center of St. John University Parish, in Morgantown, at 4:30 PM.

What should you expect? At both meetings, we will have our Regional Director for Cursillo, Mr. Dan Kubisiak, as the rector/moderator, along with the Lay Director for Cursillo in South Carolina, Mr. Tommie Smith, as our main witness speaker.

At both locations, we will gather for about an hour and a half, for fellowship, spiritual enrichment, socializing, refreshments, and a meal. We hope these gatherings will help revive Cursillo in our wonderful state.

If you would like to join us, and we'd love if you would, please let us know either by calling the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, at 304-233-0880, ext. 374, or by emailing Daniel Maul, at dmaul@dwc.org.

Catholic Men of West Virginia, Married or Single, Consider the Vocation of a Deacon

Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service, assisting the bishop and his priests in many areas, especially in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opened a new Diaconate Formation Program for all Catholic men who will be 35 by June of 2027. Bishop Mark Brennan has made the 2023-2028 Diaconate Formation Program free to the men who apply, and the cost will be covered by the diocese.

Permanent deacons may be married. They must be faithful Catholics. Most work at secular jobs and must be willing to be open to an assignment outside of their parish.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is accepting applications for the next class of permanent deacons.

Applications may also be obtained by contacting Tina High in the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (888) 434-6237 or for the Wheeling area at (304) 233-0880, ext. 271. Completed applications must be sent to the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.
Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a visitar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia comunicándose al 1-800-352-6613. Puede informar anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.


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