

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

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.

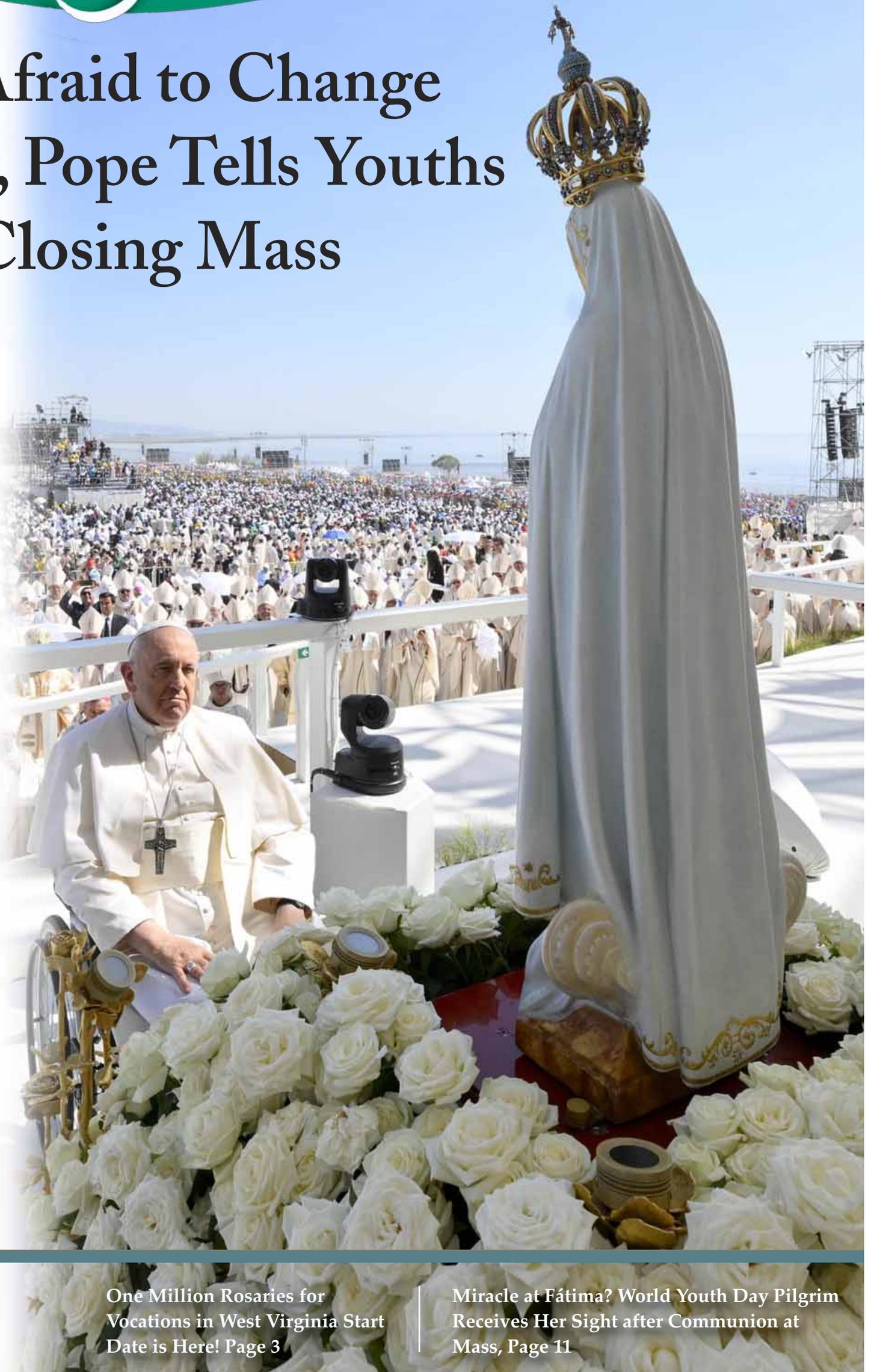
“Let’s all repeat this phrase in our hearts: ‘Don’t be afraid,’” he told the hushed crowd. “Jesus knows the hearts of each one of you, the successes and the failures, he knows your hearts,” Pope Francis said. “And today he tells you, here in Lisbon for this World Youth Day: ‘Don’t be afraid.’”

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.

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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



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Pope...

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A theology major at the University of Dallas, Marovic said she normally gets “nervous” when she tells people what she studies, but she has been comforted by seeing the huge amount of people so passionate about their faith, noting that young Catholics often “feel alone” when practicing their religion in the United States.

At the front of the crowd, which extended across both banks of Lisbon’s Trancão River, 30 cardinals, 700 bishops and 10,000 priests celebrated the Mass with Pope Francis. Portuguese President Marcelo

Rebello de Sousa was seated in the front row.

Cardinal Manuel do Nascimento Clemente of Lisbon thanked the pope for making World Youth Day an opportunity for young people to come together and build a better tomorrow “after a pandemic that has confined them and otherwise distanced them from each other and from the best (version) of themselves.”

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, which organizes World Youth Day, thanked Pope Francis for bringing together in Lisbon young people “who have been pilgrims of peace in times in which many, too many, wars are being fought in so many parts of

the world.”

Before revealing the location of the next World Youth Day, Pope Francis invited young people to travel to Rome for a youth celebration during the Holy Year 2025. The next World Youth Day, to take place in 2027, he continued, “will be in South Korea, in Seoul,” he said to cheers from the sizeable groups of Koreans scattered in the crowd.

In remarks after Mass, the pope also recalled the suffering of Ukraine and asked young people if he, “an old man,” could share a dream of his: “the dream of peace, the dream that young people may pray for peace, live in peace and build a peaceful future.”

Using the Portuguese word for

thank you — “obrigado” — the pope thanked the organizers of World Youth Day, the volunteers who made it possible and the city of Lisbon, which he prayed would “remain in the memory of these young people as a house of fraternity and a city of dreams.”

“And ‘obrigado’ to all of you, dear young people,” he said before praying the Angelus. “God sees all the good you are, and only he knows what he has planted in your heart. Go from here with what God put in your heart.”

The crowd dispersed after Mass, streaming through the streets of Lisbon, filling closed-down highways while waving the flags of the world.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families’ Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment”, then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator:

please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under “Accountability”, then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with

children: background check; receipt of the 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.”

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One Million Rosaries for Vocations in West Virginia Start Date is Here!

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 organiza-

tions 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.”

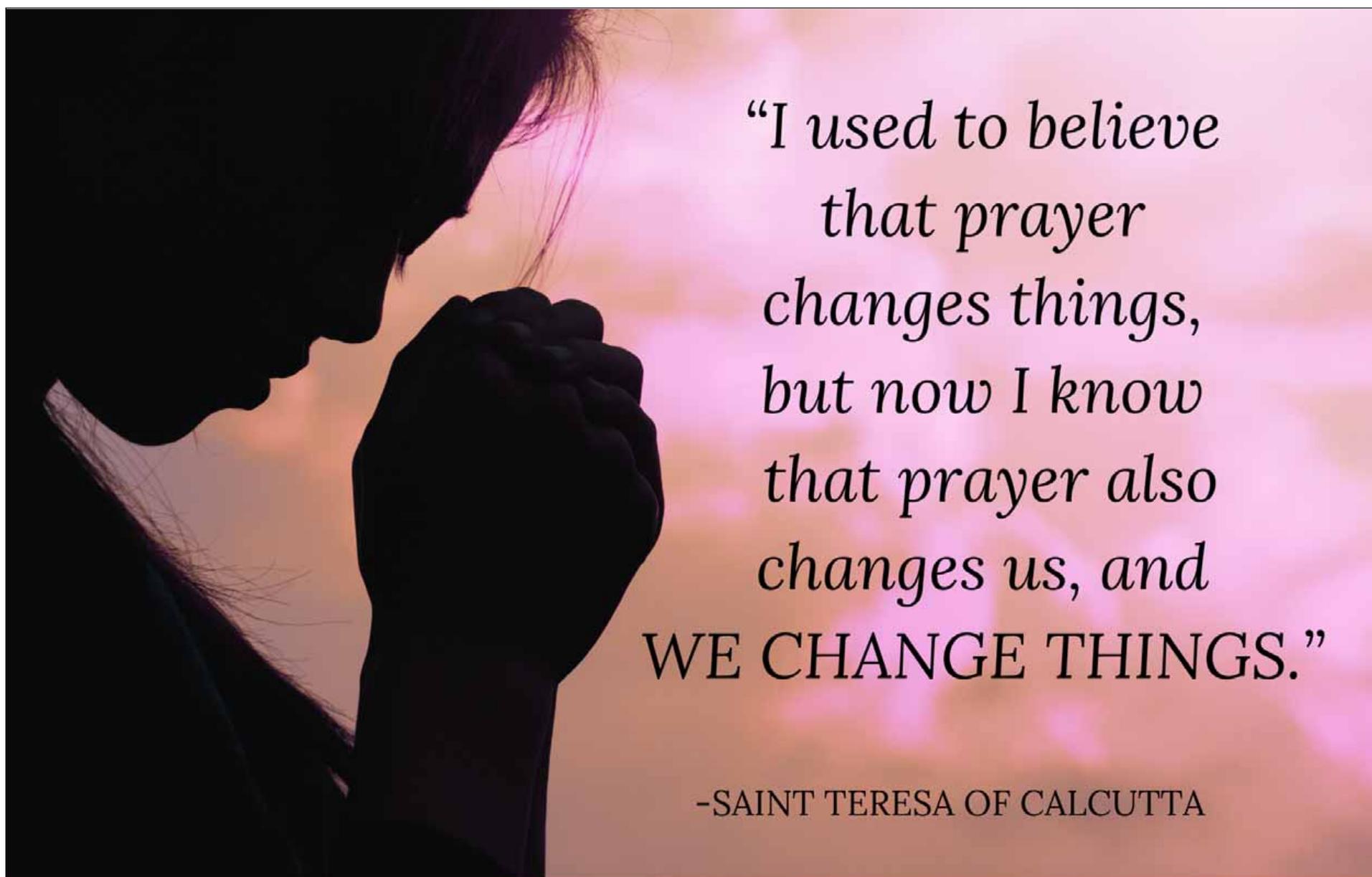
Supported by Bishop Mark Brennan the One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV extends through the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7. You can go to the site repeatedly and enter the rosaries you have said with the intention of increased vocations in WV or the ones you commit to saying.

“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

See “Rosaries” on Page 4



-SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA



One Million
ROSARIES

FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

PLEDGE YOURS!



dwc.org/onemillionrosaries

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



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THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

Historic Churches Will Have Masses on Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption and First Saturdays

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 159 to 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.

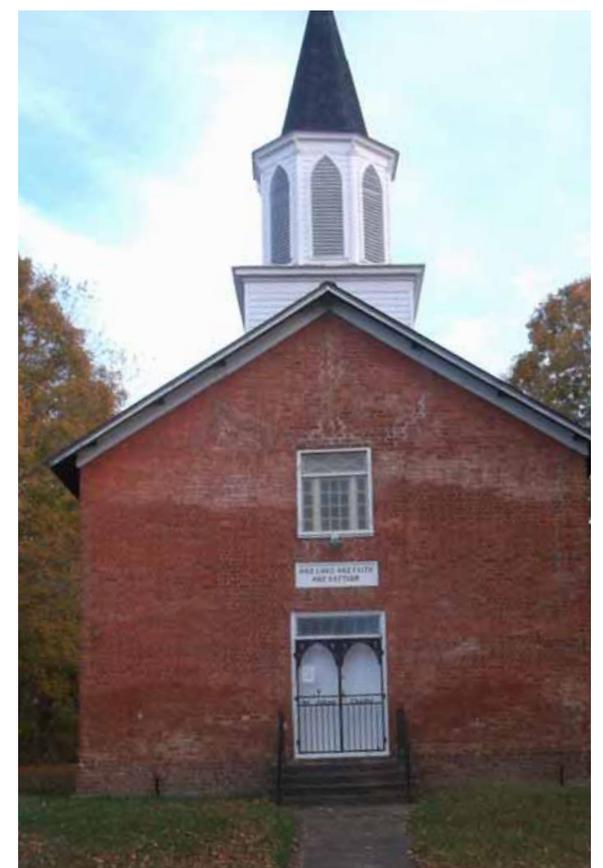
Two other special Masses are scheduled at the oldest Catholic church in Greenbrier County on the first Saturdays in September and October. At the Church of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg, devotions begin at 10:30 a.m. and daily Mass at 11 a.m. with a covered-dish lunch on the grounds following Mass.

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.



Church of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg

Courtesy Photo



St. John the Evangelist Chapel, Sweet Springs

Courtesy Photo

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 pencils, pens, 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 tissues, sanitizing wet wipes, and hand sanitizer.

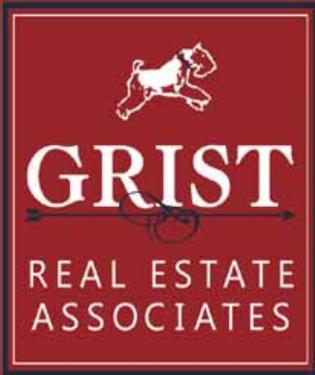
No backpacks are being collected.

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

Courtesy Photo
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.



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Wheeling Serra Club Holds 54th Annual Burse Dinner at Central Catholic

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 Ruffman, 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 Ca-

renbauer, 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.

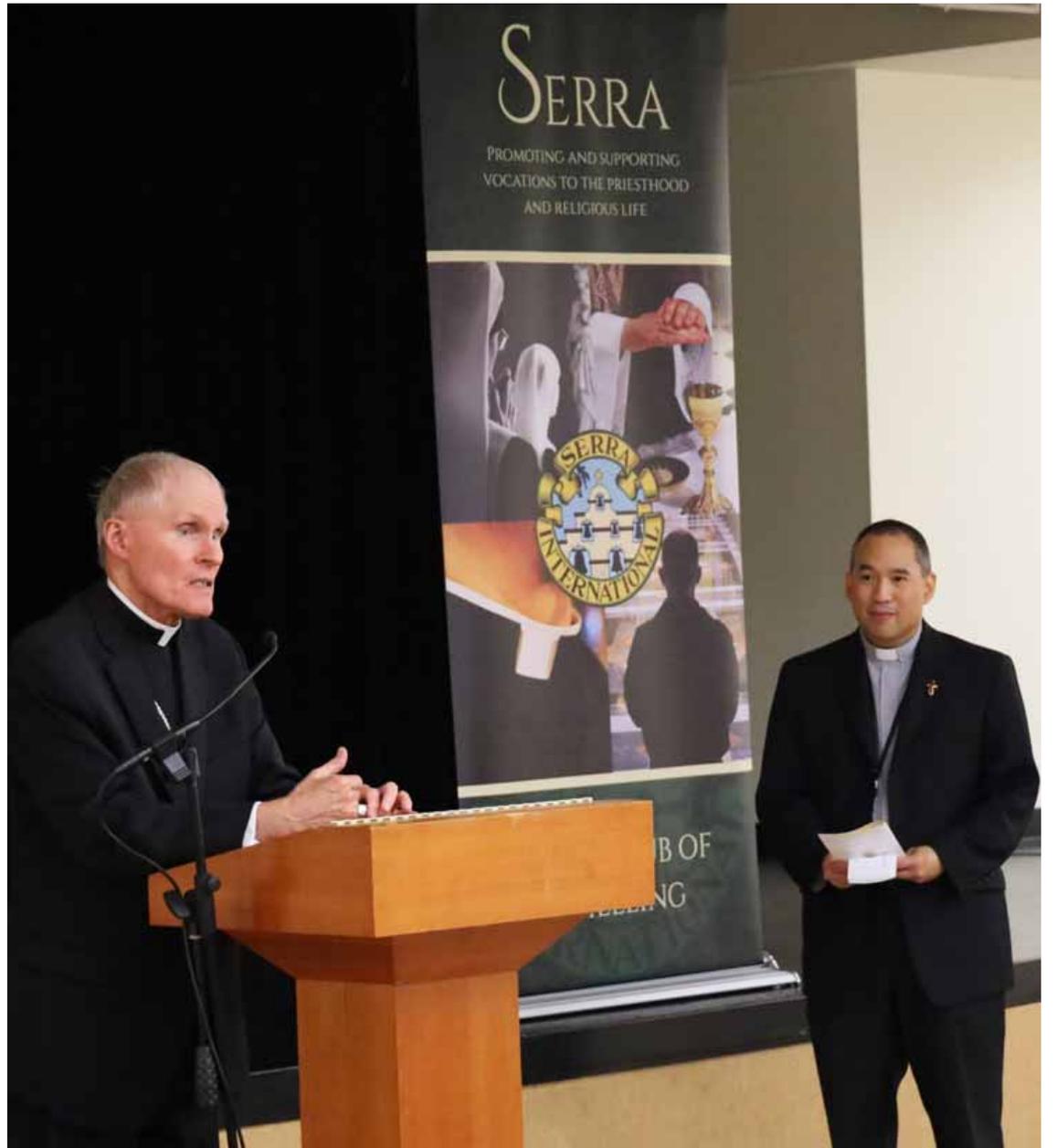
The bishop thanked the Serrans for their financial support. He shared that, in his original diocese before becoming a bishop, he served as a Serra Club chaplain. “And I came to appreciate the value of the Serra movement in the church.”

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.”



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan speaks at the 54th Annual Burse Dinner at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling July 27. Looking on is Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration, Administration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.

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.serra-charleston.org. For more information about Clarksburg Serra, call Leigh Shorr, treasurer, at (304) 842-0498.

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Benwood-McMechen: 214 Marshall Street, McMechen, WV, 304-232-1710
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Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage



Courtesy Photos

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.



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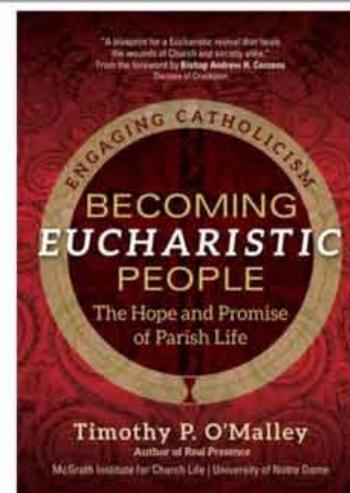
*This presentation will be held in three different locations in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Please choose the one that is most convenient for you. **NO CHARGE TO ATTEND!***

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

August 21—St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling

August 22—St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

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‘Heed Their Cries and Help’: U.S. Bishop Pleads for Hungry as Russia Attacks Ukraine’s Grain

By Gina Christian

(OSV News) — 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 Af-

ghanistan, 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.)



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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 with 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 the Snows, whose feast day is commemorated Aug. 5, the same day she recovered her sight.

For two and a half years, Jimena has suffered a loss of sight due to a myopia problem that left her with a 95% vision loss. On the morning of Aug. 5, when the Holy Father was also praying the rosary at the Fátima shrine, Jimena received what she herself describes as a “great gift” from the Virgin Mary.

Not long after having recovered her sight, Jimena told the Spanish radio station COPE that she woke up that morning “as I have been getting up for two and a half years, seeing super blurry, very badly.”

She explained that she had gone to Mass with her



Our Lady of Fatima statue in Fatima, Portugal

Photo Courtesy of Shrine of Fatima

friends “because we are at WYD and after receiving Communion I began to cry a lot, because it was the last day of the novena and I wanted to be cured and I had very much asked God please [cure me].”

“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.

The young woman said

she is “super happy” and 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 pos-

sible 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 able to speak with Jimena on a video call and that she explained what happened in a natural and unaffected manner. “The girl was very excited; she had been blind for a while and she had been learning the Braille method for two or three years,” he said.

The prelate also noted that Jimena “had to read the prayer of thanksgiving

at Mass that day with the Madrid group” and that, after receiving Communion, she was able to read it without any problem.

The young woman also told the cardinal that they had been praying for “nine days asking the Virgin for her healing.”

Omella encouraged the faithful to “give thanks to God” and explained that “this doesn’t lead to the cause of beatification for anyone, because the Virgin is already a saint, but it is indeed a grace from God.”

He pointed out that “then the doctors will have to assess it, what it was like, if it existed, if it could be cured or not. But for now for the girl that has been a major event. Let’s say a miracle. She didn’t see and now she sees. Now the doctors will be able to say the rest, but she has gone home seeing. Well, she sees, blessed be God.”

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

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



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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 hope-

ful 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 "further 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.

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Massachusetts Catholic Couple Alleges State Denied Them Foster Parenting Chance over Religious Beliefs

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 fi-

nally 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.)

NOTES: A link to the legal brief is here: <https://becketnewsite.s3.amazonaws.com/20230808154524/Burke-Complaint-and-Exhibits.pdf>.



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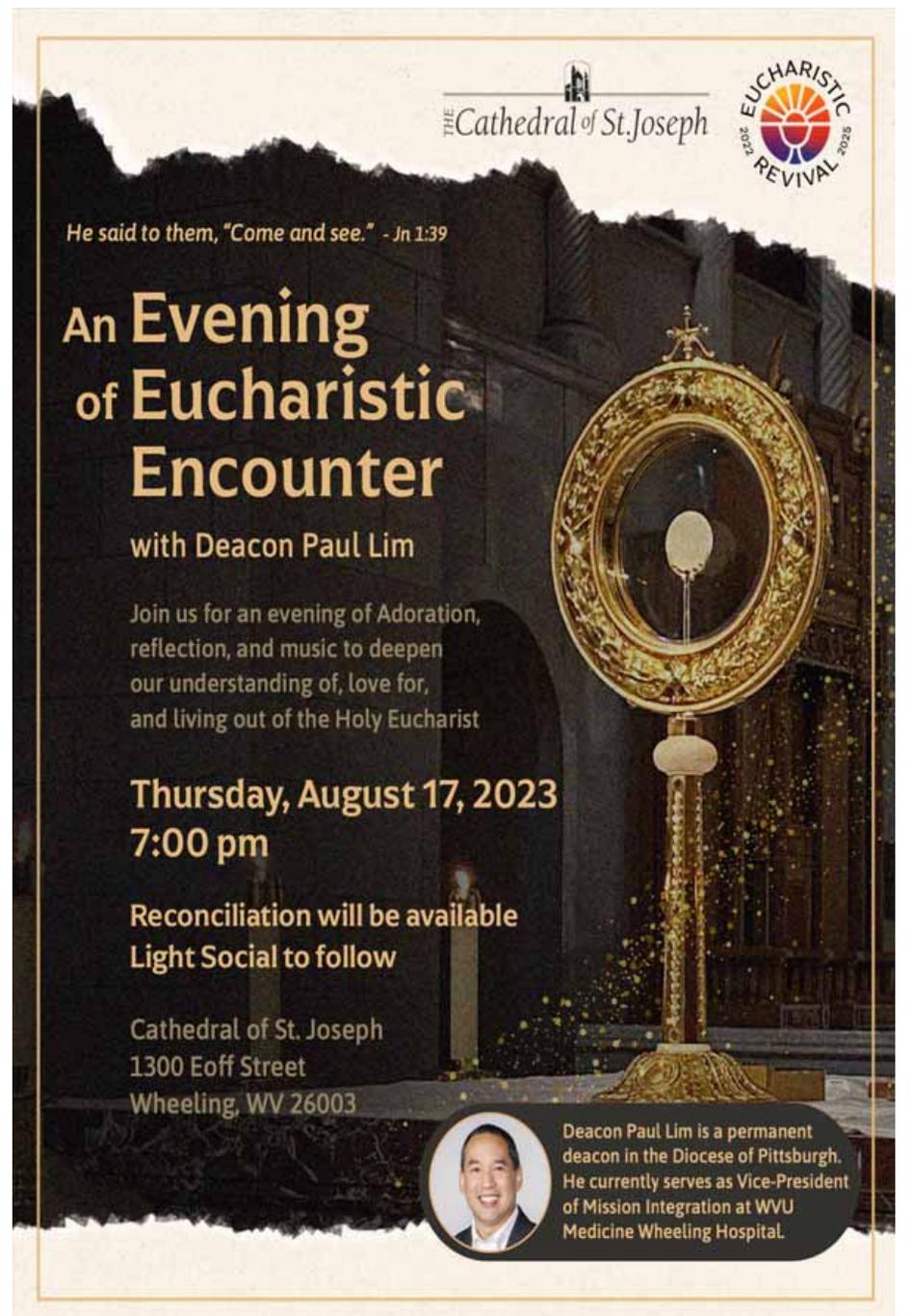
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He said to them, "Come and see." - Jn 1:39

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 Tuesday, September 19: Our Lady of Mercy Mission,
 Parsons; 5:00 p.m.
 Monday, October 23: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday, November 4: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg;
 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, November 19: Sacred Heart, Bluefield;
 9:00 a.m.

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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.

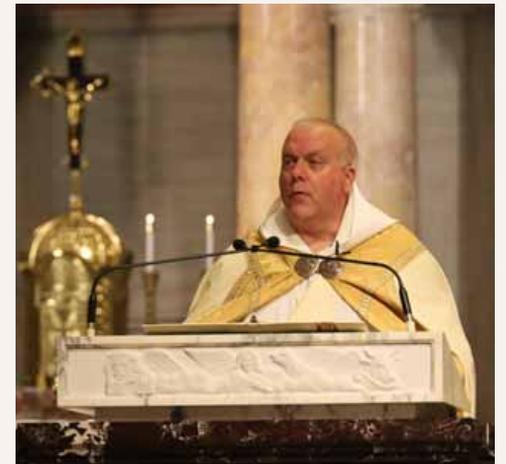
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Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service, assisting the bishop and his priests in many areas, especially in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

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.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

No tengan miedo de cambiar el mundo, dice el Papa Francisco a los jóvenes en la Misa de clausura de la JMJ

Por Justin McLellan, Catholic News Service LISBOA, Portugal (CNS) —Para terminar el "Woodstock católico" — como ha sido llamada la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud por la prensa portuguesa -- el Papa Francisco dijo a 1,5 millones de jóvenes cansados y privados de sueño en Lisboa que no dejen que sus grandes sueños de cambiar el mundo sean "ofuscados por el temor".

En su homilía de la Misa de clausura de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud del 6 de agosto, el Papa pidió "un poco de silencio" a los peregrinos que, tras pasar la noche en el Parque Tejo de Lisboa después de la vigilia de la noche anterior, a las 6 de la mañana ya estaban bailando al ritmo de música tecno mezclada por un sacerdote DJ antes de la llegada del Papa.

"Cada uno repita para sí mismo, en su corazón, estas palabras: No tengan miedo", dijo a la silenciosa multitud.

Jesús "conoce el corazón de cada uno de ustedes, conoce la vida de cada uno de ustedes, conoce las alegrías, conoce las tristezas, los éxitos y los fracasos, conoce el corazón de ustedes", dijo el Papa Fran-

cisco. "Él hoy les dice, aquí, en Lisboa, en esta Jornada Mundial de la Juventud: 'No tengan miedo'".

Mientras amanecía en el parque ribereño, los peregrinos salían de las tiendas de campaña y los sacos de dormir para prepararse para la Misa. Violeta Marovic, de 19 años, de Chicago, dijo a Catholic News Service que los peregrinos pasaron las 10 horas entre la vigilia de la noche anterior y la Misa papal "durmiendo muy poco", bailando, jugando e intercambiando regalos con otros jóvenes de todo el mundo; ella llevaba pulseras que le habían regalado peregrinos de Italia y Polonia.

Marovic, una estudiante de Teología en la Universidad de Dallas, dijo que normalmente se pone "nerviosa" cuando cuenta a la gente lo que estudia, pero que le ha reconfortado ver la enorme cantidad de gente tan apasionada por su fe, señalando que los jóvenes católicos a menudo "se sienten solos" cuando practican su religión en Estados Unidos.

Al frente de la multitud, que se extendía por ambas orillas del río Trancão de Lisboa, 30 cardenales, 700 obispos y 10.000 sacerdotes concelebraron la Misa con

el Papa Francisco. El presidente portugués, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, estaba sentado en primera fila.

El cardenal Manuel do Nascimento Clemente, de Lisboa, agradeció al Papa el haber hecho de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud una oportunidad para que los jóvenes se reúnan y construyan un mañana mejor "después de una pandemia que los ha confinado y alejado de los demás y de la mejor (versión) de sí mismos".

El cardenal Kevin Farrell, prefecto del Dicasterio para los Laicos, la Familia y la Vida, que organiza la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, dio las gracias al Papa Francisco por reunir en Lisboa a jóvenes "que han sido peregrinos de la paz en tiempos en los que se libran muchas, demasiadas, guerras en tantas partes del mundo".

Antes de revelar el lugar de la próxima Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, el Papa Francisco invitó a los jóvenes a viajar a Roma para una celebración juvenil durante el Año Santo 2025. La próxima Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, que tendrá lugar en 2027, prosiguió, "será en Corea del Sur, en Seúl", dijo entre vítores de los numerosos



Foto CNS/Lola Gomez

Un joven reza mientras el Papa Francisco celebra la Misa de Clausura de la JMJ en el Parque Tejo en Lisboa, Portugal, 6 de agosto de 2023.

grupos de coreanos dispersos entre la multitud.

En declaraciones tras la Misa, el Papa también recordó el sufrimiento de Ucrania y preguntó a los jóvenes si él, "ya viejo", podía compartir un sueño suyo: "el sueño de la paz, el sueño de los jóvenes que rezan por la paz, viven en paz y construyen un futuro de paz".

Utilizando la palabra portuguesa para agradecer -- "obrigado"-- el Papa dio las gracias a los organizadores de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, a los voluntarios que la hicieron posible y a la ciudad de Lisboa, que

rezó para que permanezca "en la memoria de estos jóvenes como una casa de fraternidad y una ciudad de sueños".

"Y 'obrigado' a todos vosotros, queridos jóvenes", dijo antes de rezar el Ángelus. "Dios ve todo lo bueno que ustedes son, y sólo Él conoce lo que ha sembrado en sus corazones. Se van de aquí con lo que Dios sembró en el corazón".

La multitud se dispersó después de la Misa, fluyendo por las calles de Lisboa, llenando las carreteras cerradas mientras ondeaban banderas de todo el mundo.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

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

Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

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



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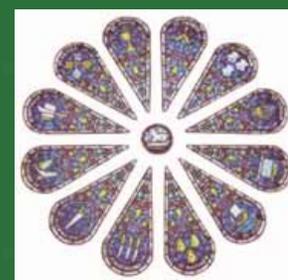
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