

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Despite Pandemic WV Catholic School Students Score above National Averages

WHEELING—Catholic school students in West Virginia have scored above national averages on assessments proving the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic did not hold them back.

West Virginia's superintendent of Catholic schools, Mary Ann Deschaine, said the flexibility and compassion of her educators significantly reduced the possibility of any measured disruption in learning. The Catholic schools in West Virginia remained open in 2020-2021 with a traditional five-day a week in person schedule unless the state mandated schools across the state to close.

She said the school system's through-year assessments were key to identifying whether student skill levels were at, above, or below grade level norms.

Typically, the schools within the diocese conduct assessments three times—Fall, Winter and Spring. Even during the pandemic students were able to complete the test at least twice—Fall and Spring. The tests are administered to all students in grades K-10 in the areas of
See "Students" on Page 2

'Stay in Touch with God,' Bishop Says to Catholic School Teachers

By Colleen Rowan

"Stay in touch with God and he will show you promises realized and mountains moved," Bishop Mark Brennan said to teachers of diocesan Catholic schools. Many were gathered with him at the Mass he celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Aug. 11 for the virtual conference "Mountain Mover" for Catholic school educators. Many more teachers participated by watching the livestream of the Mass on the diocese's website and Facebook page.

"School is starting, so we want to start it right by calling upon the Lord to walk with us," the bishop said at the beginning of his homily.

Turning to the first reading in which Moses ascended Mount Nebo and God showed him the promised land, Bishop Brennan said that to see a promise realized brings great joy. As the teachers and faculty look ahead to a new school year, he encouraged them to consider what their vision is for their students, and what promise they want to see realized in them. Pray and work toward this

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Showing Her Mountain State Pride

Macie Smith, who will be in kindergarten at St. Patrick School in Weston this year, shows her Mountain State pride with a special craft she created during the school's summer program. St. Patrick's is one of the many Catholic schools in the diocese that offer summer programs for students. Courtesy Photo

Inside: Former Pastor of St. John's Chapel in Sweet Springs
Publishes 'Cloud of Witnesses,' Page 6

'Never Forget,' Says Foundation CEO Who
Lost Firefighter Brother in 9/11, Page 10

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Very Rev. Joseph M. Konikattil is appointed Associate Vicar Forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate for a period of three years, effective August 9, 2021. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont.

Father Nye "Joseph" Wiley is appointed Chaplain to the Knights of Columbus Carroll Council #504 in Wheeling for the Fraternal Year 2021-2022, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as associate pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

Students ...

Cont'd from Page 1

reading, language arts and math. Additionally, students in grades 5th and 8th also take a science component.

"With multiple assessments conducted during the year teachers obtain reliable information, measuring individual student growth and needs from Fall to Spring," she said. "Specific skill levels are tested to identify the point of growth and productive opportunities, and to address, narrow, and eliminate any gaps during the year. This method provides our teachers valuable information they can use to adapt and improve instruction during the school year and at the start of the following school year."

The diocesan schools partner with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for their state-aligned, online Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments.

The NWEA tests are adaptive, meaning students are measured where they are across grade levels instead of just at their grade level. The online test adjusts during the assessment based on the student's right or wrong answers. A right answer challenges the student to a harder question. A wrong answer bumps down a level to identify where the student's ability is in the subject area, resulting in an identification marker of what the child's needs may be to grow in this subject area. The teacher then can adapt their lesson plan to help the student attain individual goals, grade level goals, and cross grade level goals.

"We are not only measuring but also accelerating learning," Deschaine said. "There are so many milestones between grades, and we want to celebrate them all. A most significant one is in second and third grade, when a child goes from learning to read to reading to learn. It is through these concentrated and intentional assessments that we determine if our second and third graders are hitting timely benchmarked reading goals, so they are best equipped to succeed at the next level."

Being able to track learning throughout the year, as well as from year to year, is critical to developing and implementing effective teaching and learning strategies designed for each student, according to Associate

Superintendent, Jennifer Hornyak. Additionally, the assessment provides each student and family a roadmap for them to build on strengths, remove roadblocks, and concentrate on growth.

"Because of our high expectations for academic excellence, we like to set our measuring stick of success to ensure that our students are on the path for college and career readiness even at a very young age," Hornyak said. "When looking at the Spring 2021 diocesan data, all of the grade levels (across the whole diocese) for reading and language arts were above national averages and at or above the college/career readiness goal. Diocesan math scores were all above national averages, but just shy of making the loftier college/career level readiness goal at grades 2-6. Therefore, especially in those grade levels, math is an area we want to strengthen in the coming school years."

The pandemic was indeed demanding on the school system, but also reinforcing, bringing out the best in the teachers.

"I am so proud of the students and teachers," she said. "It was a very difficult year with fluctuations between in-person learning, remote, and hybrid learning situations. I think our students made remarkable progress proving that learning continued to happen even in difficult and ever-changing situations. Moving into the upcoming school year, we know we can continue to move mountains."

Like Deschaine, Hornyak credits the classroom teachers for the overall Catholic school system's success.

"Our teachers are the cornerstone of our Catholic schools, and their dedication to their students is inspiring to all," Hornyak said. "We thank them for continually demonstrating that they are lifelong learners through involvement in professional development opportunities and always looking for new ways to improve teaching and learning in our schools. Our teachers are motivated to discover new ways to engage students in the learning process and promote a growth mindset in our school communities."

"We are committed to providing a quality education in an unapologetically Catholic, Christ-centered environment," Deschaine said. "That is our strong foundation, and it will never change."

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and 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 a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where 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

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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Teachers ...

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achievement, he said to them.

"I hope you will have the experience and the joy, many times, at seeing your students grasp what you have been trying to teach them," the bishop said to the teachers, "helping them to enter a kind of promised land."

He spoke of Joshua who succeeded Moses, and said that the people gave to him their allegiance.

"Some of you are new teachers, and I pray that like Joshua you may find that your students follow you as you lead them on a journey of learning," Bishop Brennan said.

"Others are returning to where you may have taught for many years, but you return with eyes undimmed and vigor unabated. Like Moses, you bring great wisdom and experience to your teaching. You are a treasure.

"May all of you, veterans and rookies, know the Lord intimately and share your faith and your love with your students and with one another," the bishop continued. "In a Catholic school we can do that, and we must do that.

In the Gospel, Jesus offers a plan to seek reconciliation with others, the bishop said, noting that teachers may have to settle some disputes that their students cannot resolve on their own.

"With love and fairness, do your best to help your students reconcile

with one another," the bishop said to teachers. "That's a fundamental teaching of Christ, one that we must practice in our church. Help them to understand that, and to move toward that reconciliation."

Bishop Brennan said the Lord also urges all to come together to pray with the assurance that he is with us when we do.

"I urge you to start the school day with some prayer in common before you begin teaching," the bishop said to the teachers. "I've been with teachers in different schools who did exactly that and their testimony was that things went better when they started as a faculty with prayer in the morning."

The power of prayer is shown in the story of St. Clare of Assisi, whose feast was that day. The bishop said that St. Clare and her sisters prayed together every day, and their prayers warded off many evils. He said that as they were down in the valley beneath Assisi, Saracen warriors were invading. The calvary came up to the convent where St. Clare and her sisters were, and they prayed for deliverance. The bishop said St. Clare opened the window on the second floor of the convent and held up the monstrance which contained the Blessed Sacrament. The calvary turned around and went away.

"Prayer is really effective," Bishop Brennan said, reminding



The Catholic Spirit Screen Shot/Photo
Bishop Mark E. Brennan offers Communion to Sara Marin, Resource Program coordinator at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, during the Mass he celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Aug. 11 for the "Mountain Mover" virtual conference for teachers of diocesan Catholic schools. The Mass was livestreamed on the diocese's website and Facebook page for teachers around the state.

the teachers that Jesus said "with faith as small as a mustard seed we can say to a mountain go and be planted in the sea, and it will obey us. He meant that by relying on God we can overcome the most imposing obstacles."

For teachers, Bishop Brennan said, those obstacles may be to

move ignorance, perhaps weak faith, or a home life lacking love for their students.

"You can do it with God's help," the bishop said to teachers. "So, be confident. You're calling is a noble one. Stay in touch with God, and he will show you promises realized and mountains moved."

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Teachers Hear from Experts on Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence at Virtual Conference

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—As they prepared to open their classrooms to students for a new academic year, teachers at diocesan Catholic schools participated in a virtual professional development conference. Aptly titled “Mountain Mover,” the conference for teachers was held Aug. 10-11 featuring experts in the field as presenters. Breakout sessions focused upon Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality which were arranged by the pillars of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Tom Burnford, president of the National Catholic Educational Association. In his address, “Innovation Isn’t New!” Burnford discussed COVID-19 forcing Catholic schools to quickly change and adapt, and how to move forward. He presented examples of innovation throughout the history of Catholic schools distinguishing between parts of ministry that can change and the parts that must remain the same.

Burnford has worked in the ministry of Catholic education for over two decades and now helps schools provide virtual options through his work with Catholic Virtual.

The day continued with breakout sessions.

The next day began with an opening prayer and welcome by Bishop Mark E. Brennan. The breakout sessions that followed gave teachers an opportunity to discuss the issues paramount to Catholic education.

“The virtual meetings offered a large variety of topics for all edu-

“The virtual meetings offered a large variety of topics for all educators PK-12. ... The Catholic identity sessions allowed us to refocus our attention on the religious aspects of our teaching that we need to put first in our classrooms.”

—Traci Stacy, second-grade teacher at St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley

cators PK-12. The presenters were thorough, knowledgeable, and offered examples of ways we could implement this knowledge into our classrooms,” said Traci Stacy, second-grade teacher at St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley, who participated in the conference. “The Catholic Identity sessions allowed us to refocus our attention on the religious aspects of our teaching that we need to put first in our classrooms.”

Presenting those breakout sessions on Catholic Identity were Jessica R. Petter, assistant director of an Evangelization and Catechesis for the diocese, on “Middle School Evangelization Methods”; Bernadette Kime, director of Worship and Sacraments for the diocese, on “Planning Liturgies and Prayer Services for Children”; Father

Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the diocese, on “Creating a Culture of Vocations in Your School”; Sister Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the diocese, and Sister Jennifer Berridge, CSJ, on “Vocation Journey”; Elizabeth A. Ferrari of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown, on “Prayer Services in Lower Elementary”; Sherri Wohlfert, a teacher, speaker, and writer, on “Gospel Guided Social Justice”; Daniel Maul, director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the diocese, on “Religion Teachers as Evangelizers”; Heather Rine and Mary Murphy, preschool 4 teachers at St. Michael School in Wheeling, on “Success with Teaching Religion Age-Appropriate to PK”; and Sister John Dominic Rasmussen, OP, and Dr. Karen Villa, Ph.D., on “Synergy of Interpersonal Neurobiology and the Virtuous Life.”

For breakout sessions on Academic Excellence, presenters were Dr. Dianna Vargo, director of Graduate Education and Accelerated Certification for Teaching Programs at Wheeling University, on “Flipping the Math Classroom”; Sherri Theaker, Ph.D., professor of education and director of Education Program at Wheeling University, on “Differentiation, Accommodations, and Modifications to Meet All Learners’ Needs”; Ferrari on “Technology Integration in the Lower Elementary”; Amy Parent, second-grade teacher, and Justina White, math teacher and assistant principal at St. Joseph School in Huntington, on “Basic Nearpod in the Classroom for K-12” and White who also presented “Google Classroom and Google Meet”; Jennifer Hornyak, associate superintendent of Accreditation and Technology in

the diocese’s Department of Catholic Schools, on “Designing an Interactive Bitmoji Classroom using Google Slides”; the Middle School Team from St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling, on “Working as a Team to Foster Learning for Middle School Students”; Jennifer Ronin, a teacher at St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School in St. Albans, on “Drums Alive” combining cardio, music, math, and more; Susan R. Poyo, associate professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, on “Designing and Implementing Flipped Classrooms”; and Erin MacFarland, School-Based Health Program counselor, on “Children and Adolescent Trauma Responses.”

Presenting on Operational Vitality were Krissie Benson, director of Stewardship and Development for the diocese, and Sharon Goudy, director of Safe Environment.

The conference culminated with Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. Many local Catholic school administrators and teachers attended, while others outside of Wheeling were able to participate in the Mass via livestream on the diocese’s website and Facebook page.

Gemma White, kindergarten teacher at Ss. Peter and Paul School in Oak Hill, said she appreciated the variety of breakout sessions “which I found very helpful for us to implement in our classrooms as we move forward through the school year. The hard work of putting this together is to be commended, and I am thankful to all those who made it possible. Concluding the conference with Mass as a faculty and knowing all other Catholic schools were streaming made us feel united.”

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Parkersburg Catholic Schools Announce Nine New Faculty and Staff Members

Parkersburg Catholic Schools announce the addition of nine new faculty and staff members to the school community for the 2021-22 school year, which begins Aug. 16.

PC Schools Principal MC Heffner entered into her role in the midst of the school community working to create a plan to adapt to COVID restrictions. "That process certainly encouraged our staff, advisory board, and school families to evaluate how we serve the diverse needs of our students as a community of learners, while still acknowledging them as individuals growing from preschoolers to young adults. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to really learn about our educational community and resources, and am excited to bring the energy of our new staff members to our schools," Heffner stated.

Joining the schools are: Savannah Huck, Social Studies & Religion Grades 4-6; Tiffany Deem, 3rd Grade; Señor Gari Lewis, Pre-K through 12 Spanish & HS French; April Pennell, preschool teachers' assistant; Lacey Huck Worthington, Math and Science, Grades 4-6; Lynn Sommerville, PK-12 Music; Larry Thompson, Physical Education PK-12 & Head Football Coach; Jennifer Sang, Social Studies, Grades 7-9; and Sarah Harvey, PreK-3 teacher. PCS serves students of all faiths from ages 3 through high school. Students reside in Wood, Pleasants, and Jackson counties in West Virginia, and Washington, Meigs, and Athens counties in Ohio. New students are welcome at any time during the school year, and tuition assistance is available. A "No-Cut" Athletics Policy enables any student to play for the Crusaders, regardless of experience level.

For enrollment information, contact Amanda Weatherwax, dean of Students, Admissions, and Athletics at (304) 485-6341, or email: aweatherwax@pchs1.com.

In the following, the new faculty and staff introduce themselves to the PCS community:

Tiffany Deem, 3rd Grade

I can usually be found doing something adventurous outside with my two daughters, Isabelle and Caroline. I also have a mini-poodle, blue heeler and a cat that looks very similar to "Grumpy Cat." I attended Ohio Valley University and this will be my first year teaching. We attend Trinity Episcopal Church, here in Parkersburg. Another passion of mine is interior design and I love decorating.



Sarah Harvey, PreK-3 Teacher

Hello! My name is Sarah Harvey, and I am the new 3-Year-Old preschool teacher. I was born and raised here in Parkersburg, Go Mountaineers! I graduated from Parkersburg South HS in 2007, then attended Glenville State College where I received my undergraduate degree and was a member of the Lady Pioneer Basketball, Cross Country and Track Teams. I then attended Salem International University where I received my Masters in Education. I am a follower of Christ and I attend Lubeck Community Baptist Church. I have one son, who will be entering 2nd grade this year. I am so excited to join the family at Parkersburg Catholic and to learn and grow not only academically, but also in faith with you.



Savannah Huck, Social Studies & Religion Grades 4-6

Hello, I am Savannah Huck. I graduated from Warren High School. I went on to receive my bachelor's degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville, where I majored in elementary and special education. During college I was called to join the Catholic faith. I went through RCIA at Franciscan and came into the church at St. Bernard's in Beverly, Ohio. I am passionately Catholic and I am very excited to have this opportunity to teach the faith. After college I married my high school sweetheart and we have one beautiful daughter.



Señor Gari Lewis, Pre-K through 12 Spanish & HS French

I am a born and raised Texan with the blessing of teaching and living in a variety of places: El Paso, Austin, Tacoma, Seattle, and now, Parkersburg. I have returned to my Catholic school roots here at PCS to be closer to my WV family. I am SUPER EXCITED to be here. I am Episcopalian by faith and attend Trinity Episcopal Church. Angus is my very spoiled dachshund. I have family in Argentina, Spain, Mexico, and the USA and have traveled through Mexico, Europe, and South America. I am fluent in Spanish and French. Aviation is a passion of mine. I love to fly, creative demonstrations of learning, multiculturalism, and project based, student centered teaching.



Christ's Peace and Blessings for a Great School Year!

April Pennell, Preschool Teachers' Assistant

A 1996 graduate of Parkersburg Catholic High School, April Pennell is a practicing Catholic. She and her husband attend St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Belpre, Ohio. April graduated from West Liberty State College with degrees in Psychology and Social Work, and has over a decade of experience working in the areas of social services and special education. April has five nieces and nephews and says they are her "whole heart". Because of her nieces and nephews, she considers herself an "expert" in dinosaurs, making up games on the fly, and of course conversations with 4 and 5 year olds.



Jennifer Sang, Social Studies, Grades 7-9

My name is Jennifer Sang. I was born and raised in Huntington, WV. I have two loving parents—my mom who is an LPN and my father who is a retired navy veteran and a retired Huntington Fire Department Captain. I am the youngest of three girls. I grew up playing travel softball which has created a lifelong passion for the sport. I am a practicing Catholic but am finding a new parish since I am



moving from Calhoun County, WV where I taught social studies four years. My faith has saved my life many times; without it, I would not be who I am today.

I graduated from St. Joseph's Central Catholic High School (Huntington) in 2013. I have a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education - Social Studies 5 - Adult and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Concord University (Athens, W.Va.) in May 2017. I achieved my Master's of Arts - Instructional Processes and Strategies from Marshall University (Huntington) in August 2020. In September 2021, I will start my journey for my Master's in Military History from Norwich University (Vermont). In my free time I love to read, hike, travel, and hang out with my family and cat, Molly.

Lynn Sommerville, PK-12 Music

Hi! I am Lynn Sommerville and I am teaching music with preschoolers through high school. I am married (39 years on August 21!) and have 2 daughters and a 2-month-old grandson! I grew up in Huntington but came to Parkersburg 2 years ago from Nicholas County. I graduated from Marshall University (Go Herd!) with a degree in Psychology. I have been a substitute teacher for several years, most recently at Parkersburg Catholic teaching music since January!



My husband is a pastor, and I am very involved in my church here in Parkersburg. I enjoy many hobbies (when I have time!) including gardening, reading, sewing, cooking, kayaking, biking, camping, and working with technology. Oh, and music! I play piano and violin and dabble on a few other instruments. I am so excited to be part of the PC family and look forward to getting to know everyone better!

Larry Thompson, Physical Education PK-12 & Head Football Coach

Hello Parkersburg Catholic family. My name is Larry Thompson and I am going into my 8th year of teaching. I was born in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, but lived all over the world being a military child. We are a Baptist family and still searching for a church to attend in the Parkersburg area.



I graduated from Concord University with a BS in education in 2013. Upon graduation, I started my career at Mount View HS in Welch. I was there for 5 consecutive years before leaving to work at Wyoming East HS for a year. Last year, I was blessed with the opportunity to move and work in Baton Rouge at a very prestigious private school at LSU. Our family decided it was best to make the move back closer to home and join the PC family.

My fiancé Chelsea is an educator as well, we have been together for 6 years and plan to get married summer of 2022. We have an English Bulldog named Duke, and a black cat named Knox. An interesting fact about myself is that I had the chance to work with Anthony Bourdain on the show Part's Unknown (Season 11, Ep. 1) and my football team was featured on the Lionsgate movie "The Glass Castle," starring Brie Larson.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone and excited to get started. We will have a blast but work hard at the same time. Thank you and God Bless!

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The Welty Corporation Recognizes Donald R. Kirsch for His 40+ Years of Service by Honoring His Parents

WHEELING—The Board of Directors of the Welty Corporation has honored Chief Executive Officer Donald R. Kirsch for his 40+ years of dedicated service to Good Shepherd Nursing Home and other Welty properties by dedicating the nursing home's Resident Dining Room in honor of his parents, Robert L. Kirsch and Joan G. Kirsch.

The Welty Corporation comprises Good Shepherd, the Welty Home and Welty Apartments, which provide independent living, assisted living and long-term care to hundreds of area seniors.

Kirsch was hired as Business Manager of Good Shepherd Nursing Home in 1979, two days before his 22nd birthday. Two years later, Bishop Joseph H. Hodges promoted him to administrator of Good Shepherd, making him the youngest nursing home administrator in the state at age 24.

Superior performance led to a series of promotions from the five bishops under whom Kirsch served. Today he is manager of the entire Welty Corporation. Two of his senior staff, Human Resource Director Randy Forzano and Regulatory Compliance Officer Morgan Murphy, approached Welty Corporation Treasurer William J. Yaeger, Jr. to suggest the board consider a way to recognize Kirsch for his 40 years of service.

Forzano and Murphy knew that the Kirsch would never agree to having something honoring him by name, so they recommended to Mr. Yaeger that the Resident Dining Room at Good Shepherd be dedicated in the name of his parents, Robert L. Kirsch and Joan G. Kirsch, in honor of their son Donald R. Kirsch.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Mark E. Brennan and the Welty Board of Directors agreed to Yaeger's suggestion and presented Kirsch with a resolution of appreciation and a bronze plaque to mark the occasion. "This is a most appropriate way to honor the memory of parents who raised such an outstanding son," Bishop Brennan said.

The plaque reads, "The Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan, president, and the Board of Directors of the Welty Home for the Aged, Inc. dedicate the Good Shepherd Nursing Home Resident Dining Room in memory of Robert L. Kirsch and Joan G. Kirsch in honor of their son Donald R. Kirsch, administrator and manager, upon his 40th year of service to the Welty Corporation. December 2019."

Because of Covid-19 no formal dedication has been or will be held. Bishop Brennan recently presented the plaque to Kirsch and his sister Carol Terry.

Kirsch thanked Forzano, Murphy, Yaeger, Bishop Brennan, and the Welty Board of Directors for recommending and approving that he be recognized for this milestone achievement by honoring his parents. Kirsch expressed his sincere gratitude to all.

"I know that I speak for my sister Carol when I say that we were blessed with wonderful parents who gave Carol and me unconditional love. Although our parents achieved only high school educations, as children, we never went without anything."

He recalled wonderful Christmas holidays, birthdays, vacations and Sunday Masses the Kirsch family enjoyed together. "Like most parents, our mother and father worked hard



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark E. Brennan stands with Donald R. Kirsch, chief executive officer of the Welty Corporation, and Kirsch's sister Carol Terry who are holding photos of their parents, Robert L. Kirsch and Joan G. Kirsch. The Board of Directors of the Welty Corporation honored Donald Kirsch for his 40+ years of dedicated service to Good Shepherd Nursing Home and other Welty properties by dedicating the nursing home's Resident Dining Room in honor of his parents.

to provide both of us with a better life and greater opportunities than they had. They succeeded. They saw to it that both Carol and I were college educated, which resulted in each of us achieving much throughout our careers."

Although both parents are deceased, Kirsch said he is confident that they are aware of this honor and that they are humbled by it. "I wish to thank my sister Carol for being here to honor our parents," he said.

In September 2021, Kirsch will have served as Administrator of Good Shepherd for 40 of the 51 years that Good Shepherd Nursing Home has

been in existence. Currently, he is in his 42nd year of service to the Home and the Welty Corporation.

Good Shepherd Nursing Home is part of a continuum of senior living options offered by the non-profit Welty Corporation to deliver the features that discerning seniors need and want. In addition to Good Shepherd, the Welty Corporation operates the assisted living program at Welty Home and independent living at the Clara & Bertha Welty Apartments, Braddock Apartments and Welty TownHomes. For information call 304.242.1093 or visit www.weltyhome.org

Weirton's Madonna High School Welcomes a New Biology and Earth Science Teacher

WEIRTON—Madonna High School is excited to introduce Ben Hlivko as the new Biology and Earth Science teacher. Hlivko was born and raised in Steubenville, Ohio, and still lives there with his family. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biology Secondary Education from West Liberty University and a master's degree in Biology with an Emphasis in Education from Grand Canyon University.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading, exercising, listening to music, and studying Scripture. As a recent convert to the Catholic faith, he is excited to share the good news of Christ's Universal Church, and why all should be blessed to be a part of it. He is looking forward to being a part of Madonna High School.

"Welcome to the Madonna Family Mr. Hlivko!" MHS officials said.



Parkersburg Catholic ...

Cont'd from Page 5

Lacey Huck Worthington, Math and Science, Grades 4-6

Lacey Huck Worthington is married to Daniel Worthington. They live on the family farm in Lowell, Ohio, with their two kids Eli and Alice. Lacey is an active member of St. Bernard Parish in Beverly, Ohio, often teaching Sunday school and Bible school. She graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2015 with a Mathematical Science degree and education license in 7th - 12th grade math and k-12th grades intervention.

Later, she obtained her master's in educational administration from the same university. Lacey played basketball during her time on campus and enjoys sports. She taught at Fort Frye for six years (her high school alma mater) before deciding that she desired to be back in a Catholic school environment. Lacey is excited to be teaching math and science to grades 4, 5, and 6 and wants to get involved in the school community as much as possible. She is even more excited to bring her own kids to school with her where they can receive a top education in a Catholic environment.



Former Pastor of St. John's Chapel in Sweet Springs Publishes 'Cloud of Witnesses'

Returning to Monroe County for Marian Feast

By Joyce Bibey

Have you ever challenged yourself to think about who is in your "own Cloud of Witnesses, the people in your life who have died but still influence you positively in a significant way?"

Father Harry Winter, OMI, who served in the southern region of West Virginia throughout the 1980s into 1991, leaves the readers of his book, pondering that thought.

Winter recently published the book, *Cloud of Witnesses – The Floyd-Lewis Chronicles*. It showcases the history of Virginia Governor John Floyd Jr, his wife Letitia Preston Floyd, and their descendants including their eldest daughter Letitia Floyd Lewis. This family rivaled the importance of the President John Adams family in Father Winter's opinion. His book tells why.

Cloud of Witnesses also highlights the family's conversion to the Catholic faith and the prominent family's influence on the Appalachian region, specifically the area of Sweet Springs in Monroe County. The area is home of the historic Old Sweet Springs Resort, which is currently part of a historic revitalization project lead by the Sweet Springs Resort Park Foundation, Inc., (<https://www.sweetspringsresortpark.org>). The region was a retreat and recreation destination for many affluent and influential families. Eight of the first 10 Presidents of the United States had stayed in the grand hotel built in 1833, and the chapel on the property - St. John's - is the oldest Catholic church in West Virginia, older than the state itself. It was established in 1859.

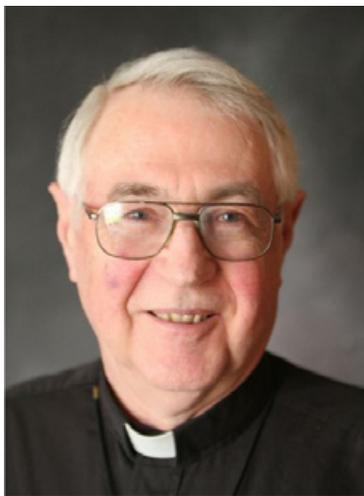
Father Winter served as pastor in Monroe County from 1982-91, residing at St. Andrew's in Union, while also serving St. John's in Sweet Springs and St. Peter's, in Peterstown.

Above the doors of St. John's Chapel are the words, "One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism." This mantra was echoed in the promise made to Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Francis Schulte in 1986 to "faithfully maintain St. John's Chapel, so that our Catholic faith may be witnessed in this Sweet Springs Valley." The promise honors their ancestors and all who made the chapel possible as their "Cloud of Witnesses."

This reference, just as the title of the book, is a compliment to Saint Paul's writing – Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us* and persevere in running the race that lies before us...."

The great apostle is telling us that we need to have confidence as we run our race, because we are surrounded everyday by great prophets and saints who are cheering us on.

Faith is a big part of the lives of the Floyd-



Father Harry Winter, OMI

Lewis family. Father Winter eloquently describes the individuals of the past as the grand witnesses to our history and now the work of the revitalization of it.

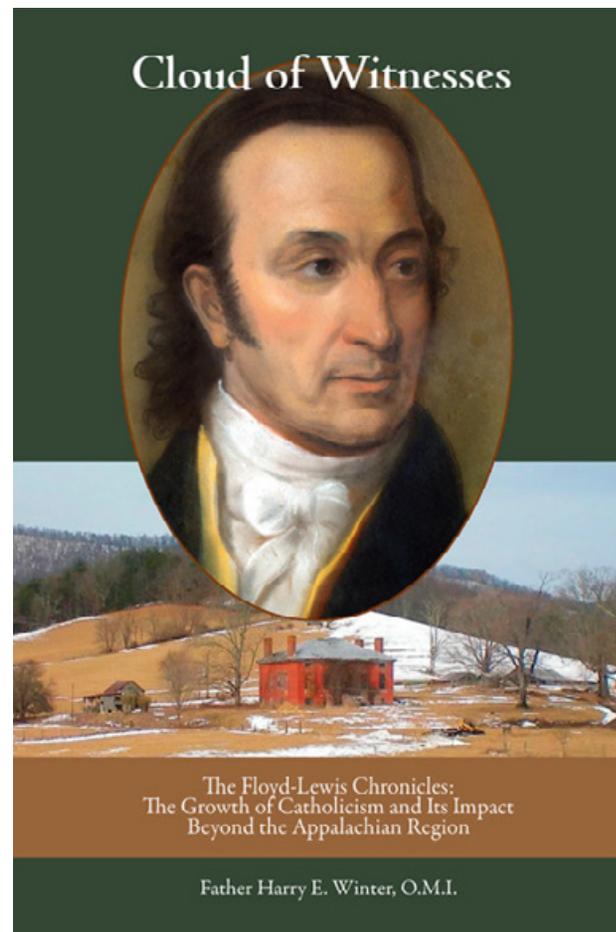
Winter is a priest for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He took his first vows on Sept. 8, 1958 and was ordained in Rome on Dec. 16, 1964. He is currently the pastor in residence, St. Mary's Church, Georgetown, Mass. He will return to Monroe County this weekend to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption Mass at 6 p.m., Aug. 15 at St. John's in Sweet Springs along with Fr. James Conyers, who oversees the

chapel along with his duties as pastor for St. Charles Borromeo, White Sulphur Springs; St. Catherine Siena, of Ronceverte; Chapel of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Williamsburg; and St. Louis King of France Chapel, in Lewisburg.

The historic Sweet Springs chapel will open its doors at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15 in order for visitors to tour the church before the celebration.

The Feast of the Assumption Mass at St. John's has long been a special event for the region. While the church is only open for special services, Father Conyers celebrates this weekend's special feast with as many as six other priests participating. Father Winter was the last resident priest for St. John.

Also keeping up with tradition, an ice cream social will follow the Mass on the lawn in front



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the cover of "Cloud of Witnesses" by Father Harry Winter, OMI.

of the chapel. Father Winter will be available after Mass for book signing.



St. John Chapel in Sweet Springs

Courtesy Photo

Charleston Knights of Columbus Sponsoring Cross Catholic Food Packing Event

CHARLESTON—The St. Michael the Archangel Council #12630 Knights of Columbus in Charleston is sponsoring a Cross Catholic Food Packing event Oct. 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Early Learning Center Pavilion on Leon Sullivan Way.

"This event will pack 40,000 or more nutrition rich meals for hungry people in third world countries, with approximately 10 percent of the meals earmarked for West Virginia," council officials said. "The idea for this started with a West Virginia Knight from Kingwood named Ned Sawyers and has been adopted as an official activity by Cross Catholic, it has become popular over a few short years, with several having been held in West Virginia. People who have attended have left inspired,

"This event will pack 40,000 or more nutrition rich meals for hungry people in third world countries, with approximately 10 percent of the meals earmarked for West Virginia."

—St. Michael the Archangel Council #12630 Knights of Columbus in Charleston

feeling they had a part in making a difference in the world by reducing hunger."

In order to host this event council members said they need to raise a minimum of \$13,200; "more money will pack more meal."

"Thanks to the generosity of a

number of people we have raised about half the amount and secured a challenge from an anonymous donor to match donations up to a total amount of \$5,000," council officials said. "This is an incredible opportunity for our community to increase our donations."

Those who wish to contribute must make checks payable to K of C 12630 with Food Packing Challenge in the memo line.

Council members said they are also getting help from Knights of Columbus councils across the state who will be providing both packing help and financial support.

"We will also be in need of up to 150 people to help pack the food," council officials said. "Obviously this will be an opportunity for Charleston Catholic students to earn service hours, but all who wish to help are welcome. We are just getting started and will keep our community informed as events develop."

More information about the event can be found on the council's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Cathedral to Celebrate Mass for 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. 27, the Memorial of St. Monica, at 6 p.m.

The fourth-century saint, Monica, was a Christian, but her husband was a pagan. Monica's virtues and prayers, however, converted him, and he was baptized a year before his death. When her son, Augustine, went astray in faith and morals, Monica's tears and prayers for her son were incessant. She followed him where he went to teach, and there continued to storm heaven with prayers for her son. Finally, she had the joy of witnessing Augustine being baptized.

In addition to being one of the patron saints of mothers, St. Monica is most often invoked for the conversion of children who have left the church. The cathedral will celebrate this Mass on her feast day to pray in a special way for all those who have wandered from the practice of the faith. During the Mass, everyone present will have an opportunity to write the names of their loved ones and entrust them to the powerful intercession of St. Monica.



As a priest in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the past 44 years, I have served in various ways – as a teacher, as a pastor, as Director of the Offices of Pastoral Planning and Spirituality and Worship and now as Vicar General. Throughout each of these roles, I have engaged with parishes, schools, and ministries across the state and thus my understanding of the needs of parishioners and parishes has grown. That is why I come to you today.

Your support of the Catholic Sharing Appeal will make an impact on the lives of Catholics across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. It will provide vital support for the needs of your parish and a quality Catholic education for children in a safe and nurturing environment. It will help sustain and expand outreach efforts throughout West Virginia and provide funding for essential programs and services that spread the Good News.

Now more than ever, your help is required to assist in meeting increased needs across our state and support your parish, ministries, and continued outreach efforts. Today, I prayerfully ask you to join me with a gift to this year's Catholic Sharing Appeal. God bless you and your family.

*Many blessings,
Rev. Msgr. Eugene S. Ostrowski, V.G.
Vicar General*





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All Are Welcome!



Bishops' Migration Committee Chairman Objects to 'Fast-Track' Deportations

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

A U.S. bishop charged with addressing immigration issues has raised objections to a July 26 announcement from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that it would begin "expedited removal" proceedings, or fast-tracking deportations, of some immigrant families who entered the U.S. illegally and do not qualify for asylum.

In an Aug. 7 statement, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, called on the Biden administration to "reverse course" on the fast-

track removals but also on other recent measures being used to stem immigration.

"Let us work together as a nation to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants according to their God-given dignity," said Bishop Dorsonville in the statement, which also objected to a public health measure that expels migrants at the border, with the exception of minors, citing COVID-19 concerns.

The measure, known as Title 42, is a provision of U.S. public health law and was activated by the Trump administration. The Biden administration has kept it in place, saying it has done so

under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to keep the pandemic at bay as the nation experiences a surge of the Delta variant.

"Mindful of public health concerns, we encourage policies supported by sound scientific rationales and oppose those with a disparate impact on families, children and other vulnerable populations," Bishop Dorsonville said.

Immigration advocates had expected Title 42 to be lifted for families at the end of July but that didn't happen. Instead, the administration said because of the increase in migrants and the lack of facilities to welcome them while having enough room to

keep everyone safe, it was necessary to continue listening to the CDC's guidance. Catholic organizations and bishops have argued for allowing migrant families in, saying they face an array of dangers.

"In this Year of St. Joseph, we pray for the patron of families to intercede on behalf of vulnerable migrant families, especially those traveling with children and the elderly," said Bishop Dorsonville.

The bishop also praised efforts by the Biden administration to make vaccinations more accessible to migrants on the border, "which is critical to limiting the spread of COVID-19."

Ruling Blocking HHS 'Transgender Mandate' Called 'Victory for Conscience'

By Catholic News Service WASHINGTON (CNS) —

A U.S. District Court judge's Aug. 9 ruling to block the Biden administration's mandate that doctors and hospitals perform gender-transition procedures despite their own moral or medical objections is "a victory for common sense, conscience and sound medicine."

That is the view of Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, based in Washington. He is the lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the case.

"Today's ruling protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren't forced to violate their religious beliefs and medical judgment," he said about the ruling in *Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra*.

Franciscan Alliance, based in Mishawaka, Indiana, is a Catholic health care system now known as Franciscan Health that operates hospitals serving Indiana and one hospital in Illinois and employs over 18,000 full- and part-time employees. The defendant is Secretary Xavier Becerra of the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

On Aug. 9, Judge Reed O'Connor of the District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Wichita Falls blocked the HHS regulation — in its current form as proscribed by the Biden administration. It requires doctors to perform gender-transition procedures in children and adults or be held liable for discrimination.

The regulation, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, was first issued in 2016 by HHS under the Obama administration.

In 2020, the Trump administration put in place a final rule that eliminated the general prohibition on discrimination based on gender identity and also adopted abortion and religious freedom exemptions for health care providers. But the courts blocked this rule change.

In 2021, shortly after he was inaugurated, President Joe Biden issued an executive order declaring his administration would apply in all areas — including the ACA — the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court's in *Bostock* in 2020 that

discrimination based on sex outlawed Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 covers people who are gay or transgender.

"The Christian plaintiffs contend that violation of their statutory rights under RFRA (Religious Freedom Restoration Act) is an irreparable harm," O'Connor said in his ruling.

"The court agrees," he said, "and concludes that enforcement of the 2021 interpretation (of Section 1557) forces Christian plaintiffs to face civil penalties or to perform gender-transition procedures and abortions contrary to their religious beliefs — a quintessential irreparable injury."

"The court grants plaintiffs' request for a permanent injunction and permanently enjoins" HHS, Becerra and all HHS-related divisions, agencies and employees "from interpreting or enforcing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act."

"Today's decision rightly says the mandate violates federal law," said Goodrich in a string of tweets. He noted "this is now the second federal court

to block the mandate."

He was referring to a Jan. 19 ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota in Fargo in a lawsuit filed on behalf of Franciscan Alliance/Franciscan Health, and the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. The states of Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Wisconsin also joined in the suit.

The Biden administration filed an appeal April 20 with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, based in St. Louis.

Goodrich tweeted that Franciscan Alliance/Franciscan Health's hospitals and health care professionals "gladly serve all patients regardless of their sex or gender

identity, yet were threatened with multimillion dollar penalties by a controversial HHS regulation if they refused to perform gender-transition procedures."

"These religious doctors and hospitals joyfully serve ALL patients and routinely provide top-notch care to transgender patients. There is ample evidence, however, that some gender transition procedures can harm patients," Goodrich said.

"Several federal circuits — including the 5th and 1st — have all reached the same conclusion: 'There is no medical consensus that sex reassignment surgery is a necessary or even effective treatment for gender dysphoria.'"



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‘Never Forget,’ Says Foundation CEO Who Lost Firefighter Brother in 9/11



CNS Photo/courtesy Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Frank Siller, the chairman and CEO of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, seen wearing all black and green shoes, begins the “Never Forget Walk” in Arlington, Va., Aug. 1 as he and the other participants walk to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost during the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. The 500-mile-plus walk began near the Pentagon, then was headed to Shanksville, Pa., and was to end in New York City at “ground zero,” site of the former World Trade Center’s twin towers, close to Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Frank Siller still goes to the same Catholic church he has gone to since he was a little kid, Blessed Sacrament in the New York City borough of Staten Island. He always sits in his family’s same pew for Mass.

This is one illustration of the strong place the Catholic faith has in the lives of Siller, 68, and his siblings as they do the work of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

They began the foundation to honor the sacrifice of Stephen, their baby brother, a firefighter with the Fire Department of the City of New York who gave his life, like so many others did, trying to save lives on 9/11 — the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

The foundation helps the spouses and children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty, and for many of these families pays off their remaining mortgage. Its Gold Star program provides mort-

gage-free homes to Gold Star families with young children of military members who have died while serving their country.

It also assists military members who return home from war with catastrophic injuries by providing these warriors and their families new mortgage-free, specially adapted smart homes — 100 and counting. And it plans to build a community of these mortgage-free smart homes called “Let Us Do Good Village” in Florida.

“Catholic faith drives all we do,” said Siller, the foundation’s CEO and chairman.

His late parents, George and Mae, were secular Franciscans who taught their seven children to follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the center of his life in serving others. The elder Sillers always quoted one of the saint’s well-known sayings: “While we have time, let us do good.”

“It’s a simple mission,” Siller said of the foundation’s work. “But it is very important we succeed and take

care of the families left behind.”

He spoke to Catholic News Service ahead of his “Never Forget Walk,” a more than 500-mile journey through six states to mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, taking him from the Pentagon in Virginia to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and then to New York City and “ground zero” in lower Manhattan, the former site of the World Trade Center. Siller expects to complete the walk by Sept. 11.

“It is first time I’ve done anything like this — 525 miles,” he said. “I decided to do it because I wanted to make sure we shine a big light on what happened 20 years ago. It’s meaningful and personal for the foundation to go to the three locations that had such great loss of life.”

The morning of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked two passenger planes and flew them into the World Trade Center, destroying the twin towers.

This attack was quickly followed by terrorists flying a third hijacked

passenger plane into the Pentagon. A fourth passenger plane, initially headed to Washington, crashed into a field near Shanksville after passengers thwarted the hijackers.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks, including the 246 passengers and 19 hijackers aboard the planes. Over 6,000 others were injured, and many people have suffered substantial long-term health consequences.

It is one of the single deadliest terrorist attacks in human history and is the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States, with 343 injured and 72 killed, respectively.

The “Never Forget Walk” is really “becoming more of a spiritual journey,” said Siller, who is being joined along the way by families the foundation has helped as well first responders, military members, veterans and supporters of the foundation.

See “9/11” on Page 11

Confirmation Schedule Fall 2021

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, August 29, 2021: Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 7, 2021: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Stonewood, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 19, 2021: Ascension Parish, Hurricane, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 24, 2021: St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 30, 2021: St. Patrick Parish, Mannington, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 7, 2021: Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021: Combined Confirmation: Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, Elizabeth; at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20, 2021: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5:00 p.m.

9/11 ...

Cont'd from Page 10

On Aug. 1, he and his family held a private wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon in Virginia, then joined the other participants to begin the walk at nearby Arlington County Fire Station 5, one of the stations that responded to the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

Siller said he and his siblings didn't set out to do all that the foundation is doing now but the effort has grown. The enterprise began as a way to "honor our brother's sacrifice," he said. "There is no greater love than what he gave — his life for strangers. ... We were just moved, inspired by his selflessness."

"We're a very simple blue-collar family," he said. "There is no doubt that God has put us in a position to do this work. None of us get paid, we're volunteers."

The "foundation of the foundation is the family," said Msgr. Peter G. Finn, former pastor of Staten Island's Blessed Sacrament Parish.

The Sillers "are devoted to each other. They are a very dedicated group of people, faithful to religion, family and community," the retired priest told CNS. "Frank exemplifies it. ... What he's doing now is an ongoing thing he's been doing for most of his life."

Before Stephen's tragic death and the foundation that followed, he said, people already knew Frank for his charitable efforts "and his kindness." He "has a supporting cast of family that are unbelievable in their goodness and faith and their kindness," added Msgr. Finn, a former director of communications for the New York Archdiocese and a former seminary rector.

Frank Siller's commitment to the foundation is "almost apostolic," the priest said. "He's a tough guy, a good guy and he'd work himself down to the bone to make sure this (effort) continues."

The foundation gets its funding from "the masses," Siller noted, adding with a laugh, "I don't say that because of Catholic Masses." Grass-roots donors who commit \$11 a month support the foundation, not corporate donors.

"Everybody should do something for our military that die for us,

the cops and firemen," he said. Those who give \$11 a month see what the foundation does and can say "my \$11 a month did that," he added.

The "Tunnel" in the foundation's name is the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. Stephen Siller, 34, ran through the two-mile tunnel to the site of the World Trade Center. He was off duty that day but heard the emergency calls, and suited up and carried his 60 pounds of FDNY gear on his back through the tunnel. He left behind his wife, Sarah, and their five children.

His brother running through the tunnel that day also serves as a metaphor for how the Siller family eventually worked through the grief his death brought — they moved through the "tunnel of despair to find hope" and turned tragedy into service, and they work to help others through the same tunnel.

"Everything we do is focused on doing good," Siller said, and helping those who "lose loved ones with no notice (and) have to continue living with this unbelievable sadness and try to bring joy into their life."

"You can survive it," Siller said. "Mae and George wouldn't let us complain about a thing," and would always tell their children to "do something for someone else."

He said he told his own children the same thing when they were growing up. He has three children and six grandchildren.

Siller misses Stephen every day. They were the closest in age of all their siblings, and he had a role in helping raise his little brother.

By the time, Stephen was 10, their mom and dad had died. The oldest Siller, Russ, and Russ's wife, Jacky, took in Stephen and raised him with the help of Frank and the others. Russ died Nov. 8, 2019, at age 77.

The first thing Siller does every morning is look at his photos of Stephen, Russ, and his mom and dad, and tells them, "Good morning."

Family, faith, God and "most certainly our country" are top of mind for him every day, he said.

And his mission has been the same since 9/11: Never forget.

More information on the Tunnel to Towers Foundation website can be found at <https://t2t.org>.



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA MISSION MOMENT

Beginning Flood Recovery in Cameron

By **Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications Specialist**

On June 20, many Cameron, West Virginia residents' lives were changed as heavy rainfall caused flash flooding in the Marshall County town. Volunteers in the surrounding area immediately began assisting families whose homes were damaged.

"As soon as we heard on the news about a flash flood in Cameron, our team stepped up," said Diana Bell, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center coordinator. "It's heartwarming to see the outpouring of support when one of our neighboring communities is in crisis."

The team at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center received donations and purchased items including fans, bottled water, and cleaning supplies to the affected residents. The Neighborhood Center kitchen team also jumped into action, preparing sandwiches for volunteers.

While local offices can coordinate supplies to meet immediate needs for flood survivors, Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) efforts also extend to helping families reach long-term recovery.

The CCWVa Disaster Services program works to return people to safe, secure and healthy housing.

"Through our disaster partner network throughout the state, we are able to connect needs to resources," said Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services specialist. "CCWVa accompanies families and communities on the path to recovery."

CCWVa is a part of Cameron's newly formed Long-Term Recovery Committee. The agency also applied and was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Catholic Charities USA Disaster Operations to assist survivors in recovering from this flood.

"There is still a need for volunteers to help rebuild," said Pierce. "Without volunteers, the expense of hiring contractors to complete the



Catholic Charities employees loaded vehicles to deliver supplies to help flood victims.

Courtesy Photo

work is massive."

Volunteers are being coordinated locally through Appalachian Outreach. If you or your group would like to volunteer, please contact Rose Hart at (304) 280-3817 or rhart1703@aol.com.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West

Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

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Papa: Mirad a Cristo, no a la ley, para recibir vida nueva

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—Lo que hizo que la vida cristiana fuera radicalmente nueva fue el llamado a quienes tienen fe en Jesucristo a vivir en el Espíritu Santo, que los libera de la ley que Dios le entregó a Moisés, dijo el papa Francisco durante su audiencia general semanal.

La ley mosaica era necesaria e importante de seguir en ese momento de la historia, pero sirvió como un camino a seguir hacia un eventual encuentro con Cristo y su mandamiento del amor, dijo el papa el 11 de agosto a personas reunidas en la sala de audiencias Pablo VI en el Vaticano.

El papa continuó con su serie de charlas reflexionando sobre la Carta de San Pablo a los Gálatas, enfocándose en el apóstol respondiendo a la pregunta, "¿Pero si está el Espíritu Santo, si está Jesús que nos ha redimido, para qué la Ley?"

"La ley es un camino" y actúa como un maestro que toma a las personas de la mano, las lleva hacia adelante, hacia el encuentro con Jesús y la fe en Cristo, dijo.

Dios le dio a Moisés la ley para preparar a su pueblo en este viaje durante un tiempo de idolatría desenfrenada y para ayudar a su pueblo a guiar su comportamiento de una manera que mostrara y expresara su fe y pacto con Dios, dijo.

Sin embargo, dijo, la ley no era el pacto; el pacto llegó primero con Abraham, cientos de años antes que Moisés, dijo el papa. El pacto no se basaba en la observancia de la ley, sino en la fe en el cumplimiento de las promesas de Dios, dijo.

San Pablo necesitaba aclarar el papel de la ley a los gálatas porque había "misioneros fundamentalistas" entre ellos que parecían casi "nos-

tálgicos" acerca de la observancia de la ley mosaica, creyendo que adherirse a la alianza también incluía observar la ley mosaica, dijo.

El apóstol explica que la "alianza con Dios y la ley mosaica no están vinculadas de forma indisoluble", dijo el papa. "El primer elemento sobre el que se apoya es que la Alianza establecida por Dios con Abraham se basó en la fe en el cumplimiento de la promesa y no en la observancia de la Ley, que todavía no estaba".

"No se debe pensar que san Pablo fuera contrario a la Ley mosaica" porque defiende su origen divino y dice que tiene "un rol bien preciso en la historia de la salvación", dijo el papa.

"Pero la Ley no da la vida, no ofrece el cumplimiento de la promesa, porque no está en la condición de poder realizarla... Quien busca la vida necesita mirar a la promesa y a su realización en Cristo".

Este era el problema, cuando la gente le daba más importancia a la observancia de la ley que al encuentro con Cristo, dijo.

Este pasaje de san Pablo a los Gálatas "presenta la novedad radical de la vida cristiana: todos los que tienen fe en Jesucristo están llamados a vivir en el Espíritu Santo, que libera de la Ley y al mismo tiempo la lleva a cumplimiento según el mandamiento del amor", dijo.

La ley es un camino y "que el Señor nos ayude a caminar sobre el camino de los Mandamientos, pero mirando al amor a Cristo hacia el encuentro con Cristo, sabiendo que el encuentro con Jesús es más importante que todos los Mandamientos", dijo.

Dirigiéndose a la gente después de la charla de la audiencia principal, el papa Francisco dijo a los visitantes de habla francesa que fue "con gran pesar" que se enteró del asesinato el 6 de agosto del padre Olivier Maire de Mont-

fort, de 60 años.

"Expreso mi más sentido pésame a la comunidad religiosa de los monfortianos en Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre en Vendée, a su familia y a todos los católicos de Francia", dijo, asegurando a todos su cercanía.

Al final de la audiencia, justo antes de que el papa saliera a recibir a los visitantes, un asistente se acercó al papa, habló con él durante unos minutos y le entregó un teléfono móvil. El papa habló por teléfono durante unos minutos, luego abandonó el salón brevemente antes de regresar para saludar a los visitantes como de costumbre.

Fue un requisito que los visitantes usaran mascarillas, pero no presentar el llamado "pase verde" de prueba de vacunación, de una prueba de COVID-19 negativa o de recuperación de COVID-19.

Italia aprobó recientemente un decreto como parte de las medidas en curso para frenar la propagación del virus, al hacer obligatorio que cualquier persona mayor de 12 años muestre un "pase verde" para ciertas actividades, como comer en el interior de los restaurantes, entrar en gimnasios o cines, visitar museos, incluidos los Museos Vaticanos, y, a partir de septiembre, asistir a la escuela en el lugar.

La conferencia de obispos italianos publicó una nota el 26 de julio diciendo que el pase no era necesario para ir a misa o unirse a las procesiones, pero que continuarían las medidas de salud como el uso de máscaras y el distanciamiento social. El pase verde era necesario para las personas que ingresaban a cines, museos, restaurantes y cafeterías, eventos deportivos, conferencias, piscinas cubiertas, gimnasios, centros sociales y lugares de recepción de propiedad de la iglesia u operados por la iglesia.

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 eclesásticas 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.

Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry Opening

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire an Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry.

The Executive Director is responsible for serving as a catalyst and ongoing resource to the Bishop, diocesan staff, pastors and parishes in developing and maintaining effort which link direct service, advocacy, action and empowerment toward concerns of local and global justice, respect for all human life and environmental concerns.

This person also provides leadership, vision and advocacy for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for Prison, His-

panic ministries and other immigrant groups.

Qualification requirements include a Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred), 2-5 years experience in parish Social Ministry, extensive knowledge of Catholic Social Teachings, working knowledge of the operation of the Catholic Church, self-motivated, ability to work in a team environment.

Please submit resume, references and cover letter to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 1311 Byron Street, PO Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003

Position will stay open until filled.

Case Manager, Wheeling Hospital Transition Program

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

Primary responsibilities of the HTP Case Manager include working directly with individuals both before and after hospital discharge to assess their needs and develop and implement a comprehensive service plan to stabilize their health and wellness and prevent hospital readmission when possible. Work also includes coordinating an on-site food pantry at Wheeling Hospital and providing basic nutrition education with individuals one-on-one. Regular office hours are primarily Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. This is a full-time, non-exempt position located in Wheeling, Hospital Transition Program

Essential Job Duties: Work closely with Northern Region Director and CPO to start-up new Hospital Transition Program, Work with Wheeling Hospital staff to spearhead screening & referral process for at-risk patients prior to discharge home, Communicate with clients prior to hospital discharge to assess need for HTP services, Coordinate food pharmacy pantry on site at Wheeling Hospital, working with the Neighborhood Center to stock pantry and to recruit volunteers, Conduct home visits with clients and provide direct care for working toward goals, Administer and document assessments to measure client baseline and progress, Ensure grant requirements are met and documented.

Qualifications: Minimum of a Bachelor Degree in related field. Experience working with at-risk and vulnerable populations. Excellent computer skills with experience tracking program outcomes data. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Willingness to adapt to change in schedule, including evenings and weekends, if necessary. General knowledge of local community resources; case management practices; populations served and their cultures/needs. Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment

Must have transportation to travel as needed

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by August 10th to: Mark Phillips, Northern Regional Director at maphillips@ccwva.org

Application materials can also be delivered to: Catholic Charities West Virginia, c/o Mark Phillips, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV, 26003.

Case Manager Catholic Charities in Martinsburg, WV

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

The Case Manager is responsible for providing case management and stabilization program services at the Eastern Region's main office in Martinsburg. This includes all services helping stabilize families and individuals facing a financial crisis and helping them become more self-reliant and improve their overall circumstances.

Essential Job Duties

Conduct face-to-face and phone assessments with individuals and families; Assist clients with identifying and accessing community and governmental resources, make appropriate referrals and link clients with available resources; advocate for client needs; Screen clients for case management and other services and enroll appropriate clients. Together with case management clients, develop comprehensive case service plans that identify needs; outline corresponding interventions, identify responsible individuals and timeframes; and provide appropriate follow up; Document client interaction and progress according to CCWVa Case Management protocol. Develop and maintain ongoing working relationships with other Catholic Charities staff, agency partners, community social service agencies, faith-based organizations, schools, and coalitions to meet the larger needs of the community. Document client interaction according to CCWVa Case Management protocol; Participate in community social service/interagency meetings and trainings. Represent the mission and work of Catholic Charities West Virginia, the Eastern Region, and its programs to the community.

This is a full-time position, non-exempt, located in Martinsburg, WV

Qualifications Bachelor's Degree required. A Social Work degree or a degree in a similar field preferred. A valid social work license or the ability to be licensed in West Virginia is preferred. Experience working with at-risk populations. Excellent computer skills with the ability to track and analyse data. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to speak in public and represent the organization with a variety of audiences and community sectors. Willingness to adapt to change in schedule, including evenings and weekends, if necessary. Knowledge of: federal, state and community resources; case management practices; populations served and their culture and needs. Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment. Must have transportation to travel as needed.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by Friday, August 20, 2021, to: tbartlett@ccwva.org

Application materials can also be delivered to: Trina Bartlett, Eastern Regional Director, Catholic Charities WV, 224 South Queen Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401

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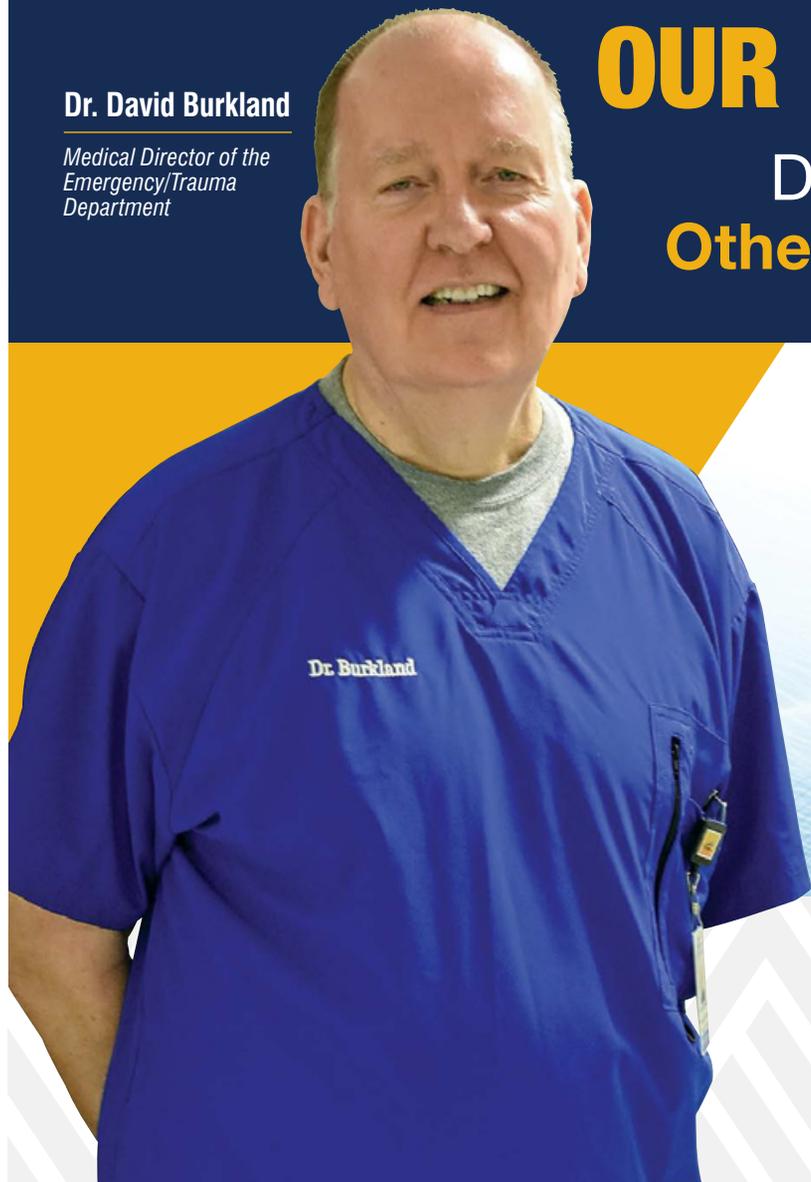
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