

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

## Summer Home Repair Program in Preston County Wraps up 38th Year of Outreach

By **Mary Somerruk and Karen Kurilko**

The Summer Home Repair Program in Preston County began in 1986 following the devastating flood of 1985. Inspired by the news coverage of the flood, several teenager girls from New Jersey mobilized their friends to take action. Together, they approached their youth group counselors at church, expressing their desire to assist. The group reached out to Father Jerome McKenna, CP, then-pastor of the Catholic Church in Preston County (CCPC) and Sister Priscilla Weidenschlager, SJ, offering their help in the relief efforts. Father Jerome and Sister Priscilla enthusiastically supported their initiative, with Sister Priscilla, a dedicated advocate for young girls, assuming leadership over these young ladies.

That summer, this group of seven aided a family of five who had been forced to live in their car due to extensive flood damage that had destroyed their home and all their possessions. In a significant act of community solidarity, a local bank agreed to transfer ownership of a house they held a lien on to the family, contingent on the group bringing the house up to code. During their stay, the youth group cleaned, painted, and repaired the home, providing the family of five with a habitable place to live.

This initial endeavor sparked the growth of a program that now attracts hundreds of volunteers to Preston County each summer. Over the past 38 years, approximately 65 homes each year have received vital repairs and enhancements such as roof replacements, wheelchair ramp and porch construction, **See "Program" on Page 3**



Courtesy photo  
Volunteers for the Summer Home Repair Program in Preston County stand on the new back porch they built for an individual in need.

**Inside:** End of Life: Catholic Questions & Answers to be Held Aug. 31 in Charles Town, Page 7

Supreme Knight Summons a New Generation of Catholic Men: 'Days of Easy Faith are Over,' Page 10



## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father Gary Naegele** is appointed temporary administrator of St. Mary Parish in Morgantown, effective August 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024. This appointment is in addition to his current responsibilities as chaplain of J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital and Mon Health Medical Center. His place of residence will remain the same.

**Father John P. McDonough** is granted a leave of absence beginning on August 1, 2024, and ending on November 30, 2024.

**Father William Kuchinsky's** position has been changed from supervisor of the Office of Prison Ministry to director of the Office of Prison Ministry. This appointment is effective retroactively to July 2, 2024, with his place of residence at Good Shepherd Mission Rectory in Glenville.

After consultation with Archabbot Rt. Reverend Martin R. Bartel, O.S.B., of St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, **Father David Griffin, O.S.B.**, is appointed chaplain and director of Campus Ministry at Wheeling University with residence at the Steenrod Apartments, effective August 1, 2024.

**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](http://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](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe


someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to

the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC,

at 304.559.6742. 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](http://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 requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have 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, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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## The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org))

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
 Feast Day, September 14  
 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
 Memorial, October 7  
 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

**Advent**  
 First Sunday of Advent, December 1  
 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29

**Christmas**  
 Feast Day, December 25  
 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

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Courtesy photo

The Summer Home Repair Team members are pictured. In the back row, from left, are Clint Radabaugh, Chuck Radabaugh, Chilton Grose, Darrell Fedeles, Richard Riggins, and Paul Somerruk. Sitting, from left, are Joyce Radabaugh, SHR coordinator (holding her granddaughter Kelsey); Patty John-Grose; Sue Alberico; Cindy Riggins; Mary Somerruk; and Father Dominic Athishu, pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood, St. Edward the Confessor Mission in Terra Alta, and St. Zita Mission in Mason-town. Not pictured are team members Theresa Marthey, Larry Snyder, Mike Barlow, and John Zondlo.

## Program...

Cont'd from Page 1

plumbing projects, and the replacement of walls, windows, and floors. This year, approximately 568 volunteers helped improve the living conditions for 67 homeowners in Preston County. These volunteer groups not only perform the physical repairs but also raise the funds to purchase the materials for the repairs, and for their travel and housing expenses.

Members of the Summer Home Repair Team of the Catholic Church of Preston County dedicate countless hours of volunteer work, meticulously reviewing applications, visiting homeowners to assess their needs, and offering steadfast support to the volunteers throughout their time in the county. Father Dominic Athishu, pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood, St. Edward the Confessor Mission in Terra Alta, and St. Zita Mission in Masontown, described the program as a "remarkable opportunity for the faithful of Preston County's Catholic community to collaborate as a unified family."

On June 30, Bishop Mark Brennan visited the Catholic Church of Preston County to extend a warm welcome during an orientation prayer service to a workgroup from St. Peter the Apostle in Parsippany, N.J. These volunteers chose to forego their Fourth of July holiday to serve those in need in Preston County. During his visit, Bishop Brennan emphasized the significance of their social work in bringing faith to life. He acknowledged that despite the presence of affluence in West Virginia, there remain underserved communities that require assistance. He urged the volunteers to "recognize the face of Jesus" in those they would be helping during the week.

In closing, Bishop Brennan ex-

pressed gratitude to the volunteers who came from out of state and from different dioceses. He encouraged the volunteers to carry the spirit of service back to their own communities after completing their week in Preston County, continuing their efforts to support those in need.

This year, during their weekly orientation prayer services for new groups, the Summer Home Repair Program is honoring the life and legacy of Father Jerome McKenna, CP, who served Preston County from 1981 to 2000. Without Father Jerome's openness to welcome a small group of passionate teenagers eager to aid those in need, this program would not exist today.

During our final week of the Summer Home Repair Program, 38 volunteers from Notre Dame in Cedar Knolls, N.J., and 34 volunteers from St. Vincent DePaul in Stirling, N.J., completed work on 17 homes that included replacing steps and deck boards, making a bathroom handicap accessible,



Courtesy photo

Volunteers for the Summer Home Repair Program in Preston County begin work on a new back porch and roof for an individual in need. The finished work is featured on Page 1.

painting, replacing and repairing steps and decks, installing a walk in shower, underpinning, gutters, downspouts and windows and repairing floors. Through their hard work and dedication, these individuals have significantly enhanced the living conditions for these families in Preston County.

Over the past seven weeks, we welcomed 254 adults, 52 young adults, and 262 individuals under 18 to Preston County. These 568 generous people completed work

on 84 homes. The groups, hailing from New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, not only improved the lives of the residents but also covered the costs for all materials, travel, and housing themselves. Their dedication has been truly inspiring to everyone they met!

In addition to the efforts of these groups, we are grateful for the wonderful support team from the Catholic Church of Preston County, who assist before and during their visits. We encourage you to consider joining this remarkable team!

As our 2024 program draws to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have, over the past 38 years, embodied the spirit of service, living out the message of Matthew 25:40:

*And the king will say to them in reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these Brothers and Sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

If you think that your acts of charity and kindness don't impact people's lives, think again! A good example is a small group of teenage girls and their youth counselors who arrived in Preston County in 1986. This initiative has since brought thousands of youths and their adult leaders over the past 38 years to Preston County, serving as the compassionate hands of Jesus to the less fortunate.



Courtesy photo

Bishop Mark Brennan (back row, center) and Father Dominic Athishu (back row, left) visit with the St. Peter the Apostle group during orientation on June 30.



## Employment Opportunity

### Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Guest Services Coordinator

The Guest Services Coordinator at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center (Charleston, W.Va.), as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Guest Services Coordinator is responsible for working with guests to plan and book lodging and events. Some of the required qualifications include multi-tasker, problem solver & self-starter, detail oriented, excellent written & verbal skills, computer knowledge, team

player and welcoming & respectful to all faith & secular guests. Additionally, the position entails the ability to perform the physical requirements of kitchen aide & housekeeper.

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

For more information, [click here](#). Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) to schedule an interview or for more information.



# Celebrate Five with 5 for Bishop Brennan's Fifth Anniversary

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## Life's 'Final Exam' Will be on Care for Poor, Pope Says

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — God will not judge people by how many university degrees they earned, but by how well they cared for the poor, Pope Francis told a group of priests and religious women.

"The Lord won't ask us, 'What did you study?' 'How many degrees do you have?' 'How many works did you accomplish?' No, no. The Lord will say, 'Come with me because I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was persecuted and you protected me,'" the pope said.

"That is the theme of the final exam on which we will be judged," the pope said Aug. 12 as he met members of the general chapters of the Dominican Missionary Sisters of St. Sixtus, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary and the Vocationist Fathers.

Pope Francis joked that it was "efficient" of the Vatican to group all the general chapter members together in one audience since it is chapter "season" in Rome.

All four religious orders, he said, were founded to support and educate young people from poor families who would not otherwise receive the education they needed and the guidance necessary to discover their vocations.

The founders of the four orders "saw in them a sign from God for their mission," the pope said. "In the same way, it will also be good for you, especially in these days of community discernment, to keep constantly before your eyes the face of the poor."

"Jesus speaks to us in our neediest brothers and sisters," Pope Francis said, "and in every gift given to them there is a reflection of God's love."

And while the art of spiritual discernment is a specialty of the Vocationist Fathers, the pope told the religious that learning to make decisions by listening to God, to others and to one's own heart is essential for all Christians.

Discernment, he said, involves "prayer, meditation, patient waiting, and then courage and sacrifice" to put into practice that which God, "without ever imposing his will on us, suggests to our hearts."

Having choices is a sign of the freedom God gives to each person, the pope said.

"Our world is in such need of rediscovering the taste and beauty of making a decision, especially regarding definitive choices, which cause a decisive turning point in life, such as the vocational one," he said. Young people need spiritual fathers and mothers to help them understand that "to be free is not to remain eternally at a crossroads, making little 'escapes' to the right and left, without ever really taking a road."

"Being free means betting — betting! — on a path, with intelligence and prudence, certainly, but also with boldness and a spirit of renunciation, in order to grow and progress in the dynamic of giving and to be happy and loving according to God's plan," the pope told them.

## Wisconsin Catholic Agency Asks Supreme Court to Intervene on Being Denied Religious Exemption

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The Catholic Charities Bureau of the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin, asked the U.S. Supreme Court Aug. 9 to overturn a decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court the agency argued discounted its religious identity.

The group filed an appeal to the high court of a March 14 ruling by the Wisconsin court that Catholic Charities is not exempt from paying into the state's unemployment insurance system because its operations aren't primarily religious under the statute.

Nick Reaves, senior counsel at Becket, a religious liberty law firm in Washington that is representing the agency, told OSV News in an interview that under a Wisconsin law "employers who employ certain types of people and certain types of roles have to pay into this unemployment compensation plan," comparable to similar plans in other states.

Wisconsin law states religious employers in the Badger State are eligible for an exemption from its unemployment benefit program if they operate primarily for religious purposes, Reaves said. The state argued, however, that the Catholic Charities Bureau does not meet that standard.

The Catholic Charities Bureau is seeking an exemption so that it can participate in an alternate program, the Church Unemployment Pay Program, established by the Wisconsin bishops in 1986, according to its court filings. They argued the church's program provides the same level of benefits to unemployed individuals as the state's system but calls their program "more efficient."

"So we want to participate in the Catholic bishops' unemployment pay program, which provides the same benefits at a much lower cost," Reaves said.

Asked whether participation in the state's unemployment program presents a challenge to the Catholic Charities Bureau's operations,

Reaves cited the principle of subsidiarity, or the idea, formed in Catholic teaching, that some decisions are best left to smaller, localized institutions rather than larger ones.

"They applied to participate in the churches' program, which is a smaller, more local program," he said.

He also argued that Catholic Charities also estimates it is spending, "both between man hours and actual costs in terms of paying this tax, hundreds of thousands of dollars" more for benefits comparable to those of the Church Unemployment Pay Program, and the agency could redirect the money it is spending to charitable efforts.

The 4-3 decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in March raised the threshold for religious groups to prove their charitable organizations qualify for such an exemption under state law. The court's ruling, along its ideological lines, found that while the mission of the Catholic Charities Bureau and its subsidiaries are inspired by Catholic teachings, its actual work is "primarily charitable and secular" under state statute.

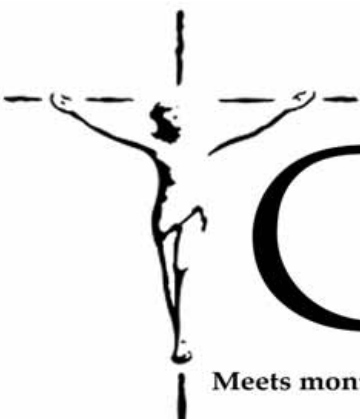
"In other words, they offer services that would be the same regardless of the motivation of the provider, a strong indication that the sub-entities do not 'operate primarily for religious purposes,'" Justice Ann Walsh Bradley wrote in the majority opinion.

Bishop James P. Powers of Superior said in an Aug. 9 statement, "Catholic Charities Bureau carries out our Diocese's essential ministry of caring for the most vulnerable members of our society."

"We pray the Court will recognize that this work of improving the human condition is rooted in Christ's call to care for those in need," he said.

It remains to be seen whether the high court will take up the case. The court's next term is scheduled to begin in October.

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



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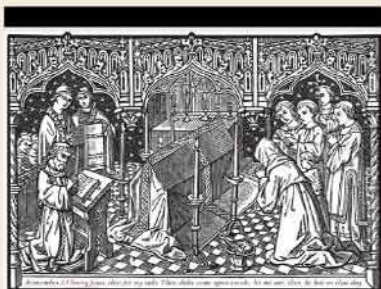
## Forming Our Consciences

Our journey with Christ naturally includes equipping our consciences to make morally good judgments and acting accordingly. Learning about the dignity of human life and the indispensable respect for it, as well as applicable principles for medical care, is particularly important in preparing for our eventual passing.

Some bishops offer guides applying moral principles to local legal options. Parish and online resources are also widely available for careful and prayerful study, and the Ethical and Religious Directives from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops give direction for health care services to those who are seriously ill or dying.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/catholic-considerations-our-earthly-passing>

- PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & DYING
- CATHOLIC BIOETHICS: FORMING OUR CONSCIENCES
- FUNERAL & CEMETERY PLANNING
- CHARITABLE LEGACY PLANNING
- LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS



**We will take questions on the day of the seminar. We also invite you to send in questions, thoughts, and concerns about end of life issues. Your submissions will remain confidential and will be answered during the in-person presentation. If you prefer to send them by email, please send your questions to [stewardship@stjameswv.org](mailto:stewardship@stjameswv.org)**



# New Review Board Chair: 'We Can't be Satisfied' until There is Zero Abuse in Church

**By Gina Christian, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — Retired FBI official James Bogner was recently named chair of the National Review Board, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' consultative safe environment body established in 2002 under the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," also known as the Dallas Charter.

A former high-level FBI special agent with more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, Bogner succeeds outgoing chair Suzanne Healy, who recently completed her four-year term, having led the board since 2020.

Days after the Aug. 1 announcement by USCCB president Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, OSV News spoke with Bogner about his vision for the board as it works with the U.S. bishops in strengthening protections against sexual abuse within the Catholic Church.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

**OSV News:** How do you hope to bring your extensive and high-level law enforcement experience to leading the National Review Board? What particular skills and strategies do you hope to apply to this new role?

**Bogner:** Well, I think there are several things. Number one, being a senior executive in law enforcement, I am able to see a countrywide picture of trends and of situations. And the first mission of law enforcement is to protect the public, to ensure that people are safe, so I bring that skill.

Some of the background that I've had in law enforcement has been in audits as an inspector. So looking at situations here (with the National Review Board), the USCCB is authorized to conduct annual audits of various dioceses here, so I am able to look at those audits, see if any improvement needs to be



OSV News photo/courtesy James Bogner

**James Bogner, appointed chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Review Board Aug. 1 is seen in this undated photo. A former high-level FBI special agent with more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, Bogner succeeds outgoing chair Suzanne Healy, who recently completed her four-year term.**

made ... and look at the results to see how (issues) need to be addressed.

The other area of my law enforcement experience was in what you would commonly refer to as internal affairs. So I am able to look at the integrity of the institution and ensure that it is protected here, that there's justice for the employee or the offender, and there's also justice for the institution.

I also look at the dynamics of strategic planning, reviewing what you've done and where you're going to go.

I'm very much interested in research and

trends, and have been throughout my career, asking, "What changes are we seeing?" In the last few years, we've had tremendous changes in the technological environment. So how are we adjusting to that and improving what we're doing, advising the bishops? What are we seeing that would help them and fully give them an idea of what is happening?

We have an incredibly talented group of National Review Board members, (with) ... very diverse backgrounds and skill sets. It's not all law enforcement — it's victim assistance coordinators, people that have had to deal with abuse issues; we have a victim survivor on the board to hear that perspective; we have canon lawyers. ... So we have a lot of different perspectives, and we're trying to chart a direction and a strategic planning course in a very collaborative manner.

**OSV News:** Broadly speaking, where is the Catholic Church in the U.S. at in terms of eradicating sexual abuse? What has been accomplished, and what remains to be done?

**Bogner:** From my perspective, I think there are kind of two phases to this issue. One is, what are we doing and how have we progressed as far as addressing the needs of victims, of survivors — looking back to those that have been abused and asking, "How are we improving in what we're doing?"

So one of the more re-

cent approaches is dealing with victims or survivors in a trauma-informed manner, so that we understand better what they're going through. If you've been the victim of abuse, that is not something that is over right away. It's perhaps a lifelong issue that they're dealing with, and we need to be sensitive to that.

The other part of it is the situations of abuse. What are we doing to reduce the number of abuses? A little over 20 years ago, the bishops developed the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," which we know as the Dallas Charter, and it has very specific elements in it as to what we need to do to improve our safeguarding capabilities here in the church, what actions to take, along with accountability for acting appropriately for victims and for the church.

Now, have we been somewhat successful in reducing the number of clerical abuse cases? Yes, abso-

lutely over the years. If you look at the annual reports that we and the USCCB publishes annually, this year it was down to 17 cases. Historically, it was many more than that, but substantial efforts have been made to address those abuses.

Is it down to zero? No, it isn't. And so we can't be satisfied with what we have done in the past or up to date here. We need to continue to address these issues.

We also need to continue to do that at the local level in particular. There are changes in not only clerical personnel, but in volunteers, teachers, lay staff. We can't just say, "Oh, well, we've trained those in the past and that's good enough." No, we need to continue that training. We need to continue that focus in the future.

With the internet and cellphones, the exposure of people to harmful content is so much greater than what we've had before. So

**See "Chair" on Page 9**

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# Wheeling's St. Alphonsus Parish Will Hold Fundraiser to Celebrate the End of Summer

**WHEELING** — St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling will be holding a fundraiser on Sept. 7 to celebrate the end of summer. All of the profits of this event will go directly towards the church's overhead costs.

The parish is humbly asking for donations, whether they are a raf-

file item or monetary, all are gratefully welcome.

"We wholeheartedly appreciate your time and support. Thank you and may God bless you and your family!" parish officials said.

St. Alphonsus Church is located at 2111 Market Street in Wheeling.

## Chair...

**Cont'd from Page 8**

you've got to combat that. When we look at safe environment programs, we need to stress that aspect more these days.

**OSV News:** Your career in law enforcement and in many ways this board appointment have required you to deal with the dark side of humanity. How has your faith helped you in this regard?

**Bogner:** A few years ago, I saw a speech by Bishop Robert Barron (Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota), and he said he was once asked, "With some of the bad things happening in the Catholic Church, why shouldn't I just abandon it?"

And his answer was that when you have a problem in any organization and it needs to be addressed, you have two choices: You either leave, or you stay to address the issue and work on the solution.

And I along with the members of the National Review Board are staying, and we're addressing it.

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

## Employment Opportunity

### Assistant Director for Marriage & Family Life Ministries

The Asst. Director for Marriage & Family Life Ministries will be responsible for all initiating, planning, implementing and executing all of the diocesan efforts in the areas of Marriage and Family Life Ministries, especially as detailed in the Vatican's "Catechumenal Pathway for Married Life" and the USCCB, "Called to the Joy of Love."

This will include marriage preparation efforts.

Required job qualifications: Three years experience in professional parish ministry and/or Catholic theology teaching; Catholic Faith; bachelor's degree in theology, religion, ministry, or catechetics, commitment to the Catholic understanding of marriage; excellent communication skills written and oral.

Please submit your resume along with three professional references to Daniel Maul at dmaul@dwc.org

### Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2024 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, September 21: Sacred Heart, Chester; 5 p.m.

Saturday, September 28: St. Mary, Petersburg; 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 6: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown; 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane; 11 a.m.

Sunday, October 27: All Saints, Bridgeport; 10 a.m.

Saturday, November 9: St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont; 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 16: Sacred Heart, Williamson; 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19: St. Anthony, Follansbee; 6 p.m.

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**Contemplative Doodling**— In the afternoon, we will share an experience of mindfully creating unique works of art using simple drawing and coloring materials.

No previous art experience is necessary. These art as prayer experiences are about entering into a process of creative expression for self-discovery.

**Location: St. Joseph Retreat Center**

**Cost: \$50.00**  
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**To register, contact:  
Anna Marie Troiani**

**Phone: 304-907-0171**

**Email:  
atroiani@csjoseph.org**

**Facilitators: Mary Slattery, HM and Carrie Vall, CSJ**

Mary is an art therapist and counselor who has a heart for helping others to "discover their artist within." Mary currently ministers with Humility of Mary Housing sites in Akron, Ohio where she shares the healing gift of art with clients and residents.

Carrie is a board-certified art therapist who works with individuals and groups in a variety of settings. She is a co-director of the Women's Outreach Center, in Cleveland, Ohio, which serves women who have experienced homelessness.



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# Supreme Knight Summons a New Generation of Catholic Men: 'Days of Easy Faith are Over'

By Gina Christian, OSV News

**(OSV News)** — The “days of easy faith are over,” and a “new generation of Catholic men” are needed in the church, said the head of the Knights of Columbus at the global Catholic fraternal organization’s annual gathering.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly of the Knights of Columbus addressed more than 2,500 fellow Knights — along with their families, special guests and close to 60 bishops and cardinals from around the world, including Cuba, Korea, Nigeria, the Philippines and Ukraine — at the fraternal organization’s 142nd Supreme Convention, which took place Aug. 6-8 at the Quebec City Convention Center in Quebec City in the Canadian province of Quebec.

Founded in 1882 by Connecticut parish priest Blessed Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus now count more than 2.1 million members in over 16,800 local councils globally. In 2023, the Knights donated over 47 million service hours and more than \$190 million to those in need.

In his opening address Aug. 6, Kelly surveyed the breadth of the Knights’ work, which spans an array of humanitarian and spiritual initiatives designed to witness to the Gospel.

In his official greeting to attendees, conveyed in a July 24 letter from the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Pope Francis commended the Knights for their convention theme of “On Mission,” which the cardinal said “centers on the missionary dimension of Christian discipleship that the Holy Father has stressed from the earliest days of his pontificate.”

That mission, which requires Knights to be “resolute, undaunted (and) zealous,” has become more critical than ever, especially at a time when “in many places around the world, Catholic baptisms are declining and secularism is on the rise,” said Kelly, adding, “Many of us are worried about the world our children will inherit.”

Pointing to the example of Blessed McGivney and St. François de Laval, the first bishop of Quebec, Kelly said that “a new generation of Catholic men ... formed in faith and virtue ... (and) prepared to be missionary disciples” must be built up.

With more than 92,000 men joining the Knights last year, many of them Hispanic, the organization has experienced record growth, said Kelly, but stressed he envisions doubling the current membership.

“Imagine the impact, the communities we could help — the parishes that we could serve and the lives that we could change,” he said.

As a kick-start to that goal, Kelly challenged



OSV News photo/Matthew Barrick, Knights of Columbus  
Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly delivers his annual report at the opening business session of the Knights of Columbus 142nd Supreme Convention in Quebec City Aug. 6.

the Knights to double down on their annual Coats for Kids initiative by distributing 2 million coats to children in need by 2030.

The Knights’ Global Wheelchair Mission, a partnership with both the American Wheelchair Mission and the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, “gave the gift of mobility to more than 11,000 people” in 2023, while the Knights donated over \$4 million to the Special Olympics and organized close to 4,000 competitions that same year, said Kelly.

In addition, the Knights “continue to serve those who are persecuted for their faith,” said Kelly, noting that the organization has over the past decade “rebuilt churches and restored whole communities in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.”

Kelly said that the Knights are also “standing with the persecuted Christians of Nigeria.”

The level of religious repression in the African nation has been ranked as “extreme” by the global watchdog group Open Doors International, which has assessed that “more believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria each year, than everywhere else in the world combined.”

To “strengthen the faith of millions of Catholics in the heart of Africa,” the Knights have sponsored a collaboration between Nigeria’s Catholic bishops and the Franciscan University of Steubenville that will fund priestly and lay formation, with an eye to “the creation of a national catechetical institute in Nigeria,” said

Kelly, who also welcomed to the convention Bishop Matthew H. Kukah of Sokoto and Bishop Stephen D. Mamza of Yola, both in Nigeria.

Kelly also pointed to the Knights’ work in Ukraine, where conditions are “especially dire for our brother Knights” amid Russia’s full-scale war, launched in 2022 and continuing attacks that began in 2014.

“They are fighting for their lives and their country’s survival,” said Kelly, highlighting the Knights’ work with the Minnesota-based Protez Foundation to provide prosthetics to war victims.

The Knights have also teamed up with the Knights of Malta to train Ukrainian civilians in first-aid responses, he said, while the Knights of Columbus’ charity convoys “have now delivered more than 8.5 million pounds to relief supplies to shattered communities.”

More than 1.6 million Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, have been helped by the Knights, who have provided more than \$17 million in humanitarian relief, Kelly said.

And “the Russian authorities have taken notice,” banning the Knights, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (and, as human rights observers have noted, Caritas, part of the Catholic Church’s international humanitarian aid network) in occupied areas of Ukraine, said Kelly.

“Their ban is our badge of honor,” he said. “Russian authorities are using faith as a weapon of war. And what they fear most is the church’s message of human freedom. But Ukraine’s bishops and priests will not be silenced.”

Kelly acknowledged the presence of several Ukrainian clergy on hand at the convention: Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of the Latin Catholic Archdiocese of Lviv, Bishop Mykhaylo Bubniy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Exarchate of Odesa and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Father Oleksandr Bohomaz, who was threatened with execution by Russian occupation officials for his pastoral ministry in Melitopol, Ukraine, and for recruiting men to become Knights. He was ultimately arrested and expelled from the occupied area.

In the Philippines, Knights are being trained to spot the signs of human trafficking as part of the organization’s “Guardians of Dignity” in partnership with the anti-slavery NGO Arise Foundation, said Kelly.

In North America, the Knights “are resolved to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples,” said Kelly.

The organization has created a Native Solidarity Initiative and is involved in promoting awareness about Native Catholics and their traditions through their “Enduring Faith”

**See “Men” on Page 11**

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# Men...

Cont'd from Page 10

documentary and support for the canonization of Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, a Lakota holy man and Catholic catechist. The Knights' Supreme Secretary Patrick T. Mason is a member of the Osage Nation, while Graydon Nicholas, a former Knights board member and former lieutenant governor of Canada's New Brunswick province, is a member of the Maliseet (Tobique) First Nation.

During the convention, the Knights planned to build more than 100 beds for First Nations children, with the first group to be delivered to the Huron-Wendat Nation in Wendake, near Quebec City, said Kelly. The Huron-Wendat Nation embraced the Catholic faith during the 17th-century ministry of St. Jean de Brebeuf and other Jesuit martyrs, in large part due to the evangelizing Huron-Wendat family of Joseph Chiwatenhwa and Marie Aonetta, who were praised by St. John Paul II in 1984 for having "lived and witnessed to their faith in a heroic manner."

The Knights also donated more than \$1 million to rebuild communities devastated by natural disaster, such as Lahaina, Hawaii, which was ravaged by wildfire in August 2023, Kelly said.

He stressed that the Knights re-

main committed to upholding the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, countering abortion and assisted suicide while "fighting what (St.) John Paul II described as a culture of death, and what Pope Francis has called a throwaway culture."

Kelly cited the Knights' extensive pregnancy and post-natal support efforts, along with its advocacy against assisted suicide.

"Ultimately, this battle is spiritual," he said.

For that reason, the Knights are focusing on spiritual formation through their Cor (Latin for "heart") program, since "we know that to change the world, we must first be changed ourselves," said Kelly. "As Catholic men, we need to have a living faith."

The National Eucharistic Revival in the U.S., which recently drew more than 50,000 pilgrims to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, intensified the Knights' awareness that "God is actively renewing his church," said Kelly.

"This is our call, to be Knights of the Eucharist, to serve Our Lord in all we do," he said. "We answered that call in new and renewed ways over the last year. And as we look to the year ahead, we do so with great confidence and joy."

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



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# Free Retreat for Women Considering Consecrated Life to be Offered in September

**ST. CATHARINE, KY.—** The Dominican Sisters of Peace are hosting a “Come and See” Discernment retreat Sept. 13-15 on the beautiful grounds at their Motherhouse in St. Catharine, Kentucky. The event gives single Catholic women, ages 18-45, an opportunity to experience the lifestyle of the Dominican Sisters of Peace during this inspirational weekend of prayer, learning, listening, and community.

Sister June Fitzgerald, Vocations director for the Dominican Sisters of Peace, says, “All who attend will be surrounded by lush forests, and rolling hills while staying at the Kentucky Motherhouse, which is full of rich Dominican history. They will experience a no-pressure event and learn what it would be like to become a Dominican Sister of Peace. It could be the first time an individual has taken a step towards finding out if religious life is for her—so it is somewhat of a ‘coffee date!’”

Sessions during the three-day event revolve around a mini deep dive into the process of listening to and understanding the call to religious life, known as “Discernment 101.” Participants will learn about what it means to make the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience; how the Dominican Sisters of Peace live peace in the world; and spend time journaling, reflecting, and praying. Women who attend will

also have the opportunity to talk with sisters about how they experienced their calling to become women religious.

“The women who attend this retreat will meet sisters in formation,” says Sister June. “Some of our youngest sisters will talk about their spiritual journeys and how they received their vocational calls.

“Other presenters will include sisters who have spent many years serving God’s people as Dominican Sisters of Peace. Their stories are inspirational and promise to be very helpful to discerners.”

Discerners will be paired with an “Emmaus Companion,” a sister who acts as a spiritual guide and offers the opportunity for one-on-one conversations and story-sharing as they walk with each other throughout the weekend.

Sister Pat Twohill, prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace adds, “The retreat

will be a memorable spiritual experience and a time for attendees to reflect on God’s call in their hearts. Our prayer is that women who are considering a vocation will take a chance and attend this event. There are no strings attached, just a wonderful opportunity to come and see.”

The Dominican Sisters of Peace currently have eight women in formation for consecrated religious life and more than 300 vowed members.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse in St. Catharine is located at 2645 Bardstown Rd. in Springfield, Ky.

To register, visit the Congregation’s website by clicking here or contact Sister June Fitzgerald, Vocations director at (570) 336-3991 or by e-mail to:

[June.Fitzgerald@opeace.org](mailto:June.Fitzgerald@opeace.org).

Dominican Sisters of Peace, members of the Order of Preachers, are vowed Catholic women who preach the Gospel of Christ through lives of service and peace-making. The Dominican Sisters of Peace are present in 22 states and Nigeria. The

Sisters serve God’s people in many ways, including education, health care, spirituality, pastoral care, prison ministry, the arts, and care of creation. There are more than 300 sisters and more than 300 lay women and men associates in the congregation.



*Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.*

**To start this ministry in your parish, contact:**

Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
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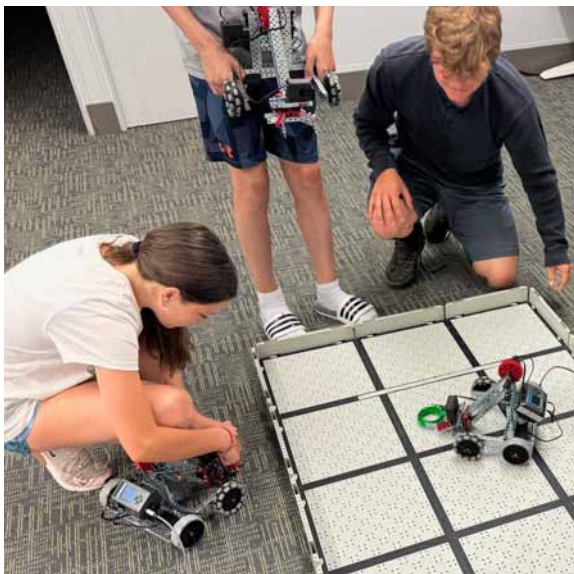
**Sunday Mornings**

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - [www.mydailyliving.com](http://www.mydailyliving.com) and YouTube



# Wheeling Central Hosts Summer Robotics Camp



*Courtesy photos*

This summer, Central Catholic High School in Wheeling welcomed a great group of middle school students for a Summer Robotics Camp. The students (pictured above) built, programmed and competed with robots, while learning the engineering design process to solve problem. What a wonderful way to spend some summer days!



## Papa Francisco: El 'examen final' de la vida será el cuidado de los pobres

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)**—Dios no juzgará a las personas por cuántos títulos universitarios obtuvieron, sino por lo bien que se preocuparon por los pobres, dijo el Papa Francisco a un grupo de sacerdotes y religiosas.

"El Señor no nos preguntará: '¿Qué estudiaste?' '¿Cuántos títulos tienes?' '¿Cuántas obras realizaste?' No, no. El Señor dirá: 'Venid conmigo porque tuve hambre y me disteis de comer; tuve sed y me disteis de beber; fui perseguido y me protegisteis'", dijo el Papa.

"Ese es el tema del examen final sobre el que seremos juzgados", dijo el Santo Padre el 12 de agosto mientras se reunía con miembros de los capítulos generales de las Hermanas Misioneras Dominicas de San Sixto, la Sociedad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, las Hermanas de la Presentación de María y los Padres Vocacionistas.

El Papa Francisco bromeó diciendo que era "eficiente" por parte del Vaticano agrupar a todos los miembros de los capítulos generales en una sola audiencia, ya que es "temporada" de capítulos en Roma.

Las cuatro órdenes religiosas, dijo, fueron fundadas para apoyar y educar a jóvenes de familias pobres que, de otro modo, no recibirían la educación que necesitan y la orientación necesaria para descubrir sus vocaciones.

Los fundadores de las cuatro órdenes "vieron en ellas un signo de Dios para su misión", dijo el Papa. "Del mismo modo, también a ustedes les hará bien, especialmente en estos días de discernimiento comunitario, tener con-

stantemente ante los ojos el rostro de los pobres".

"Jesús nos habla en nuestros hermanos y hermanas más necesitados", dijo el Papa Francisco, "y en cada don que se les da hay un reflejo del amor de Dios".

Y aunque el arte del discernimiento espiritual es una especialidad de los Padres Vocacionistas, el Papa dijo a los religiosos que aprender a tomar decisiones escuchando a Dios, a los demás y al propio corazón es esencial para todos los cristianos.

El discernimiento, dijo, implica "oración, meditación, espera paciente, y luego valentía y sacrificio" para poner en práctica lo que Dios, "sin imponernos nunca su voluntad, sugiere a nuestro corazón".

Tener opciones es un signo de la libertad que Dios da a cada persona, dijo el Papa.

"Nuestro mundo tiene tanta necesidad de redescubrir el gusto y la belleza de tomar una decisión, especialmente en lo que se refiere a las opciones definitivas, que provocan un giro decisivo en la vida, como la vocacional", dijo. Los jóvenes necesitan padres y madres espirituales que les ayuden a comprender que "ser libre no es permanecer eternamente en una encrucijada, haciendo pequeñas 'escapadas' a diestra y siniestra, sin tomar nunca realmente un camino".

"Ser libre significa apostar -- ¡apostar! -- por un camino, con inteligencia y prudencia, ciertamente, pero también con audacia y espíritu de renuncia, para crecer y progresar en la dinámica del dar y ser felices y amar según el plan de Dios", les dijo el Papa.

## Celebrá el 'Cinco con 5'

*Con motivo del quinto aniversario del Obispo Brennan*

**D**urante la celebración del quinto aniversario de la instalación del Obispo Mark Brennan como obispo de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, hacemos un llamado a todos los fieles a celebrar el cinco con 5. Esta es una oportunidad para que conmemoremos el año histórico del Obispo Mark con los regalos que Cristo nos enseñó, que eran los más grandes para dar: la oración y las obras de misericordia. A lo largo del año, los fieles podrán conectarse en línea por medio del siguiente enlace: <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/> y de esta forma regalar sus cinco.

Regalo de la oración: elija reflejarse con las oraciones del Obispo Mark. Sus hábitos diarios de oración incluyen rezar el rosario durante sus viajes por carretera por las mujeres embarazadas y también por el esposo/padre; por las parejas comprometidas/recién casadas; por las intenciones de los fieles de la diócesis; y también por las Vocaciones al sacerdocio, al diaconado y a la vida religiosa.

Donación de buenas obras/servicio: inspírese en su ejemplo, La agencia de Caridades Católicas de West Virginia recopiló los siguiente cinco actos de servicio: ser voluntario en su comunidad; escuchar y reunirse con los demás, servir a los vulnerables, brindar a otros apoyo espiritual y emocional y abogar por la justicia.

Favor de registrar su regalo en línea a través del siguiente enlace: <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/>

Para obtener más información, consulte el boletín electrónico FaithInWV de esta semana, mismo que se encuentra disponible en el siguiente enlace: <https://faithinwv.org>



*Celebrá el 'Cinco con 5'*  
Con motivo  
del quinto aniversario  
del Obispo Brennan

[dwc.org/celebrate-five](https://dwc.org/celebrate-five)

### 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](http://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](http://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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. 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](http://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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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, diacono, 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](http://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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The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

## OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD  
Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

**WVU**Heart & Vascular Institute