

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Pope Prays for Peace in Afghanistan as Taliban Takes Control



CNS Photo/Reuters

People try to get into Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 16. During his Angelus address Aug. 15, Pope Francis expressed his concern for Afghanistan amid the Taliban's control of the country.

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hours before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, Pope Francis expressed his hope for the peace and safety of the country's citizens.

"I join in the unanimous concern

for the situation in Afghanistan. I ask all of you to pray with me to the God of peace, so that the clamor of weapons might cease and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue," the pope said Aug. 15 during his Angelus address.

Only through dialogue, he added,

"can the battered population of that country — men, women, elderly and children — return to their own homes, and live in peace and security, in total mutual respect."

The Taliban, an extremist Islamic movement that ruled Afghanistan until ousted by a U.S.-led coalition

nearly 20 years ago, began taking over large swaths of the country as U.S. forces withdrew.

According to The Associated Press, Taliban fighters entered the presidential palace after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

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U.S. Bishop Chairmen Respond to Evolving Crisis in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—A widespread humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Afghanistan, with the Taliban swiftly seizing control of the capital on August 15. Thousands of people who have worked as interpreters, translators, and in other capacities alongside the United States military over the past 20 years, including Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants, find themselves and their families in danger. The United States is in the process of evacuating diplomats and other U.S. government employees. However, all commercial flights to and from Kabul's airport have been suspended for the time being. The President authorized use of up to \$500 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for meeting the urgent needs of Afghan refugees and SIV applicants.

In response to these events, Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace, issued the following statement:

"We have known that the withdrawal of American forces and evacuation of vulnerable Afghans, including those who supported our military or worked

with NGOs and other organizations, would be a complicated process that had the potential for instability in Afghanistan. The images and videos coming out of the country are difficult to view, as people make life or death decisions in desperation. We are particularly concerned for all those requiring evacuation, as well as Afghan women and girls, who risk losing opportunities gained over the last two decades and now face potential mistreatment.

"For the past few weeks, staff from the USCCB, Catholic Charities, and other partners have been at Fort Lee in Virginia, assisting the U.S. government in the welcoming and resettlement of SIV applicants and their families. We will continue that work as long as necessary until those who are in harm's way are brought to safety.

"The government's goal to relocate as many as 30,000 SIV applicants to the United States remains a monumental task that hangs in the balance. We know that time is of the essence to help our brothers and sisters in need, and we call on our government to act with the utmost urgency, considering all available avenues to preserve life. We also join the Holy Father in praying for peace in Afghanistan—that the clamor of weapons might cease and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue."

Peace ...

Cont'd from Page 1

In February 2020, the Trump administration signed a peace agreement with the Taliban and agreed to withdraw its forces by May 2021 in exchange for the group's promise to cut ties with al-Qaida and cease attacks on American troops.

In April, President Joe Biden announced a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by Sept. 11 — the 20th anniversary of the attacks on U.S. soil coordinated by al-Qaida's Osama bin Laden, who received protection from the Taliban.

However, as Taliban fighters took control of the country, Biden announced July 8 that the U.S. "military mission in Afghanistan will conclude on Aug. 31."

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 in a bid to dismantle al-Qaida and force the Taliban from power. More than 2,300 U.S. soldiers have died in the 20-year conflict, the longest war in U.S. history, and thousands of Afghan civilians were killed and displaced as a result of the conflict, according to the U.N. Mission in Afghanistan.

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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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Vaccination is an Act of Love, Pope Says in Ad Campaign

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When each individual makes a small act of charity, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine, every gesture added together can transform the world, Pope Francis said in a global ad campaign.

“Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people,” he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome.

The video message was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, non-profit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative’s “It’s Up To You” campaign to increase people’s confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by reminding them that the vaccines are safe, effective and save people’s lives. The Vatican’s Dicastery for Integral Human Development also cooperated with the educational initiative.

The three-minute video in Spanish with English, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles features Pope Francis and six cardinals and archbishops from North and South America. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is among them.

The “It’s Up To You” campaign has been inviting “trusted messengers” to deliver “fact-based and life-saving information to populations hesitant about the COVID-19 vaccines, helping them to make informed decisions for themselves and their families,” it said in a joint news release with the Ad Council.

Lisa Sherman, president and CEO of the Ad Council, said, “The role of trusted messengers to educate and inspire their networks is undeniable.”

“We are extremely grateful to (Pope Francis) and the cardinals and archbishops for lending their voices and platforms to help people across the globe feel more confident in the vaccines,” particularly to the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics, she said in the news release.

It said 72% of the adult population and 67% of Hispanic adults have currently been



CNS Screenshot/courtesy Ad Council
 Pope Francis is pictured in a video for an ad campaign promoting COVID-19 vaccines throughout the Americas.

vaccinated against COVID-19 with at least one dose in the United States.

But COVID-19 cases are on the rise worldwide, especially in North, Central and South America. Some nations are still showing very low rates of individuals who are fully vaccinated, such as Honduras with only 5.5% of the adult population and El Salvador with 30%.

While access to vaccines is a challenge, “confidence in the vaccines also presents a hurdle,” the news release said.

In his message, the pope said, “Thanks to God and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19. They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together.”

Getting inoculated “is an act of love” for oneself, family, friends and all people, he said.

“Love is also social and political” as these individual “small gestures of personal charity” add up, “overflowing” into something universal that is “capable of transforming

and improving societies,” he said.

“Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable,” the pope said.

“I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love; no matter how small, love is always great. Contribute with these small gestures for a better future. God bless you, and thank you,” he said.

Also offering messages encouraging vaccination were: Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes of Mexico; Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, retired archbishop of São Paulo; Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, El Salvador; and Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte of Trujillo, Peru.

The campaign encouraged people to go to GetVaccineAnswers.org and DeTiDepende.org for more information and answers to questions about the COVID-19 vaccines.

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Biden Administration Grapples with ‘Convoluting’ Immigration Messaging

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

The summer began with Vice President Kamala Harris’ unwelcoming words to Central Americans in a speech in Guatemala: “Do not come.”

But it’s clear that few heeded her June 7 message seeking to dissuade Central Americans and others from heading, in record numbers, to the U.S.-Mexico border — even during the hottest months of the year.

In an Aug. 12 trip to McAllen and Brownsville in Texas, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas conceded that an “unprecedented” situation is taking place at the border, calling it “one of the toughest challenges we face.” One “made more acute, more difficult,” he said, “because of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

In July, U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered close to 213,000 people attempting entry along the border. Among them were unaccompanied minor migrants, single men and women, and families — all who have added to figures that will, at the very least, rival records set for border apprehensions when the fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

The previous record set in 2000 was 1.7 million. By the end of June 2021, 1.1 million encounters had been recorded by immigration authorities with three months to go.

“There are several reasons for the rise in migrant encounters at the Southern border,” Mayorkas said, adding that the numbers don’t tell the full story because many of the migrants tallied in those figures had previously tried to enter.

But there are other factors at play.

“Worsening conditions, of course, in the countries of origin, including poverty, a rise in violence, and corruption,” he explained.

He also took a shot at the Trump administration, saying it had “slashed” economic aid that had alleviated some of the situations that made people leave the so-called “Northern Triangle” region — Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Trump also had dismantled immigration laws that had provided some legal paths of entry, he said.

Some Republicans, however, have been blaming the current administration’s “open-border” policy for the rise in numbers, saying that announcing a halt on deportations in Biden’s first 100 days in office and stopping construction of the border wall was almost like a siren call, urging people from Cen-



CNS Photo/Go Nakamura, Reuters
A migrant child from Central America sleeps on his mother's shoulder in Roma, Texas, after crossing the Rio Grande July 28.

tral America to come in.

Others, like The Washington Post, also have blamed the Biden administration but for a different reason.

In an Aug. 8 opinion piece, the newspaper’s editorial board said the administration’s “convoluted messaging — telling migrants not to seek entry to the United States while at the same time relaxing or scrapping an array of measures that would actually dissuade them and providing relief to migrants on both sides of the border — has been a failure.”

Others have noted the mixed signals. While it’s true that Biden initially announced a temporary halt on most deportations, except for those who had committed felonies, on July 12 there was a change of tune. Officials said some immigrant families who entered the U.S. illegally and did not qualify for asylum would be subject to “expedited removal” proceedings, or fast-tracking deportations.

It raised the ire of immigration advocates who had considered the administration an ally.

Administration officials also had signaled to immigrant advocates that they would be partially lifting — for minors and families only — a public health policy used to expel migrants by the end of July. But the month came and went and in August, officials announced it would be kept in place, except for minors, to keep COVID-19 and its emerging variants from entering into the U.S.

Mayorkas also announced during the border visit “expulsion

flights” that would send individuals and families who do not qualify to stay in the U.S. into the interior of Mexico, as a way to make it more difficult for them to reenter the U.S. The government of Mexico is cooperating with the measure, he said.

“It appears that Biden and Harris are leaning on a failed model of deterrence rather than facilitating immigration and asylum-seeking,” said the El Paso, Texas-based Hope Border Institute, a nonprofit that works with migrants at the border, in an Aug. 2 newsletter.

On the ground in Central America, smugglers, known as “coyotes,” still are making the pitch that those who are deported are the exception, not the norm. Families on the migration journey regularly announce to the communities they left behind, via Facebook or WhatsApp, that they have reached their final destination safely. Catholic churches in the region also regularly announce Mass intentions on behalf of families giving thanks for their loved ones’ safe arrival to the U.S.

Critics point to August video footage of thousands of border crossers gathered underneath an international bridge near McAllen, Texas, as proof that, no matter what the Biden administration says, Central Americans aren’t listening and not all is under control.

“We have seen surges in migration before,” said Mayorkas. “We’ve seen them in the past, and migrations surges are not new.”

President Donald Trump, too, experienced surges at the border

and infamously tried to deter them. In late 2018, authorities fired tear gas as migrants attempted to cross.

But the pandemic, which thrives in mass settings, has added a political hue to the immigration issue.

Republican politicians in Texas and Florida have blamed immigration for rising COVID-19 cases in their states.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, in an executive order, attempted to halt transportation of migrants by anyone other than local or federal authorities, saying they were spreading the virus.

The order was issued after authorities came across a migrant family, being aided by a local Catholic Charities agency, at a burger shop even though they were supposed to be in quarantine at a La Joya, Texas hotel paid for by the nonprofit. The family had tested positive for COVID-19.

The city of McAllen, which has been ground zero in the immigration debate, said in an early August news release that CPB had released “over 7,000 confirmed COVID-19 positive immigrants” into the community since February 2021, including “over 1,500 new cases in the past seven days.”

In Florida, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis also blamed Biden’s immigration policy for the surge in that state, saying Aug. 4 that “no elected official is doing more to enable the transmission of COVID in America than Joe Biden with his open borders policies.”

Immigrant advocates shot back, saying politicians’ bad management of the pandemic is what has led to rising infections, not the influx of migrants. But in some circles, the two crises are being intertwined.

“It is deeply disturbing to watch Governors Abbott and DeSantis play politics with the plight of vulnerable men, women and children who need safety — and the individuals and organizations who help them with food, shelter, clothing and legal aid,” said Anna Gallagher, executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

“Both the sojourners and the helpers are human beings, with inherent dignity, made in the image of God,” she said. “I pray for the people in Texas, Florida and around the world who have contracted COVID or are in danger of contracting it in the future.”

“I pray for leaders to be honest with their constituents and confront COVID instead of scapegoating those in need of our solidarity and support.”

Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children to be Held at Ravenswood Parish

By Colleen Rowan

RAVENSWOOD—Each year, St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood holds a Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children to pray for babies who have lost their lives to abortion.

The parish's observance this year will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18, at 1 p.m. The guest speaker for the gathering will be Marla Jackson, coordinator of the Gabriel Project of West Virginia's Ravenswood chapter. Jackson will talk about the organization's mission which is the "immediate, practical and compassionate assistance to needy pregnant women and families with children 2 years of age and younger. Through our caring efforts and tangible support we help children in impoverished families to have a healthy, safe start in life."

The Gabriel Project serves in 25 counties across the state.

St. Matthew's announced there will be a table in the back of the church for donations to support the organization's efforts. Items needed include diapers (all sizes), wipes, new or lightly used clothes (newborn to age 2), boys and girls socks, and formula – similac regular or sensitive. Monetary donations will also be accepted via a donation jar. No car seats can be donated.

St. Matthew's will again be placing the small white crosses on the church grounds in memory of babies lost to abortion. Last year, parishioners placed a total of 1,541 cross outside of the church.

"The circumstances of our birth such as being born into poverty, potential health issues, lack of wedlock, are inconsequential to the purpose God has for us. Each one of us is a miracle that he wanted to bring into this world," St. Mat-

thew's parishioner John Butler said in a story about the day in *The Catholic Spirit* last year. He has helped with the project for more than five years. "These memorials represent all of the miracles that never came to be. We must continue to raise awareness and garner support not just to preserve life but more so to celebrate it."

All are invited to attend St. Matthew's gathering, which is part of the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Parishes across the country will be holding similar gatherings as well.

On the website for the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children, event organizers say, "...while a funeral and burial for an aborted baby may be a relatively rare event, the opportunity to visit the burial places and recall how those children got there does not have to be rare—in fact, it shouldn't be. Pro-lifers should be

visiting these gravesites and other memorial sites dedicated to aborted babies as a regular part of their pro-life witness. That's what the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children is all about."

St. Matthew's has a permanent memorial — the "Baby Unborn" stone placed last year by the Knights of Columbus Council #12634. The stone sits on the church grounds and bears the inscription: "Baby Unborn, In Memory of All Innocent Victims of Abortion. 'Give me your hand, don't take my life.' Our Lady of Life, pray for us."

Other memorials in the diocese for children lost to abortion include the Memorial for the Unborn at St. Leo Catholic Cemetery in Inwood, the Memorial to the Unborn at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Romney, and the Memorial of All Unborn Children at St. Michael Parish in Vienna.

Marshall County Parishioners Needed to Serve on Cameron Flood Recovery Committee

CAMERON—Flood recovery has been underway in Cameron since the June 20 storm that brought five inches of rain that caused flash flooding in the Marshall County town.

In response, Cameron has formed a Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) with members from the local com-

munity who work with families through recovery and help coordinate resources for unmet needs.

The committee is in need of more volunteers to serve.

Lora Pearce, Catholic Charities West Virginia Disaster Services specialist, is asking members of parishes

in the area to help.

"I am reaching out to the parishes in Marshall County to see if there is anyone who could represent the Catholic Church and serve on the committee," Pearce said in a

statement published in parish bulletins. The committee meets every two weeks at the Cameron City Building in the Council's Chamber. The most recent meeting was Aug. 19.

Pearce will provide additional details and information to those who wish to serve on the committee. To volunteer to serve on the committee, contact Pearce by calling (304) 559-1025.

Diocese Offering Courses Via Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

WEST VIRGINIA—"Are you a catechist working with young people or adults with the RCIA? Are you a 'person in the pew' who would like to deepen your faith and learn more about scripture and theology?" The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is sponsoring courses through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) program just for folks in this diocese. Courses can be taken for catechetical certification or as opportunities for adult faith formation. Each course is five weeks long and follows a hybrid model. That is, it combines online resources with a once a week live (Zoom) lecture/discussion.

The diocese will cover the cost of the course. There is no book associated with the course, as all of the materials are online. The next session will run Aug. 22 - Sept. 25, with live lectures on Thursdays either 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. Currently being offered is "Images of Jesus," and the facilitator is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu.

Successful completion of this course earns 2.5 CEU's. Those interested in taking this course, may contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org.

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Diocese's Director of Cemeteries to Co-Facilitate Grief Program in Benwood

BENWOOD—Anyone suffering the loss of a loved one is invited to attend the "Grief from a Faith Perspective" program at St. John Parish's Fellowship Hall in Benwood.

"If you, or someone you know has lost a loved one and may benefit from a gathering for those grieving, please join us," parish officials said.

The gathering will be held at 6 p.m. Aug. 30. Facilitators will be Deacon Doug Breiding and Tom and Michele McFadden. Deacon Breiding is the director of Cemeteries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and permanent deacon at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. The program is being sponsored by Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling.

Father Mahone to Lead Pilgrimage to Italy/Sicily

CLARKSBURG—Join Father Casey Mahone on a pilgrimage to Italy/Sicily departing from Dulles Airport on Monday, April 18, 2022, and returning April 30, 2022.

The total cost of the trip is \$4,995 per person for a double or triple occupancy room. Price includes: round trip air fare, hotels, breakfast daily, four dinners, taxes, baggage handling, motorcoach transportation in Italy, tips, and all entrance fees. Sites visiting include: Rome (optional Scavi tour), Assisi, Naples, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast (Ravello and Almalfi), Capri, Palermo, Catania, Taormina, Modica, Ragusa, Erice and Monreale. Brochures are available at the church entrances.

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crease the opportunity for student success by empowering teachers with the funds to purchase resources for the classroom," PCS officials posted on the PCS Facebook page.

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and much more.

"Your support will be recognized with a plaque outside of the classroom that you adopt," PCS officials said.

For more information, contact Kelli Lewis, Advancement director at klewis@pchs1.com or (304) 428-7528.



First Day of School Fun in Huntington

The pre-kindergarten 3 students at Our Lady of Fatima School in Huntington enjoy dancing in music class with Music Teacher Nick Vassar on the first day of school Aug. 16. Students returned to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Catholic schools this week to begin a new school year. Courtesy Photo



On Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, Weston Parish Holds Special Blessing

St. Patrick Parish in Weston celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 15 with Father Doug Ondeck, pastor of the parish, blessing herbs, plants, and flowers which were laid upon the side altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary inside the church. Father Ondeck and servers including Paul Derico, a new seminarian for the diocese (beside Father Ondeck), are pictured above. Faithful from around the diocese were invited to attend. A Marian procession was planned, but was cancelled because of rain. Courtesy Photo

‘Catholic Beliefs’ Series to be Offered at St. Anthony’s in Follansbee

FOLLANSBEE— “Want to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches? What we believe?” St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee will host a five-week series entitled “Catholic Beliefs” which will explore these topics.

This series is part of the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) program and will be led by Shirley Carter, director of Catholic Campus Ministry, Hilltop Campus Ministry West Liberty University and

Bethany College.

The introductory session will be held Aug. 25 at St. Anthony Church at 6 in the parish hall. All fees and materials will be covered by the DWC Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. T

To register, call Jeanne McKeets at (304) 233-0880 no later than Aug. 25. Space is limited. All are welcome! Members of St. Anthony Parish may register by contacting Fred or Chris Welshans (sacdre@comcast.net).

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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.



SAVE THE DATE



A Date for the
13th Annual St. George Camporee
(Formerly Known as the Catholic Camporee)
October 1st to 3rd, 2021

Who: Scouts BSA
Location: Camp Mountaineer (Morgantown WV)
Hosted by: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Committee on Scouting
Contact: Chris Gorski at catholiccamporee@aol.com for further information



All Are Welcome!



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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Relief Workers: Haiti Earthquake Complicated by Economy, Gangs, Weather

By Tom Tracy, Catholic News Service

Relief workers in Haiti said the Aug. 14 earthquake might not be as catastrophic as the 2010 quake that was closer to the capital, but recovery will be complicated because the quake came on the heels of July's presidential assassination, of an economic and ongoing political crisis, the coronavirus pandemic and an active storm season now underway.

Fonie Pierre, a public health professional who heads operations in the region for the U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services, lives in Les Cayes, Haiti's third-largest city and one of the hardest hit by the earthquake magnitude 7.2 earthquake. She told Catholic News Service she and her daughter fled their home during the earthquake and have joined neighbors in living outdoors for the foreseeable future.

CRS staffers are reporting widespread damage to buildings and homes as area hospitals have been overwhelmed by the disaster, pushing them to capacity and forcing them to turn away people in need. The major road connecting Les Cayes to Jérémie is impassable due to landslides and cracks on the road.

"My house is OK, but there are many cracks, and we cannot stay inside — we stayed the night outside with the neighbors and are living in solidarity as many households," Pierre told CNS by phone Aug. 15.

The local hospital in Les Cayes, she said, does not have capacity to receive so many injured people, while other medical centers in the south are trying to offer help "but it is difficult for them to find materials, doctors, nurses and human resources to manage this situation," Pierre said.

Fear of aftershocks and further earthquakes mean that she and her neighbors are planning to live outdoors for as much as a month or so, even as tropical storms threaten the region. Tropical depression Grace was predicted to reach Haiti late Aug. 16, bringing the potential for torrential rain, flooding and landslides.

While the full extent of the Aug. 14 earthquake is far from fully known, Pierre said history will probably record the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince

as far more tragic, with many more people living closely together in densely built urban neighborhoods in the nation's capital. More than 300,000 people were killed and another 1.3 million left without homes following the magnitude 7 earthquake in 2010.

The Haitian civil protection service reported late Aug. 15 that nearly 1,300 people had been killed, more than 5,700 were injured and more than 30,250 families needed shelter.

CRS indicated it was sending teams to provide clean water, sanitation, shelter and emergency supplies to an area that was still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, as well as drought and two subsequent tropical storms.

Pierre told CNS she understands at least one of her local CRS staff had lost a family member during the earthquake, and others sustained some injuries. Recovery operations were complicated further not only by roads blocked by earthquake damage but by a dangerous, gang-controlled route that connects the south of Haiti to Port-au-Prince.

"And we still have COVID and all the political and social situations," Pierre said.

Fiammetta Cappellini, Haiti-based country representative for the Milan-based AVSI, told CNS by phone Aug. 14 that she traveled from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes earlier that day. She estimated that some 30% of the buildings were severely impacted by the earthquake.

"All the people are on the street, and night is approaching, and people will be passing the night on the road in the streets; we have a lot of seismic (aftershocks), and so it is dangerous to enter buildings at this time," Cappellini said.

"The Catholic community here has experienced a lot of churches and Catholic schools in the area that went down — that worries us a lot, because education is maybe the only way out for this country, and now again we face a closed-school situation impossible to manage," Cappellini said. "And so this is a very hard (situation) long term."

AVSI operates some five major projects with 50 to 60 staff in southern Haiti, she said. She told CNS that during staff meetings "we heard a lot



CNS Photo/Ricardo Arduengo, Reuters

A woman is assisted by a member of the medical personnel outside a hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti, Aug. 16 following a magnitude 7.2 earthquake two days earlier.

of stories which were difficult to hear: They saw neighbors hit by the earthquake and they told us about children dying in their houses in the arms of their mothers trying to rescue them. It is very hard to hear these kinds of stories."

AVSI, she said, will focus on providing materials for temporary housing and prioritize pregnant women with children and women with large families.

"Humanitarian activities could be badly impacted by wars among gangs in this area," she said, adding that she and at least one other relief agency were able to pass through the region Aug. 14. "Absolutely, gang violence will

absolutely negatively impact our ability to respond to this catastrophe."

Cappellini agrees with the assessment that the 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince will be remembered as far more deadly and destructive, simply due to the miles and miles of housing clusters that collapsed onto each other at that time.

"The situation (today) is very difficult, but it seems absolutely not like the same scale of destruction we knew in 2010 — absolutely not," she told CNS.

"This is a rural area around the cities of Les Cayes and Jérémie, and a lot of people were affected, but the rest of the re-

gion is rural areas with small houses not touching one to another," Cappellini said.

She worries that a lack of authority and governance in the country following the presidential assassination in July will negatively impact the ability of the government to respond to the earthquake.

"Also there is a lack of everything, including food, in-kind items and so on, and we are expecting local and government authorities not to be so strong in their capacity to answer this emergency. It is difficult to predict the future, but probably we expect a very difficult period over the next months in responding to this new emergency."

Here's Where to Donate to Help Agencies Respond to the Haiti Earthquake

By Catholic News Service

Numerous organizations, including Catholic agencies, are accepting donations to assist with their emergency response to the Haiti earthquake.

— Catholic Relief Services: online: crs.org; by phone: 877-435-7277 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern; by mail: P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Maryland, 21297-0303.

— Catholic Medical Mission Board: cmmmb.org/campaign/hearts-broken-for-haiti-august-2021.
— CAFOD, the Catholic aid agency for England and Wales: cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Haiti-earthquake.

— Caritas Internationalis: www.caritas.org/donate-now/haiti-earthquake-2021.

— AVSI, the Italian humanitarian relief and development organization: <https://donorbox.org/haiti-earthquake-emergency>.

— Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami: www.ccadm.org.

— Cross Catholic Outreach: www.crosscatholic.org.

— Food for the Poor: www.foodforthe poor.org.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA
MISSION MOMENT

Volunteers Perform Home Repairs in Webster Springs

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications Specialist

For the 18th year, the Parish of St. James the Greater in Charles Town continued their tradition of spending a week in Webster Springs to complete housing repairs and assist the community.

Local residents who qualify as low-income are often unable to make necessary repairs to their homes, and as a result, suffer from chronic health conditions or accessibility issues.

This year's group of adult and teen volunteers spent a week sleeping in a community-style dormitory and working on several projects, including a new roof for a local resident's mobile home.

The resident referred to the group as "miracle workers."

"We are blessed to have these volunteers spend their time with us and make a difference in the lives of those we serve," said Tina Cogar, Catholic Charities West Virginia Outreach coordinator.

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.



A group of volunteers from the Parish of St. James the Greater in Charles Town prepares to install a new roof on a mobile home.

Courtesy Photo

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Papa: La vacunación es un acto de amor

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Cuando cada individuo hace un pequeño acto de caridad — como recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19 — cada gesto sumado puede transformar el mundo, expresó el papa Francisco en una campaña publicitaria global.

"Obtener vacunas autorizadas por las autoridades respectivas es un acto de amor. Y contribuir a que la mayoría de las personas se vacunen es un acto de amor: amor a uno mismo, amor a la familia y amigos, amor a todas las personas", señaló en un anuncio de servicio público publicado el 18 de agosto en Roma.

El mensaje de video fue parte de un esfuerzo global del Ad Council, una organización no partidista y sin fines de lucro con sede en Estados Unidos, y la campaña "It's Up to You" (Depende de ti) de COVID Collaborative, para continuar aumentando la confianza en las vacunas contra el COVID-19, recordando a la gente que las vacunas son seguras, efectivas, y salvan vidas. El Dicasterio para el Desarrollo Humano Integral del Vaticano también cooperó con esta iniciativa educativa.

El video en español de tres minutos, con subtítulos en inglés, español, y portugués, presenta al papa Francisco y a seis cardenales y arzobispos de América del Norte y

del Sur. El arzobispo José H. Gómez de Los Ángeles, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, se encuentra entre ellos.

La campaña "It's Up to You" ha estado invitando a "mensajeros de confianza" a dar "información basada en hechos, que pueda salvar vidas en poblaciones que tienen dudas sobre las vacunas contra el COVID-19, ayudándoles a tomar decisiones informadas para ellos y sus familias", afirmaba un comunicado de prensa en conjunto con el Ad Council.

Lisa Sherman, presidenta y directora ejecutiva del Ad Council, acotó: "El papel de los mensajeros de confianza para educar e inspirar a sus redes es innegable".

"Estamos extremadamente agradecidos con (el papa Francisco) y los cardenales y arzobispos por prestar sus voces y plataformas para ayudar a las personas de todo el mundo a sentirse más confiadas en las vacunas", en particular a los 1,300 millones de católicos del mundo, Sherman indicó en el comunicado de prensa.

Ella expuso que el 72 por ciento de la población adulta y el 67 por ciento de los adultos hispanos han sido vacunados actualmente contra COVID-19 con al menos una dosis en los Estados Unidos.

Sin embargo, los casos de COVID-19 están aumentando en todo el mundo, especialmente en

América del Norte, Central y del Sur. Algunas naciones todavía muestran tasas muy bajas de personas que están completamente vacunadas, como Honduras con solo el 5.5 por ciento de la población adulta y El Salvador con el 30 por ciento.

Si bien el acceso a las vacunas es un desafío, "la confianza en las vacunas también presenta un obstáculo", señaló el comunicado de prensa.

En su mensaje, el Santo Padre expresó: "Gracias a Dios y al trabajo de muchos, ahora tenemos vacunas para protegernos del COVID-19. Nos dan la esperanza de acabar con la pandemia, pero solo si están disponibles para todos y si trabajamos juntos".

Inocularse "es un acto de amor" para uno mismo, la familia, los amigos, y todas las personas, dijo.

"El amor también es social y político", ya que estos "pequeños gestos individuales de caridad personal" se suman, "desbordando" en algo universal que es "capaz de transformar y mejorar las sociedades", explicó.

"La vacunación es una forma simple pero profunda de promover el bien común y de cuidarnos unos a otros, especialmente a los más vulnerables", dijo el papa.

"Le pido a Dios que cada uno pueda aportar su propio granito de arena, su propio pequeño gesto de amor; por pequeño que sea, el amor

siempre es grande. Contribuya con estos pequeños gestos para un futuro mejor. Dios los bendiga y gracias," agregó.

También ofrecieron mensajes alentadores a la vacunación: el cardenal Carlos Aguiar Retes de México; el Cardenal Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga de Tegucigalpa, Honduras; el cardenal Cláudio Hummes, arzobispo retirado de São Paulo; el cardenal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, obispo auxiliar de San Salvador, El Salvador; y el arzobispo Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte de Trujillo, Perú.

La campaña alentó a las personas a visitar GetVaccineAnswers.org y DeTiDepende.org para obtener más información y respuestas a preguntas sobre las vacunas COVID-19.

**Anunciar
con
El espíritu
católico**

Póngase en contacto con Colleen Rowan en crowan@dwc.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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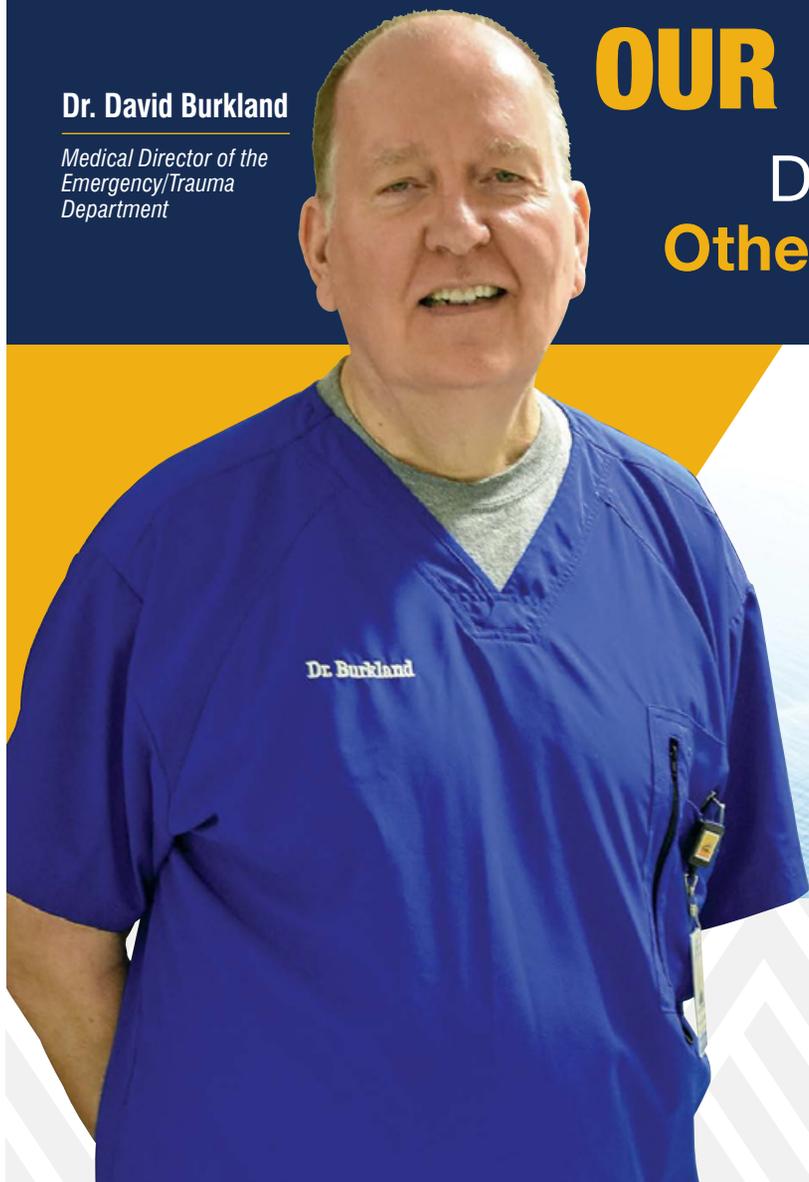
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