

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Martinsburg's St. Joseph School Opens New Middle School

By Meg Partington
MARTINSBURG

— More than two centuries later, the building at 336 S. Queen St. is again being utilized for educating young minds in the spirit of the Gospel.

When school and city leaders cut the blue and gold ribbons in front of the structure's white columns Aug. 17, they officially marked the opening of St. Joseph School's middle school. Two of the floors of the 7,600-square-foot, four-story building are being utilized for instruction, office space and restrooms. Nearly 100 students in grades six through eight will spend a bulk of their academic time in the building, as will six teachers and an administrative assistant.

"The most exciting aspect of the project is that it restores what was once the St. Joseph School to its original design and purpose," Principal Maria Byrd said before the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "It will house our middle school students in a way that allows them to focus on their academics and age group, while still being a part of the whole school."

The youths will go to the
See "School" on Page 3



Meg Partington Photo

Participating in the Aug. 17 ribbon cutting at St. Joseph Middle School in Martinsburg are, from left, Brandon Angel, district representative for U.S. Rep. Alex Mooney, R-W.Va.; Father Thomas Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg; St. Joseph School Principal Maria Byrd; Elizabeth Webster, president and CEO of the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce; Assistant Principal Fran Henry; and Martinsburg Mayor Kevin Knowles.

Pope Asks Renewed Prayers for Ukraine on Eve of its Independence Day

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Acknowledging Ukraine's celebration of Independence Day Aug. 24, Pope Francis pleaded with thousands of visitors at his weekly general audience to keep praying for peace in the country.

Noting that Aug. 24 also is the

feast of St. Bartholomew, the apostle, the pope entrusted to him "dear Ukraine, so harshly tried by the war."

But then departing from his prepared text and looking directly at the crowd in the Vatican audience hall, he said: "Brothers and sisters, let's pray for our Ukrainian

brothers and sisters who are suffering so much. The war is cruel. So many children disappeared, so many people dead."

According to the Ukrainian government's "Children of War" website, 503 children had been killed as of Aug. 23 and more than 19,500 children have been forcibly taken

to Russia.

"Please," the pope said, "pray. Do not forget tormented Ukraine."

Russia launched its large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The country had declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

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Obituary—Sister Theresa Metz, CSJ

Sister Theresa Metz, CSJ passed into eternal life on August 21st surrounded by sister companions at Mt. St. Joseph.

Sister Theresa Metz was the oldest of 13 children in Weston, W.Va. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Madlyn Loretta Metz, an infant brother, John Bernard and two grown brothers, Patrick and Paul Metz. She is survived by ten siblings, and their families.

Sister Theresa entered the Congregation of St. Joseph on September 8, 1956, from St. Patrick's Parish in Weston, and professed her vows on July 31, 1959. She received a BS in Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa.; an MA in Religious Education from Fordham University, New York, N.Y.; and Spiritual Direction Certification from Pecos Benedictine Monastery, Pecos, N.M.

Sister Theresa taught in several diocesan schools including: Cathedral Grade and Blessed Trinity Schools in Wheeling, Saint Thomas in Thomas, and Saint Mary in Clarksburg. She ministered as the Coordinator for Religious Education at Immaculate Conception and St. James Parishes in Clarksburg. She also ministered as Pasto-

ral Associate and Director of Ministries at Cathedral Parish in Wheeling and Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton. She also served as Patient Family Representative at Saint Francis Hospital, Charleston. She served as a spiritual companion and led parish days of reflection and retreats. Throughout her years of ministry and beyond Theresa enjoyed rich friendships and working relationships with many priests from around the diocese and for whom she always expressed deep gratitude.

Theresa was frequently described as "wildly creative, imaginative, sweet and very funny". She was a gifted visual artist, who painted and created beauty wherever she lived or served. As a life-long learner Theresa shared her love of books and beauty with many others. Friends were often gifted with books which she believed would enrich their lives.

Always alert to the gifts of others, Theresa believed that creativity is expressed in many ways. Through her leadership of the local Creativity Committee, she har-



vested the "arts" of the sisters and shared them with the larger community for appreciation and recognition.

These words from Sister Theresa give expression to her heart and passion.

"The feast of the Blessed Trinity, the loving unity of three Persons in one God, reminds me of the charism of my community, the Congregation of St. Joseph, which is love of God, all persons, and all creation. My lived experience of religious life and my mission have been one of prayer and trying to share this mutual love with God and all who have accompanied me throughout my journey: my sisters, family, friends, co-workers, as well as diocesan, ecumenical, and civic groups of which I've been a part. Unconditional mutual love sounds good, but it does not come naturally. During my life I have experienced honest struggle to love as Jesus does. I also had to pray my way through the hard times in the same way as Christians throughout history had to do. John Pierre Medaille, our founder, said well how we are able to succeed: 'I

am in love with love and let love love through me.' Freedom!"

"During my life, I have enjoyed many wondrous experiences of doing part of God's work: witnessing the wonder of children as they learned to read, empowering adult Catholics to become certified to teach religion, trying to create communities of love wherever I was. It has been a joy to find love in my life as I also companioned other persons as they discovered God's love in their lives. Gratitude fills me!"

Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, August 25, 2023 in the Mount St. Joseph Chapel in Wheeling. Interment will follow in the Sisters of St. Joseph section at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling.

The funeral liturgy is open to the public and will also be livestreamed via a link on the Altmeyer Funeral Home website: www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com

Memorial contributions may be made to the Congregation of St. Joseph, at 137 Mount St. Joseph Road, Wheeling WV, 26003.

Funeral arrangements by Altmeyer Funeral Home, 14th & Eoff St., Wheeling.

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 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, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of

Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>.

West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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School...

Cont'd from Page 1
main school building across Stephen Street for lunch, as well as physical education, art, music, STEM classes and Spanish.

"I'm excited to see what the Catholic community can do for education," Martinsburg Mayor Kevin Knowles said, noting that he and his two brothers, who were visiting from out of town and attended the ceremony, attended Catholic school.

Standing on the steps before the main entrance to the building, Brandon Angel, district representative for U.S. Rep. Alex Mooney, R-W.Va., noted how St. Joseph School has stood the test of time. Indeed, it has.

The Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Md., established St. Joseph School on Sept. 4, 1883, in a two-story building on East Stephen Street. The structure was moved to the west side of South Queen Street in the late 1880s and in 1905, a high school was added. The wooden building was replaced in 1913 with the one that now houses the middle school and served as the office for St. Joseph Catholic Church until the renovation began in late spring of 2022. The high school closed in 1972, but that space now serves nearly 45 St. Joseph School pupils ages 2 months to 2 years old. In 2000, St. Joseph School's main building became the facility at 110 E. Stephen St. that now houses more than 290 students ages 3 through fifth grade.

Pat Michel, the operations and financial officer

for St. Joseph Parish who played a leading role in the approximately \$360,000 renovation project, said the bulk of the building's interior had to be demolished. All wiring, plumbing, the alarm system, technology backbone and bathrooms had to be replaced, and the heating and air-conditioning systems were updated. He said all of the classrooms have new ceilings, floors and paint, plus smart boards, storage units and shelving.

"I would like to point out that the Diocese (of Wheeling-Charleston) was kind enough to give us a \$50,000 grant to assist us in this project," Michel said.

"The value of this school expansion is multifold," Byrd said. "It allows our preschool program to become more robust by expanding our infant population and bringing more preschool classrooms into the main building ... (and) it frees much-needed space for reading and math intervention, plus teacher meetings and student testing."

Before blessing the middle school and letting the crowd of staff, local dignitaries, students and their families inside for a tour, Father Thomas Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, said it is a privilege to be part of the school's operations, and "It's an even greater privilege to be here to open it back up to students."

While the nuns and priests who founded and worked with the school are no longer alive, their legacy lives on, he said.

Byrd said the expansion also provides an opportunity to share the school's

mission with more young people.

"The addition of the Queen Street building provides a third building to our existing campus and it allows us to educate more children in the spirit of the Gospel, instilling Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need."

Meg Partington Photo
One of the classrooms on the first floor of the new St. Joseph Middle School will be used to teach students in grades six to eight the wonders of science.



Meg Partington Photo
Among the classrooms on the second floor of the new St. Joseph Middle School is this one, where religion and English language arts will be taught.

Pope...

Cont'd from Page 1

In his weekly video message, Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, said that while Ukrainians "give thanks to the Lord God for the precious gift of freedom," in the

context of war "we are gaining a deeper understanding of the meaning of freedom, of what it entails to be free individuals, and recognizing that in order to guarantee the right of existence for the Ukrainian people, it is essential to have our own state."

"The main pillars for building this state include respect for human dignity and the pres-

ervation of freedom," the archbishop said.

"Freedom is a spiritual category. Being free is not limited only to escaping oppression or foreign domination," he said. "True freedom involves being free for something. We recognize that the highest form of freedom is manifested in love, in the act of sacrificing oneself for God and neighbor."

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Mass and Procession Honor St. Rose

By Meg Partington

CHARLES TOWN —

Perched atop a hefty pedestal, a statue of St. Rose was paraded Aug. 19 on the grounds of St. James the Greater Church, a short jaunt in contrast to the long journey that brought her there.

Originating in Peru, the fiberglass statue found a home at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Manhattan. Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, the church closed. A year ago, Manuel Rodriguez loaded the statue into his minivan and towed its nearly 1-ton carrying platform in a trailer to his Falling Waters home.

Rodriguez is a member of the Brotherhood/Association of the Ladies and Gentlemen of St. Rosa de Lima of New York City and wanted to honor — in the Mountain State — St. Rose, the first person born in the Western Hemisphere to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. Also present from the organization were two of his brothers, Ernesto and Rafael Rodriguez of Manhattan, and friend Manuel Orihuela of Orlando, Fla., who flew to West Virginia for the inaugural celebration.

A Mass celebrated mostly in Spanish and featuring live music inside St. James Church was followed by the procession in the parking lot, less than two weeks before the saint's Aug. 30 feast day. The statue, featuring the saint's image in a black robe with gold embellishments and



Meg Partington Photo

Father Manny Gelido, who leads the Hispanic ministry at St. James the Greater Parish (in pink robe), says a prayer in honor of St. Rose on Aug. 19 outside the Charles Town church. Standing in front of the pedestal bearing her image are, from left, Manuel Rodriguez of Falling Waters; Manuel Orihuela of Orlando, Fla.; and Ernesto and Rafael Rodriguez of Manhattan. The Rodriguezes, who are brothers, and Orihuela are members of the Brotherhood/Association of the Ladies and Gentlemen of St. Rosa de Lima of New York City.

wearing a crown of red roses, was processed by about 15 men and women to the church's rosary garden after being blessed by Father Manny Gelido, who leads the Hispanic ministry at St. James. After he sprinkled

holy water on the approximately 30 attendees, the platform was lifted again and carried to the vehicles that transported it and the statue of the patron saint of all the Americas and the Philippines, the police in

Peru, and of embroiderers, gardeners and florists.

St. Rose knew from an early age that she wanted to be a nun, a plan that did not have her parents' blessing. She often prayed and fasted in secret and was known for

performing painful penances such as burning her hands and also for wearing a heavy crown with spikes that pierced her flesh, just as the crown of thorns worn by Jesus before His crucifixion.



Calling all Cursillistas!

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

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

What should you expect? At both meetings, we will have our Regional Director for Cursillo, Mr. Dan Kubi-

siak, as the rector/moderator, along with the Lay Director for Cursillo in South Carolina, Mr. Tommie Smith, as our main witness speaker.

At both locations, we will gather for about an hour and a half, for fellowship, spiritual enrichment, socializing, refreshments, and a meal. We hope these gatherings will help revive Cursillo in our wonderful state. If you would like to join us, and we'd love if you would, please let us know either by calling the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, at 304-233-0880, ext. 374, or by emailing Daniel Maul, at dmaul@dwc.org. Thank you, God bless you, and De Colores!

Family Rosary

"The Rosary touches the Heart of the Mother of God... and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary."

-Pope Saint Pius X

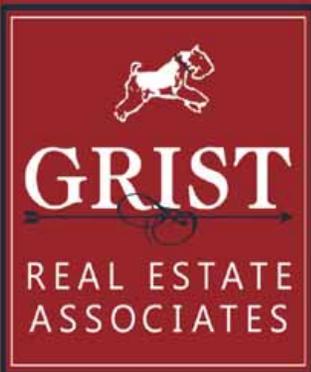
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A Back to School Blessing

Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, Assoc. V.E., V.F., blesses the children at Sacred Heart Church in Princeton as they prepared for the new school year.
Courtesy Photo



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- Paul Grist

Creating a Eucharistic Culture



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Tom Octave, director of Lay Ministry for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, speaks at St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling for a Eucharistic Revival event Aug. 21. Octave spoke about the importance of creating a Eucharistic culture and sharing the Good News of the Eucharist with the world. The gathering was also held at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown Aug. 23 and Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Weirton Aug. 24.



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All are welcome.*



Moundsville Knights of Columbus to Hold 12th Annual Irish Road Bowling Festival

MOUNDVILLE — The 12th Annual, Knights of Columbus, Moundsville Council 1907 - Irish Road Bowling Festival will be held Sept. 30 at St Jude Park in Glen Dale. The event of the day starts with team sign up at 10 a.m. and bowling will begin at 10:30 a.m. The council is limiting the total number of bowlers at 400. The cost is \$35 dollars per person which includes food, drinks, music, and course transportation.

The profits made from the Knights of Columbus, Moundsville Council 1907, fund raisers go right back into the communities to assist families and children. The knights have collaborated with the Marshall County Fun Fair in a great cooperation to serve and to benefit children and families all over Marshall County.

"We started by helping over 1,800 children in Marshall County with many needs, including backpacks for kids along with school supplies to start the school year, a food program to provide food for approximately 150 children each week, and assisting nearly 100 families in need during these dire times," council members

said. "Working together we are planning a Thanksgiving Basket give away for families, Coats for Kids, Caring Tree for the area children."

The Moundsville Council 1907 will be sponsoring students each month at John Marshall High School for the Students of the month, along with assisting with Special Olympics, The Russell Nesbitt Center, The Gabriel Project, and the Body and Soul soup kitchen, just to name a few things.

"For us to get out there to help and serve those in need, we need support from our communities in the Ohio Valley, churches, organizations and businesses to support our fund-raising events," the council said. "To sign up early for the day of fun and festivities visit our Facebook page at Knights of Columbus Council No. 1907 to print off the pre-registration form or just show up early on Saturday morning to register your team."

For more information, contact Lou Richmond, grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Moundsville Council 1907 by e-mail to LouRichmondWV@aol.com or by calling (304) 830-3388.



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Catholic Adventures in India



Courtesy Photos

Left: Father Penumaka Manikylarao, HGN, pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood and Sacred Heart Mission in Point Pleasant, celebrates Mass at the Saint Mother Teresa House for the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India. Right: children in Calcutta are pictured.

By Sheldon Lu

From 22 May – 7 June of 2023, I had an opportunity to travel to India for what turned out to be an inspiring adventure. I was accompanied by two Indian priests, Father Penumaka (Pen) Manikylarao, HGN, pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood and Sacred Heart Mission in Point Pleasant, and Father Johnnes, based out of Switzerland. A wonderful Indian Nun, Sister Jyostna, who works with mentally challenged children and adults at a Catholic facility in India, completed our group of travelers.

The official purpose for the trip was the dedication of a water treatment plant built by a small Catholic Community in Nyayampalli, SE India. My personal reason for going was to develop an understanding for how the Catholic Church operates in the most populous country in the world. I was especially interested in life outside of the major cities.

We visited the Taj Mahal in New Delhi and the wonderful Masihgarh parish where daily Mass and rosary devotions are held. A beautiful Catholic wedding was also being prepared. Note: this church was behind locked gates and had been subject to harassment and protest by anti-Christian groups in the capital.

From Delhi we traveled to Calcutta (Kolkata) for 2 days to visit the Saint Mother Teresa House for the Missionaries of Charity (MOC); St. Teresa's tomb is here as the sisters continue their mission to the poor and suffering. Father Pen, the principal guide and organizer of this trip, was given the honor of serving Mass at the Mother House.

After a short flight from Calcutta to Vizag (In the state of Andhra Pradesh in SE India) we met

up with the other two principal members of our intrepid group, Father Johnnes (Fr Pen's younger brother based out of Switzerland) and Sister Jyostna (longtime friend of the "brother priests").

After a long day of travel, we arrived at the Nyayampalli, hometown of the sibling priests, to dedicate the opening of a new water treatment plant built by the local Catholic parish. This facility provides clean drinking water to the entire community, including Hindu, Muslim, and other religions. A great celebration ensued for the dedication which included a late-night parade, flower petals being thrown, music, fireworks, singing, speeches, a Catholic Mass, drum/percussion ensemble, dancing, crowns and robes being bestowed on all the dignitaries.

The enthusiasm and devout nature of this small parish, approximate—1,000-member—was astonishing for me to witness. The parish is in a temporary facility. They are using a partially constructed church, sitting on the floor, with no pews, and no kneelers, attending multiple Masses during the week in average temperatures of over 105° F. Poverty, no air conditioning, no fans, no industry except farming in this community were visible. I witnessed challenging sanitary conditions in a sometimes-hostile cultural environment as Christians are only about 2% of the Indian population. This small parish has produced 10 ordained priests and 10 nuns in the last 13 years. Their deep love of God and dedication to the Catholic church was truly inspiring.

The devout nature of the Indian Catholics was just as high in all the churches I visited, including cathedrals, basilicas, shrines and

tombs. All under similarly austere physical and cultural conditions, such as no pews, no a/c, no fans, no kneelers, no musical pianos/organs, 100° temps 8 months of the year, no missals, no hymnals. The Catholic Church under attack truly seems to bring about a stronger faith than I have seen with churches under more religiously tolerant countries like W. Europe, the U.S., most of Asia (except for China).

The next stop on our adventure was at St. Ann's Seva Sadhan. This facility for both children and elderly persons with special needs, is the home base of operation for our Sister Jyotsna. Sister Jyotsna has a master's degree in psychology and provides training at a college collocated at St Ann's. The college educates students in the care and development of the mentally handicapped.

We made a final trip to Father Pen's hometown in Andre Pradesh which provided me with an opportunity to tour local farms via motorcycle to see how palm oil, cocoa beans, cashew nuts and coconuts are grown. A wonderful evening was spent in fellowship at a local convent that facilitates employment for women at a local electronics factory. Our late evening was spent in deep conversations with the local parish priest who was a delightful host.

To end our trip we took a night flight back to New Deli where we saw the amazing Muslim Qutb historic site built from 1191 to 1315. This site has an impressive ornate, stone "call to prayer" tower much higher than the U.S. Washington monument. These last two days in India we met up with an Indian priest who was formerly assigned to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Father Arul. He was a great tour guide and traveling companion.

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'We Are Willing to Die for the Name of Jesus,' Persecuted Christians Say

(OSV News) — On the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief, observed on the United Nations' calendar Aug. 22, Pakistan and India are among places of particular concern for Christian rights advocates.

"Freedom of religion and belief is an inalienable human right. Yet across the world, people and communities, particularly minorities, face bigotry, discrimination and threats — to their places of worship, their livelihoods and even their lives," Maria Lozano, press director of the Catholic pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need, told OSV News.

"Religion should never be invoked as a justification for targeting persons belonging to minorities," the European Council said in an Aug. 21 statement.

"All around the world individuals at risk should be protected, and the perpetrators of acts of violence must be brought to justice," the European Union body said.

That is not the case, however, in Pakistan and dozens of other countries. According to Aid to the Church in Need, "There were tears of sadness and fear in Pakistan" Aug. 20 as a crowd of 700 attended Mass outside their burned-out church in Jaranwala, in the Faisalabad district, about 330 kilometers (205 miles) south of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, following one of the country's worst outbreaks of persecution in a generation.

Amid tight security, Bishop Joseph Indrias Rehmat of Faisalabad presided at the Mass held in the streets of Jaranwala, where Aug. 16 thousands of people narrowly fled a mob of thousands who went on the rampage.

According to UCA News, over 80 Christian homes and 19 churches in Jaranwala were reportedly vandalized by Muslim mobs. ACN estimates that up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted.

The Christian area came under attack after two Christians, Raja Umar and Rocky Masih, were accused of committing blasphemy by defaming the Quran.

After the Aug. 20 service outside St. Paul's Catholic Church, a Christian commu-

nity leader in Jaranwala, who is not being named for security reasons, told ACN: "Most of the people were crying in the Mass."

"It was a very painful time but a chance to share with one another their sense of loss and sadness," the person said.

Although more than 30 police — including elite forces — were in attendance, there was fear among the service's attendees.

"When we went in, local Muslims stopped and stared wide-eyed," the ACN contact said. "They had very angry faces and began cursing us and using abusive language."

"Jesus died for us and we are willing to die for the name of Jesus," a Pakistani Christian named Sunil told ACN.

Police reportedly did not react on time to a mob destroying Christian property Aug. 16.

Christian leaders, however, also reported widespread concern among many Muslims who they said were "ashamed" about what had happened and wanted to help in any way they could, ACN reported.

The ACN contact added that many of the Christians returning to Jaranwala were horrified by the extent of the damage done to their homes, and were sleeping on the floor without electric light and unable to cook food.

The church, meanwhile, provided food packages, soap and other health care items, cups, plates and other basic household essentials Aug. 21.

"Many families are missing meals, they don't have stoves so they can't even make tea. They are feeling very emotional and afraid," the ACN contact said.

A Catholic bishops' body has appealed to the U.N. to intervene and stop the targeted attacks against Christians in India and neighboring Pakistan, UCA News reported.

"Christians are increasingly becoming the target of riots and mob attacks in India and Pakistan," said an Aug. 19 statement from the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council, based in the southern Indian state of Kerala.

The call for U.N. intervention comes as Manipur state in northeast India has been gripped by sectarian violence since May 3.

In Manipur, violence has

reportedly claimed close to 200 lives and displaced over 50,000 people, many of them now staying in relief camps and jungles. Two Christian women were paraded naked and one was gang raped.

Over a dozen cases of atrocities against women have been registered during the violence, but the number of such cases could be higher, as victims may not be able to register complaints fearing retaliation, church leaders said.

The violence also led to the torching of hundreds of churches and other Christian institutions, including schools.

The bishops' body has appealed to the U.N. to take decisive actions to protect Christians in South Asian nations from similar ethnic attacks.

"It is regrettable that the majority population (Muslims) in Pakistan is attacking the minority Christian community on the basis of unfounded accusations," said Father Jacob G. Palakkappilly, KCBC spokesperson.

"Through their hateful campaigns, they sow riots that force millions of people to flee because they feel unsafe," the priest told UCA News.

Father Palakkappilly further pointed out that a majority of people experience attacks and persecution solely because they identify as Christians, who are a minority in many countries.

According to a recent report from New Delhi-based United Christian Forum, an

ecumenical body that records persecution against Christians, India recorded 400 incidents of targeted attacks against Christians in the first half of this year. In 2022, 274 were recorded during the same period.

"Daily, we receive news of persecution," Lozano told OSV News. Pakistan and Manipur are recently in the headlines, but she stressed that the situation is also grim in Burkina Faso, from where ACN receives "terrible and heroic testimonies how Christians are suffering incredible persecution."

A country that recently suffered two coups d'état is a place where "Christians we accompany do not know if they will survive beyond 24 hours," Father Pierre Rouamba, prior-general of the Missionary Brothers of the Countryside, told ACN.

Every two years, the ACN Foundation publishes the Religious Freedom in the World Report, which analyzes all countries and religions.

"According to the last one, published in 2023, the human right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is violated in about a third of the world's countries," Lozano said, "that is, in 61 of the 196 nations."

"But the report points to another data (point) that is also brutal and disturbing: Almost 4.9 billion people, that is, 62% of the world's population, live in countries where religious freedom is severely restricted," Lozano under-

lined.

Christians have faced persecution in 23 among 28 provinces in India, according to the United Christian Forum report, released in July. Most of them were targeted under false allegations of religious conversion, which have been criminalized in 11 provinces by passing special laws.

The anti-conversion laws, church leaders said, have become "a tool for pro-Hindu groups to target Christians."

Christians make up to 2.3% of the 1.4 billion people in India, most of them Hindus.

In Pakistan, Christians make up only about 1.5% of the Islamic country's 230 million people.

Lozano said that what the world can do for the persecuted brothers and sisters is pray, share information and speak up for their rights. She also encouraged people to engage with local politicians and ask "your (national) political representatives ... to defend the rights of those who suffer discrimination and persecution for their faith."

"The ACN Religious Freedom in the World Report seeks only to collate information and provide analysis about the abuse of this fundamental human right worldwide. It is a tool," she said. "The tool is only as good as those who take it up, share it with others, and work to effect change."

(UCA News contributed to this report.)

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Guadalupe Shows How Faith is Shared Simply, with Respect, Pope Says

By **Cindy Wooden**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Our Lady of Guadalupe and other recognized Marian apparitions show clearly how evangelization does not require complicated plans and elaborate theological explanations but sharing the faith in “a language suitable for all, a language that is comprehensible, like that of Jesus,” Pope Francis said.

At Guadalupe, in fact, “Our Lady proclaims God in the most suitable language — the mother tongue” of St. Juan Diego and the Indigenous people of Mexico, the pope said Aug. 23 at his weekly general audience.

Speaking to several thousand people gathered in the air-conditioned Vatican audience hall as temperatures rose outside, the pope returned to his series of audience talks about “apostolic zeal” and “passion for evangelization.”

In each talk in the series, the pope has highlighted a “witness” or witnesses that demonstrate important aspects of sharing the Gospel with others. His focus Aug. 23 was on “inculturation,” and the “witnesses” he chose were St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to the Indigenous saint in 1531.

Christianity already was being preached in the Americas, the pope said, “but unfortunately it had also been accompanied by worldly interests. Instead of the path of inculturation, too often, the hasty approach of transplanting and imposing preconstituted models — European, for example — had been taken, lacking respect for

the Indigenous peoples.”

Mary, though, appearing to Juan Diego, comes “dressed in the clothing of the native peoples, she speaks their language, she welcomes and loves the local culture,” the pope said. “Mary is mother, and under her mantle every child finds a place. In Mary, God became flesh, and through Mary, he continues to incarnate himself in the lives of peoples.”

Hearing the Gospel in one’s “mother tongue” is effective, the pope said. “Mary speaks to us, too, in our mother tongue, that which we understand well.”

The pope used the audience as an opportunity to thank “the many mothers and grandmothers who pass the faith on to their children and grandchildren,” and he asked the people in the audience hall to give a round of applause to mothers and grandmothers.

“As Mary shows, the Gospel is communicated in simplicity,” the pope said. “Our Lady always chooses

those who are simple,” whether appearing to St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico or to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France, or the three shepherd children in Fátima, Portugal.

All three apparitions also show that having zeal and passion for sharing the Gospel does not mean everything will go off without a hitch, the pope said. Our Lady of Guadalupe sent Juan Diego to the local bishop to ask him to build a church on Tepeyac Hill. The bishop dismissed him twice.

“Despite zeal, the unexpected arrives, sometimes from the church itself,” the pope said.

“Don’t forget this; it’s very important: To proclaim the Gospel, it is not enough to witness to the good, but it is necessary to be able to endure evil,” the pope said. “Even today, in so many places, inculturating the Gospel and evangelizing cultures requires perseverance and patience, it requires not fearing conflict, not losing heart.”

Pope Francis told the crowd he was thinking particularly of a specific country, which he did not name, “where Christians are persecuted because they are Christians and cannot practice their religion well and in peace.”

But Mary encourages and reassures Juan Diego, telling him, “Am I not here, I who am your mother?”

“This is beautiful,” the pope said. “So many times, when we are in desolation, in sadness, in difficulty, she also says it to us, to our hearts: ‘Am I not here, I who am your mother?’”

After Our Lady of Guadalupe gave Juan Diego a sign — her image on his cloak — and the bishop approved the building of a church, the pope said, he dedicated his life to welcoming pilgrims and evangelizing them.

Today at the Mexican shrine and at Marian shrines around the world, people continue to be evangelized in a “simple and genuine” way, the pope said. “We need to go to these oases of consolation and mercy, where faith is expressed in our mother tongue, where we lay down the labors of life in Our Lady’s arms and return to life with peace in our hearts.”



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- Welcome dinner with orientation talk

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

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- Dinner presentation: Sisters of Mary programs around the world

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

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- Lunch with the exceptional Sisters of Mary
- Tour Girlstown and see how the Sisters are transforming lives
- Time to play and enjoy the girls
- Light dinner with the Sisters before departing
- Return to the hotel for wrap-up

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Return to USA

- Return home on independent flights

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"Priest and Beggar" by Kevin Wells

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Fr. William Ryan - Togo, West Africa

Fr. Daniel Leary - Chaplain, Sisters of Mary



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Fall 2023

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, September 17: St. Stephen, Ona; 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19: Our Lady of Mercy Mission, Parsons; 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 23: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19: Sacred Heart, Bluefield; 9:00 a.m.



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Papa Francisco: Guadalupe nos muestra cómo compartir la fe con sencillez y respeto

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y otras apariciones marianas reconocidas muestran claramente cómo la evangelización no requiere planes complicados y explicaciones teológicas elaboradas, sino compartir la fe en "un lenguaje apropiado para todos, comprensible, como el de Jesús", dijo el Papa Francisco.

En Guadalupe, de hecho, "la Virgen proclama a Dios en el lenguaje más apropiado, la lengua materna" de San Juan Diego y de los pueblos indígenas de México, dijo el Papa el 23 de agosto en su audiencia general semanal.

Hablando ante varios miles de personas reunidas en la sala de audiencias climatizada del Vaticano mientras las temperaturas subían fuera, el Papa retomó su serie de discursos en la audiencia sobre el "celo apostólico" y la "pasión por la evangelización".

En cada discurso de la serie, el Papa ha destacado un "testigo" o testigos que demuestran aspectos importantes de compartir el Evangelio con los demás. El 23 de agosto se centró en la "inculturación", y los "testigos" que eligió fueron San Juan Diego y Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que se apareció al santo indígena en 1531.

El cristianismo ya se predicaba en las Américas, dijo el Papa, "pero desgraciadamente también había sido acompañado por intereses mundanos. En lugar del camino de la inculturación, se había tomado con demasiada frecuencia el camino presuroso de implantar e imponer modelos preestablecidos -- europeos, por ejem-

plo --, faltando el respeto a los pueblos indígenas."

María, sin embargo, al aparecerse a Juan Diego, viene "vestida con las prendas de los indígenas, habla su lengua, acoge y ama la cultura local", dijo el Papa. "María es madre, y bajo su manto todo niño encuentra un lugar. En María, Dios se hizo carne, y a través de María, continúa encarnándose en la vida de los pueblos".

Escuchar el Evangelio en la propia "lengua materna" es eficaz, dijo el Papa. "María nos habla también a nosotros en nuestra lengua materna, la que entendemos bien".

El Papa aprovechó la audiencia para dar las gracias "a las muchas madres y abuelas que transmiten la fe a sus hijos y nietos", y pidió a los presentes en la sala de audiencias un aplauso para las madres y abuelas.

"El Evangelio se comunica, como nos muestra María, con sencillez", dijo el Papa. "La Virgen siempre elige a los sencillos", ya sea apareciéndose a San Juan Diego en la colina del Tepeyac, en México, o a Santa Bernadette Soubirous en Lourdes, Francia, o a los tres niños pastores en Fátima, Portugal.

Las tres apariciones muestran también que tener celo y pasión por compartir el Evangelio no significa que todo vaya a salir bien, dijo el Papa. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe envió a Juan Diego al obispo local para pedirle que construyera una iglesia en el cerro del Tepeyac. El obispo lo despidió dos veces.

"A pesar del celo, llega lo inesperado, a veces de la propia Iglesia", dijo el Papa.

"No lo olvidemos: para anunciar el Evangelio no basta con dar testimonio del bien, sino que hay que saber soportar el mal", dijo el Papa. "Incluso hoy, en tantos lugares, inculturar el Evangelio y evangelizar las culturas requiere perseverancia y paciencia, requiere no temer el conflicto, no desfallecer".

El Papa Francisco dijo a la multitud que estaba pensando particularmente en un país específico, que no nombró, "donde los cristianos son perseguidos porque son cristianos y no pueden practicar su religión bien y en paz".

Pero María anima y tranquiliza a Juan Diego, diciéndole: "¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?".

"Es hermoso esto", dijo el Papa. "Muchas veces cuando estamos en la desolación, en la tristeza, en la dificultad, también nos lo dice a nosotros, en el corazón: '¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?'".

Después de que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe diera a Juan Diego una señal -- su imagen en su manto -- y el obispo aprobara la construcción de una iglesia, dijo el Papa, dedicó su vida a acoger peregrinos y a evangelizarlos.

Hoy, en el santuario mexicano y en los santuarios marianos de todo el mundo, se sigue evangelizando a la gente de modo "sencillo y genuino", dijo el Papa. "Necesitamos acudir a estos oasis de consuelo y de misericordia, donde la fe se expresa en lenguaje materno; donde depositamos las fatigas de la vida en los brazos de la Virgen y volvemos a la vida con paz en el corazón".

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 variarían 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.

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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 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, 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 está protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.



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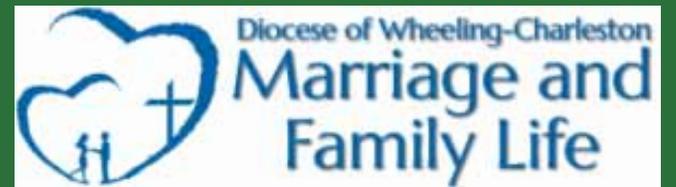
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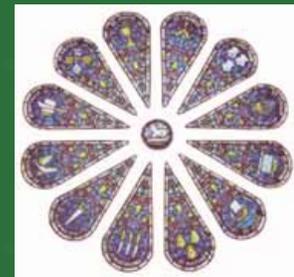
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This position oversees curriculum and instruction issues in all Catholic schools, PK-12; manages the certification process for personnel; implements the standardized testing program for Catholic schools' students; collects and analyzes testing data; researches education trends in curriculum development; plans professional development opportunities; and assists principals with local curriculum development. The successful candidate will manage both the teacher evaluation and teacher mentoring processes as well as plan and execute diocesan wide teachers' conferences. This position requires moderate travel as well as some work on evenings and weekends.

Qualifications include a Master's degree (MA) in education or a related field, five years of experience as a teacher and/or principal, a strong leadership, organizational and interpersonal communication skills; and the ability to organize, plan, think creatively, make decisions and administer programs. This employee must adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church and be able to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Applicants may send a cover letter, resume and three professional references to the Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003 or email the same to Debbie Turziano dturziano@dwc.org. Deadline to apply is September 8, 2023.

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Presented by:
Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph.D., AAPC-Fellow,
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6:30	WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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