

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

As Covid Cases Surge, Bishop Brennan Asks All to Wear Masks in Diocese's Churches

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—As Covid cases continue to surge in West Virginia, Bishop Mark E. Brennan is asking that masks be worn in all churches of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The announcement was made Aug. 25.

That afternoon, pastors and parishes were asked to place a sign with the following or similar message at each entrance of their churches: "Until further notice, Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass wear a mask, other than young children under the age of 2.

"Thank you for your cooperation in this act of Christian Charity."

The bishop asked that the signs be placed before this weekend's Masses and encouraged pastors and parishes to share the message through their communication channels, including the parish bulletins, announcements, social media, and websites. They began posting the message on their social media sites that evening.

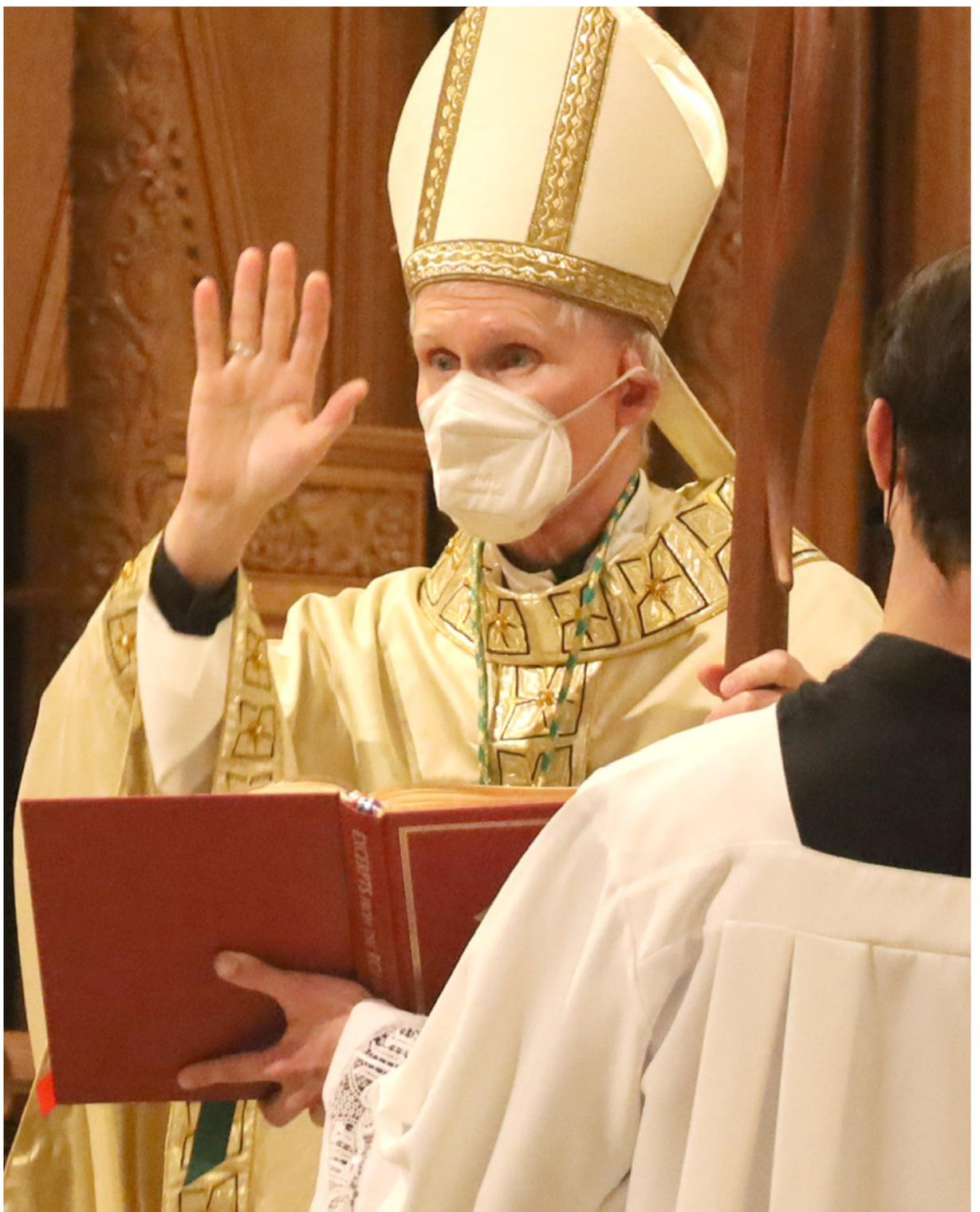
That same day, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) reported that as of Aug. 25, there are 11,725 active Covid cases in the state. In his press briefing also that same day, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced that this is an increase of 1,182 from the case total during his previous briefing and the state's highest number of active cases since Feb. 13.

The Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to catalyze this latest surge, a press release from the governor's office stated. The Aug. 25 release also reported that there are now 554 confirmed cases of the Delta variant statewide, and that 511 West Virginians are currently hospitalized with COVID-19. This marks the first time since late-January that the number of COVID-19-related hospitalizations has surpassed 500, the press release noted. The release also reported that of the patients currently hospitalized, 171 are in the ICU and 74 are on ventilators. Both of these numbers continue to rapidly approach the all-time records in West Virginia, the release said.

On the West Virginia County Alert System, 24 counties are red and 27 are orange.

Just a week before the announcement of asking all to wear masks in churches, Bishop Brennan wrote to the priests and deacons of the diocese concerning the state's Covid surge.

"As the incidences of new Coronavirus infections sharply increase in West Virginia, I am concerned about the safety of our people coming to
See "Masks" on Page 2



Colleen Rowan Photo
Bishop Mark E. Brennan offers the final blessing at the Mass celebrating the 95th anniversary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling in April. Bishop Brennan asks that all wear masks in all of the diocese's churches. The announcement was made Aug. 25.

Masks ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Mass," Bishop Brennan wrote Aug. 17. "We had an admirable track record earlier in the pandemic, with no known outbreaks of the virus traceable to any Catholic Mass in the diocese."

In the letter, which was posted on the diocese's social media, Bishop Brennan said that priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must both sanitize their hands before distributing the Body of Christ and wear masks while distributing the sacrament. They must also sanitize their hands after giving Holy Communion to a person on the tongue before giving the sacrament to the next communicant.

Bishop Brennan said at that time that priests and deacons should wear masks. But the surge of Covid cases in West Virginia brought the bishop to make the decision this week of asking that masks be worn by everyone in churches.

In the letter, Bishop Brennan also asked priests and deacons to continue to sanitize their churches at least once per day.

"With these safety measures in place," he wrote, "it would seem that physical distancing and skipping every other pew would not be necessary, but local discretion is appropriate in the matter."

The diocese, he said, will continue to monitor the situation. "I hope these measures will enable us to celebrate the Eucharist together in safety," the bishop wrote in his letter. "May God hear our prayers to bring this pandemic to a swift end and spare us the loss of more lives and the serious illness of others."

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 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."

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
 Mailing: PO Box 230
 Wheeling, WV 26003
 (304) 232-0444
 Fax: (304) 233-8551
 Web site: www.thecatholicspiritwv.org
 Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
 August 27, 2021, Vol. 52, No. 35

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers:
 Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
 Member
 Catholic Press Association
 West Virginia Press Association
 National Press Photographers Association, Inc.

Published 24 times per year. All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

Diocesan Pilgrimage in Honor of St. Joseph

Second Sundays in September–November

By Joyce Bibey

Celebrate the Year of St. Joseph with faithful from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston by making a pilgrimage to significant churches in the state named for the Guardian of the Redeemer and Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Consider embarking on your St. Joseph pilgrimage at one of three notable churches under his patronage with Mass and special tours of the churches on the second Sunday of each month from September to November (Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 14. See Sunday Pilgrimage Mass times below:

- St. Joseph Church, 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg. Mass to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.
- The Cathedral of St. Joseph, 13th and Eoff Streets, Wheeling. Mass to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m.
- St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 229 California Avenue, Weirton. Mass to be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Bishop Mark Brennan encourages Catholics in West Virginia to visit the churches, chapels, and missions in the diocese named in honor of St. Joseph. This act of faith and spiritual renewal will gain a plenary indulgency (under the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the pope, and total detachment from all sin, including venial sin) for all the faithful who visit a pilgrimage site.

The faithful are also invited to join fellow Catholics in the Parkersburg Vicariate for a special pilgrimage to St. Joseph Chapel at 101 W. Penn Avenue, Pennsboro from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday Sept. 12. Volunteers will lead a rosary at 3:45 p.m. followed by the Litany to St. Joseph, and silent prayer. A tour of the church and reception will follow.

It is important to note that St. Joseph Parish in Huntington will host an event honoring the patron of the diocese and the Universal Church in the spring. Additional pilgrimages to missions and chapels under the patronage of St. Joseph will be announced in the weeks and months ahead.

Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph for the whole Church, which began Dec. 8, 2020, and will conclude on Dec. 8, 2021. Bishop Brennan has extended the Year of St. Joseph in our diocese to conclude on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, beloved father, guardian of the Holy Family, and humble servant of God, through the solemnity on March 19, 2022.

The culmination of the Year of St. Joseph will be celebrated with Mass and other special events at the Co-cathedral of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

“May our faith in God and our devotion to His great servant, St. Joseph, bring us closer to Jesus Christ and one another,” Bishop Brennan said.

Pictured at right is the statue of St. Joseph at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.
Colleen Rowan Photo



WVU Health System to Require all Clinical and Non-Clinical Staff to be Vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 31

MORGANTOWN—Following the announcement by the West Virginia Hospital Association that it supports hospitals and health systems to require COVID-19 vaccination of their employees with local factors and circumstances shaping how and when their policies are implemented, as well as the FDA's approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, the West Virginia University Health System announced Aug. 23 that it will require all of its employees to be fully vaccinated with both doses of the two-dose series by Oct. 31, 2021.

"We're doing this because it is the right thing to do. We are the state's leading healthcare provider and largest employer, and we have a higher obligation to our patients as well as to each other. I want WVU Medicine hospitals and clinics to be as safe as possible for our patients and staff. A fully vaccinated workforce will help ensure that safety," Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System, said.

"We also have to ensure we maintain the integrity of our operations and not allow a situation to develop where several hundred of our employees are out due to COVID. The number of unvaccinated staff out due to COVID is increasing and is starting to have a material impact on our patient care mission. We also cannot have a two-tiered workforce with one that is vaccinated and one that is not. This places an unfair burden on our vaccinated staff, our patients, and public, all of whom expect us to be able to provide the services they need, when they need

them. While there's uncertainty with the current wave we are now in, we know one thing for certain: the vaccine is extremely safe and effective."

This decision also comes on the same day the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is granting full approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, which the Health System had already administered to more than 60 percent of its workforce while its use was permitted under an emergency use authorization.

"Since these vaccines were authorized in December, millions of Americans have safely received the COVID vaccine, including the majority of our workforce. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the FDA, and other regulatory agencies are closely monitoring the vaccines as they are being used in the general population. If there are any safety concerns that do arise, they can make sure they thoroughly investigate and address those concerns," Meera Mehta, Pharm.D., B.C.I.D.P., WVU Medicine Infectious Diseases clinical specialist, said.

"I have dedicated my career to infectious diseases, and I have been studying the COVID-19 virus and the vaccines very, very closely. That is why I chose to get it – to protect myself, to protect my patients that I work with in the hospital, to protect my community, and to protect all the people that I love."

The vaccine mandate applies to employees of all WVU Health System hospitals and clinics, including those in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Vir-



Courtesy Photo

Alfred Gest, M.D., pictured above, was the first WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital employee to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 15, 2020.

ginia, and also applies to staff who are working remotely at home or onsite.

For more information on

COVID-19, including vaccination, testing, and what to do if you are sick with the virus, visit WVU Medicine.org/COVID.

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

We Also Specialize in Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Do It Best

Lou W. Nau, Inc.

69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311

lounau.doitbest.com

Place your ad here

Mansuetto
Roofing & Sheet Metal

N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors

Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community

Since 1945
Three Generations of Family Management
116 Wood Street
Martins Ferry OH 43935
740-633-7320

ALTMAYER
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

"THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"

304-232-0330

Wheeling Chapel
1400 Coff Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-0330

South Wheeling Chapel
3828 Jacob Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-5444

Elm Grove Chapel
154 Kruger Street
Elm Grove, WV
304-242-0330

Benwood-McMechen
214 Marshall Street
McMechen, WV
304-232-1710

Moundsville
118 Grant Avenue
Moundsville, WV
304-845-4560

Beck-Altmeier
204 West Main Street
St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-0475

James E. Altmeier, Jr.
President

James E. Altmeier, Sr.
Chairman

Eugene T. Fahney
Vice President

www.altmeyer.com

Panhandle
CLEANING & RESTORATION

Fire • Smoke • Wind • Mold • Sewage • Water

24-Hour Emergency Line
800.504.7054

304.232.2321 PanhandleCR.com

Accepted by All Major Insurance Companies

Residential and Commercial Complete Restoration Services
24-Hour Emergency Board-Up
Personal Property Cleaning & Storage
24-hour Emergency Water Extraction
WV 014743 PA 100310

Special Emergency Collection to be Held Sept. 4-5 to Support Humanitarian Efforts in Haiti

WEST VIRGINIA—Prompted by the massive earthquake and tropical storm that has devastated Haiti, Bishop Mark Brennan has joined Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the USCCB, asking all faithful to consider donating to a special emergency collection to provide aid to support the Church and humanitarian needs arising from these and future disasters. This collection will take place at weekend Masses on Sept. 4-5 in

the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The August earthquake killed more than 1,200 Haitian people and injured upwards of 5,700 others, leaving an overwhelming trail of destruction and rubble for a people who are hurting due to the socio-economic and political instability in their country, while still processing the assassination of their president in July.

The Holy Father urged the inter-

national community to show support and solidarity to help the country lighten the consequences of the tragedy.

“As I raise my prayers to the Lord for the victims, I address a word of encouragement to the survivors, desiring that the international community will take a shared interest in them. May the solidarity of all alleviate the consequences of the tragedy,” Pope Francis said, adding that the faithful should

offer a Hail Mary together for Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of Haiti to intercede for us.

Checks are to be made payable to your respective parish/mission and on the memo line indicate: Special Collection for disaster relief. The parish/mission will then send one check for all contributions for this collection to the Diocese. All funds will be part of the (USCCB) Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund.

St. Francis Xavier in Parkersburg to Hold Ecumenical Prayer Service Sept. 11

By Colleen Rowan

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to offer comfort in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg will host a special memorial service.

“Finding Hope in Loss” will be an ecumenical prayer service for the community held at St. Francis Xavier Church at 9:59 a.m. on Sept. 11.

There will be a moment in the service for each participant to bring an item that represents his or her loss to be blessed.

“Please bring an item that you wish to bring forth during the service to represent the loss(es) you have experienced,” parish officials said. “Your item should be able to be easily carried into the church and laid at the temporary memorial.”

There will also be prayer intention cards available in the church for one’s memorial to be recorded and left at the altar of the Lord.

As the country marks 20 years since the terrorist attacks in New York, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pa., in which almost 3,000 people were killed and with the recent loss of family and friends that many have suffered in the pandemic, Father John Rice hopes the service will bring comfort to the community.

“Our faith reminds us that suffering need not have the last word,

and we want to bring the hope instilled by faith to all of our losses,” said Father Rice, pastor of St. Francis Xavier. “We can bring our memories, our losses, and our pains to Jesus Christ, asking him to bless them that we might find new life in the suffering that we have known. Our Catholic Christian faith places hope in God, that he can resurrect not only our mortal bodies on the last day, but by offering these very real sufferings to him, bring about something beautiful in the face of ugliness. Resurrection can do that.”

The idea of having a prayer service to mark the anniversary of Sept. 11 and offering comfort as the pandemic continues, came to Father Rice earlier this summer. He and other parishioners, he said, knew that they wanted to have a memorial event for the parish as the country began to emerge from these past 19 months of the pandemic.

“When I looked at the calendar for scheduling, I wanted to wait until late summer in hopes of more people being able and comfortable attending,” Father Rice said. “It was then that it struck me that this year would be 20 years since those life changing events of Sept. 11, 2001.”

It also struck him that both the pandemic and the terrorist attacks were changed everyday life not just for individuals, but in the ways that they have and will change society, he said.

“Every person in our country and the world has been affected by



Courtesy Photo

both events,” Father Rice said.

Discussions then began among the Pastoral Council, Liturgy group, and Activities and Events committee to hold an event to recognize the loss the nation still feels from the attacks of Sept. 11 and to acknowledge the losses many have suffered from COVID-19.

“While each was intensely personal, both are communal in that we all suffer,” Father Rice said. “Inviting the larger community was only natural, so we are inviting other local ministers to participate.”

For more information about the service, call the parish at (304) 422-6786.

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | <p>Established 1914 Centre Wheeling Market House</p> | <p>Place your ad here</p> |
| | <p>304-232-8510</p> | |
| | <p>107 Years</p> | |
| | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Duplaga's TOP NOTCH</p> |
| | <p>LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC</p> |
| <p>Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls</p> | |
| <p>Supply Yard</p> | |
| <p>Chris Duplaga, Owner 140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling www.topnotchlandscape.com</p> | |
| <p>office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332</p> | |

Dr. Ray is Coming to St. Michael's in Wheeling

The Catholic Psychologist, EWTN Television Host, and Author will Lead the Discussion 'Standing Strong as a Parent and Grandparent' Sept. 13

WHEELING—Dr. Ray Guarendi, a Catholic clinical psychologist and parenting and family expert, is coming to St. Michael Parish in Wheeling to lead a discussion on “Standing Strong as a Parent and Grandparent.”

The gathering will be held at the parish Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Dr. Ray is a well-known author and speaker, who hosts the popular EWTN radio show “The Doctor Is In.” The EWTN website, describes him as an authority on parenting and behavioral issues, who helps guide listeners through the “do’s and don’ts” of raising children in the Catholic faith.

“His insight comes from experience. He’s the father of 10 adopted children, and has been working with parents, families, and educators for over 40 years in substance abuse programs, in-patient psychiatric centers, juvenile courts and private practice. Ray’s given over 3,000 talks around the country and is the author of 12 books,” EWTN’s website states. “His common sense approach, practical advice and strong spiritual guidance are consistently sought to help build successful marriages and families.”

Dr. Ray’s radio show “The Doctor Is In” can be heard weekdays on over 440 stations and Sirius XM satellite radio, channel 130, according to his website <https://www.drray.com/about/> which features a radio affiliate page for a complete listing of stations around the country. One may also listen on demand at www.AveMariaRadio.net.

Dr. Ray’s national EWTN television series, “Living Right With Dr. Ray,” is in its sixth season.

“The world is in great need of the truth, and of authentic guidance in finding the answers to life’s daily family issues. Dr. Ray’s television program combines the wit, humor, and experience of its host with the timeless wisdom of the Catholic Church to provide these answers,” the website states.

Dr. Ray’s in-depth experience has led to his discovery that the so-called “experts” are undermining parental authority and preventing parents from following their God-given instincts to raise their kids for Heaven. This guiding principle led him to write his best-selling book, “You’re A Better Parent Than You

Think!” By putting the power, knowledge and authority back in the hands of parents, Dr. Ray has helped thousands eliminate parenting frustrations by showing them proven parenting techniques that result in happy, well-adjusted children. Throughout his vocation and career, he has expanded on this theme to empower families to confidently take charge of the many challenges that arise with respect to marriages, families, raising teenagers and more.

Other book titles of Dr. Ray’s include: “Advice Worth Ignoring”; “Back to the Family”; “Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime”; “Good Discipline, Great Teens”; “Adoption: Choosing It, Living It, Loving It”; “Marriage: Small Steps, Big Rewards”; “Winning the Discipline Debates”; “Fighting Mad”; and

“When Faith Causes Family Friction.”

His books on the Catholic faith include “Why Be Catholic?” and “What Catholics Really Believe.”

Dr. Ray’s talks are on topics including smart parenting; happier marriages; successful families; and a variety of motivational themes, for both personal and professional application. He captivates audiences with his humor laced presentations filled with practical advice and proven techniques. Dr. Ray’s audiences include professional associations women’s & men’s groups, churches, industry conferences, public organizations; teachers, hospital personnel, and more.

In addition to the Parenting and Family genre, Dr. Ray speaks on many topics concerning the Catho-

lic faith. As an adult “revert,” he has written and spoken extensively on Catholic Apologetics. His ecclesiastically approved books, “What Catholics Really Believe” and “Why Be Catholic” are a basis for many of his presentations designed to help Catholics understand and defend the wisdom and beauty of the one, true faith. His book, “When Faith Causes Family Friction”, addresses many issues of faith that are surprisingly common causes of division among family members and relatives.

For his upcoming discussion at St. Michael’s, the parish’s Christian Mothers and Christian Women are offering child care as well as providing snacks and refreshments to follow.

For child care, contact Amanda Voellinger at (304) 780-7096.

Dr. Ray, Clinical Psychologist, Parenting & Family Expert

Join us at St. Michael Parish

Monday, September 13th @ 6:30pm

for a discussion titled

"Standing Strong as a Parent and Grandparent"

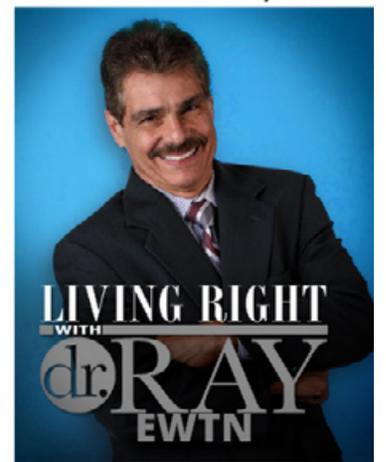
followed by a Q & A

Christian Mothers and Christian Women are offering child care as well as providing snacks and refreshments to follow!

(For childcare, contact Amanda Voellinger @ 304-780-7096)



**Confident Parenting.
Stronger Marriages.
Better Families.**



St. Joseph the Worker School's Pastor and Principal Make a Splash for Students



Screenshot Photos

"When you give cheerfully, when you give from your heart, you make a difference...You MAKE A SPLASH!!" This is the theme for the 2021-2022 school year at St. Joseph the Worker School in Weirton. On the first day of school, students and faculty gathered on the banks of the Ohio River to watch their pastor, Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., and Principal Recheal Fuscardo make a splash. At right, Father Schuelkens and Fuscardo wave to students as they sail the water. At left, Father Schuelkens is water-skiing and waving to students. To the children's delight, Father Schuelkens also did a flip off the dock into the water.

Shepherdstown Knights Announce Scholarship Winners



Courtesy Photo

The Knights of Columbus Council #13887 in Shepherdstown awarded a \$500 scholarship to Molly Bertone, a student at St. Marie Goretti Catholic High School in Hagerstown, Md. The council also awarded a \$500 scholarship to Noelle Ward for her college education. Pictured with Bertone are Bob Rizzo, left, and Grand Knight John Doyle.

Golf Tournament to Benefit Notre Dame High School's Athletic Department

CLARKSBURG—Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg invite all to participate in the Notre Dame High School Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at the Clarksburg Country Club.

The event benefits the Notre Dame High School Athletic Department. Sponsorships available include: Gold for \$3,000 for two foursomes, one tee sponsor, and name/company sponsor on the banner. Green sponsorship is for \$1,000 which includes one four-some, and one tee sponsor. Tee sponsorship with signage on tee is for \$100. It is also \$100 for an individual golfer. Mulligans are available for \$10 (two-person). A light lunch and drinks will be provided on the course, and dinner will immediately follow golf.

Registration begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Prizes will be for first, second, and third places with additional prizes to be awarded for Longest Putt and Closest to the Pin.

For more information on sponsorships and the event, contact Claudine Rogers by calling (304) 695-1266 or by e-mail to crogers@notredamewv.org.

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.

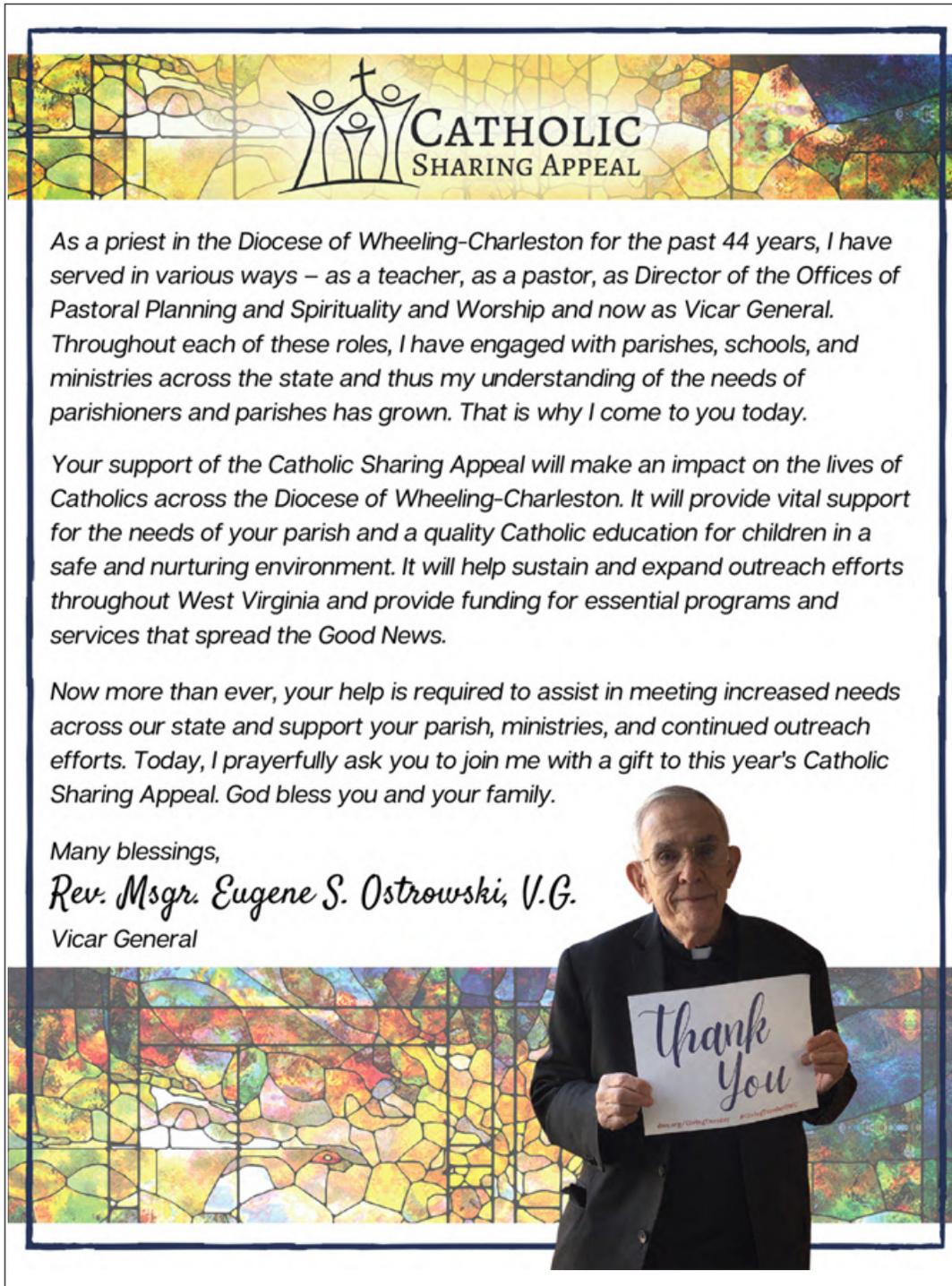
Sunday, October 24, 2021: St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway, 11:00 a.m.

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.



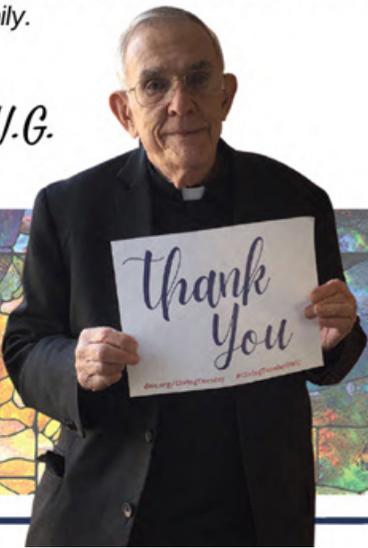
CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

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



WHEELING • SOUTH WHEELING • WARWOOD • WOODSDALE • ELM GROVE
www.kepnerfuneral.com
(304) 232-5110



FUNERAL HOMES
Serving the community since 1845

John D. Kepner and James B. Kepner
Co-Presidents

Larry Dean, COIC



Grounds Maintenance ♦ Design-Build ♦ Landscape Architecture

The premier professional grounds maintenance and landscape design build firm of West Virginia



(304) 925-4751
www.terrareinc.com



Charleston White Sulphur Springs Morgantown




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!



Pope Encourages People to Rediscover Importance of Sunday Liturgy

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis encouraged new courses of action for parishes to help people understand the importance of Sunday Mass and parish ministries, a top Vatican official wrote in a message.

The message was sent on behalf of the pope Aug. 23 to the 71st National Liturgical Week, by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state. The meeting, held Aug. 23-26 in the Italian city of Cremona, brought together pastoral workers, religious and priests to discuss ways to encourage the faithful to attend the Sunday liturgy and participate in other liturgical celebrations, rites and the sacraments.

In the written message, the cardinal said the

pandemic and its restrictions, which had prevented the faithful from gathering like before, underlined the importance of the liturgy in Christian life.

But, what happened during the pandemic and the difficulty in resuming liturgical activities, he wrote, “confirmed what was already observed at Sunday assemblies on the Italian peninsula, an alarming indication of the advanced stage of an epochal change.”

It had been noticed, even long before the pandemic, there has been a shift in how people perceive “time” and “space,” which has had repercussions on the meaning of Sunday for most people and how most people experience community and the family, he said.

For this reason, he wrote, the Sunday liturgy,

which should be “the true summit” of all parish activities and the source of energy for missionary life, is “off-balanced,” in terms of which age groups normally attend, and in terms of the “difficulty in finding a harmonious integration in parish life.”

Cardinal Parolin wrote, “the Holy Father hopes that the National Liturgical Week, with its proposals for reflection and moments of celebration ... may identify and suggest some liturgical pastoral care guidelines to offer parishes, so that Sunday, the eucharistic assembly, ministries and the rites may emerge from the margins, from which they seem inexorably to be falling, and regain their centrality in the faith and spirituality of believers.”

After Historic Floods, Amount of Parish, Community Support is ‘Phenomenal’

By Katie Peterson, Catholic News Service

WAVERLY, Tenn. (CNS) — Henry Kersten was pacing back and forth inside his family’s home in Waverly Aug. 21 when he saw the backyard shed being carried off by the flood waters. His wife, Leslie, was trapped inside.

“It was amazingly fast,” Kersten said. “She was trying to save some things (in the shed). We never knew the extent that was going to come because we were going by the last flood that we had two years ago.”

“It started to seep into the shed and then it came so fast that she didn’t feel safe coming out,” he recalled in an interview with the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese. “She called me on the phone, told me that she loved me and our children.”

“As I was pacing, I saw the shed get washed away and watched her go by,” he continued. “It took about five hours, but by God’s blessing, a former neighbor ... was able to find her.”

Leslie Kersten, who with her family was a parishioner at St. Patrick Church in McEwen, Tennessee, was one of at least 19 confirmed deaths from the flooding that washed through Humphreys County Aug. 21, after up to 18 inches of rain fell in the area in less than 24 hours, breaking the Tennessee record for one-day rainfall.

When planning for Leslie’s funeral the morning of Aug.

24, Henry Kersten said they chose a quote from the Gospel of Mark for the program cover: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:29-31)

“That’s Lesley’s life in a Bible verse. She loved the church. ... The church has been so important in our life,” Kersten said. “She was the epitome of God’s greatest commandment.”

In the darkness of tragedy, Kersten still finds the light of God’s grace.

“God sends his toughest challenges for his strongest soldiers,” Kersten told Nashville Bishop J. Mark Spalding, who visited victims of the Waverly flood Aug. 24.

As Bishop Spalding visited flood victims at relief shelters and their destroyed homes, he brought with him a message: “You’re not alone.”

“In times of profound tragedy, presence is the most important thing,” Bishop Spalding said. “No matter what crisis we face in life, just knowing another is there with you and for you, especially in our context of faith, to know that God is with us and for us as well is what people need to know.”

On Aug. 20, downpours of rain reaching more than 18 inches hit Humphrey County, about 60 miles west of Nashville. By 8:30 a.m. the next day, the rapidly rising flood waters

were crashing through Waverly, wreaking havoc on homes and businesses alike.

Hundreds of homes were affected from having minor damage to being destroyed. Besides the confirmed deaths, more people were still missing as of Aug. 25.

“It just came in as an influx,” said Grey Collier, public information officer for the Humphreys County Emergency Management Agency. “Within just 10 to 30 minutes, people went from dry floors to having to climb in their attics.”

Barbara Hooper, flood relief coordinator for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Patrick Church and conference vice president, said this was the worst flood the community has ever experienced.

“This is like a tsunami in a foreign city, and we’re in a little town in Tennessee,” Hooper said. “Now, we’re seeing what they go through all the time.”

Jackie Tate, a middle school language arts teacher at St. Patrick School, said the morning of the flood, she and her family were at home and had their bags packed and ready to go.

They were keeping an eye on the back door where they expected to see the waters rise. But after her husband, Christian, took their dog out in the

front yard and saw the rising water headed their way, he rushed inside to warn them to evacuate.

The Tate family was unable to leave in their truck, so they sought shelter at their neighbor’s home on higher ground.

“We knew we might get into the flooding area, but I’ve never seen anything like that,” Tate told the Tennessee Register.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick helped Tate and her family secure a rental property while they wait for government aid.

“They have been an absolute godsend,” Tate said. “(St. Patrick), they’re my people.”

On Aug. 24 President Joe Biden approved a major disaster declaration for Tennessee, making assistance available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to supplement state and local recovery efforts, including in Humphreys County.

FEMA assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help indi-

viduals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Despite the devastation experienced, victims and volunteers alike said the way the community has come together with clothing and food collections in McEwen and Waverly has been overwhelming.

“The outpouring of support has been phenomenal,” Collier said.

“This is what humanity is,” said Margaret Loose, family friend of St. Patrick parishioners James and Patsy Bradley, who also lost their home.

“This is what the Volunteer State truly means,” added Waverly Vice Mayor Mike Goodman, referring to the state’s nickname.

Tate’s family has already benefited from the collections of food, clothing and supplies.

“It is really amazing to watch, but I’m not surprised,” Tate said. “(This community) will give you the shirt off their back.”

(Peterson is on the staff of the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.)

**JOHNSON
BOILER WORKS, INC**
53 Marshall St.
Benwood, WV 26031
(304) 232-3070
Steam Boiler Repairs



LOL

Light of Life
Radio Ministry

Catholic Radio

304-598-0026 www.LoLradio.org

throughout West Virginia 24/7 on the internet

www.rdo.to/WLOL

Grifton Fairmont Clarksburg Bridgeport Kingwood AM 1190
Wheeling Moundsville St Clairville FM 90.7
Clarksburg Bridgeport FM 97.5 Morgantown FM 89.7

The Knights of Columbus presents *Long-Term Care Planning Seminar*



Preparing for a long and healthy future begins with understanding risks that you and your family may face later in life.

While we all hope to remain healthy in our later years, the reality is that most of us will need long-term care at some point in our lives.

In this seminar, we will discuss some of the challenges that you may face and the solutions that you and your family should consider. We'll go through what long-term care is and how the Knights of Columbus can help you prepare.

Register today to save your spot.

Date: August 31, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom webinar

RSVP: aug31.abbatekofc.com



Lead a **life of service**
to your community
and **Catholic families**
in your community

Work for a company that
aligns with your Catholic faith.

The Abbate Agency
(866) 868-1492
abbateagencymail@kofc.org



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



**Knights of
Columbus**[®]
The Abbate Agency

Visit our website for more information: www.abbatekofc.com
Call or email us at: 1-866-868-1492 / abbateagencymail@kofc.org
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Abbatekofc



Courtesy Photo

Sister Jen Berridge, CCWVa Hospital Transition Program Case manager (left), talks with client Laurie Quinn (right), to discuss Laurie's transition home from the hospital.

Providing a Supportive Transition Home

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications Specialist

After sustaining injury from a severe fall at her home, Wheeling resident Laurie Quinn was taken to Wheeling Hospital. Following treatment, the hospital team coordinated with Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Hospital Transition Program Case manager, Sister Jen Berridge, to develop a plan to holistically support Laurie upon discharge from the hospital.

"Sister Jen has been a very big help," said Laurie. "She has helped me out with food orders, with blankets and pillows, and a chair for

me to get in and out of more easily, because when I got hurt it was hard to sit down."

The CCWVa Hospital Transition Program is an innovative model begun with initial funding from Catholic Charities USA, and in partnership with Wheeling Hospital. The program provides a supportive transition for high-risk patients as they are discharged from the hospital. The CCWVa case manager provides individualized supportive services, following up with the patient to ensure he/she understands discharge instructions and is connected to community resources.

"Our Hospital Transition Program helps to

provide people with a sense of confidence and comfort as they transition from hospital to home," said Mark Phillips, CCWVa Northern Regional director. "With our program still in its infancy, we have already made a truly significant impact in the lives of those we serve."

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 medida que surgen los casos de Covid, el obispo Brennan pide a todos que usen máscaras en las iglesias de la diócesis

Por Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA — Mientras continúan aumentando los casos de Covid en Virginia Occidental, el obispo Mark E. Brennan pide que se usen máscaras en todas las iglesias de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston. El anuncio se hizo el 25 de agosto.

Esa tarde, se pidió a los párrocos y parroquias que colocaran un letrero con el siguiente mensaje o un mensaje similar en cada entrada de sus iglesias: “Hasta nuevo aviso, el obispo Brennan pide que todos los asistentes a la misa usen una máscara, excepto los niños pequeños debajo de la edad de 2.

“Gracias por su cooperación en este acto de caridad cristiana”.

El obispo pidió que se coloquen los letreros antes de las misas de este fin de semana y alentó a los párrocos y parroquias a compartir el mensaje a través de sus canales de comunicación, incluidos los boletines parroquiales, anuncios, redes sociales y sitios web. Comenzaron a publicar el mensaje en sus sitios de redes sociales esa noche.

Ese mismo día, el Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de Virginia Occidental (DHHR) informó que, al 25 de agosto, hay 11,725 casos activos de Covid en el estado. En su conferencia de prensa también ese mismo día, el gobernador de Virginia Occidental, Jim Jus-

tice, anunció que se trata de un aumento de 1,182 del total de casos durante su sesión informativa anterior apenas dos días antes y el número más alto de casos activos en el estado desde el 13 de febrero.

La variante Delta de COVID-19 continúa catalizando este último aumento, según un comunicado de prensa de la oficina del gobernador. El comunicado del 25 de agosto también informó que ahora hay 554 casos confirmados de la variante Delta en todo el estado, y que 511 habitantes de West Virginia están actualmente hospitalizados con COVID-19. Esta es la primera vez desde fines de enero que el número de hospitalizaciones relacionadas con COVID-19 ha superado las 500, señaló el comunicado de prensa. El comunicado también informó que los pacientes actualmente hospitalizados, 171 están en la UCI y 74 están en ventiladores. Ambos números continúan acercándose rápidamente a los récords de todos los tiempos en West Virginia, según el comunicado.

En el sistema de alerta del condado de West Virginia, 24 condados son rojos y 27 son naranjas.

Apenas una semana antes del anuncio de pedir a todos que usen máscaras en las iglesias, el obispo Brennan escribió a los sacerdotes y diáconos de la diócesis sobre el aumento de Covid en el estado.

“A medida que la incidencia de nuevas infecciones por coronavirus aumenta drásticamente en Virginia Occidental, me preocupa la seguridad de nuestra gente que viene a Misa”, escribió el obispo Brennan el 17 de agosto. “Teníamos un historial admirable al principio de la pandemia, sin brotes conocidos del virus que pudieran atribuirse a ninguna misa católica en la diócesis”.

En la carta, que fue publicada en las redes sociales de la diócesis, el obispo Brennan dijo que los sacerdotes, diáconos y ministros extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión deben desinfectarse las manos antes de distribuir el Cuerpo de Cristo y usar máscaras mientras distribuyen la Santa Cena. También deben desinfectarse las manos después de dar la Sagrada Comunión a una persona en la lengua antes de dar la Santa Cena al siguiente comulgante.

El obispo Brennan también dijo en ese momento que los sacerdotes

y diáconos deberían usar máscaras. Pero el aumento de casos de Covid en Virginia Occidental llevó al obispo a tomar la decisión esta semana de pedir que todos en las iglesias usen máscaras.

En la carta, el obispo Brennan también pidió a los sacerdotes y diáconos que continuaran desinfectando sus iglesias al menos una vez al día.

“Con estas medidas de seguridad en su lugar”, escribió, “parecería que el distanciamiento físico y saltarse todos los demás bancos no sería necesario, pero la discreción local es apropiada en el asunto”.

La diócesis, dijo, continuará monitoreando la situación.

“Espero que estas medidas nos permitan celebrar juntos la Eucaristía con seguridad”, escribió el obispo en su carta. “Que Dios escuche nuestras oraciones para poner fin rápidamente a esta pandemia y evitarnos la pérdida de más vidas y la enfermedad grave de otros”.

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 eclesísticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

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

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

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

Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry Opening

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

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

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

panic ministries and other immigrant groups.

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

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

Position will stay open until filled.

Third Grade Teacher Fairmont Catholic Grade School

Fairmont Catholic Grade School has an immediate opening for a full time third grade teacher. Please submit your resume to: dburnside@fairmontcatholic.com

Call (304) 363-5313 for additional information!
Join our family!

Fairmont Catholic develops the whole person, promotes Gospel values and service, inspires a love of learning, and upholds academic excellence in a safe nurturing community of learners.

Substitute Teachers Sought St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

Do you enjoy working with children? Are you a certified teacher or substitute who wants to work in a small Catholic school whose mission is to challenge, inspire and educate students ages 2 through eighth grade? If so, Saint Joseph School in Martinsburg invites you to apply to become a substitute teacher. If you are interested, please call the school office at 304-267-6447 or email Principal Patrick Blanc at pblanc@sjswv.org.

In-Home Caregivers Wheeling, Charleston, and Surrounding Areas

Catholic Charities West Virginia is looking for in-home caregivers in the Wheeling, Charleston, and surrounding areas.

Duties include light household tasks and assisting clients with the activities of daily living. For more information, contact Ed at emurray@ccwva.org.

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



Advertise with The Catholic Spirit

Contact Colleen Rowan at
crowan@dwc.org

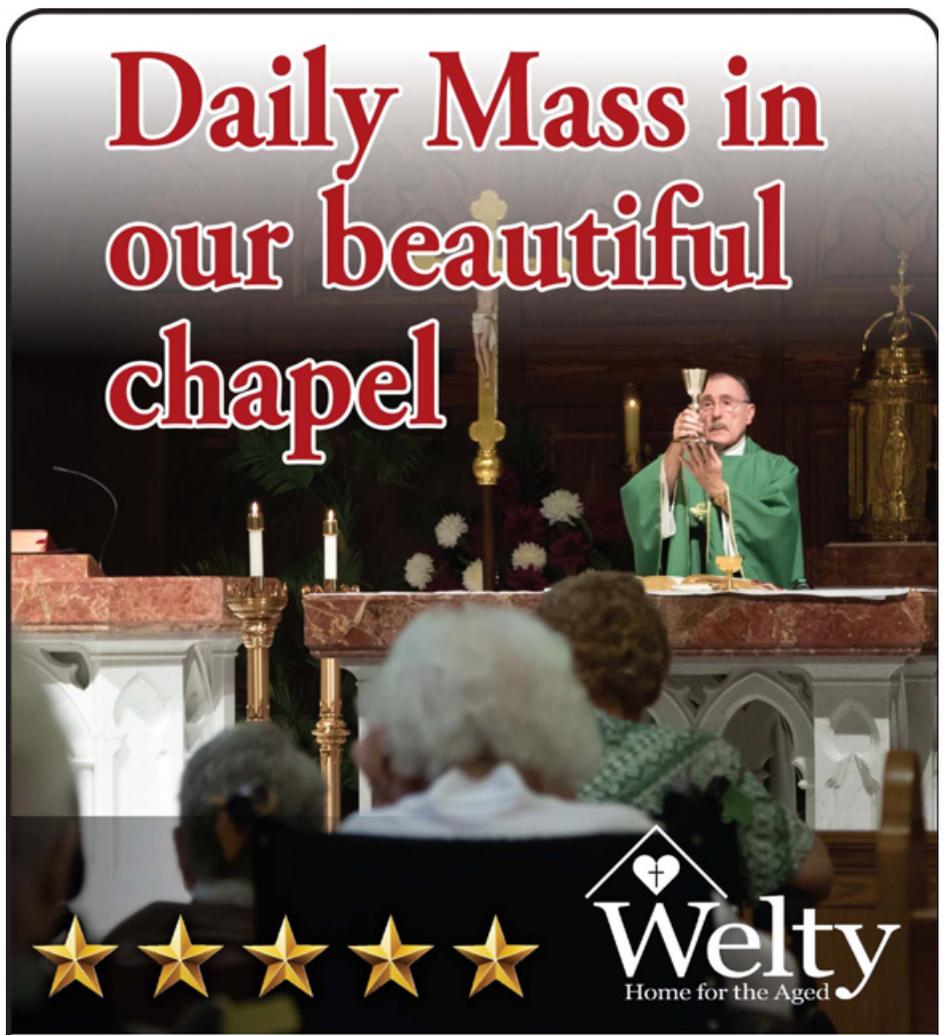
Place your ad here

This is living!



(304) 242-5233
www.WeltyHome.org

**Daily Mass in
our beautiful
chapel**

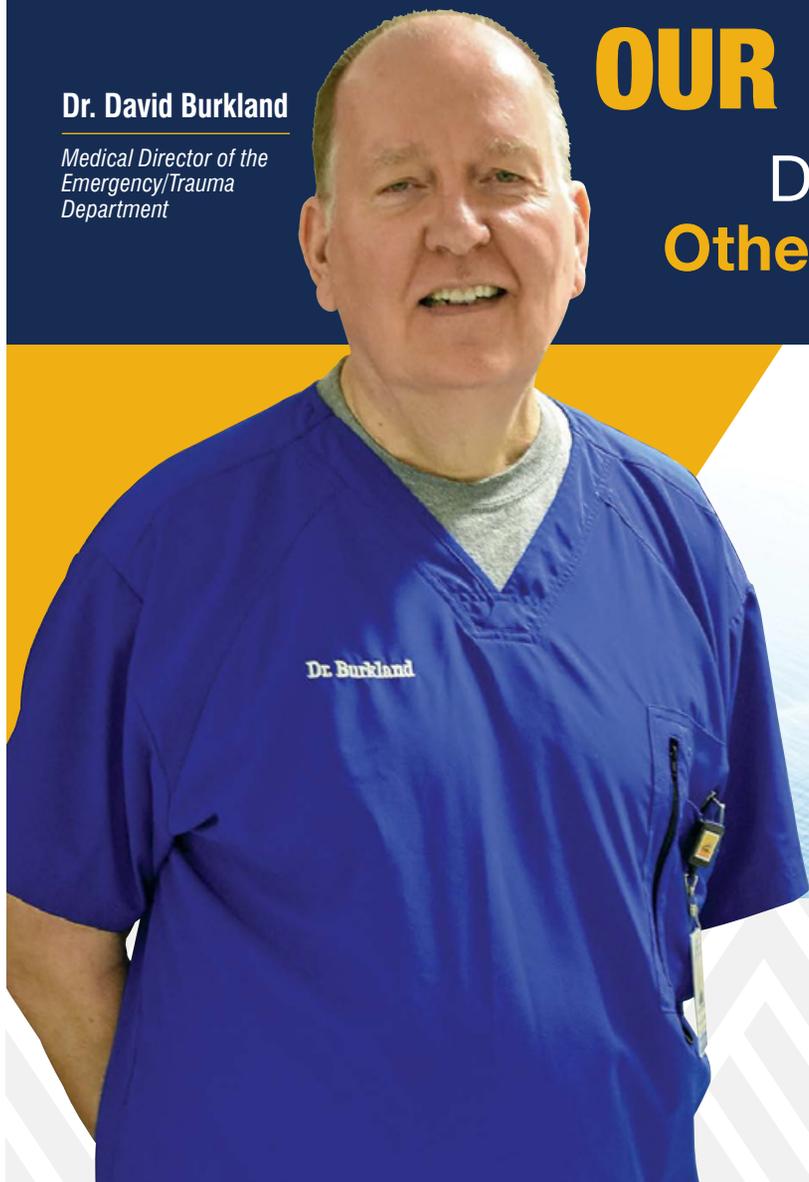


**GOOD SHEPHERD
NURSING HOME**

304.242.1093 www.weltyhome.org

Dr. David Burkland

*Medical Director of the
Emergency/Trauma
Department*



OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.

Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of
Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don't ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We'll protect you, and take good care of you.



WVUMedicine

WHEELING HOSPITAL