

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

‘Amen, Yes, it is Jesus Whom I Receive in Holy Communion’

*An Article on the Eucharist by
Bishop Mark E. Brennan*

In this first article in a series that will focus on understanding better the Holy Eucharist, so central to Catholic worship, let me begin with a human analogy.

When you offer a gift to someone, you are offering more than a material object or money: you are showing your regard, your care, even your love

for that person. If the person seems indifferent to your gift or doesn't acknowledge it, you rightly feel disappointed. Even a gift which does not please the recipient should be acknowledged and the giver thanked – precisely because the gift represents the person who gave it, however trivial or unwelcome the gift itself might be.

In Holy Communion, Jesus Christ gives a gift to us. In his case, the gift does not merely represent the giver but is identical with him. In a mysterious way which we can describe but not truly

explain, the risen Lord gives himself to us, transforming bread and wine in their deepest reality into his own Body and Blood. Because he said, holding bread, This is my Body, and has the power as the Son of God to make it happen, we join the Christians of the first and all subsequent generations in saying, “Amen, yes, it is Jesus whom I receive in Holy Communion.” This superlative gift of Jesus himself is meant to invigorate us with the Lord's risen life so that, individually and

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Diocese Announces New Seminarians



Colleen Rowan Photo

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has five new seminarians, bringing the number of men in formation for priesthood to nine. In the front, from left, are Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations; new seminarian Nathan Schmidt; Bishop Mark E. Brennan; returning seminarian Bryan Tedeschi; new seminarian Donvito Cortese; and returning seminarian Joe Derico. In the back, from left, are new seminarian Timothy Kawash, returning seminarian John Soplinski, new seminarians Michael Tupta and Dylan O'Sullivan, and returning seminarian Dominic Re. See story on Page 1 of The Calling, Vocations Newsletter, in the center section of this issue of The Catholic Spirit.

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The Calling, Vocations Newsletter, Center Section of this Issue of The Catholic Spirit

Obituaries

Sister Mary Kriley, CDP

Sister Mary Kriley departed this life on July 19, 2022, in the 79th year of her religious life at age 97. Mary Pauline Kriley was born March 25, 1925, in the small town of Herman, Pa., and was the 8th of 12 children of Catherine Kuhn and Charles Kriley who lived and worked on a farm. Mary came to the community following the paths of multiple aunts and her own older sister, Sister Sylvester, and was followed by her younger sister, Sister Mary Providence.

In 1942, Mary entered the community and received the name of Sister Mary Philomene. Although she felt called to be a nurse, she was assigned to teach primary grades for a number of years. After she completed her education degree and nursing education, she went on to work as a nurse at St. John's, Braddock, and Divine Providence hospitals. For 18 years she served as the operating room supervisor at Divine Providence Hospital where her kind and compassionate care was well known. Once the new annex was added to the motherhouse at Providence Heights in 1980, she became the director of the community's infirmary, now known as St. Joseph Center, for over 13 years. When the community had the option to return to baptismal names, she returned to her original Mary and frequently was called Mary K.



During a short sabbatical, she visited her classmate, Sister Mary Weatherly at St. Thomas Parish and St. Michael Mission in Braxton County and found herself attracted to the beauty of the country area and felt called to minister to the people there. There were only a few Catholics in that county, and Mary found work at a local nursing home, as well as functioning as a pastoral visitor at the local hospital and visiting people in their homes. She eventually became the pastoral assistant at St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway, where she also directed a food pantry and a thrift store, saying, "We strive to feed the hungry and clothe the naked of Braxton County." Even after she retired and returned to Pittsburgh, she collected clothing and delivered it to the mission in West Virginia.

Trust in Providence was the motivating factor throughout her life. She frequently found herself in situations where she could be the face of our Provident God to those she served, whether in a classroom, a hospital, the food pantry, thrift store, or at Providence Heights in St. Joseph Center. She trusted in Providence to provide what was needed and to work through her in order "to make Providence more visible in our world." Even while a patient herself these last years, her cheerful disposition, humor, and encouragement to the staff was greatly appreciated and will fondly be remembered.

Sister Mary Weatherly, CDP

Sister Mary Weatherly departed this life on July 27, 2022, in the 80th year of her religious life at age 97. Mary Weatherly was born in 1925 in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, on the Fourth of July. She was one of three children born to Mary and Joseph Weatherly.

Mary attended St. Joseph Grade School in New Brighton and Beaver Falls High School in Pennsylvania until 11th grade. She finished her education as a postulant in the Sisters of Divine Providence. Mary's entrance into the community took place in 1942. In 1943, at her investment as a Sister of Divine Providence, she was given the name Sister Mary Pius. In 1945, Mary began her career as a teacher and a principal. Education was one of the expressions of Mary's deep devotion in serving God. Mary was the first Catholic Sister to serve in Cowen, West Virginia. After receiving recognition for this ministry, she commented, "I never felt I was outstanding. However, I always en-

joyed a close relationship with my colleagues." After teaching for over 40 years, Mary obtained a degree in speech pathology from Catholic University. The years that Mary lived in the commu-



nity's St. Joseph Center brought many cheerful moments. Her humor and teaching skills were often appreciated by the staff in the center.

The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated July 30.



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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."

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Throughout this Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, each print edition of *The Catholic Spirit* (published on the First Friday of each month) will feature a guest article on the Eucharist.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Eucharist...

Cont'd from Page 1

corporately, we produce good fruit in the world.

The reason we American bishops decided to inaugurate a Eucharistic Revival over three years is that we came to realize that many Catholics no longer believe that it is Jesus himself whom they receive in Holy Communion. Some see it as a symbol of the Lord but nothing more, others as simply a piece of bread which, for some reason, is given to them during the Mass. Surely some of the Catholics now absent from our assemblies on Sunday do not go to Mass because they look at the Eucharist in this reduced way. Even some who go regularly seem to have lost the full sense of the Sacrament's meaning.

Our concern as pastors is that, if the giver is not acknowledged in the gift, the one receiving it may not derive any spiritual benefit from it. The Lord gives himself to us in Holy Communion in order to build us up, individually and as a people, so that we may live as children of God in faith and love and bear him witness in the world. A lack of faith on our part does not diminish Christ's true presence in the Sacrament but it means we have closed the door of our heart to him even if we opened our mouth to consume the host. We will lack the grace, both as individuals and as a Church, to be faithful witnesses to Christ. The danger is that our faith may gradually wither and even die.

What has caused this lack of full Eucharistic faith among some Catholics? How is it that they no longer believe that Jesus truly gives himself to us in the Sacrament of the altar?

One cause is that many people today do not allow room in their lives for the transcendent, that is, for God and His action on their behalf. They live mostly on the horizontal level and ignore the vertical. They may believe vaguely in God but it doesn't lead them, for example, to put Sunday Mass first over other worthy activities such as soccer games, a community picnic or a trip to the beach. It is even easier to deny the Church's faith in Christ's gift of himself in the Eucharist because, lacking a robust faith, they see only the appearances of bread and wine and do not take seriously the Church's claim that the transcendent God changes those material elements into Christ for their benefit.

Some, if questioned, would likely say that science proves such a change is impossible. But that is confusing two spheres of investigation. The physical sciences seek to explain material creation but they cannot handle God's intervention in His creation. Their instruments cannot measure it nor their theories account for it. Through the ages people have turned to religion and philosophy to help them understand why anything exists at all, why a yearning for contact with the spiritual world persists in history, how it is that human beings possess an inner freedom, why we should choose good over evil, what makes people often capable of sacrificial love, what happens to us after we die. Some scientists reduce all of these non-material questions to material causes but that does not ring true to people's experience of them. Nor can the physical sciences grasp the reality of the Eucharist and its effect on people of faith.

There is another reason in the United States to account for a weak or absent understanding of the Church's faith in the Eucharist: our exaggerated individualism. Phenomena as distinct as transgenderism, abortion, gun use and getting vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus reveal that many of us prioritize our private opinion over other factors that might be more objective and deserve our consideration. With respect to the Eucharist, some Catholics apparently think that, since they do not see beyond the bread and wine to Christ, they are free to dismiss the Church's faith in Christ's sacramental presence – despite that faith's origin in Jesus' own words and actions, the continuous celebration of the Eucharist for two thousand years and the abiding belief of faithful Christians that Jesus gives himself to his disciples in that Sacrament. The courageous individual is rightly admired but the Christian, who sets him or herself against the whole tradition of the Church in order to adhere to a private opinion, stands outside the community of faith by denying the truth God has revealed to that community.

So, we have begun a Eucharistic Revival. This year is the diocesan phase, in which you will be hearing of talks and regional conferences on



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the faithful with the monstrance holding the Most Blessed Sacrament at benediction at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling June 19, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. More than 250 Catholic faithful joined the bishop in a Eucharistic procession through Wheeling that morning from the Cathedral of St. Joseph to St. Alphonsus to begin the National Eucharistic Revival.

the Eucharist. Next year we will conduct the parish phase, in which more intensive catechesis on the Sacrament will be offered for adults and children. The third year will be the national phase, culminating in a great Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. Remember, the purpose is to strengthen and, for some, retrieve our understanding that Jesus gives his very self to us in Holy Communion. Like the householder praised by Jesus [Matthew 13:52], we want to bring out of the storeroom of our Catholic faith both the old: the Church's constant teaching on the meaning and purpose of the Eucharist; and the new: prayer and activities appropriate to our time and place for reinvigorating our appreciation of this admirable Sacrament. Please join me in praying for the success of this project.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



Calling all Middle and High School students!

Come and gather in the name of the Lord with other young people to celebrate our belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist at the

Diocesan Youth Eucharistic Revival.



Please register through The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

For more information, please call the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 304-233-0880, extension 374.

On Saturday, October 29th, 2022 from
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM,
join us at our Diocesan camp property:
**225 Catholic Conference Center
Huttonsville, West Virginia 26273**

We will celebrate Mass with our bishop, Mark E. Brennan. There will also be adoration, music, food, recreational activities, catechesis, and speakers.

Parents are encouraged to attend as well.

First-Ever Teens for Life Leadership Weekend

W.Va. Teens Can Register Now for the Aug. 26-28 Event

By Joyce Bibey

HUTTONSVILLE—West Virginians for Life (WVFL) will host the first-ever W.Va. Teens for Life “Leadership for Life” Weekend in Huttonsville, Aug. 26-28.

It will be a weekend of prayer and action for W.Va. youth ages 14-17 in the scenic setting of Camp Carlo, 225 Catholic Conference Center, Huttonsville. Nestled between the mountains of Randolph County, this 1,400-acre property along the Tygart Valley River, is the ideal setting to focus on the beauty of creation and life.

The event will be led by WVFL Board Member, State Del. Riley Keaton, R-Roane, who also serves as director of Camp Carlo, a summer camping ministry in Huttonsville for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

“First of all, we’re going to have an awesome time – our swimming pool, canoeing, archery, and high ropes adventure programs will all be in full-swing for the WVFL Leadership for Life Weekend,” Keaton said. He continued, “Our real focus is on the pro-life move-

ment. What are the best strategies for changing hearts on abortion? How can we be pro-life every day? How can we contribute our leadership to build the culture of life from

“I can’t wait to share the beauty and purpose of the pro-life movement with young people.”

—Sadie Shields, assistant director of Camp Carlo

womb to tomb? It’s going to be an incredible experience for any young person.”

Assisting Keaton for this inaugural W.Va. Teens for Life event will be former WVFL office assistant Sadie Shields, who is the assistant director at the diocesan summer youth camp.

“I can’t wait to share the beauty and purpose of the pro-

life movement with young people,” Shields said.

West Virginians for Life is a non-profit, public-service organization. WVFL is a state-wide network of county chapters and the voice for the unborn in West Virginia. The goal is the preservation of human life from conception to natural death. The primary purpose is to educate through the presentation of detailed and factual information about fetal development, abortion, alternatives to abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and related issues. WVFL works with state policy makers and legislators to promote pro-life policies and law.

“Being pro-life means affirming – in thought, word, and action – the dignity of every human life from womb to tomb,” Keaton said. “Part of that is supporting the legal protection of life – no matter how small, how sick, how inconvenient, or how angry we may be – through political action.”

That is the simple definition and explanation, Keaton said, but it is much more.

“Beyond that, being pro-

life means supporting moms, babies, and organizations committed to making it easier to say YES to life in every way,” he said.

Therefore, educating and inspiring young people on the value of life, human dignity, and the critical need to support women, children, families, and the elderly is the purpose for putting so much energy into this weekend, Shields noted. It is a weekend to encourage and support teen leaders now.

Leadership for Life Weekend will focus on preparing young people of all faith backgrounds – or no faith background at all – to advocate for the dignity of life in big ways and small, Shields added.

Saying you are pro-life is one thing; understanding what it is and being responsible enough to know that actions are greater than words is another – that’s leadership, the two concurred.

“A pro-life teen can change, and save, many lives through compassion, steadfastness, and simply being knowledgeable,” Keaton said. “Imagine

the girl at school who didn’t plan on getting pregnant just yet, and who is terrified of what people may think or say about her. Someone simply offering their support and being a friend can make a world of difference for her. Who can she and her baby depend on to encourage her to go to the doctor, take up for her when people may mock her and her baby, and maybe even just smile at her when things are tough?” That is a pro-lifer.

Being empathetic to the big picture is another emphasis for the leadership for life movement, Keaton said.

“Imagine a busy, busy single mom who’s already stretched thin. She’s unexpectedly pregnant and is thinking about just how difficult it could be to make the household work with another baby. A pro-life teen tries to see things from her perspective. Sometimes, your offer to babysit regularly could be the thing that family needs to get ready for their new baby brother or sister.”

The cost for the entire weekend is \$25. Food, lodging, and program materials are all included in the fee.

For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.wvforlife.org/events/>



West Virginia
Teens for Life

Delegate Riley Keaton & Asst. Director Sadie Shields will organize, plan, and deliver the best strategies for changing hearts on abortion and building the culture of life we so desperately need.

Leadership for Life Weekend



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throughout West Virginia 24/7 on the internet
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Grafton Fairmont Clarksburg Bridgeport Kingwood AM 1190
Wheeling Moundsville St Clairsville FM 90.7
Clarksburg Bridgeport FM 97.5 Morgantown FM 89.7

Special Collection for Disaster Relief in West Virginia and Kentucky

WHEELING—Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of Aug. 13-14 in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of natural disasters that have occurred in southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky, resulting in dozens of deaths and the displacement of thousands.

“We have witnessed first-hand the destruction that flooding from severe weather has caused in our Mountain State. We have nearly 10 counties that have been under a state of emergency over the past month,” Bishop Brennan said. “I have spoken to my brother bishops in Kentucky who have detailed the destruction of entire communities in their dioceses. I urge the faithful to be visible disciples of Christ — significant examples of Him fully alive within us. Let us help our brothers and sisters in Christ through prayer and support, giving those who are suffering hope and peace as they rebuild their lives and, in many cases, honor the precious lives lost.”

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities as well as their partner agencies in both states.

Catholic Charities West Virginia and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lexington are providing long-term recovery efforts. Their offices assist families long after other organizations have moved out. The role of Catholic Charities will last months and years as they help families and individuals in



A Kentucky National Guard flight crew from 2/147th Bravo Co. flies over a flooded area in response to a declared state of emergency in eastern Kentucky July 29.

CNS Photo/Sgt. Jesse Elbouab, U.S. Army National Guard via Reuters

the rebuilding process to restore safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions. “Catholic Charities West Virginia is committed to being responsive and compassionate after a disaster event, giving help and hope,” said Beth Zarate, Catholic Charities West Virginia president and chief executive of-

ficer. “Our goal is to return people to safe, clean and secure housing. Our Disaster Services program is blessed to have many partners and supporters who come together to accomplish the daunting task of rebuilding homes and lives – for as little or as long as they need us.”

Checks should be made out to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with “Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations for this long-term disaster recovery effort can also be made throughout the month of August on the diocesan website at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

Flooding Devastates Kentucky

By **Marnie McAllister,**
Catholic News Service

The rains began late July 27 and went into the next day, causing massive flooding that destroyed hundreds of homes and wiped out entire communities, according to news reports.

Search and rescue teams, with the help of the National Guard, began searching for missing people July 29. As of Aug. 1, 660 air res-

cues and hundreds of boat rescues had been conducted.

By mid-morning Aug. 2, the death toll had reached at least 37 people, with more than a hundred still missing.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear called it “one of the worst, most devastating flooding events” in state history. He said President Joe Biden had approved his initial request for federal

aid to assist with recovery efforts in 13 eastern Kentucky counties.

On NBC’s “Meet the Press” July 31, he said he believed recovery crews will be “finding bodies for weeks.”

The chances that more storms would hit the region were diminishing, but residents and rescuers were facing extreme temperatures instead.

On a conference call,

Lori Helfrich, the parish life director at Mother of Good Counsel Church in Hazard County, Kentucky, said that besides Hazard County, which has a population of about 5,000, she has the most contact with Letcher, Knott, Perry, Owsley and Breathitt counties. Of the 65 Catholic families in Hazard, at least one family has lost everything, she said.

“Today the concen-

trated effort is on those who are still missing,” she said. A lot of the flooding came at night while people were sleeping. You compound the flooding with high poverty rates and you end up with the perfect storm.”

She said that debris in the flood water and the numbers of roads washed away are making it hard

See “Kentucky” on Page 11

Jarvis-Williams Funeral Homes

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Catholic Speaker Jason Evert Set to Present in West Virginia this Fall

By Joyce Bibey

He is a best-selling author of “How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul”, “Saint John Paul the Great”, “Theology of the Body for Teens”, and “If You Really Loved Me”; and he is coming to speak in the Mountain State.

Jason Evert is an internationally recognized Catholic speaker, frequent guest on EWTN, and he is headed to West Virginia, where he will speak in three cities in two days this fall. This aggressive schedule of events between Sept. 26-27 is brought to the faithful in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston by St. Michael Parish (Wheeling) and St. John University Parish/Mountaineer Catholic Campus Ministry (Morgantown). With the help of St. Michael’s event organizers Peggy Krall and Gretchen Wilson, Evert will also speak at Central Catholic (Wheeling) and Madonna (Weirton) high schools and 7-8th graders in the Northern Panhandle Catholic schools.

“During this day in age it is important for parents and teens to be well informed on the topic of the beauty of their bodies that God created and to be able to talk about difficult subject matter so that they develop a healthy love and respect,” Wilson said. “Jason Evert opens the door for opportunities to help with communication between parents and teens. His focus is on healthy, holy relationships and in the process how to find your soul mate without losing your soul. We must encourage our teens to put God in their relationships and aim for helping each other obtain heaven – for when we die, the only thing we are taking with us is our soul.”

Purified, a two-night mini retreat, St. Michael Parish, Wheeling – Sept. 26-27

Parents and teens from all over West Virginia and the Ohio Valley are invited to St. Michael Parish, 1225 National Road, Wheeling, for a two-night mini retreat focused on God’s plan and how to seek God’s help to grow in purity of heart, mind, and body.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 26 and the program will begin at 7 p.m.; and doors open at 6 p.m. on Sept. 27 with the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. The cost for both nights is \$20 per person. Tickets are available through the parish at (304) 242-1560 or online at <https://chastity.com/events/jason-evert-purified-22/>.

According to Krall, Purified will help strengthen families, creating bridge to topics often tough to bring up and discuss – dating, relationships, self-worth, and pressures on teens today.

The event includes a new version of Jason’s renowned talk Love or Lust, where he mixes humor with down-to-earth practicality that removes any awkwardness, making the difficult

conversations about love much easier. The evenings include Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship, complimentary materials, and an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

For more information about Evert and his Purified message go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYmBvoGRyPs&feature=youtu.be>

Madonna High School, Weirton – Sept. 27

Evert will hold an assembly based on the principles of Purified for students in grades 7-12 at Madonna High School beginning at 9 a.m.

Central Catholic High School, Wheeling – Sept. 27

Likewise, Evert will present to students in the Wheeling area Catholic

schools in grades 7-12 at Central Catholic High School at 1 p.m.

Dating 101, St. John University Parish, Morgantown – Sept. 27

Evert will lead Dating 101 for college students and young adults hosted by St. John University Parish and Mountaineer Catholic. The event begins at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.



Presents:



JASON EVERT

He is a bestselling author of more than ten books, and has brought the message of chastity to more than one million people on six continents. He and his wife Crystalina run chastityproject.com



TWO EVENTS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

\$20 Per Person

THE PURIFIED EVENT
A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT FOR FAMILIES (AGES 13+)

SEPTEMBER 26

DOORS OPEN @ 6:30 - EVENT STARTS @ 7
ST. MICHAEL PARISH

EVENING INCLUDES:

- Chastity presentation for teens and parents
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Free Books and CDs for every family! (\$20 value)

STRONGLY SUGGEST to attend this talk for a better foundation for the 2nd talk

GENDER & THE THEOLOGY OF YOUR BODY

SEPTEMBER 27

DOORS OPEN @ 6 - EVENT STARTS @ 6:30
ST. MICHAEL PARISH

EVENING INCLUDES:

What’s the meaning of sex, gender, and the human body? The truth of masculinity and femininity are being questioned like never before. Discover how your body as a man or woman reveals your identity and calling.

Purchase Tickets with QR Code



If you have any questions or if you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Diane at the parish office: 304-242-1560

THE CALLING

2022

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Vocations Newsletter

Vol 10, No. 1



Donvito Cortese



Timothy Kawash



Dylan O'Sullivan



Nathan Schmidt



Michael Tupta

New Seminarists Begin Journey to Priesthood

By Colleen Rowan

The Vocations Office has announced five new seminarists for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, bringing the total number of men in formation for priesthood to nine. Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations, introduced them to Wheeling-area faithful at the Wheeling Serra Club's Burse Dinner at Central Catholic High School July 28.

The new seminarists come from parishes all over the state and are eager to begin seminary. They are Donvito Cortese, 19, of Maryland; Timothy Kawash, 23, of Charleston; Dylan O'Sullivan, 19, of Roanoke; Nathan Schmidt, 31, of Wheeling; and Michael Tupta, 27, of Charleston.

Addressing Serrans and all gathered at the dinner, Bishop Mark E. Brennan, said, "The seminarists here — those returning to us and those just beginning with us — are the fruit of your prayer." The bishop asked all of the faithful to continue their prayers for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

"We are blessed to have five new men joining our seminarist program this year, which more than doubles our numbers," said Father Crenwelge, who is also pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgan-

town. "It is a testament to their willingness to discern God's will for their lives. I'm excited to see what our Lord has in store for each of them."

This month, they will begin formation at seminary. Cortese and Kawash will attend the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. Schmidt and Tupta will attend Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., and O'Sullivan will attend John Paul II College Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Each of the new seminarists have different stories that point to God's mercy in their lives as well as his providence, Father Crenwelge said.

"These men are leaving behind great career paths or futures that might promise worldly success in order to give God his due. Why? Because following God's will for us is always more fulfilling," Father Crenwelge said. "What a testimony to their faith. I hope more men will be inspired by these men and follow suit by saying yes to God's promptings to discern the sacred priesthood."

At the dinner, Father Crenwelge also recognized the diocese's four returning seminarists. They are Joe Derico of Weston, Dominic Re of Oak Hill, John Soplinski of Weir-

ton, and Bryan Tedeschi of Sharpsburg, Md.

Derico will be entering his second year at John Paul II Seminary. He just finished his summer assignment at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town with Very Rev. Timothy Grassi, V.F., pastor.

Re will be entering his second year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. His summer assignment was at St. Joseph Parish in Huntington with Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, pastor.

Soplinski will be entering third theology at Mount St. Mary's. "And Lord willing, in a year from now, he will be ordained a deacon," Father Crenwelge said. Soplinski's summer assignment was at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling with Father Carlos Melocoton, pastor.

Tedeschi will be entering his second year at Mount St. Mary's. His summer assignment was with Father Crenwelge in Morgantown.

"Please pray for these men as they begin their journey and for our returning men as they continue their discernment," Father Crenwelge said at the dinner.

The following is more about the diocese's new seminarists.

Cortese was born in Michigan and has lived in Maryland since the

age of 5. He is the son of Paul and Nancy Cortese. For the last nine years, he has been a parishioner and altar server at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town and was Homeschooled with Seton.

"I am excited for the seminary because of the camaraderie of my brothers in Christ, and all of the people there who will be inspirational to me and help me grow in my faith," he said. "I am expecting many hardships, but I'm excited to see in what unknown ways I will grow from them. Whatever God throws at me in seminary, good or bad, I'm excited to use the graces he gives me to excel in his plan."

Kawash is a graduate of Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston, Charleston Catholic High School, and the University of Dayton. He is the son of Michael and Janet Kawash, and his home parish is the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

"I am excited to go to seminary to discern my vocation and grow in my faith," Kawash said. "I am excited to see and learn how God will use me in his holy will. I look forward to meeting and building relationships with other men who are also discerning priesthood."

See "Seminarists" on Page 2 of The Calling

Inside: Am I Being Called to Be a Priest? Page 2

Seminarist John Soplinski Thanks Serrans, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, and the Faithful for Prayers, Page 3

Am I Being Called to Be a Priest?

The world needs priests. It needs strong, faithful, courageous men willing to die to themselves for the sake of Christ's Bride, the Church. It also needs men who want to conform themselves to Christ, who can proclaim his Word and dispense his mercy in the darkest corners of the culture.

To be precise, a man only "knows" he is called when he is ordained! However, there are many positive signs that can point to a vocation, and which can help a man make the decision to enter the seminary and continue along the path towards the priesthood.

Quick Discernment Tool:

Now that you are here and no one is watching or listening, read these statements to yourself, take them to prayer, then act on what you know is right. God knows, you may be called to the priesthood!

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is important to me.

People have told me I would make a good priest.

I've hidden vocation material under my bed and in my desk.

Going to Mass and Adoration is a very important part of my faith life.

The thought of becoming a priest keeps coming back over and over again.

I'm afraid to tell my friends and family that I've been thinking about the priesthood.

I feel called to give more of myself to others.

After hearing the readings at Mass I think about how I would preach.

I have a burning desire to help people get closer to Christ and to know the Truth.

I have a strong sense that what I have planned for the future is not what God has planned for me.

If some of these statements reflect how you feel, if your heart is pounding even harder, if you sense a greater desire to find out if God is calling you to live in black and white, get in touch with the Vocation Director. Have no fear, the Lord wants only what is best for you – and so do we.

Contacts for the diocese's Vocations Office are: Father Brian Crenwelge, director, e-mail bcrenwelge@dwc.org or call (304) 296-8231; and Ross Semler, office manager, e-mail rsemler@dwc.org or call (681) 242-8449.

"These men are leaving behind great career paths or futures that might promise worldly success in order to give God his due. Why? Because following God's will for us is always more fulfilling. What a testimony to their faith. I hope more men will be inspired by these men and follow suit by saying yes to God's promptings to discern the sacred priesthood."

—Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations

Seminarians ...

Cont'd from Page 1

O'Sullivan is currently an altar server and member of St. Patrick Parish in Weston. He is the son of Brennon and Sherry O'Sullivan. He attended Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg and a year of college at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio.

"I will be attending JPPII Seminary in Washington, D.C., with my friend and fellow parishmate Joe Derico. I am looking forward to this opportunity to grow in holiness and knowledge so as to be better prepared to shepherd God's people to Heaven," O'Sullivan said.

Schmidt is a member of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Wheeling. He is the son of Daniel and Heidi Schmidt. He graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University in 2015. Ever since he was received into the Catholic Church in 2018, he has wondered if God might be calling him to the priesthood.

"God is drawing me out in love for the Eucharist and for the people of West Virginia," he said, "so I am looking forward to finding out in seminary where that path of love will take me."

Tupta attended Sacred Heart Grade School and Charleston Catholic High School. He is the son of Dr. Michael and Maria Tupta. He graduated from West Liberty University with an undergraduate degree in 2017 and from West Virginia University School of Dentistry where he earned his DDS in 2021.

"I had spent the last year working in Chippewa Falls, Wis., as a general dentist and prayerfully discerning seminary,"

Tupta said. "Upon saying yes to God's invitation, I moved back to West Virginia upon acceptance from my home diocese."

His home parish is the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

"I am most looking forward to being formed first and foremost as a man of deepened prayer, striving after the heart of Jesus," he said. "Please pray for me!"

At the dinner, Bishop Brennan spoke of the power of the faithful's prayers for vocations in the diocese. In addition to the seminarians, he noted that more than 20 men are currently enrolled in the diocese's diaconate formation program. He also noted a young woman in Huntington who is entering a religious order and another West Virginia man who is becoming a monk.

There are people who are responding to God's call, the bishop said. "And I pray every day that there will be more to consecrated life and to our diocesan priesthood and diaconate," he said.

Chris Freeman, immediate past president of the Wheeling Serra Club, presented the burse to Bishop Brennan, which was a check for \$5,000 in support of the diocese's seminarians.

In his talk at the dinner, Father Crenwelge said that often young men who are discerning will ask what the difference is between a diocesan priest and a religious priest? Father Crenwelge's answer to them is that a diocesan priest is centered around a land and a people.

"A diocesan priest is for his specific people and, for us, it is the great state of West Virginia,"

Father Crenwelge said. "We are very blessed to have these men, especially the new men joining us. ...Each is discerning to be a man for you all—to be a priest in West Virginia."

The seminarians, he continued, would be visiting the Bishop's Chapel at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling the next day.

"There are many graves of priests who have served our people well. And each year when I go there I reflect, Lord willing, when I am buried there I will have given my life for West Virginia," Father Crenwelge said. "So, please pray for these men that they too, if the Lord wills them, may give themselves to you all and be faithful priests."

During their weekend in Wheeling, all nine of the seminarians served Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan at the annual Undo's Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival in Wheeling on the riverfront July 31.



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Seminarians Join Bishop Brennan in Celebrating Italian Heritage in Wheeling

Colleen Rowan Photos

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's nine seminarians joined Bishop Mark E. Brennan for his celebration of the Mass on the riverfront in Wheeling for the annual Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival July 31. The seminarians served at the Mass, which was attended by hundreds of Wheeling-area Catholic faithful. Above, Bishop Brennan celebrates the Mass. At right, seminarians process at the beginning of the Mass.



Seminarian John Soplinski Thanks Serrans, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, and the Faithful for Prayers

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—In his keynote address at the Wheeling Serra Club's Burse Dinner July 28, Seminarian John Soplinski thanked the members of Serra, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Daughters in West Virginia, as well as the faithful of the diocese for their continuing prayers and support in his formation for priesthood.

Soplinski will be entering third theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. "And Lord willing, in a year from now, he will be ordained a deacon," said Father Brian Crenwelge, director of

Vocations, who spoke at the dinner before Soplinski.

In his talk, Soplinski spoke of the wonderful people he has met in his travels and for all the amazing things that God has allowed him to witness.

"The prayers and support from the Serra Club, from the Knights of Columbus, from the Catholic Daughters, and from hundreds and really thousands of parishioners statewide are truly humbling," he said.

Soplinski shared that he felt the call to priesthood at age 7 when his uncle was completing his seminary formation. He also has a few cous-

ins who are priests as well.

"I waited a long time and had to learn some very difficult lessons," he said. "Praise God that my ears are still open because there's so much to learn. Your prayers and support make this possible, and in the spirit of this being a reciprocal relationship know of my prayers for you and my desire, my sincere and humble desire, to serve you as a priest of Jesus Christ."

In addition to thanking Bishop Mark Brennan and Father Crenwelge for their support, Soplinski said he is grateful for the many priests he has known and for their

example. Among them, Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens Jr., V.E., pastor of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart of Mary parishes in Weirton, where he is from; Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington; Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.F., pastor of Sacred Heart parishes in Bluefield and Princeton; and Father Carlos Melocoton Jr., pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, where he was assigned this summer.

Soplinski ended his talk by thanking the people of the diocese.

"I look forward to continuing this journey," he said, "and I hope to serve you as long as God allows."

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Charles Town's Deacon Dave Galvin

Working Tirelessly to Bring Souls Home

By Joyce Bibey

He can be defined as the Roch of his parish. Yes, R-O-C-H (pronounced Roke or Rock). Deacon Dave Galvin is much like St. Roch – who despite unforeseen challenges served others and helped souls see Christ in him. Although, if you were to make the comparison in his presence he would undoubtedly look towards the sky, laugh, and shake his head at the notion.

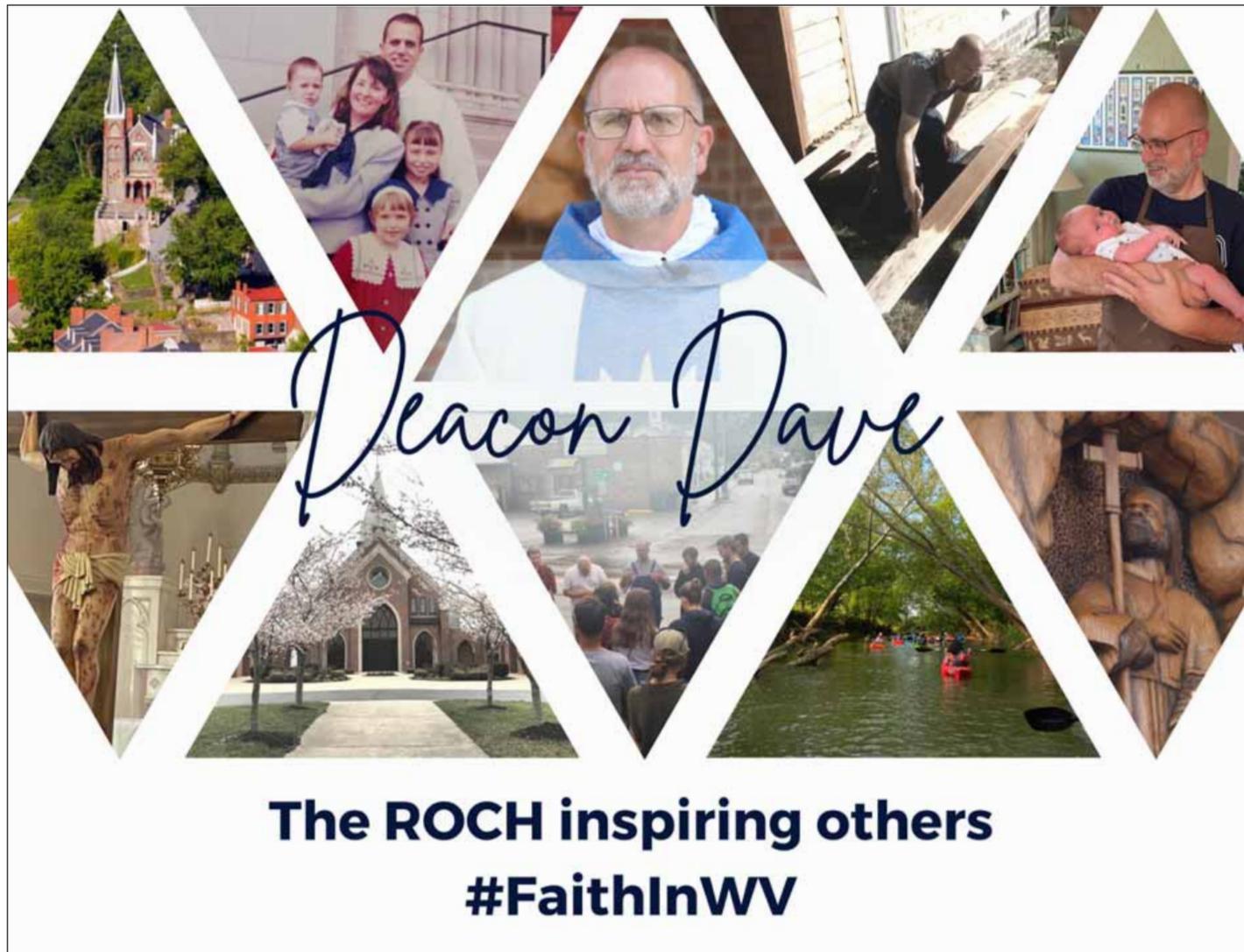
Deacon Galvin is seemingly tireless. He is up for anything that will make a positive difference in God's eyes, yet remains a humble soul, quickly turning a conversation away from himself to how Christ is working behind the scenes in all our lives.

During the pandemic, Deacon Galvin knew his parish family was struggling not being able to be together. He was too and with the help of a few friends was able to bring God's message of hope to his parish through Rochumentaries – inspiring videos to help the faithful to “thrive spiritually in times of crisis.”

Deacon Galvin grew up Catholic in a remote town in Pennsylvania. The closest city was Erie about 90 miles away from the Allegheny Plateau region he called home. From an early age he knew the value of job well done and the pride you get from it. That is a trait he learned from his father, Denny, who after a tornado ravaged their hometown of Kane in 1985 literally picked up the pieces of their neighborhood with teenaged Dave Galvin in tow. The Galvin family pitched in to help neighbor after neighbor – odd jobs and roofing mostly. His mother, Perky, taught him how to be frugal – “don't spend more than you make, save, and help others. Pretty simple stuff,” he said. “I was a kid who got the free lunches and was happy to get a new set of hand-me-down clothes for school. I appreciated what we had.”

Work hard and pray hard, was an unspoken motto. The Galvins belonged to St. Callistus in Kane. That is where Sister Mary David, a Benedictine nun, influenced young David, planting a seed that he should think big spiritually and instilling in him the idea that being successful is not about material things, but making a difference for others in the eyes of God.

Deacon Galvin went on to college and received a master's degree from John Carroll University. He became a manager of a retail store and married his sweetheart Laura VanKuyk. When the couple had time off, the two would take road trips to visit old churches. Those adventures brought them to the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia in 1996. Dave and Laura visited St. Peter Chapel in Harpers Ferry. St. Peter's is the only church and one of the few buildings where the Potomac and Shenandoah



The ROCH inspiring others
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rivers meet that was not destroyed in the Civil War.

The Galvins fell in love with not only the rich history surrounding the grand old church perched on top of the hill in the town, but also everything within the structure that was built in 1833 by and for Irish immigrants and then rebuilt in 1896. The glorious high reaching stained glass windows, the ornate Stations of the Cross, and especially the crucifix – made to match the wounds of Christ on the Shroud of Turin.

“The crucifix is so moving and memorable,” Deacon Galvin said. “It drew us in.”

Indeed it did. He was working for Sherwin-Williams at the time. Call it coincidence or fate, but just a few months after their West Virginia trip a position opened in the company at a store that would take the couple back the valley they treasured. So, the couple picked up their life in Pennsylvania and moved to Jefferson County not knowing a soul, but certain their faith would sustain them. It proved to be a decision that led to many blessings. The couple frequented St. Peter and became involved with St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town. They welcomed three children – two daughters, Hannah and Claire, and a son, fittingly named, Peter.

Work was going well for Deacon Galvin, and opportunities for advance-

ment knocked on his door. While a huge increase in pay and the opportunity for their children to attend the Catholic schools in Cleveland was enticing, after the couple reflected on how their lives would change, moving up the corporate ladder was not for them. Instead Deacon Galvin entered the diaconate program for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

“The program wasn't easy, but I had Sr. Mary David to kick my butt and save my vocation when I wanted to drop out halfway through,” he said with a huge grin.

In 2004, Deacon Galvin was ordained a deacon in the diocese and for

his parish, St. James. Since that day he has taken his vows to heart – “to serve like Jesus Christ and work tirelessly to get people to heaven,” he said. “I want to invite everyone to come into the Church – to come home to God's Church.”

Whether it is producing his evangelizing Rochumentary videos, mapping a parish kayaking trip, delivering the sweets to Donuts with Deacon events, or heading to Webster Springs with a men's or youth group to repair and build houses for our less fortunate brothers and sisters, Deacon Dave Galvin is doing just what St. Roch

See “Galvin” on Page 9

In honor of Father McGivney's Beatification.....

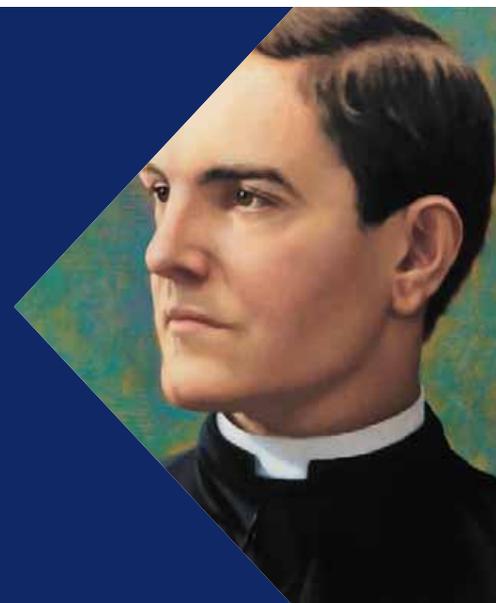
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Meeting the Needs of Those We Serve

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Regional Director

During the middle of last winter, our Martinsburg case manager was meeting with an unhoused client when she asked “Lori” if she would like one of the donated blankets Catholic Charities keeps on hand for such circumstances.

“I don’t have any place to store it,” was Lori’s response.

We realized that individuals like Lori need a safe and secure place to store items that they can access when Catholic Charities West Virginia and other organizations are not open. Our Martinsburg staff reached out to our partners and discovered that Faith Feeding Freedom had received a grant from Proctor and Gamble to purchase storage lockers for the unhoused. However, they had not found a location to put them.

We reached out to Faith Feeding Freedom Founder Toni Weisberg and established a partnership. Faith Feeding Freedom purchased the lockers, awnings and security cameras and paid for installation. Catholic Charities provided the location and established guidelines and an intake process. This allows Catholic Charities to meet with individuals to identify other needs and help them access resources.

The lockers, which are located behind the Martinsburg Office, are now available to those who need them.

For more information, contact Trina Bartlett at tbartlett@ccwva.org or (304) 267-8837, ext. 8.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please 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.



Courtesy Photo

The CCWVa Martinsburg Office now offers lockers for people experiencing homelessness to store belongings.

Galvin...

Cont’d from Page 7

would do be a living example of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

“I wake up every day with a prayer of thanksgiving that I am here,” he said, rattling off a long list of saints, like St. Zita, St. Vincent, St. Stephen, St. Lawrence, and others, who inspire him to stay focused and not let others down – not let God down. “I work hard to stay in God’s grace and work for Christ.”

Job Openings

Corpus Christi School in Wheeling is seeking positive, energetic, qualified individuals to fill the following positions for the starting the 2022-2023 school year.

-Kindergarten Aide (FULL TIME 8:30-3:30, experience preferred)

-School Custodian (PART TIME 1pm -6pm , 5 days a week)

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and three references to Principal Shannon Wall at swall@ccwheeling.net

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September 6-9, 2022

Get acquainted with three unique churches in the Mountain State while you meet, pray and develop spiritual friendships with other Catholics. Motor coach tour starts in Summersville, West Virginia, and features Mass, rosary, discussion sessions and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Masses will be celebrated at St. Bernard Chapel in Snowshoe by Father Arthur Bufogle Jr. and at Holy Family Church in Richwood by Father Quy Dang.

Cost is \$600, which includes motel, tour bus and most meals. Registration and \$100 down payment required by August 23, with a maximum of 30 attendees. If less than 20 sign up, the trip will be cancelled and down payment returned to you.

For details and to sign up, text or call (304) 644-9906, or email jbard11@frontier.com.

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Colecta especial para socorro en casos de desastre en West Virginia y Kentucky

WHEELING—El obispo Mark Brennan aprobó una colecta especial que se llevará a cabo el fin de semana del 13 y 14 de agosto en todas las parroquias y misiones de la diócesis para apoyar los esfuerzos de recuperación relacionados con la serie de desastres naturales que han ocurrido en el sur de West Virginia y el este de Kentucky, provocando decenas de muertos y el desplazamiento de miles.

“Hemos sido testigos de primera mano de la destrucción que las inundaciones causadas por el clima severo han causado en nuestro Estado Montañoso. Tenemos casi 10 condados que han estado en estado de emergencia durante el último mes”, dijo el obispo Brennan. “He hablado con mis hermanos obispos en Kentucky que han detallado la destrucción de comunidades enteras en sus diócesis. Insto a los fieles a ser discípulos visibles de Cristo, ejemplos significativos de Él plenamente vivo en nosotros. Ayudemos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo a través de la oración y el apoyo, brindando esperanza y paz a los que sufren mientras reconstruyen sus vidas y, en muchos casos, honran las preciosas

vidas perdidas”.

Las ganancias de esta colecta apoyarán los esfuerzos humanitarios y de recuperación de Caridades Católicas, así como sus agencias asociadas en ambos estados.

Caridades Católicas de Virginia Occidental y Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Lexington están brindando esfuerzos de recuperación a largo plazo. Sus oficinas ayudan a las familias mucho después de que otras organizaciones se hayan mudado. El papel de Caridades Católicas durará meses y años mientras ayudan a familias e individuos en el proceso de reconstrucción para restaurar condiciones de vida seguras y sanitarias. “Catholic Charities West Virginia se compromete a ser receptivo y compasivo después de un desastre, brindando ayuda y esperanza”, dijo Beth Zarate, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de Catholic Charities West Virginia. “Nuestro objetivo es devolver a las personas a viviendas seguras, limpias y protegidas. Nuestro programa de Servicios para Desastres tiene la suerte de contar con muchos socios y simpatizantes que se unen para llevar a cabo la abrumadora tarea de reconstruir hogares y vidas,

por el tiempo que nos necesitan”.

Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston

con "Disaster Relief" en la línea de memo. También se pueden hacer donaciones para este esfuerzo de recuperación de desastres a

largo plazo durante todo el mes de agosto en el sitio web diocesano en <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

La diócesis anuncia nuevos seminaristas



Foto de Colleen Rowan

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene cinco nuevos seminaristas, elevando a nueve el número de hombres en formación para el sacerdocio. Al frente, de izquierda a derecha, están el Padre Brian Crenwelge, director de Vocaciones; el nuevo seminarista Nathan Schmidt; el obispo Mark E. Brennan; el seminarista que regresa Bryan Tedeschi; el nuevo seminarista Donvito Cortese; y el antiguo seminarista Joe Derico. En la parte de atrás, de izquierda a derecha, están el seminarista nuevo Timothy Kawash, el seminarista que regresa John Soplinski, los nuevos seminaristas Michael Tupta y Dylan O'Sullivan, y el seminarista que regresa Dominic Re.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Kentucky...

Cont'd from Page 5

for first responders to reach people. And communication is spotty.

"To be able to get to people is hard. The roads — 25 to 30 feet of road — are just gone," Helfrich said.

Afraid the Panbowl Dam in Jackson may break, officials closed a major road, blocking access to nearby communities.

Gauging the devastation based on how it has impacted Catholic families isn't a good measure because they make up less than 1% of the population in Eastern Kentucky, according to Helfrich. But the Catholic Church works closely with community partners and is an important part of the community.

"In some cases, like Campton, the Catholic Church has the only food pantry and they feed 300 people a month," she said. "In Hazard, we have an emergency food pantry. We work with the housing development alliance. We work with community partners — that's how it runs. Parishes work with partners to provide outreach."

"People are very happy that we are checking in on people and they'll get back to you when they can. Phone reception is very spotty," she said. "(Of the people I've talked to from the parish, one lady has been devastated, she has faced a lot of tough situations in her life and this is the worst. It's kind of overwhelming in a sense.

"Our parish here in Hazard covers three counties — about 1,000 square miles: Leslie, Perry and Knott," she said. "Many come from Letcher, too. Their whole town of Whitesburg was under water as of this morning. People are

doing what they can; people are reaching out to each other. But people are in shock. They're just in shock."

Meg Campos, executive director of Catholic Charities of Lexington, who also was on the conference call, said: "People know they can turn to the Catholic Church."

She said that "because of the magnitude of the disaster," Catholic Charities USA has "reached out to me to see how we can collaborate."

They offered to "bring on additional manpower from people who have disaster experience" and help identify Catholic parishes that can help with distribution, Campos said.

Next steps to be taken to include identifying a parish or parishes that are accessible and able to distribute materials, such as water, she said.

A day earlier Campos was on a conference call with 38 to 40 representatives of other faith-based agencies and a number of social service groups to begin sorting out the response that will be needed — short term and long term — to help the people of southeastern Kentucky.

"Right now we're at that first stage, the information gathering phase" to identify the impact on counties and their communities and learn what parish life directors are "seeing on the ground," she said in a July 28 phone interview with Catholic News Service.

The floods are worse than last year's, "which were intense," Campos added.

She said these conference calls with other agencies "will go on daily for the near future until the initial crisis subsides," Campos said. "That's always the short term — the cleanup, assessing the damage ... getting everyone fed and temporarily housed. The long term, it

turns into a recovery phase."

"Long-term needs can go on for a year or so" and Catholic Charities will be there, she added.

On the July 29 conference call, Campos said that for those who want to donate to relief efforts, "cash is best."

"Monetary donations are always the best way to help. We can purchase the needed items at any given time," she explained, adding that some assistance "can be a burden" when items are donated that aren't needed. There's no place to store items either.

Those who wish to donate should go to catholiccharitieslexington.org, hit the tab "Donate Now" and designate contributions for disasters.

Helfrich said: "We'll address whatever the next thing is we can do — whether that's cut melon or text someone ... and let them know they're not alone."

"It's really hard," she added. "Friends of ours lost their aunt and uncle, they couldn't get out. One of our parishioners, her mom needed to be evacuated and lost her whole business. It's very difficult for people."

"So many people couldn't get in touch with people in Perry County," she said. "It's hard when communication isn't available to find out they're OK."

Emergency shelters have been set up at schools and as far as church services on Sunday, Helfrich said Hazard will likely have a Communion service, "but whether or not we will have Mass is up in the air." Right now the pastor can't reach Mother of Good Counsel Church in Hazard, but the Catholic churches in Jackson and Campton churches are accessible. "There's a lot of hardship" in the region with its high unemploy-

ment rate and few job opportunities, Campos told CNS, "but there's also this strength of the people that is so inspiring."

"When I went and visited in last year's floods and you would go to someone's house and they'd say, 'I'm sure someone else is worse off than me so don't help me if others are worse off,'" she recalled.

One man who felt that way, she said, "sent us away with food from his garden. ... That was the best watermelon I ever had."

McAllister is editor of The Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville. Contributing to this story was Julie Asher in Washington.

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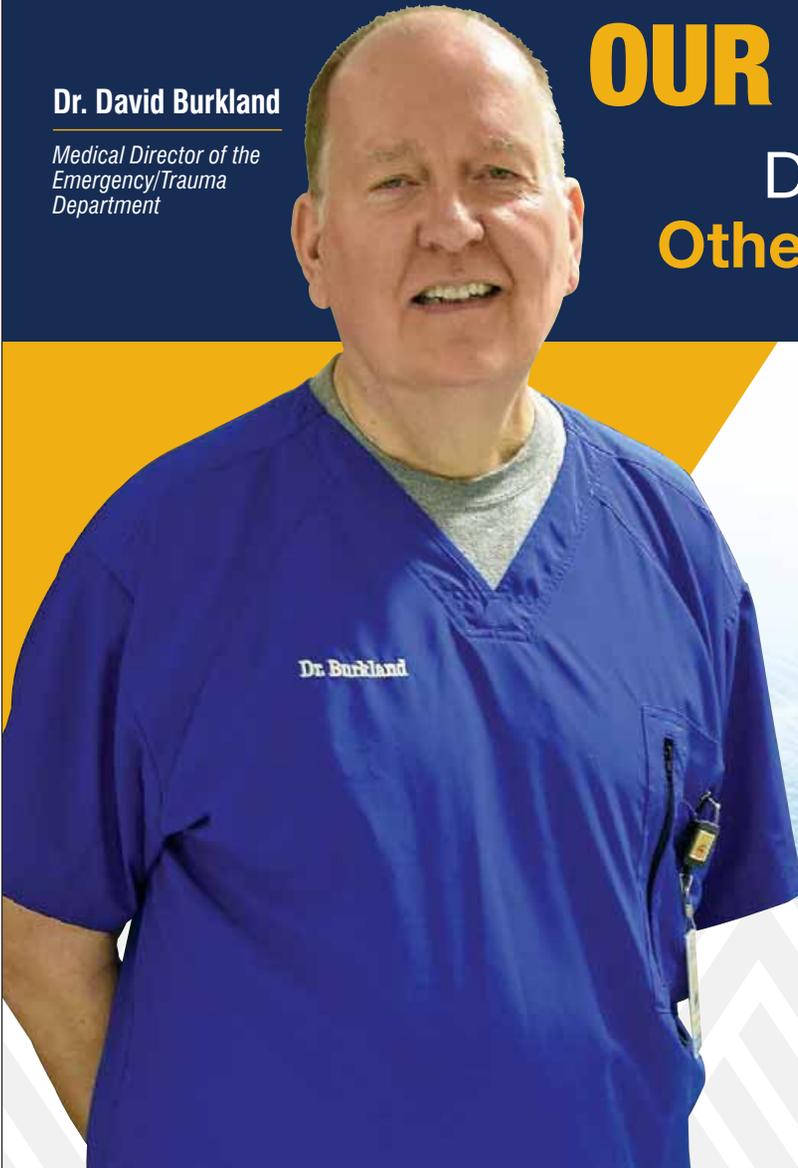
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