

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Diocese Announces New Seminarians



Bishop Mark E. Brennan is pictured with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's seminarians and members of the Vocations Office in front of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling July 30. From left are: Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the diocese; returning seminarians John Soplinski, Tyler Boyd, and Ryan Budd; Bishop Brennan; new seminarians Joe Derico and Bryan Tedeschi; Caleb Estep, the new office manager for Vocations; and new seminarian Dominic Re. See story on Page 1 of The Calling, Vocations Newsletter, in the center section of this issue of The Catholic Spirit. Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Brennan Appoints Dom Oppenheimer Delegate for Extraordinary Form Mass

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Bishop Mark E. Brennan has appointed Very Rev. Daniel Augustine Oppenheimer, CRNJ, as his delegate to assist him in meeting the needs of existing Extraordinary Form Mass communities in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Dom Oppenheimer is prior of the Annunciation of the

Blessed Virgin Mary Priory of the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem in Charles Town.

Bishop Brennan made the appointment in response to Pope Francis's Apostolic Letter (motu proprio), entitled Traditionis Custodes, regarding the use of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. Pope Francis restored limits on the cele-

bration of the Mass according to the Roman Missal in use before the Second Vatican Council, modifying permissions St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had given to celebrate the so-called Tridentine-rite Mass.

Bishop Brennan is not suppressing the celebration of the Extraordinary Form Mass in the Diocese of Wheeling-

Charleston. He is actively assisting the existing communities where it is celebrated by ensuring that the Mass is celebrated in the proper way. That is what Dom Oppenheimer will oversee through his appointment as the bishop's delegate.

"The duties of my appointment will be to represent the bishop and
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Inside: Sisters Thank All for 'Beads for Zimbabwe,'
Page 5

The Calling, Vocations Newsletter of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Center Section

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Aloysius Boh is appointed administrator of St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville with residence at the parish rectory, effective August 11, 2021.

Father William Kuchinsky is appointed supervisor of the Office of Prison Ministry, effective August 11, 2021, with initial residence at the former rectory of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

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.

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/Epararchies 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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August 6, 2021, Vol. 52, No. 32

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....

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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.

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At Angelus, Pope Warns against Using God, Others for Selfish Aims

By Carol Glatz Catholic, News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People should seek Jesus out of genuine love, not calculated self-interest, Pope Francis said.

“Why do I seek the Lord? What are the motivations for my faith, for our faith?” the pope asked Aug. 1 during his Sunday Angelus address.

It is important to reflect on one’s reasons because there can be an “immature” faith driven by an “idolatrous temptation,” that is, the temptation “that drives us to seek God for our own use, to solve

problems,” to turn to him for things “we cannot obtain on our own, for our interests,” he said.

“But in this way faith remains superficial and even, if I may say so, faith remains miraculous: we look for God to feed us and then forget about him when we are satiated,” the pope said, reflecting on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. John in which Jesus sees a crowd looking for him because people had witnessed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves.

The pope said, “It is right to present our needs to God’s heart,

but the Lord, who acts far beyond our expectations, wishes to live with us first of all in a relationship of love. And true love is disinterested, it is free: One does not love to receive a favor in return! This is self-interest, and very often in life we are motivated by self-interest.”

Living a faith that pleases God means doing his will, which is to welcome Jesus with love, “not adding religious practices or observing special precepts,” Pope Francis said.

“The Lord wants a loving relationship with us, he said, “a rela-

tionship with him that goes beyond the logic of interest and calculation.”

This applies not only to God, but also to all relationships, he said, underlining the risk of “using people and exploiting situations for our own ends” when people seek primarily to satisfy their own needs.

Therefore, the Gospel invites people to “welcome Jesus as the bread of life” and learn to love others “freely and without calculation, without using people, freely with generosity, with magnanimity,” he said.

Mass ...

Cont’d from Page 1

assuring the spiritual welfare of groups being ministered to by those diocesan priests who are offering the former Latin Liturgy for them,” Dom Oppenheimer said. “As his delegate, this will include occasionally meeting the various congregations and making myself available to them, to understand their concerns, and to convey these to Bishop Brennan. Furthermore, since I am superior of a fully functioning monastic community that uses the former Latin rites of the church in their fullest form each and every day, our community is in a position to offer priests workshops for perfecting their abilities in the use of Latin and the older liturgical forms.”

As Augustinian canons, they live a very specific form of contemplative, priestly life, Dom Oppenheimer said.

“As such we provide a fitting place where not only the old rites are used with great facility, but more especially, a monastic oasis of silence and prayer,” he said. “Our monastery, therefore, is open to all the clergy and faithful at all times as a place of spiritual recollection. We are, therefore, a resource Bishop Brennan has kindly turned to for knowledgeable assistance in his meeting the genuine spiritual needs of those drawn to the older rites. We have been doing this for more than 10 years, here in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and look forward to the added service we are able to render our bishop in these times of spiritual needs.”

Dom Oppenheimer said they welcome inquiries of any priest or the laity who may benefit by their ministry. The oratory is open to the public every day from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Bishop Brennan announced to priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in a July 26 letter that Extraordinary Form Masses must begin to transition from parochial churches to chapels or other “appropriate venues” and new communities are not permitted. Furthermore, priests currently celebrating the Mass using the “Missale Romanum” of 1962 must obtain the bishop’s authorization to continue doing so. This requirement is stated in Article 5 of the “motu proprio.”

“When seeking permission to celebrate the Extraordinary Form, care must be taken to en-

sure that it is for an already established community of the faithful who find spiritual nourishment in the Extraordinary Form,” Bishop Brennan wrote. “I will do my best to assist existing Extraordinary Form communities, but new communities are not permitted.”

The bishop said in his letter to priests that when referring to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, the Holy Father’s criteria are that the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope St. John XXIII in 1962 be used and that the celebrant be properly skilled in Latin and celebrate in a manner that ensures fidelity to the rubrics and the liturgical texts outlined in that Missal.

“It is the intent of the Holy Father that issuing this ‘motu proprio’ promote unity in the

church,” Bishop Brennan said in the letter. “He stresses that as ministers of the Catholic faith, we ‘do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform, dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs.’ This means that those who participate in the Extraordinary Form of the Mass must acknowledge the validity of the Ordinary Form of the Mass of Pope St. Paul VI. Likewise, those who are fond of the Ordinary Form Mass should respect those who have an affinity for the Extraordinary Form Mass.”

In ending his letter, Bishop Brennan said he hoped the letter makes clear how Pope Francis’s “motu proprio Traditionis Custodes” will be applied in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



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Hosted by: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Committee on Scouting

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House's Refusal to Include Hyde in Spending Bills is Called an 'Injustice'

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The refusal by the U.S. House to include the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life riders in appropriations bills before lawmakers passed the measures is an “injustice” that overshadows the provisions that help “vulnerable people,” said the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees.

Late July 29, the House voted 219 to 208 in favor of H.R. 4502, a package of appropriations bills that currently exclude the Hyde, Weldon and Helms amendments and other longstanding, bipartisan-supported pro-life language.

Eliminating these provisions would force taxpayers to pay for elective abortions and would have the effect of forcing health care providers and professionals “to perform and refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as forcing employers and insurers to cover and pay for abortion,” said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a news release issued after the vote. The release included a joint statement on the House actions by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“The House has voted in a way that is completely out of step with the will of the American people who overwhelmingly oppose taxpayer-funded abortion,” the prelates said.

“The Hyde Amendment has saved at least 2.4 million lives since its enactment. Without it, millions of poor women in desperate circumstances will make the irrevocable decision to take the government up on its offer to end the life of their child,” they said.

The now-approved package of spending bills “includes provisions that help vulnerable people, including pregnant moms,” they acknowledged, but “as we have said before, ‘being “right” in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life.’”

This “failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the ‘rightness’ of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community,” they said, again quoting a previous bishops’ statement.

H.R. 4502 covers spending for Agriculture; Energy and Water Development; Financial Services and General Government; Interior, Environment and related agencies, Labor, Health and Human Services and Education; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and related agencies; and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

The Hyde Amendment, first enacted with strong bipartisan support 45 years ago, outlaws federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

Congress must reauthorize the Hyde Amendment annually as an attachment to the appropriations bill for the Department of Health and Human Services. Hyde language also has been part of a dozen spending bills for decades. Until this year, Hyde has been reauthorized every year since 1976.

“The injustice in H.R. 4502 extends to removing conscience protections and exemptions for health care providers who believe abortion is wrong, or whose faith drives them to serve and heal lives, instead of taking them,” Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Naumann said, referring to the Weldon Amendment, first passed in 2005.

“Funding the destruction of innocent unborn human lives, and forcing people to kill in violation of their consciences, are grave abuses of human rights,” they said.

The cardinal and archbishop called on the Senate “to redress this evil in H.R. 4502, and for Congress to ultimately pass appropriations bills that fully support and protect human dignity, and the most vulnerable among us.”

On July 28, the House voted 217-212 to pass the appropriations bill for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, H.R. 4373, without the Helms Amendment. Called “the Hyde Amendment for the rest of the world,” it has prohibited using U.S. taxpayer funds to directly pay for abortions in other countries since 1973.

In a July 30 joint statement, Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop Naumann and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on International Justice and Peace, criticized the House for eliminating Helms.

“(This) could force recipient countries that have strong legal and cultural opposition to abortion to embrace it in order to receive desperately needed help for their people,” they said.

“Pope Francis has referred to this type of situation as ideological colonization,” they added, calling on the Senate “to stand against the coercive pro-abortion policies of H.R. 4373.”

“While this legislation contains many positive provisions that provide assistance to the poor and vulnerable worldwide, including protection of refugees, increases to humanitarian assistance, and protection of the environment, nothing can justify subsidizing the taking of innocent human life,” the prelates said.

In a July 29 email, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, told Catholic News Service that he, Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., and other House members “pushed hard in the Rules Committee and in the House debates to defend the unborn and their mothers from the violence of abortion.”

“A total of 14 pro-life amendments were ruled out of order by the Democratic majority,” Smith said in July 27 remarks on the House floor. “All is not lost, however. I remain hopeful — confident — that the Senate will reinstate all current pro-life protections, like the Hyde Amendment.”

Before the full House took up the spending bills for fiscal year 2022, the House Appropriations Committee had spent the previous weeks marking up the bills on largely party-line votes to advance them to the House floor.

In marking them up, committee members left out the Hyde, Weldon and Helms amendments.

Their actions after President Joe Biden released his proposed budget May 28 without the Hyde Amendment, a move decried by the U.S. Catholic bishops, the Catholic Health Association, several national pro-life organizations, and Smith and many other pro-life House members.

Other pro-life reaction to the House’s July 29 vote included a statement from Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, who criticized “pro-abortion Democrats” for eliminating provisions that “protect the American public from funding or providing abortions against their will.”

“Consistent polling shows that a majority of Americans want these protections” she said in a July 29 statement. “It is time codify these popular

and common-sense riders into law by passing the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions Act. No one should be forced to compromise their values, but especially not on this life-or-death issue.”

Mancini was referring to the proposed No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021, or H.R. 18, which would make Hyde and similar provisions permanent. Smith is the author of the bill, which has 166 co-sponsors.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said the House vote “to make taxpayers pay for abortions is both an assault on the dignity of life and contrary to the wishes of most Americans.” He cited the results of Knights of Columbus/Marist polling this year showing “that 58% of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer-funding for abortions ... affirming over a decade of previous polling data.”

“We urge the Senate to include the Hyde Amendment and other similar provisions as they undertake the appropriations process and for the full Congress to ultimately pass spending bills that affirm this bipartisan desire of the American public,” Kelly said.

“We call on all legislators, especially our fellow Catholics, to have the courage to make a stand for conscience and to not force every tax-paying American to pay for the destruction of innocent life in the womb,” he said.

Jennifer Popik, legislative director of National Right to Life, said the Hyde Amendment “has proven to be the greatest domestic abortion-reduction measure ever enacted by Congress. ... (It) is widely recognized as having saved over two million American lives since it was first adopted in 1976.”

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 DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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When you love first, life follows.

Sisters Thank All for ‘Beads for Zimbabwe’

By Colleen Rowan

Last winter, the Sisters of the Infant Jesus at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg asked the diocesan faithful for “Beads for Zimbabwe.” Through their initiative, they collected rosaries that were intact or broken and religious medals to send back to Catholics in Zimbabwe, one of the poorest lands in Africa. The response from West Virginia Catholics was huge, to say the least.

“We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus Community in Zimbabwe to thank you for the outpouring of LOVE of the 8,727 religious medals, 9,546 rosaries, statues, and so many religious books and holy cards received from you and around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and many churches outside the State of West Virginia!” Sister Maria Rukwishuro, SJI, and Sister Beritha Mashu, SJI, wrote in a thank you letter to the priests and faithful of parishes around the diocese. “Your generosity has given our religious order the ability to give your gifts to the people in need to accompany them on their faith and spiritual journeys.”

The sisters said they also received cash donations “and were able to send three barrels by boat to our country, Zimbabwe. The trip takes eight-12 weeks for your gifts to arrive.”

Very Rev. Casey Mahone, V.F., pastor of Immaculate Conception, said that he has been blessed to work with the Sisters of the Infant Jesus since 2008. Through Sister Beritha and Sister Maria, he has gotten to know their community. Father Mahone has visited Zimbabwe, and has seen the great need there. He is grateful for the response to the sisters’ initiative.

“We were all absolutely overwhelmed by the generous response of the people of the diocese in their generosity toward the Catholic people of Zimbabwe who face challenges that few can imagine and yet their faith and zeal for the Lord remain strong and undeterred,” Father Mahone said. “Special thanks also to Marcel Malfregeot of our parish who helped in coordinating the sisters’ efforts and to Bishop Brennan for endorsing their project. Thanks and blessings to all!”

In ending their letter, Sister Maria and Sister Beritha said that together all are making a difference, and they deeply appreciate the continued support of their mission.

“Once more thank you very much and we assure you of our prayers,” they wrote. “May God bless you all and your families! We pray for you that our Lord God will bring you His peace and blessings along with health to you and your families!!”



Courtesy Photo

Sister Maria Rukwishuro, SJI, and Sister Beritha Mashu, SJI, show some of the 8,727 religious medals, 9,546 rosaries, statues, and many religious books and holy cards received for their “Beads for Zimbabwe” initiative.

Theology on Tap up and Running in Huntington

EWTN Radio Host will be a Featured Speaker

By Colleen Rowan

HUNTINGTON—Theology on Tap is up and running in Huntington. All are invited to attend these gatherings where Catholics come together to discuss different issues.

“Theology on Tap is a world-famous evangelization program founded in Chicago, aimed at introducing or re-introducing folks to the Catholic faith in an informal setting,” said seminarian Ryan Budd, who is helping to organize the gatherings in Huntington. Meetings are usually in a bar or restaurant, beer on tap is available, and there is a speaker followed by questions and answers, Budd explained. The series in Huntington began when Dan Yon, an attorney, and Matt White, a businessman and baseball coach, met at a bible study. “They discovered that they

shared a passion for re-evangelizing their generation, and thought Theology on Tap would be a great method,” Budd said. “They purchased a license from Renewal, the organization sponsoring Theology on Tap, and reached out to me to help put things together.”

Each meeting is held at locations to be announced by organizers. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. The next in the series will be Aug. 18 with the theme “Being a Christian Family.” The evening will include a story of how a married couple embraced Christian family life and successfully struggled with accepting Christ’s teachings. “The speakers will be a married couple from Winfield who will tell the story of their embracing their Catholic faith and finding joy in following Christ’s teaching as a family,”

Budd said. “In particular, they’ll share how their embrace of natural family planning, while initially difficult, proved a profound blessing for their family.”

“Being a Disciple of Jesus” will be the theme of the Sept. 1 gathering and will feature a panel discussion on how individual people discovered what it means to follow Jesus by their own conversion and by teaching others.

“Christ’s Hardest Word” is the topic of the Sept. 15 gathering. Up for discussion will be tackling the hardest teaching of Christianity—the duty to forgive and pray for one’s enemies. Budd will be leading this discussion.

“Stump the Pastor” will be Sept. 29 with Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington, who will field any and all questions that

have come up in the series.

What organizers are calling the big event will be a feature discussion led by Dr. Ray Guarendi Oct. 13. “We’re excited to announce that Dr. Ray Guarendi, world-famous speaker, parenting coach, and EWTN radio talk-show host, will be our ‘capstone’ speaker,” Budd said. Ray is a Catholic father of 10 adopted children, a clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker, and national radio and television host. His radio show “The Doctor Is In” can be heard on over 440 stations and SiriusXM channel 130. His TV show “Living Right with Dr. Ray” can be seen on EWTN global Catholic network and is aired in 140 countries.

Contact Budd for more information and meeting locations by e-mail: rbudd@stjoeshuntington.org.

Oldest Catholic Church in West Virginia Featured in New Book

By Joyce Bibey

SWEET SPRINGS—In a recently published book, “Cloud of Witnesses – The Floyd-Lewis Chronicles,” Father Harry Winter, OMI, showcases the history of Virginia Governor John Floyd Jr., his wife Letitia Preston Floyd, and their descendants including their eldest daughter Letitia Floyd Lewis. This family rivaled the importance of the President John Adams family in Father Winter’s opinion. His book tells why.

“Cloud of Witnesses” also highlights the family’s conversion to the Catholic faith and the prominent family’s influence on the Appalachian region, specifically the area of Sweet Springs in Monroe County. The area is home of the historic Old Sweet Springs Resort, which is currently part of an historic revitalization

project lead by the Sweet Springs Resort Park Foundation, Inc., (<https://www.sweetspringsresortpark.org>). Eight of the first 10 Presidents of the United States had stayed in the grand hotel build in 1833, and the chapel on the property St. John’s is the oldest Catholic church in West Virginia, older than the state itself. It was established in 1859.

Father Winter served as pastor in Monroe County from 1982-91, residing at St. Andrew’s in Union, while also serving St. John’s in Sweet Springs and St. Peter’s, in Peterstown.

Father Winter’s title is a compliment to St. Paul’s writing – Hebrews 12:1, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us* and persevere in running the race that lies before us....”

The great apostle is telling us that we need to have confidence as we run our race, because we are surrounded everyday by great prophets and saints who are cheering us on.

Faith is a big part of the lives of the Floyd-Lewis family. Father Winters eloquently describes the individuals of the past as the grand witnesses to our history and now the work of the revitalization of it.

The book ends challenging the reader to think who is in their “own Cloud of Witnesses, the people in your life who have died but still influence you positively in a significant way?”

Father Winters will return to southern West Virginia to celebrate Mass Aug. 15 in Sweet Springs. He is currently the pastor in residence, St. Mary’s Church, Georgetown, Mass.

Special Masses will be Celebrated at Historic Churches in the Greenbrier Valley

Parishes in the Greenbrier Valley have scheduled Masses in two historic churches for the coming months.

The oldest Catholic church in Greenbrier County, the Church of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg, will be the setting for First Saturday devotions and daily Mass Aug. 7, Sept. 4, and Oct. 2. Built in 1901 to serve the Irish and Germans in northern Greenbrier, it was never a free-standing parish, but a chapel of St. Catherine of Siena in Ronceverte or Sacred Heart in Rainelle.

Devotions begin at 10:30 a.m. and the daily Mass at 11 a.m., followed by a covered-dish luncheon on the grounds.

The oldest Catholic church standing in West Virginia is St. John, the Evangelist, Chapel in Sweet Springs in northeastern Monroe County. Used for funerals and weddings, it is the setting for the annual Mass of the Feast of the

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. Hosted by Father James Conyers, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs and St. Catherine of Siena, the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus and the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Catherine of Siena, the Mass draws worshipers from throughout West Virginia and Virginia and as many as six priests from four dioceses participating.

Father Harry Winters, OMI, the last resident priest in Monroe County, has researched and written extensively on the church. He is planning to return to the Greenbrier Valley for the Aug. 15 Mass and to host book signings for his latest book.

Following Mass, an ice cream desert is held on the grounds of the chapel. The chapel will open by 4 p.m. for those wishing to tour the church.

To reach the Church of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg, take US 219 to the village of Frankford and turn onto the Williamsburg/Frankford Road. In nearly 4.5 miles, turn onto Catholic Church Road and the church is located just past the church cemetery, the original site of the first church.

To reach St. John, the Evangelist, Chapel in Sweet Springs, follow I-64 East to the Crows, Va. Exit and

take VA 311 to WV 3 in Sweet Springs. From the south, take US 219 to the center of Union and then WV 3 to the church at the intersection of WV 311 and WV 3 in Sweet Springs. From the east, take I-64 West to the Callaghan, Va., exit and VA 159 south to VA 311, south to the intersection of WV 311 and WV 3 in Sweet Springs.

Casual dress is recommended for Masses at both churches.

Thanks to Parishioners, St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs Has a New Pipe Organ

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS—St. Charles Borromeo Parish in White Sulphur Springs has had a pipe organ installed in its choir loft.

The organ was designed by Timothy Smith, a professional builder of pipe organs from Portageville, N.Y. He is the organist and choirmaster a Trinity Church in Birmingham, N.Y. He earned music degrees from Wheaton College in Northwestern University in Illinois and Boston Conservatory of music in Massachusetts. His performances have been broadcast nationally on "Pipe Dreams" and he has released three compact discs on the raven label.

Smith built the organ in his studio, transported it to St. Charles, and installed it in the choir loft. It took many months to build and a week to install. He purchases vintage organs from all over the world, takes the best parts of each, and creates a new one. St. Charles' organ now has parts from Trinity Church in lower Manhattan, German pipes, as well as pipes from Canada and the U.S. The organ has 532 pipes, a console

with two manuals and a zimbles-tern.

Leah and Rodger Trent, both professional organists, were instrumental in arranging this endeavor. They knew Smith from concerts they played in Portageville. Leah is the choir director, organist, and harpist for St. Charles. She has a master's degree in music and is the education director at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. Rodger and Leah are both loved choir members and parishioners.

Father Jim Conyers, pastor of St. Charles, loves classical church music and works with the Trents in preparation for Sunday Masses. On June 13, Father Conyers had a special blessing of the new pipe organ, and blessed the choir members as well. He thanked the Trents for sharing their God-given time, talents, and music ability with St. Charles, and said the church is grateful for their expertise, dedication, and generosity.

Gifts from the estates of Lois Cole and Ronald Scobbo funded the endeavor.

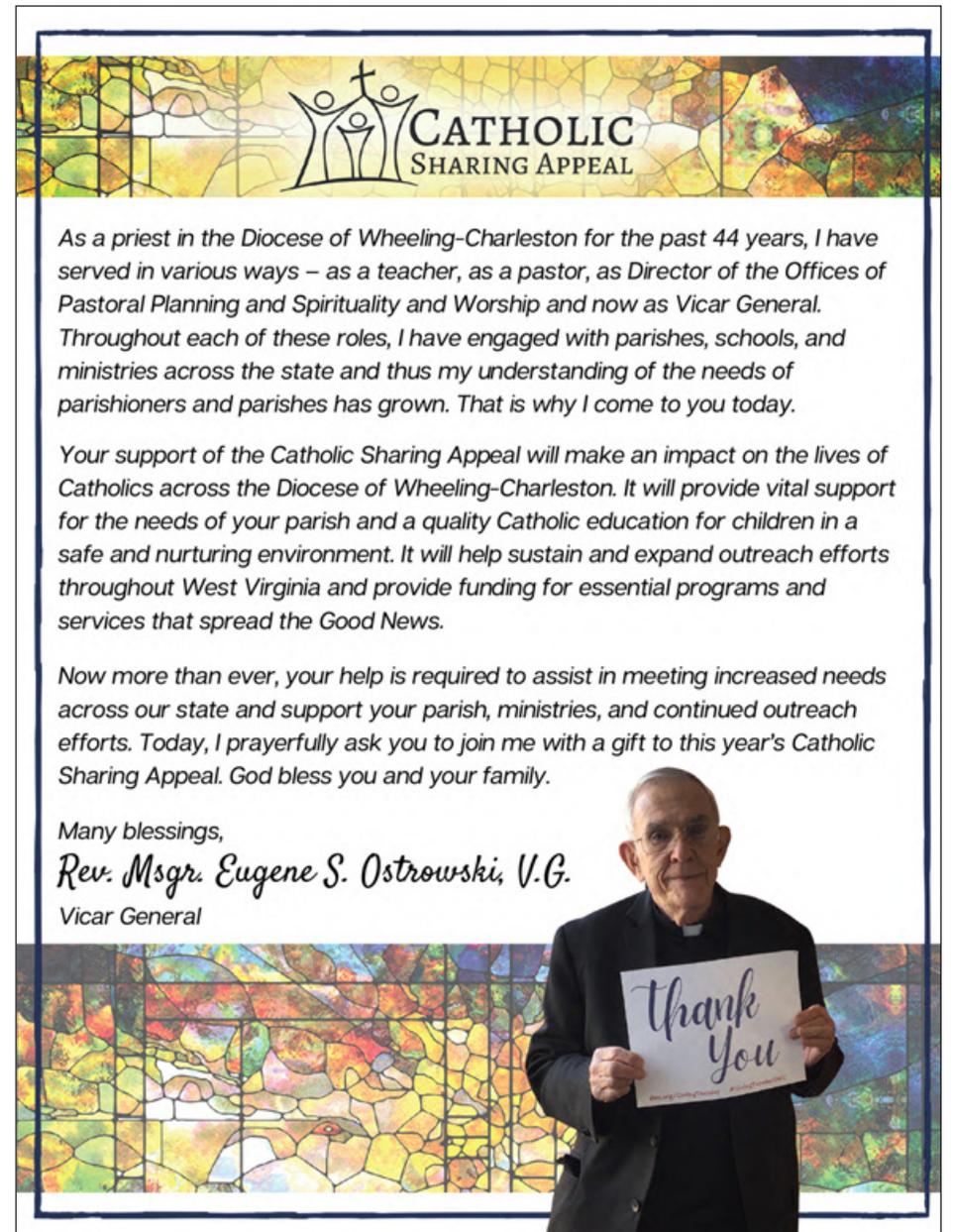
Weston Parish Invites All to Participate in Marian Procession

WESTON—St. Patrick Parish in Weston will have a Marian Procession to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 15.

Faithful from around the diocese are invited and encouraged to attend this incredible opportunity. Mass will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the procession will follow directly.

Father Doug Ondeck, pastor of the parish, will also bless herbs, plants, and flowers to be laid upon the side altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Any questions can be directed to the parish office at (304) 269-3048.



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

Thank You

THE CALLING

2021

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Vocations Newsletter

Vol 9, No. 1

Meet Our New Seminarians

Joe Derico of Weston, Dominic Re of Oak Hill, and Bryan Tedeschi of Sharpsburg, Md.

By Colleen Rowan

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has three new seminarians. Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations, officially introduced them at the Wheeling Serra Club's Burse Dinner at the Great Hall at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling July 29. The dinner was held on the eve of the annual Seminarians' Weekend with the Bishop.

The new seminarians are Joe Derico of Weston, a 2021 high school graduate who will be entering his freshman year at John Paul II College Seminary in Washington; Dominic Re of Oak Hill, who will be entering his first year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmittsburg, Md.; and Bryan Tedeschi of Sharpsburg, Md., who will be entering Mount St. Mary's as well.

"I am very impressed with the new men joining the diocese. Their enthusiasm to discern our Lord's will in their lives and to serve the church is inspiring," Father Crenwelge said. "Please pray for these men as they begin their official discernment in seminary."

Eighteen-year-old Derico is the son of Tim Derico, facilities director for Upshur County Schools, and Kim Derico, professor of nursing at Fairmont State University. His home parish is St. Patrick's in Weston.

"I am really looking forward to the opportunity to attend seminary at St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C.," Derico said. "Please keep me and the other seminarians in your prayers as we continue to discern our call to serve Christ's church."

Dominic Re, 22, is the son of Joe Re, who is self-employed, and Angie Re, a homemaker. His home parish is Ss. Peter and Paul in Oak Hill. He also attended West Virginia University's Institute of Technology.

"I would like to thank the priests, people of this diocese, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, and my family who have helped form me since infancy! Wow, what a chore that was!" Re said. "It is through all of your help and guidance that I have developed a deep love of the Eucharist and a strong desire to know God's holy will. I am so excited to be a seminarian for this diocese and to be given an opportunity to serve you in return!"

Re also pointed to a quote from St. Padre



Joe Derico



Dominic Re



Bryan Tedeschi

"I am very impressed with the new men joining the diocese. Their enthusiasm to discern our Lord's will in their lives and to serve the church is inspiring. Please pray for these men as they begin their official discernment in seminary."

—Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations

Pio: "My past, O Lord, to Your mercy; my present, to Your love; my future to Your providence."

Tedeschi is also 22. He is the son of Michael Tedeschi, a carpenter, and Kathleen Tedeschi, IT lifecycle manager. His home parish is St. Mary's in Hagerstown, Md., but he frequently attends St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town. Tedeschi attended Waynesburg University in Waynesburg, Pa.

"I cannot wait to enter seminary because by entering I will be able to truly give myself over to the Lord for this next year," he said. "I am a very outdoorsy kind of guy. I love to hike, camp, fish, shoot, and raise my chickens.

Hopefully, I will start to duck hunt pretty soon. There are not a lot of things that I do not like to do. I cannot wait to meet all of the people of Wheeling-Charleston as everyone that I have met so far has been extremely welcoming and kind coming into West Virginia, thank you!"

During the dinner, Father Crenwelge also recognized the diocese's three returning seminarians: Tyler Boyd of Buckhannon, who will be entering his second year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary; Ryan Budd of Maine who transferred last year from the

See "Seminarians" on Page 2 of The Calling

Inside:

Bishop and Priests Thank Serrans for Their Support, Page 2

Seminarians Learn More from Their Leaders' Lives Than Words, Pope Says, Page 3

Bishop and Priests Thank Serrans for Support

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—In his remarks at the July 29 Wheeling Serra Club Burse Dinner, Father Brian Crenwelge said that he was so happy to be at the gathering. Father Crenwelge, who is director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, thanked Serra Club members for all they do. He shared that he spoke to Mark Sadd, president of the Serra Club of Charleston, earlier that day and that he attended the Clarksburg Serra Club's luncheon the week before.

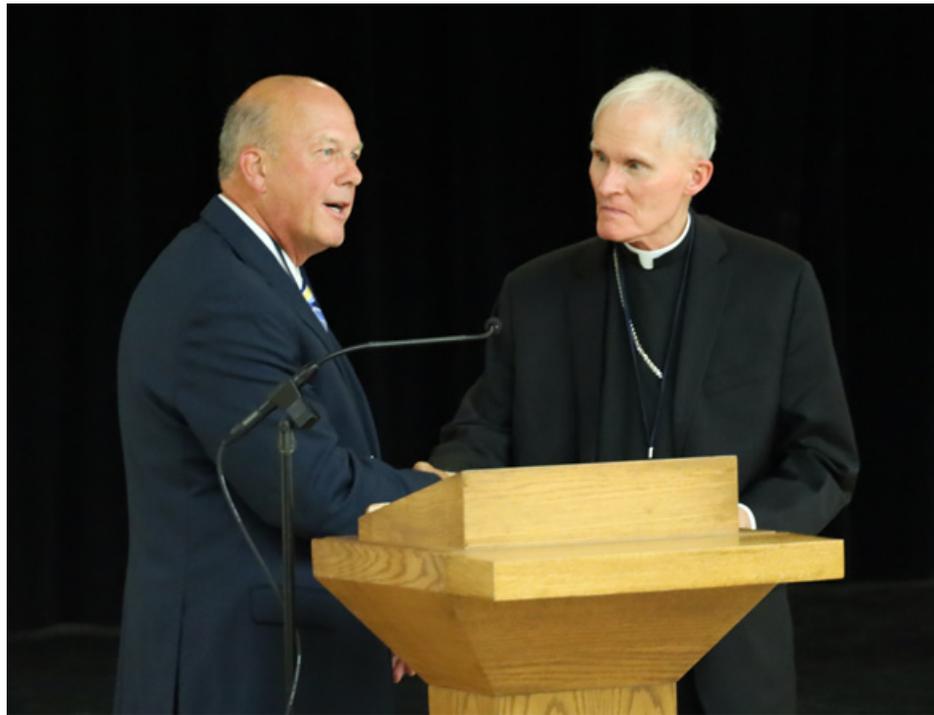
"So, I know how much Serrans love our priests and seminarians," he said. "I am grateful for all that you do for us."

Speaking first that evening in Wheeling was Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr. V.E., who shared remarks and offered the blessing.

"We want to thank you the Serrans for everything you do and for supporting our seminarians, and for all of your prayers," Father Schuelkens said. He shared that at the parishes where he is pastor, St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart of Mary in Weirton, they pray the Serran Prayer for Vocations before every Mass. He knows many other parishes that do this as well.

Before offering the blessing, Father Schuelkens said to the Serrans, "Thank you for all of your encouragement."

Father Crenwelge then introduced the six seminarians of the diocese who were present at the dinner that evening in Wheeling. He began by introducing the three returning seminarians and talked about their summer assignments. Tyler Boyd has been spending his summer assignment in Weirton at St. Joseph the Worker



Colleen Rowan Photo

Wheeling Serra's past president Chris Freeman presents the burse in support of seminarians to Bishop Mark Brennan at the Wheeling Serra Club's annual Burse Dinner July 29.

and Sacred Heart of Mary parishes with Father Schuelkens. He will be entering his second year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. He is originally from Buckhannon.

John Soplinski will be entering second theology at Mount St. Mary's as well. This summer, he has been serving at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg with Father John Rice, pastor. Soplinski is originally from Weirton.

Ryan Budd transferred last year from the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., and is currently assigned at St. Joseph Parish in Huntington with Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., pastor. He is originally from Maine.

Father Crenwelge then introduced the three new seminarians: Brian Tedeschi of Sharpsburg, Md., who will be attending Mount St. Mary's; Joe Derico of Weston, a 2021 high school graduate who will be entering his freshman year of John Paul II College Seminary in Washington; and Dominic Re of Oak Hill who will be entering his first year at Mount St. Mary's.

Also speaking at the dinner was Wheeling Serra's past president Chris Freeman, who challenged his fellow Serrans to reach out to those who they think would make a good priest or religious and ask if they have ever considered

priesthood or religious life.

"Everyone encounters someone they think would be a good priest or sister," Freeman said. "I think we need to reach out and tell those people that — that God may be calling them."

That might be the little extra push that they need, he said. "So, don't be shy about telling someone that they would make a good priest or a sister," he said.

Freeman also encouraged the faithful to take time to thank priests and sisters serving in the diocese.

"Send a little note ... Take them out to dinner," he said. Freeman also encouraged people to join the Serra Club. "The more members of Serra, the more we can do," he said. "The more we can pray, the more activities we're going to be involved in."

Freeman then presented the burse to Bishop Mark E. Brennan. Freeman and his wife Cindy offered to match up to \$1,000 any donations to the burse.

Bishop Brennan thanked the Serrans and said that as a former Serra Club chaplain, he appreciates their commitment and their support of seminarians. For vocations, the bishop said, the most important thing for everyone to do is pray.

Pray for those in formation, those who are thinking about it, and those who should be thinking about it, the bishop said.

"We have six seminarians for the whole state of West Virginia. We need more," Bishop Brennan said. "But I'm sure that if we petition heaven sincerely and constantly we will get good men who will commit themselves to serve the Lord and his people."

Diocese Welcomes Caleb Estep as Manager of Vocations Office

WHEELING—Caleb Estep is the new manager of the Vocations Office. He began the position June 7.

Estep is a member of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling and a recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville.

His office is at the chancery in Wheeling.

Those in need of information from the Vocations Office may contact Estep by e-mail to cestep@dwc.org or by calling (304) 233-0880, ext. 442.



Caleb Estep

Seminarians ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., and is currently assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Huntington; and John Soplinski of Weirton who will be entering second theology at Mount St. Mary's.

Father Crenwelge also introduced Caleb Estep, the new manager of the Vocations Office. Estep is a member of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling and a recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville. His office is at the chancery in Wheeling.

Vocations Office Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Father Brian Crenwelge, director
bcrenwelge@dwc.org ▪ 304.296.8231

Caleb Estep, manager
cestep@dwc.org ▪ 304.233.0880, ext. 442

Seminarians Learn More from Their Leaders' Lives Than Words, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Seminarians can learn more from the way their bishops, rectors, spiritual directors and formators live than from what they say, Pope Francis said.

Noting the yearlong celebration underway dedicated to St. Joseph, the pope said all those responsible for the formation of new priests — primarily their bishops, but also staff at their seminaries and schools — need to have St. Joseph as their inspiration and model, car-

ing for and protecting priestly vocations.

During an audience at the Vatican June 10 with members of the Pontifical Regional Seminary Pius XI of the Marche Region in Ancona, Italy, the pope said that seminarians “can learn more from your life than from your words.”

Therefore, he said, “may they learn docility from your obedience; diligence from your dedication; generosity toward the poor from the witness of your sobriety and helpfulness; paternity from your

deep and chaste affection.”

The pope also urged seminarians to seek out and visit elderly priests, who are “the church’s treasure,” but are often forgotten or isolated in care facilities. They possess wisdom and knowledge that has matured like “fine wine” and can help new ministers in solving their pastoral problems.

Pope Francis told the students that the seminary is not a place for distancing themselves from “reality, dangers and much less from other people, but, on the contrary,

(it is) to make you become closer to God and (your) brothers,” and the whole world.

It is where one learns to open one’s heart wide to everyone and truly encounter others, he said.

Just as they must embrace others, he said, the seminarians also must embrace their own humanity, their personal “complications,” feelings and affections, and open up with honesty to their formators, avoiding all

See “Pope” on Page 4 of The Calling

Praying for Vocations



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark E. Brennan blesses the faithful gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling for a Eucharistic Holy Hour for an Increase of Vocations Aug. 4. The holy hour was held on the Memorial of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. Bishop Brennan, was the celebrant and homilist.

Pope ...

Cont'd from Page 3

temptation of putting on a false front or looking like "the little angel."

"Cultivate relationships that are honest, joyful, humanely liberating, fulfilling and capable of friendship, feelings and fruitfulness," he said.

They should read authors who were great "humanists," he said, meaning "those writers who knew how to look inside the human soul" and, like Fyodor Dostoevsky, "reveal the beauty of the love that saves."

Such books help people develop their "heart" and "grow in humanity," he said. A priest might study hard and be able to explain theology, philosophy and the like, "but if he is not human, he's useless. He should get out and be a professor."

Seminarians also should not be overly self-satisfied with being good at social media and other forms of communication, he said. "Only being transformed by the Word of God will you be able to communicate words of life. The world is thirsty for priests who are able to communicate the goodness of the Lord to whoever has experienced sin and failure."

The world needs priests who are "experts in humanity, shepherds ready to share the joys and the struggles of their brothers and sisters, men who let themselves be struck by the cry of those who suffer," he said.

Seminarians can look for role models by tapping into "the humanity of Jesus of the Gospel and the tabernacle," in the lives of saints and "heroes of charity," and also in those who handed down the faith to them — their parents and grandparents, he said.

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A Special Six-Part Series on the Diocesan Pastoral Council

Nedeff, Newhart, Laurine Klug of Parkersburg Vicariate Eager for Diocesan Pastoral Council Tasks

By Joyce Bibey

WHEELING—The Parkersburg representatives on the reestablished Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) are rolling up their sleeves to help Bishop Mark E. Brennan and the other five vicariates in the state to enhance the life of the diocese and spiritual formation of the faithful. Together the tribring both a youthful and senior prospective.

Nearly four decades ago Linda Nedeff converted to Catholicism and became a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg. As a young mother she enjoyed being part of her parish family. She later became a teacher at Parkersburg Catholic Elementary, where she served for 30 years. Nedeff's love of her faith and teaching inspired her to volunteer in faith formation classes at St. Francis and eventually lead the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program for 28 years.

"Along the way I taught summer Bible Schools and did whatever the parish needed—cleaning, painting, sewing, cooking, etc.," she said. "I grew up active in my childhood church and cannot imagine not contributing to my church in some way. We all have something we can do, and the parish always has things that need done."

Because of her upbringing and the love, she has for her faith community it was hard "not" to be active in parish life even after retirement.

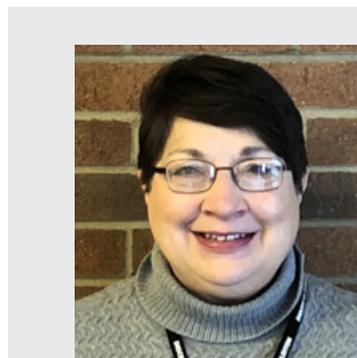
"When someone nomi-

nated me to represent the parish on the vicariate level, I felt I could offer my years of involvement to listen and give input," Nedeff said. "I never expected to also become part of the diocesan council, but now that I am on it for three years, I hope that our combined input can contribute to a dialogue between clergy and laity and help repair some of the loss of trust that has sadly increased over the last decade."

Nedeff will serve on the Lay Life and Ministry Committee on the council.

While she represents a senior voice on the Parkersburg Vicariate's team on the DPC, Colleen Newhart brings a voice for the younger generations. Newhart, a one-year member of the council, is a parishioner of St. Michael's in Vienna. She grew up in Greenbrier County area and attended St. Catherine of Siena in Ronceverte. Newhart has volunteered for her Parish School of Religion (PSR), serves as lector, and helps her community through the local soup kitchen and Gabriel Project.

"I accepted this role, because I feel it is important for the Diocesan Pastoral Council to have members of various age groups to provide information that Bishop Brennan is seeking from the laity," Newhart said. "Every generation has a different perspective of the Church as well as different challenges and needs. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a representative for millen-



Linda Nedeff



Colleen Newhart



Denise Laurine Klug

nials on the Diocesan Pastoral Council."

Like Nedeff and Newhart, New Martinsville resident Denise Laurine Klug is honored to serve on the DPC and takes pride in doing so on behalf of her Catholic community; and for her that means a family of four local parishes.

"I am currently a member of St. Vincent de Paul in New Martinsville, but with that being said we are a 'cluster' of four churches and I honestly feel that I am member of each of them—St. Joseph Mission in Proctor, Mater Dolorosa in Paden City, and Holy Rosary Mission in Sistersville," she said. "Each one has its own special and unique feel yet we are one."

Laurine Klug grew up in Weirton in a Catholic and Protestant household. The Catholic faith was predominant and introduced to her, but it was her ultimate decision to enter the church.

"My three older siblings were baptized Catholic, but by

the time my younger brother and I came along the family dynamic was ever changing for many reasons," she said. While her mother, a Protestant, made sure she and her brother attended Catechism classes at St. Paul's, she left entering the faith fully through the sacraments up to them.

"I thank her for that," she said. "My younger brother and I both choose to be Catholic. At that time the late great Father Harold 'Dinty' Moore was the priest. How could you not fall in love with the Catholic religion with Father Moore's teachings? Not only was it what my soul yearned for but also our mom—she converted to Catholicism."

As a teenager, Laurine Klug volunteered for church bazaars and events. She also worked in the parish office in the summer of her teen years, "which apparently must have been where I belong," she said, because she works at the office of the four regional churches she represents. So why does she go

above and beyond to volunteer for her Catholic community?

"It's not about me and what I personally receive," Laurine Klug said. "When you place your trust in God and know that He places you where you need to be and serve to the best of your ability, it is about who in their moment of need receives His Grace and Mercy."

Serving the DPC for her two year term goes hand in hand with that mindset.

"Laity truly have our finger on the pulse of the church and desire to see positive things happen within her," she said. "It is important for the DPC representatives throughout their perspective vicariates be able to be visible and approachable as we try to reach all parishioners not only those attending and those that have fallen away, but those who may be future converts throughout our state."

Laurine Klug will serve on the Pastoral Concerns Committee with Newhart.

Child Care Resource Center Hosts Personal Protective Equipment Distributions

By Katie Hinerman Klug

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Child Care Resource Center has hosted multiple Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Drive-Through distributions for child care providers.

"In response to COVID-19, the Child Care Resource Center decided to assist the child care providers in our region by purchasing PPE and cleaning supplies for them to use in their programs," said Brittany Lucci, CCWVa Child Care Resource Center director, Region 1. Child Care Resource Center

is a state funded program that assists families who are working or going to school with the cost of child care.

"Child care is an enormous need for working families. Without child care, businesses could not operate, hospitals could not function, and we would face economic downfalls," said Lucci. Region 1 serves eight counties: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Tyler, Wetzel, Monongalia, and Marion Counties.

The drive-through events distributed PPE to providers in these counties. Child care providers received a kit in-

cluding disposable face masks, disposable nitrile gloves, disinfecting sprays, disinfecting wipes, paper towels, Purell hand wipes and other items. The kits also included a medical resource book for the child care sites as well as a children's play kit. "The Child Care Resource Center recognizes the immense need for high quality child care. Parents need to be able to take their children to a safe environment while at work. They trust that these programs will follow health precautions to ensure the children and staff in their care cut down on the spread of

the virus," said Lucci.

"Supplying these programs with the supplies they need will assist them in keeping the children and staff safe while in operation," said Lucci.

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.



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The Abbate Agency, Knights of Columbus want to Expand the ‘Catholic Difference’ in West Virginia

By Colleen Rowan

The Knights of Columbus Abbate Agency wants to expand the “Catholic Difference” in West Virginia. Based in neighboring Richmond, Va., the Abbate Agency is a, Catholic-centered, Knights of Columbus Catholic Insurance and Financial agency with nine locations in the Old Dominion and is now expanding into the Mountain State. The agency also has the intent of training new professional agents here in West Virginia, with the goal of having two individuals ready to go before this Christmas. Six agents are already in the state with primary locations in Morgantown and Charleston.

“People just do not know we are here,” said Abbate’s General Agent Bob Abbate. The agency, he said, has years of experience with

helping people and he firmly believes that when Catholics have the choice, they will work with an agency that is based in their faith.

“When a Catholic is working with any of our West Virginia professionals, it’s not just the person sitting across the table from them that they’re working with. That man is the point of contact but, there’s a team behind these men that helps support, build and structure plans and programs to get the client from where they are when they walk in the office or in their home to where they want to be,” Bob said. “We are exceptional at doing this because not only are we good at our craft, but we do it in a Catholic centric way. And I believe from our experience that when a Catholic is given the opportunity to work with a Catho-

lic centric organization vs a secular one, the clients most likely will choose to work with us.”

Working with Bob is his son, Max Abbate, who has been an agent since the age of 19 and is now the manager of the agency’s operations in West Virginia. “The Knights of Columbus really believes in and touts something called the ‘Catholic difference.’” Max said. “We put our investments, our money where our faith is. We do not invest in anything tied to abortion, pornography, etc. We follow the teachings of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. We base how we structure our investments for our insurance program, etc. around that. We are very faithful, and a lot of our clients like how we approach things. There is no question about where your

money is going with us.”

What the Knights of Columbus offers is significant, Max said, which includes life insurance, disability insurance, long-term care products, and guaranteed retirement annuities. “They’ve been a staple of the Knights of Columbus for generations,” Max said. Most recently, the Knights of Columbus Asset Advisor platform has been added to to the agency’s mix. This offers their clients and future clients the ability to work with advisors and lineup of Catholic based mutual funds. “It’s not just what you think we have, it’s also where we’re going with our product base which is going to serve Catholics into the next millennium,” Bob said.

To obtain insurance or other products provided by the agency, clients must be a member of the Knights of Columbus. West Virginia has councils all over the state. One may also join online for one year of free membership at kofc.org/joinus and enter the code: RABBATE.

The agency’s commitment to and expansion in West Virginia also includes bringing full-time financial professionals on board who are based in the state. The process includes several interviews and 90 days of full,

one-on-one training.

The goal is to have eight advisors residing in West Virginia in the coming years. “And that’s going to take us a couple years,” Bob said, “because we want do it right, and it needs to be done right.”

Bob believes that Catholics are underserved in the financial arena. Filling that need are financial professionals who approach their job, he said, as a vocation. “We at the Knights of Columbus put the client first, always,” Bob said. “Always have, always will.”

Private consultations with the Abbate team are always at no charge. West Virginia Catholics can also get to know the Abbate Agency by joining in a Zoom webinar on long-term care planning Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. RSVP to aug31.abbatekofc.com.

Max leads the agency team in West Virginia. Additional agents on the West Virginia team are Jack Clarke, Dan Evans, Michael Scordato, Raymond Selg, and Jack Walsh.

To schedule a confidential consultation or to inquire about a career with the Abbate Agency call 1-866-868-1492; send e-mail to abbateagency@mail.kofc.org; visit www.abbatekofc.com; or visit the agency on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Abbatekofc.



Courtesy Photo

Pictured, from left, are members of the Knights of Columbus Abbate Agency’s West Virginia team: Dan Evans, Raymond Selg, Jack Clarke, Robert Abbate, Max Abbate, Michael Scordato, and Jack Walsh.



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Conoce a las nuevas seminaristas de la diócesis

Por Colleen Rowan

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene tres nuevos seminaristas. El Padre Brian Crenwelge, director de Vocaciones, los presentó oficialmente en la Cena Burse del Wheeling Serra Club en el Gran Salón de Central Catholic High School en Wheeling el 29 de julio. La cena se llevó a cabo en la víspera del fin de semana anual de los seminaristas con el obispo.

Los nuevos seminaristas son Joe Derico de Weston, un graduado de la escuela secundaria en 2021 que ingresará a su primer año en el Seminario Universitario John Paul II en Washington; Dominic Re de Oak Hill, quien ingresará a su primer año en el Seminario Mount St. Mary en Emmitsburg, Maryland; y Bryan Tedeschi de Sharpsburg, Maryland, que también entrará en Mount St. Mary's.

"Estoy muy impresionado con

los nuevos hombres que se unen a la diócesis. Su entusiasmo por discernir la voluntad de nuestro Señor en sus vidas y por servir a la iglesia es inspirador", dijo el padre Crenwelge. "Ore por estos hombres al comenzar su discernimiento oficial en el seminario".

Derico, de dieciocho años, es hijo de Tim Derico, director de instalaciones de las escuelas del condado de Upshur, y de Kim Derico, profesora de enfermería en Fairmont State University. Su parroquia natal es San Patricio en Weston.

"Realmente espero con ansias la oportunidad de asistir al seminario en el Seminario St. John Paul II en Washington, DC", dijo Derico. "Por favor, manténganme a mí y a los otros seminaristas en sus oraciones mientras continuamos discerniendo nuestro llamado a servir a la iglesia de Cristo".

Dominic Re, de 22 años, es hijo de Joe Re, que trabaja por cuenta

propia, y Angie Re, ama de casa. Su parroquia de origen es Ss. Peter y Paul en Oak Hill. También asistió al Instituto de Tecnología de la Universidad de West Virginia.

"Me gustaría agradecer a los sacerdotes, personas de esta diócesis, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, y mi familia que me ha ayudado a formarme desde la infancia. ¡Vaya, qué tarea ha sido!" Re dijo. "Es a través de toda su ayuda y guía que he desarrollado un profundo amor por la Eucaristía y un fuerte deseo de conocer la santa voluntad de Dios. ¡Estoy muy emocionado de ser un seminarista de esta diócesis y tener la oportunidad de servirte a cambio!"

Re también señaló una cita de San Padre Pio: "Mi pasado, oh Señor, a Tu misericordia; mi presente, a Tu amor; mi futuro a tu providencia".

Tedeschi también tiene 22 años. Es hijo de Michael Tedeschi, carpin-

tero, y Kathleen Tedeschi, gerente de ciclo de vida de TI. Su parroquia natal es St. Mary's en Haggerstown, Maryland, pero asiste con frecuencia a la parroquia St. James the Greater en Charles Town. Tedeschi asistió a la Universidad de Waynesburg en Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

"No puedo esperar para ingresar a seminario porque al ingresar podré entregarme verdaderamente al Señor para el próximo año", dijo. "Soy un tipo muy aficionado al aire libre. Me encanta caminar, acampar, pescar, disparar y criar a mis pollos. Con suerte, empezaré a cazar patos muy pronto. No hay muchas cosas que no me gusten hacer. No puedo esperar para conocer a toda la gente de Wheeling-Charleston, ya que todos los que he conocido hasta ahora han sido extremadamente acogedores y amables al llegar a Virginia Occidental, ¡gracias!".

En Ángelus, papa advierte contra usar a Dios y otros fines egoístas

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—La gente debe buscar a Jesús por amor genuino, no por interés propio calculado, dijo el papa Francisco.

"¿Por qué buscamos al Señor? ¿Cuáles son las motivaciones de mi fe, de nuestra fe?" preguntó el papa el 1 de agosto durante su discurso dominical del Ángelus.

Es importante reflexionar sobre las propias razones porque puede haber una fe "inmadura" impulsada por una "tentación idolátrica", es decir, la tentación "que nos impulsa a buscar a Dios para nuestro propio provecho, para resolver los problemas, para tener gracias a Él lo que no podemos conseguir por nosotros mismos, por interés", dijo.

"Pero así, la fe es superficial y -me permito la

palabra- la fe es milagrosa: buscamos a Dios para que nos alimente y luego nos olvidamos de Él cuando estamos satisfechos", dijo el papa, reflexionando sobre la lectura dominical del Evangelio de San Juan en el que Jesús ve una multitud que lo busca porque la gente había presenciado el milagro de la multiplicación de los panes.

El papa dijo: "Es justo presentar nuestras necesidades al corazón de Dios, pero el Señor, que actúa mucho más allá de nuestras expectativas, desea vivir con nosotros ante todo en una relación de amor. Y el verdadero amor es desinteresado, es gratuito: ¡no se ama para recibir un favor a cambio! Eso es interés; y tantas veces en la vida somos interesados".

Vivir una fe que agrada a Dios significa hacer

su voluntad, que es acoger a Jesús con amor, "no es añadir prácticas religiosas u observar preceptos especiales", dijo el papa Francisco.

"El Señor desea una relación de amor con nosotros: antes de las cosas que recibimos y hacemos, está Él para amar. Hay una relación con Él que va más allá de la lógica del interés y del cálculo", dijo.

Esto se aplica no solo a Dios, sino también a todas las relaciones, dijo, subrayando que el riesgo de "usar a las personas por el interés propio. Está muy mal".

Por eso, el Evangelio invita a "acoger a Jesús como el pan de vida" y aprender a amar a los demás "sin cálculos, sin usar a la gente, con gratitud, con generosidad, con magnanimidad", dijo.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Michael's Student Wins First Place in State VFW Art Competition, was a Contender at National Contest

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Liliana Gilot, a student at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling, received first place in the local and the state VFW Auxiliary 2021 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. She will be a fourth grader at the school this year.

Gilot's winning artwork depicts a bald eagle in flight, soaring across a blue sky. Her piece, which she submitted as a third grader, along with the other state winners' works were judged in the national contest July 30.

"The contest, sponsored annually by the #VFWAuxiliary, recognizes up-and-coming artists and encourages patriotism in youth," contest organizers said.

Kimberly Burge, principal of St. Michael Parish School, was happy for Gilot on her contest wins.

"Liliana is an amazing student in all subjects," Burge said. "It was wonderful to learn she was awarded

for her artistic side. Liliana is a genuine, sweet, and intelligent young lady that I'm sure we will see honored in her years to come."

Burge and the school community are also proud of another St. Michael Parish School student, Abigail Howard, who placed third in the local competition.

"Join us in congratulating these young ladies and wishing Liliana good luck in the last stage of this competition!!" school officials posted on the SMPS Facebook page before the national contest.

Students entered the art contest, sponsored by the local VFW Auxiliary, a few months ago.

Liliana Gilot, a student at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling, holds certificates she received for her first-place wins in the local and the state VFW Auxiliary 2021 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

Courtesy Photo



Scholarship in Memory of McDowell County Catholic Awarded

POWHATAN—In September 2020, Bishop Mark Brennan visited Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan for confirmation. At that time an honorarium was placed with the trustees of The Bob Bishop Memorial Scholarship to be awarded in his name to a deserving member of the Class of 2021 in McDowell County.

The Bob Bishop Memorial Scholarship has been created to honor the memory of a Catholic man who touched the lives of so many students, not only in McDowell County but statewide.

Robert "Bob" Bishop was an educator in McDowell County for over 30 years. He also served as adjunct professor at West Virginia State University in Institute for 20 years and at Southern WV Community & Technical College in Saulsville for 17 years. Bob was also affiliated with WVU through the HSTA program

(Health, Science & Technology Academy) for 16 years having the distinction as one of the original teachers statewide.

Bob loved teaching and learning and would have loved the idea of continuing to help a student further his/her education in some small way.

Bob's wife Lori is the chairperson of Catholic Charities in the Southern Region and works in Sacred Heart's food pantry every month.

This scholarship is awarded to a McDowell County senior(s) each spring. The amount of the award may vary from year to year based on funding. The scholarship awards this year were \$500 for each recipient.

Mount View Senior Abigail Bishop and River View Senior James Green are this year's recipients.

Abigail is the daughter of

Leon and Amanda Bishop of Asco. During her high school career Abigail has been active in many clubs and played on the volleyball team.

She has been a regular volunteer at the McDowell County Humane Society for several years.

Abigail will start her journey toward this goal as a student at Hollins University in Roanoke, Va., in the fall. There she plans to dual major in pre-veterinary science and environmental science. She then plans to attend veterinary school.

James is the son of Robert and Amy Green of Roderfield. During his high school tenure he was active in social studies, science, and math field day competitions where he was a yearly winner on the local level and regional winner several years.

He plans to get a business administration degree with a



Courtesy Photo

Lori Bishop, wife of the late Bob Bishop, stands with the two recipients of the Bob Bishop Memorial Scholarship. They are James Green and Abigail Bishop.

focus in marketing from Concord University and to work at a local bank, staying in McDowell County and helping his county by opening

and running different businesses that will help draw and keep tourists in the area, strengthening the local economy."

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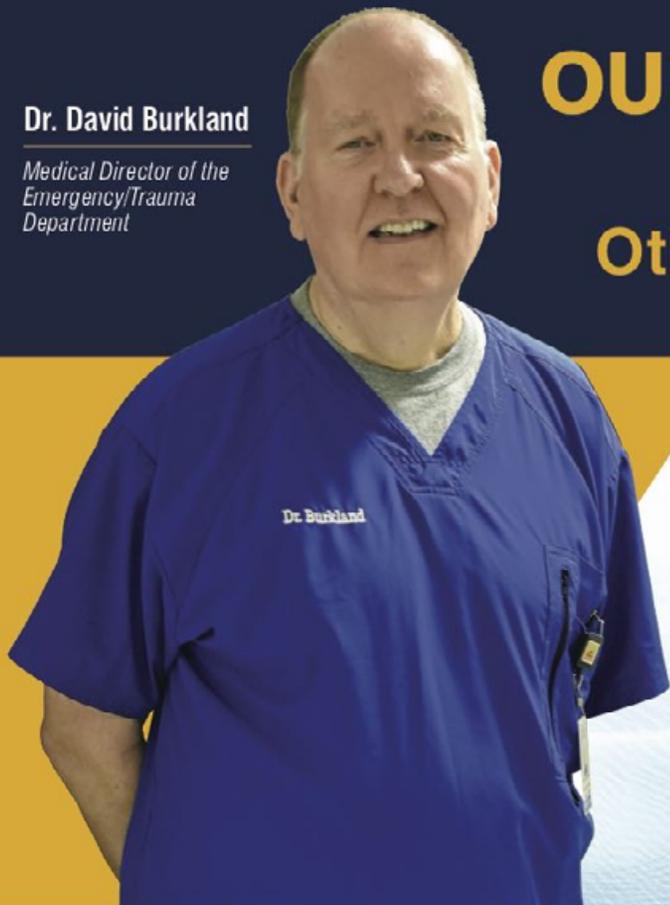
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