

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Pope Leo Stands with Youth in Gaza, Ukraine, Calls for Dialogue, not War

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message of solidarity and peace, Pope Leo XIV said the Catholic Church stands with young people suffering in war-torn areas, including Gaza and Ukraine.

Before praying the Angelus with more than 1 million young people attending the closing Mass of the Jubilee of Youth Aug. 3, the pope said the church was “closer than ever to young people who suffer the most serious evils, which are caused by other human beings.”

“We are with the young people of Gaza. We are with the young people of Ukraine, with those of every land bloodied by war,” he said in English. “My young brothers and sisters, you are the sign that a different world is possible: a world of fraternity and friendship, where conflicts are not resolved with weapons but with dialogue.”

Upon mentioning Gaza, the throngs of young men and women gathered in the field in the Roman neighborhood of Tor Vergata erupted in applause and cheers. International pressure had been continuing to mount against the Israeli government, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which has been accused of purposely starving the population of Gaza.

Pope Leo had expressed concerns over the hunger crisis in Gaza during his Angelus address July 27, acknowledging that the “civilian population is being crushed by hunger and continues to be exposed to violence and death.”

In his address before concluding the Mass Aug. 3, the pope also thanked the young people for participating in the week-long Jubilee celebration and once again offered prayers for two pilgrims — Pascale Rafic and Maria Cobo Vergara — who passed away during the week.

Before concluding his address, the pope reminded young people that “united with Jesus as the branches to the vine, you will bear much fruit.”

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Cross Catholic Food Packing Event to be Held in Wheeling



Courtesy photo

A group of Wheeling Hospital employees pack food at the Cross Catholic Outreach Food Packing Event in 2023. From left are Charlotte Albert, Sheri Harvey, Pam West, Eileen McKee, Wallace Malolepszy, and Joe Slavik. Another Cross Catholic Outreach Food Packing Event will be held at the Angelus Center at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling on Saturday, Sept 13.

By Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration, Administration, at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital

In three of the four Gospels, Jesus clearly reveals the greatest commandment. In Matthew’s Gospel, He tells the scribe: “You shall Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Then He immediately adds the second commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mat-

thew 22:37-39)

Later in Matthew, Jesus elaborates on what it means to love our neighbor. In His final teaching before His Passion, He offers a powerful vision of the Last Judgment. Here, He identifies Himself with “the least of these” and outlines specific acts of compassion by which we are judged: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) This passage is the

scriptural basis for the Corporal Works of Mercy.

These seven actions—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead—are not simply good deeds. According to Jesus, they are essential expressions of our love for Him and for others. They are what we must do if we desire to be with Him in heaven.

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Obituary — Sister Patricia Taube, OSF

Sister Patricia Taube (formerly Sister Mary Mateo) died at Rosary Care Center in Sylvania, Ohio on July 21, 2025, two weeks after her 87th birthday. The daughter of Thomas and Eleanor Taube came to Sylvania from SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Detroit, Michigan in 1956 to become a Sister of St. Francis. She felt called by God from an early age to dedicate her life to helping others. She made her first profession of vows in 1958 and her final vows in 1961.



rehab centers and hospitals. She also served as a family caregiver at this time.

Another call came later to Sister Pat which she describes in her 60th Jubilee biography, "On [her 75th birthday], July 6, 2013, despite a sunny sky, I experienced a storm which radically changed my life. My body's response to a bacterial infection turned into Sepsis which affected my whole body and resulted in the loss of my limbs. My new disability left no choice but to leave my ministry in West Virginia to return to heal at Rosary Care Center on the Motherhouse grounds in Sylvania. Once I'd adjusted, I again listened for that special 'call' and realized that my work now is to assist others to answer their 'call' in my ministry of Spiritual Direction and Retreat Director.... As I celebrate my 60th Jubilee, I live 'one day at a time' with my ear to my heart."

Sister Pat has been an inspiration to the Sisters and Associates in her community, to her caregivers at Rosary Care Center and to the many people she experienced graced encounters with over her lifetime. She will be greatly missed by her brothers, Michael and Thomas (Jean) Taube as well as many nieces and nephews.

Due to Sister Pat's request for a Green (natural) Burial, she was buried in the Sisters of St. Francis cemetery on Wednesday, July 23, 2025.

There was a sharing of memories July 31, 2025 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel followed immediately by a Memorial Mass in the chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Ohio. Arrangements by the Thomas I. Wisniewski Funeral Home, Toledo, Ohio.

Sister Pat's 66 years in religious life were full of a variety of ways in which she answered God's call. Her first ministry was in education at the elementary level, where she taught in schools in Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota. She received a B.A. degree from Mary Manse College, Toledo, Ohio. In the 1970s she felt called to the ministry of religious education and pursued an M.A. at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Sister Pat then received a call to be the Director of the East Toledo Religious Education Center where she provided programming and resources to support parishes in the area as well as implementing the call for ecumenism after Vatican II. She had a special heart to see that all people were treated with dignity, which led her to assist Father Bernie Boff in establishing the Bible Center in Toledo's Central City. She later moved on to work as Director of Religious Education Centers in Steubenville and Mansfield, Ohio.

Sister Pat's next call came in the form of Clinical Pastoral Education studies, which prepared her to minister in a parish and Mansfield State Prison in Ohio. As a Board Certified Chaplain, she went to Huntington, West Virginia, where she ministered as a chaplain in

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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint 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 requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2025 Print Issues and Dates: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19

Daily Living
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- 8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
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- 9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

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Pope Calls for Nuclear Disarmament, Real Commitment to Peace

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The scars still borne by survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and still visible on the cities' streets and buildings are a plea to pursue peace and disarmament, Pope Leo XIV said.

"True peace demands the courageous laying down of weapons — especially those with the power to cause an indescribable catastrophe," the pope wrote in a message to Bishop Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama of Hiroshima.

"Nuclear arms offend our shared humanity and also betray the dignity of creation, whose harmony we are called to safeguard," he wrote in the message released at the Vatican Aug. 5.

The pope's message was sent as people gathered from around the world to solemnly mark the 80th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki Aug. 9, 1945.

Pope Leo also marked the anniversary Aug. 6 at the end of his weekly general audience with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Despite the passing of the years, those tragic events remain a universal warning against the devastation caused by wars, and in particular by nuclear weapons," the pope said. "I hope that in today's world the illusory security based on the threat of mutual destruction will give way to the tools of justice, the practice of dialogue and trust in fraternity."

The bombings killed more than 150,000 people, mostly civilians, and left the cities in ruins.

In his message to Bishop Shirahama, Pope Leo conveyed "sentiments of respect and affection for the 'hibakusha'" or survivors of the bombings, "whose stories of loss and suffering are a timely summons to all of us to build a safer world and foster a climate of peace."

The pope noted how even after 80 years, "the two cities remain living reminders of the profound horrors wrought by nuclear weapons. Their streets, schools and homes still bear scars — both visible and spiritual — from that fateful August of 1945."

"In this context," he said, "I hasten to reiterate the words so often used by my beloved predeces-

or Pope Francis: 'War is always a defeat for humanity.'"

Today, at a time of "mounting global tensions and conflicts," he wrote, Hiroshima and Nagasaki are signs "that urge us to reject the illusion of security founded on mutually assured destruction. Instead, we must forge a global ethic rooted in justice, fraternity and the common good."

Pope Leo prayed that the 80th anniversary of the bombings would "serve as a call to the international community to renew its commitment to pursuing lasting peace for our whole human family — 'a peace that is unarmed and disarming,'" he said, quoting a phrase he used when addressing the crowd in St. Peter's Square immediately after his election May 8.

Pope ...

Cont'd from Page 1

"You will be the salt of the earth, light of the world. You will be seeds of hope wherever you live: in your families, with your friends, at school, at work, in sports. Seeds of hope with Christ, our hope," he said.

Pope Leo also renewed the invitation for

young people to attend the next World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea in 2027, and to carry on the message of hope "that lives in our hearts" and "gives us the strength to announce the victory of the risen Christ over evil and death."

"And you, young pilgrims of hope, will be witnesses of this to the ends of the earth," he said. "So, I will see you in Seoul. Let us continue to dream together, to hope together."




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Event ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Yet, these works are not easy—and perhaps they're not meant to be. I would not expect one of my children to approach in need who they don't know. Not everyone can take in the homeless, or physically bury the dead. Most of us lack the specific gifts or charisma to directly serve the poor, the unhoused, or those in prison. But that reality should never stop us from doing something. We are all called to respond in whatever ways we can.

At Wheeling Hospital, families, friends and churchgoers visit their loved ones who are sick every day. Staff and volunteers regularly donate clothes for patients whose clothing is torn or soiled, ensuring they are treated with dignity upon dis-

charge. We care for prisoners and inmates because they too suffer from illness and injury while staying incarcerated. For those without stable housing, we connect them to Catholic Charities and other organizations for shelter and support. Lastly, we pray for the souls of the deceased at every Mass that is offered in our chapels.

As part of our 175th anniversary celebration, we are embracing one of the Corporal Works of Mercy in a special way. Through a partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, the West Virginia Knights of Columbus, and St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, Wheeling Hospital is offering a Food Packing Event. Our goal is to pack 60,000 meals in under 4 hours with the help of over 140 volunteers. These meals will be calorie-dense and formu-

lated with a blend of protein, vitamins, and nutrients, intended for children and families impacted by malnutrition — some right here in West Virginia, others will be shipped to other areas of the world that need them. A similar Food Packing Event happened in Hurricane in May and in other parts of West Virginia in past years.

Events like this are powerful. They allow us to come together, express our concern, and stand in solidarity with those in need as we pack the food that will be for them. What does God's mercy look like? In a very real way, it looks like food and nourishment to someone who needs it.

We may not all be able to personally feed every hungry person. But, we can come together on a Saturday morning, roll up our sleeves, and ensure that



Courtesy photo

From left, Deacon Paul Lim, Cara-Lyn Janeczko, Christy Tarr, Father Cyprian Osuegbu, and Sister Mary Ann Rosenbaum, CSJ, are pictured at the Cross Catholic Food Packing Event at Wheeling University in April 2023. The next event is Sept. 13 at the Angelus Center at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

those who can reach the hungry have the means to do so. In doing this, we live out the commandment to love our neighbor—and, ultimately, to love God Himself.

To sign up to participate in the event on Satur-

day, Sept. 13, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Angelus Center at St. Michael Parish, 1225 National Rd. Wheeling, click here.

To make a financial contribution that assists with the cost of the food and shipping click here.

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Mass on Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be Celebrated at Historic Church

The oldest Catholic church in West Virginia still in use will be the setting of Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. Music for the Mass will be led by the Hymns and Hens, the choir of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Ronceverte, along with members of the choir of St. Charles Borromeo Church in White Sulphur Springs.

Located in Sweet Springs, Monroe County, St. John the Evangelist Chapel was built by Gov. John Floyd of Virginia for his daughters who had converted to the Catholic religion after attending Catholic schools in Washington, D.C., while he worked for the national government and in Richmond, Va., while he was governor of the state. His wife also converted and was a strong leader for the faith in the Sweet Springs area and the Sweet Springs resort at that time.

The bishop of the Diocese of Richmond made certain that the church was supplied regularly by the priest from the Wytheville, Va., parish, the nearest Catholic parish to Sweet Springs. The church was in use by 1839 and was built by slaves on the Lynnside Plantation which was owned by the governor.

The public is invited to the



St. John the Evangelist Chapel, Sweet Springs

Courtesy Photo

Mass on Aug. 15 and tours of the church will be given, starting at 4:30 p.m. An ice cream social will be held on the grounds following the Mass.

The church is located at the

intersection of WV/VA 311 and WV 3.

From the west, take I-64 East to Exit 181 Crows, Va., RT. 311 to Sweet Springs. From the East, take I-64 to Exit 10 Callaghan then

south on VA 159 to VA 311 and continue south to the intersection with WV 3 which is where the church is located. From the south, take US 219 north from Rich Creek, Va., to Union and WV 3 East to Sweet Springs.

Msgr. Kevin Quirk, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Charles Borromeo parishes, will celebrate the Mass with any visiting priests from Virginia or West Virginia concelebrating. He urges those attending the Mass to “dress casually” as there is no air conditioning in the church.

The community of Sweet Springs is only one mile from the Virginia border and the church played a role in the history of both states and with the Catholic parish in Wytheville and the community of Burke’s Garden which was the home of relatives of the Floyd family.

The ice cream social will be hosted by members of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Charles Borromeo, along with members of the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 of the Knights of Columbus.

For further information, telephone the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley 304-536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus 304-645-1373.

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Presenter Cynthia García has been a teacher, youth minister, and retreat director in the diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for over forty years.

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Beckley Outreach Office Volunteers to be Honored at Charity in Action Awards

BECKLEY—Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is honored to invite all to the Charity in Action Awards Luncheon in Beckley on Tuesday, Oct. 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Historic Black Knight in Beckley. “This year, we celebrate our Beckley Outreach Office volunteers: Benita Goode, Skip Jennings, Bert Cruz, Kathleen McMahon-Pierce, Elizabeth Wallen, and Barbara Fedders—whose charitable efforts exemplify charity, compassion, dignity, hope, justice, and quality,” CCWVa officials said in the announcement on the organization’s Facebook page. All proceeds support CCWVa’s programs in the Southern Region, helping neighbors move from hardship toward self-sustaining, healthy lives.

Get tickets now or become an event sponsor to join us in honoring these inspiring changemakers: <https://CIASouthern25.givesmart.com>.



Courtesy photo Catholic Charities West Virginia Beckley Outreach Office volunteers are pictured.

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Renewed Hope for the Turner Family

The Turner family came to Catholic Charities West Virginia during a time of significant challenge. Like many families working hard to make ends meet, they were navigating delays in receiving their SNAP benefits while also contending with barriers to accessing utility services due to previous outstanding balances.

Recognizing their determination and commitment to creating a better life for their children, our team stepped in to walk alongside them. We provided weekly food boxes to help ensure their family had access to nutritious meals during the interim—support that helped preserve both their well-being and their dignity.

In collaboration with the Turners, we provided emergency financial assistance to help cover the cost of restoring electricity to their home. The family actively contributed their own resources to resolve the remaining balance, demonstrating tremendous initiative and partnership in their journey toward stability.

Today, the Turners have reliable access to food and electricity, and their SNAP benefits are fully active. With essential needs met, they are moving forward with renewed confidence and a stronger foundation.

This story is a testament to the power of compassionate, flexible support—and to the strength of families who persevere with grace and determination. At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we are honored to be a trusted partner in moments like these, working together to build a future rooted in hope and resilience.

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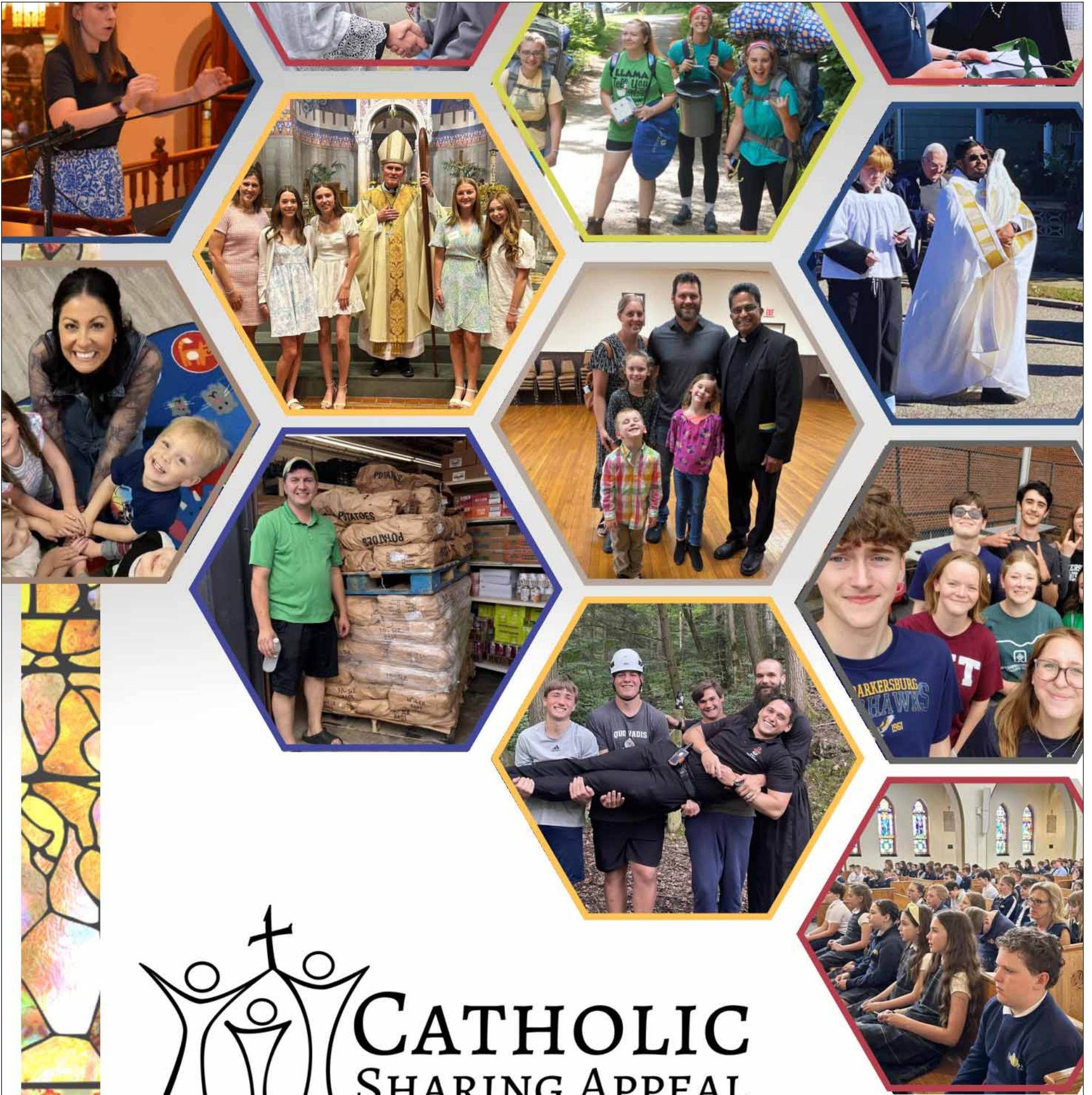
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When Nuns Perished during Adoration in Wartime Warsaw, White Doves Rose into the Sky

By **Alina Petrowa-Wasilewicz, OSV News**

WARSAW, Poland (OSV News) — “Apparently, it is God’s will that we die here,” said Mother Janina Byszewska, the superior of the Benedictine Nuns of the Most Blessed Sacrament community, which found itself in the midst of the fighting of the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944.

Shortly thereafter, 34 nuns, four priests and a thousand civilians died under the rubble of their own convent.

“People ask us if our sisters have been beatified,” Mother Maria Blandyna, the current superior of the community, told OSV News. “No, because it is extremely difficult. All the documents, the monastery chronicle, were destroyed,” she said.

The wartime story of the heroic nuns from Warsaw begins during the uprising in August 1944, when their convent became a site of both faith and tragedy. On Aug. 1, 1944, the Polish underground Home Army launched the uprising against the German occupiers, who had controlled the country since 1939. The resistance hoped to liberate the city before the Soviet Red Army arrived.

Fierce street fighting soon surrounded the Benedictine convent. On Aug. 6, the feast of the Transfiguration, one of the commanders asked the sisters to open the convent for use as a military base. The date is considered the beginning of their martyrdom that the sisters were well aware of.

The Benedictine convent has been founded by Queen Maria Sobieska as a votive offering of thanksgiving for the victory of her husband, King Jan III Sobieski, who in 1683 fought a decisive battle for Europe against the Turks at Vienna.

Queen Maria, who was French, invited the nuns from the congregation founded by Mother Mectilde of the Blessed Sacrament, born Catherine de Bar, based on the rule of St. Benedict but with an important innovation: The nuns were to adore the Blessed Sacrament continuously, to make reparation for insults and blasphemies, and in addition to the traditional vows, they took a fourth vow of perpet-

ual adoration as a sacrifice.

By 1939, the convent was home to a remarkable group of women. Mother Tomea Koperska, the novice master, held a doctorate in philosophy and was an expert in St. Thomas Aquinas. Sister Anzelma Matuszczak studied Polish literature, and Magdalena Schmitz de Grollenbourg, the “funniest sister in the convent,” was a music conservatory graduate. The community also included noblewomen such as Mother Byszewska and Mother Celestyna Wielowieyska, as well as the daughters of farmers, craftsmen, townspeople and even a sister born out of wedlock.

Sister Klara Zdrojewska, who struggled with reading and writing, was a mystic whose counsel the superior always sought. Sister Ignacja Rejewska had converted from Calvinism, drawn to the sacrament of confession as a path to spiritual growth.

As the battle raged, the sisters gave away their food and medicine, cared for wounded insurgents in a makeshift hospital, and continued their ceaseless adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Germans soon recognized the convent as a resistance point and bombarded it with incendiary and demolition bombs.

The sisters, known in Warsaw as heroic “Sakramentki” had the opportunity to evacuate earlier, but the commanders of the uprising asked them to stay and not take away the soldiers’ hope.

Mother Byszewska agreed. “Apparently, it is God’s will that we persevere and die here, in this position.” It was their consent to death.

In fact, even before the worst days of the uprising — reminiscent of hell in mem-

ories of those who survived — arrived, the sisters had asked Mother Byszewska for permission to sacrifice their lives for Warsaw, for Poland and the world to belong to Christ.

It was not an easy request. Sister Katarzyna Kuzminska, to whom Christ appeared in a crown of stars and demanded this sacrifice from her, resisted terribly because she was afraid of death.

“Jesus demands a sacrifice from me, but I resist and am terribly afraid,” the sisters recalled her saying. She is remembered as one eager for mortification, a hardworking and humble nun.

After 26 days under siege, they sensed the end was near. On Aug. 31, 1944, the Germans launched a final attack. The nuns descended to the basement with the Blessed Sacrament; some donned their solemn habits to meet Christ, their bridegroom, while Sister Teresa Tomaszewska calmly kept knitting, saying her work might still help someone after her death.

That afternoon, the beautiful Church of St. Casimir and the convent were reduced to ruins. The library of the monastery, holding 60,000 volumes, was burned to the ground. A story circulated in Warsaw that as the sisters perished in adoration, white doves rose into the sky. Thirty-four nuns, four priests and a thousand civilians died; only 12 sisters survived.

After the Germans retreated, the survivors immediately returned and began the arduous work of rebuilding. Today, residents of Warsaw, long convinced of the sisters’ martyrdom, gather in the convent’s rebuilt base-



OSV News photo/courtesy Nuns of the Most Blessed Sacrament
A burned cross at the convent of the Benedictine Nuns of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Church of St. Casimir in Warsaw, Poland, is seen in an undated photograph after the buildings were destroyed during the Second World War by German bombing amid the Warsaw Uprising, burying 34 sisters, four priests and a thousand civilians in the rubble on Aug. 31, 1944.

ment twice a year — on Aug. 31 and Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints — to pray for the beatification of the “Thirty-Four.”

The convent’s archivist, Sister Maria Józefina, collects every little trace of the lives of the “Thirty-Four.” Once, completely unexpectedly, someone sent Mother Tomei’s doctoral thesis, while families keep sending photos and memories.

Mother Maria, today’s tireless warrior to elevate

Mother Tomei and her heroic sisters to sainthood, told OSV News: “Today’s people, focused on themselves and their own affairs, need testimony of selfless sacrifice for others. This is a special sign for the modern world.”

(Alina Petrowa-Wasilewicz writes for OSV News from Warsaw, Poland.)

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Knights of Columbus Called to be ‘Heralds of Hope’ as Order’s 143rd Supreme Convention Opens

By **Nicole Olea / Catholic Standard, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News)

— The 143rd Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus opened in Washington Aug. 5 with a call to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, as Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly urged members to be “heralds of hope” in a world searching for meaning.

Delegates from the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, Cuba and other nations gathered in the nation’s capital, joined virtually by viewers on EWTN, Salt + Light Television and CatholicTV.

The session began with prayer led by Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, the Knights’ supreme chaplain, invoking hope rooted in Christ’s love and the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, the group’s founder.

“Our hope is born of love, and is rooted in the pierced heart of your Son, Jesus Christ,” Archbishop Lori prayed. “Let us, your Knights of Columbus family, be heralds of hope.”

Pope Leo XIV addressed the convention in a video message reflecting on the Jubilee Year of Hope.

He reminded the Knights that “the source of our hope is Jesus Christ,” and praised the fraternal order for being “tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.”

Saying the convention’s theme, “Heralds of Hope,” is timely, Pope Leo commended the Knights’ charitable outreach, including efforts for “the unborn, pregnant mothers, children, those who are less fortunate, and those affected by the scourge of war,” which he said “brings hope and healing to many and continues the noble legacy of your founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.”

Kelly’s annual report highlighted the Knights’ global impact and alignment with the vision of Pope Leo. He recalled being in Rome at the time of the conclave and pledging the “unfailing unity” of 2.1 million Knights to the new Holy Father. He said Pope Leo’s call for missionary outreach, unity and fraternity “felt like he was speaking directly to the Knights of Columbus,” because those principles reflect the order’s founding mission.

He also paid tribute to Pope Francis, describing him as “a pope of charity,” whose example inspired the Knights’ outreach to Indigenous communities, efforts

against human trafficking, and humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

“We don’t merely volunteer,” Kelly said. “We see the face of Christ in those we serve, and we sacrifice for them because that’s what Jesus did for us.”

Humanitarian work remains a hallmark of the Knights’ mission. The Global Wheelchair Mission has donated more than 158,000 wheelchairs, including 19,000 last year. Aid continues for Christians in Nigeria, where persecution persists, and for Ukrainians suffering from the ongoing war.

Kelly shared the story of Tetiana Sahaidak, a young woman in Ukraine who lost her foot in a missile attack and is now receiving a prosthetic with the Knights’ support.

The Knights of Columbus continue their longstanding support for the Special Olympics through volunteer service and financial contributions, Kelly said. Members assist at local and international events, helping athletes and families experience the joy of competition while promoting the dignity of every person with intellectual disabilities.

In the United States, Knights responded to natural disasters including the Texas floods, hurricanes in the Southeast and the California wildfires. He shared a story about one Knight’s family whose home was destroyed in California and found hope in a statue of the Blessed Mother that survived untouched. Their video singing the “Regina Caeli” went viral, inspiring millions.

The Knights of Columbus in the Philippines exemplify the fraternal group’s mission of charity, serving those in the most desperate conditions. Kelly praised the more than 500,000 Filipino Knights for their daily outreach, from operating soup kitchens in Manila to supporting hundreds of children who live in what he called a “heart-breaking place” — a giant landfill — through education and care programs.

Filipino Knights also lead the national “Guardians of Dignity” initiative to combat human trafficking in partnership with the Arise Foundation. Their work, Kelly said, reaches “beyond the peripheries,” bringing hope to abandoned children, trafficking survivors and the poorest families across the nation.

The Knights’ pro-life mission expanded through the Aid and Support After Pregnancy initiative, which provided \$6 million to pregnancy resource centers last year.

The Knights also reached a milestone of 2,000 donated ultrasound machines, including a new unit for a Virginia center that has already helped save more than 200 babies.

“Too many men are acting like boys,” Kelly said, emphasizing the order’s COR program for men’s faith formation. “Women need husbands, children need fathers, and we all need men to act like men.”

Spiritual renewal is central to the Knights’ work. The Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icon program has inspired more than 5,000 prayer services, drawing one-half million participants, while the Knights continue to lead Eucharistic proces-

sions and support the National Eucharistic Revival.

Vocations support also remains a priority. The Knights’ RSVP program has assisted more than 150,000 men and women discerning the priesthood or religious life and has surpassed \$100 million in contributions. Kelly underscored that commitment by presenting the 2025 International Blessed Michael McGivney Medal to Pallottine Father Frank S. Donio, the Knights’ highest annual honor for priests, which recognizes chaplains whose ministry reflects the spirit of the organization’s founder.

Father Donio, a charter member
See “Knights” on Page 11

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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Knights ...

Cont'd from Page 10

and longtime chaplain of the Knights of Columbus' council at The Catholic University of America, also serves as the state chaplain for the District of Columbia. Kelly noted that Father Donio has spent nearly two decades supporting the spiritual formation and vocational discernment of young men, including several who have entered the priesthood.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus continues to grow worldwide, with 96,000 new members in the past year, Kelly said. He emphasized outreach on college campuses and in Hispanic communities, calling Hispanic men essential to the future of the church and a natural fit for the Catholic fraternal organization.

Kelly encouraged each Knight to invite two new members in the coming year to sustain the mission.

The Knights of Columbus also support Catholic families through financial programs. The Knights provide more than \$123 billion in life insurance and manage \$2.4 billion in assets for dioceses, religious orders and Catholic clients, all in accordance with church teaching.

Through the Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, a donor-advised program, more than \$147 million has been distributed to church and community initiatives.

Patriotism, the fourth principle of the Knights of Columbus, was emphasized in the 125th anniversary year of what is the order's highest degree for members. It's also known as the "Patriotic Degree."

Kelly honored the organization's defense of religious liberty, from supporting parental rights in education to opposing anti-Catholic persecution. He cited the sacrifice of Mexican Knights during the church persecutions of the 1920s and 1930s, the contributions of French Knights to restor-

ing Notre Dame Cathedral after the 2019 fire and the dedication of Ukrainian Knights serving on the front lines.

"As patriots, we strongly support those who serve in uniform," Kelly said, noting that the Knights operate 67 U.S. military councils worldwide, have distributed more than 700,000 "Armed with the Faith" prayer books and sponsor the annual Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage for wounded military personnel.

The Knights also support veterans and their families, including funeral assistance and community outreach. Kelly praised Sgt. Lewis Reed, 91, who has volunteered at more than 25,000 veterans' funerals, as an example of enduring patriotic service. He also thanked Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, for his partnership in ministering to military families.

"Patriotism isn't an option. It's an obligation," Kelly said. "We will foster the good in our countries, work to make them better, and hand on our love of country to our children and grandchildren."

The session concluded with a moving story of hope through the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney. Kelly recounted the story of a toddler who fell into a pool and had no pulse for 52 minutes. After the family prayed a novena and placed a first-class relic of Blessed Michael McGivney on the child, he made a full recovery.

"We have come further than Father McGivney ever imagined, but we have only gone where Christ has called us to go," Kelly said. "Now, let's put our faith into action once again as heralds of hope in all we do."

(This story was originally published by the Catholic Standard, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Washington, and distributed through a partnership with OSV News. Nicole Olea is a reporter at the Catholic Standard.)



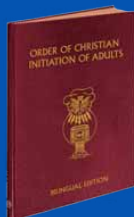
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What is
God
asking of
You?

Seasoned Education Professional to Serve as Disabilities Coordinator at Wheeling University



Courtesy photo

Nancy Weeks is the Disabilities Coordinator for Wheeling University.

WHEELING – Wheeling University President, Dr. Dianna Vargo announced that Nancy Weeks will serve as the Disabilities Coordinator for the institution.

Weeks, who spent 43 years in public education in the Belmont and Ohio county school systems, began this new role on Aug. 1. She will continue to be an adjunct instructor in the Education Department at Wheeling as well.

“Nancy brings a great deal of experience and knowledge to the position, which will benefit our students,” said Vargo.

Weeks will be responsible to provide guidance to both students and faculty regarding appropriate accommodations to ensure student success.

“I bring to this role four decades of experience in developing and reviewing individual educational plans for students,” Weeks said. “Perhaps the most significant change is that I will be on campus and can meet with both students and faculty in person. I plan to establish consistent office hours, so both students and staff can speak with me directly,” she explained.

Weeks holds a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, with a minor in Special Education from West Liberty University. She earned a master’s degree in Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities from WVU. Additionally, Weeks received a master’s degree and post graduate Education Specialist degrees from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. She also has a Certificate in Educational Administration from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

For the past three years, Weeks has been an adjunct at Wheeling University, teaching courses in the Education Program. In 2023, she retired after more than four decades in education related positions. She worked for 32 years in Belmont County, Ohio, as a School Psychologist and Special Education Coordinator. Weeks worked for 10 years in the Ohio County School system, serving as an Intervention Specialist.

Born and raised in Ohio County, she remains a resident in the county, along with her husband Bradley. She has one son, Marcus, daughter-in-law Rachell and two granddaughters, Carrie and Rose.

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111 Years

El Papa llama al desarme nuclear y a un compromiso real para lograr la paz

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Las cicatrices que aún arrastran los sobrevivientes de los bombardeos atómicos de Hiroshima y Nagasaki, visibles en las calles y edificios de las ciudades, son un llamado a la búsqueda de la paz y el desarme, declaró el Papa León XIV.

"La verdadera paz exige la valiente deposición de las armas, especialmente aquellas capaces de provocar una catástrofe indescriptible", escribió el Papa en un mensaje al obispo Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama de Hiroshima.

"Las armas nucleares ofenden nuestra humanidad compartida y traicionan la dignidad de la creación, cuya armonía estamos llamados a salvaguardar", escribió en el mensaje publicado en el Vaticano el 5 de agosto.

El mensaje del Papa fue enviado cuando personas de todo el mundo se reunían para conmemorar solemnemente el 80.º aniversario del bombardeo estadounidense de Hiroshima, el 6 de agosto de 1945, y de Nagasaki, el 9 de agosto de 1945.

El Papa León también conmemoró el

aniversario el 6 de agosto al final de su audiencia general, con miles de personas reunidas en la Plaza de San Pedro.

"A pesar del paso de los años, aquellos trágicos acontecimientos constituyen una advertencia universal contra la devastación causada por las guerras y, en particular, por las armas nucleares", dijo el Papa. "Espero que en el mundo contemporáneo, marcado por fuertes tensiones y conflictos sangrientos, la seguridad ilusoria basada en la amenaza de la destrucción mutua dé paso a los instrumentos de la justicia, a la práctica del diálogo y a la confianza en la fraternidad".

Los bombardeos causaron la muerte de más de 150.000 personas, en su mayoría civiles, y dejaron las ciudades en ruinas.

En su mensaje al obispo Shirahama, el Papa León expresó "sentimientos de respeto y afecto por los 'hibakusha'", o sobrevivientes de los bombardeos, "cuyas historias de pérdida y sufrimiento son un llamado oportuno para todos nosotros a construir un mundo más seguro y fomentar un clima de paz".

El Papa señaló que, incluso después de 80 años de los bombardeos, "ambas ciudades

siguen siendo recordatorios vivientes de los horrores profundos provocados por las armas nucleares. Sus calles, escuelas y hogares aún llevan cicatrices, tanto visibles como espirituales, de aquel fatídico agosto de 1945".

"En este contexto", dijo, "me apresuro a reiterar las palabras tan frecuentemente utilizadas por mi querido predecesor, el Papa Francisco: 'La guerra es siempre una derrota para la humanidad'".

Hoy, en un momento de crecientes tensiones y conflictos globales, escribió, Hiroshima y Nagasaki son señales que nos instan a rechazar la ilusión de seguridad basada en la destrucción mutua asegurada. En cambio, debemos forjar una ética global arraigada en la justicia, la fraternidad y el bien común.

El Papa León oró para que el 80 aniversario de los bombardeos "sirva como un llamado a la comunidad internacional para renovar su compromiso con la búsqueda de una paz duradera para toda la humanidad: 'una paz desarmada y desarmante'", dijo, citando una frase que utilizó al dirigirse a la multitud en la Plaza de San Pedro inmediatamente después de su elección el 8 de mayo.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación.

Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911.

Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesíásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente

Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656.

Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381.

EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida.

Enlaces e información:

Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

Theology Teacher, Charleston Catholic High School

Charleston Catholic High School is seeking a high school theology teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. The theology program forms students intellectually, morally and spiritually through Catholic teaching, striving to help students grow in faith by fostering gospel values. The candidate should be a practicing Catholic, have knowledge of Catholic teaching, hold at least a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field, and demonstrate a willingness to pursue certification as specified by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to colleen.hoyer@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, Maintenance Worker

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is in need of a full-time, experienced maintenance worker.

Responsibilities include sweeping; mopping; dusting; emptying trash cans; cleaning restrooms, doors and windows; vacuuming; cleaning out flower beds; shampooing carpets; and stripping floors.

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Stem Coordinator/Teacher, Central Catholic High School, Wheeling

Central Catholic High School is seeking a full-time Stem Coordinator/Science Teacher.

The position of the STEM Program Coordinator will collaborate with the principal, instructional team, and teachers to plan, organize, and promote STEM curriculum and expanded learning opportunities through the integration of successful strategies and multiple technologies to best prepare CCHS students for college and beyond. The STEM coordinator will facilitate the completion of the STEM certification, identify areas of growth for STEM education, develop our current curricular offerings, and expand community engagement. The candidate must also be able to teach Physics and preferably lead our Robotics program.

A teacher at CCHS must possess the ability to teach using 21st century instructional methods and educational technology; be able to work in a dynamic, collaborative, technology rich environment with fellow teachers; and demonstrate a deep commitment to facilitating learning of all students while being willing to fully participate in the CCHS community and embrace our mission as a Catholic high school.

How to Apply: A cover letter, resume, and letters of professional reference can be sent to the administrative assistant to the principal, Sarah Petry, at spetry@cchsknights.org

Housekeeper, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

The Housekeeper at St John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning and preparing the facility, laundry and guest relations.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen as needed.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Cook, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions.

Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area.

Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed.

Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker, Wheeling

The Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker performs maintenance tasks, grounds maintenance and other duties to open and close grave sites.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Opens and closes graves, crypts or niches; assists in disinterment and disinterments; performs all general maintenance on grounds such as snow removal, grass cutting, digging, sodding, mulching, leaf collection, marker setting, etc.; operates equipment as needed and assigned.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Other job related as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform the job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, and ability required: High School Graduate or GED; valid driver's license; ability to follow directions; must work well with others; knowledge, understanding and use of basic buildings and grounds maintenance tools and equipment; referred experience in use of dump truck, ex-

cavators (backhoe and mini), folk lift and riding mowers.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform this job: The employee is regularly required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle or feel. The employee is required to reach with hands and arms; climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl, talk and hear. The employee must be able to move or lift up to 50 pounds and in excess occasionally. The employee must use close and distance vision, peripheral and depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described are those an employee encounters while performing this job: Employee regularly works outdoors in varying weather conditions. The employee regularly works with and near moving equipment and mechanical parts noise level can be loud. Employee may work irregular schedule and hours.

[Click here to apply.](#)

Elementary and Middle School Music Teacher, St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

St. Michael Parish School is accepting applications for a part-time Elementary and Middle School Music Teacher.

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across the school.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in music education or related field, valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure, experience working with children in a classroom setting, strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills, willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution, fluency in piano preferred but not required, should be willing to discuss extra curricular activities such as middle school choir and participation in a spring musical

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

Middle School Mathematics Teacher, St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

St. Michael Parish School is accepting applications for a full time Middle School Mathematics Teacher.

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual

development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across our middle school grade levels. A knowledge of teaching 5th grade math through Algebra 1 is essential.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in edu-

cation or related field, valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure, experience working with children in a classroom setting, strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills, willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution.

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org Send a resume with three references.

Employment Opportunities

Campus Minister – Concord, University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Concord Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Concord Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.
- Support volunteer peer ministers.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Word processing and related computer skills.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

Campus Minister, West Liberty University and Bethany College

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Wheeling Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.
- Support volunteer peer ministers.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Word processing and related computer skills.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

Campus Minister – Marshall University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Marshall Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Charleston Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.
- Support volunteer peer ministers.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
- Interpersonal communication skills.
- Word processing and related computer skills.
- Effective presentation skills.
- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

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ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS
May 13, 2025 - May 13, 2026

Make your pledge!
Rosary Crusade for Vocations
May 13, 2025 to May 13, 2026
The Rosary - a perfect devotional tool for an increase in Catholic vocations. Join us in prayer!

Prayer
Oh, my Jesus, listen to my prayer today, more men and more women, in West Virginia, say yes to your call to be religious brothers, sisters, and priests. Bless my family, and my Church family, so we can support them, and remain close to you, and St. Joseph, to come to you in our need to build up the Church in the great Mountain State. Amen.

From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV. **PRAYER WORKS!** Step up for Jesus and His Church! **Pledge. Share. Pray.**

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
WV PILGRIMAGE SITES
FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

- **Cathedral of St. Joseph**
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**
1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** (at site): Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025