



Celebrate Bishop Brennan’s Fifth Anniversary of Installation as Our Bishop

By Joyce Bibey

As we honor the fifth anniversary of the installation of Most Reverend Mark Brennan as the Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we call upon the faithful to Celebrate Five with 5!

Celebrate Five with 5 is an opportunity for us to commemorate Bishop Mark’s milestone year with gifts Christ taught us were the greatest to give – prayer and works of mercy. Throughout the year faithful will be able to go online to <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/>.

Will you commit to five?

To honor Bishop Mark will you commit your word and deed in five acts of faith and works of mercy?

As we learned on his installation day on August 22, 2019, the motto Bishop Mark chose for his Coat of Arms, “Living the Truth in Love,” emphasizes that it is in the love of Jesus Christ that we receive the strength to live as God called and Jesus instilled in us.

Let us show our thanksgiving through prayer and our love by our deeds. As is written in James 2:18 - Demonstrate your faith through your works.

Give the Gift – Five with 5 Prayers and Deeds

Gift of Prayer:

Choose to mirror the prayers of Bishop Mark. His daily prayerful habits include:

- Pray the Rosary during a road trip. Every time Bishop Mark travels across the diocese for parish and school visits or to celebrate Confirmation, he prays the rosary while driving (just remember to keep both hands on the wheel!).

- Pray for pregnant women as well as the husband/father. Each night, Bishop Mark says special prayers for women who are pregnant as well as the fathers. He prays for them by name, and encourages faithful to email him prayer requests for mothers if they are able.

- Pray for engaged/newly married couples. Bishop Mark regularly

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DIocese OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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Celebrate Five with 5

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As we learned on his installation day on August 22, 2019, the motto Bishop Mark chose for his Coat of Arms, “Living the Truth in Love,” emphasizes that it is in the love of Jesus Christ that we receive the strength to live as God called and Jesus instilled in us.

Let us show our thanksgiving through prayer and our love by our deeds.

Pledge to Celebrate Five with 5

Name / Organization

Choose to mirror the prayers of Bishop Mark. His daily prayerful habits include:

- Pray the Rosary
- Pray for pregnant women as well as the husband/father
- Pray for engaged/newly married couples
- Pray for the intentions of the faithful of the Diocese
- Pray for Vocations
- Other

Choose Corporal Works of Mercy

- Volunteer in Your Community
- Listen and Encounter Others
- Serve the Vulnerable
- Provide Spiritual and Emotional Support
- Advocate for Justice

If Other Prayer: If Other Works:

Please consider honoring Bishop Brennan with a donation.

Honor Bishop Mark Brennan’s Installation anniversary with a donation to support the ministries at Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Donate

Give the Gift of Prayer:

Choose to mirror the prayers of Bishop Mark. His daily prayerful habits include:

- **Praying the Rosary** during a road trip. Every time Bishop Mark travels across the diocese for parish and school visits or to celebrate Confirmation, he prays the rosary while driving (just remember to keep both hands on the wheel!).
- **Praying for pregnant women as well as the husband/father.** Each night, Bishop Mark says special prayers for women who are pregnant as well as the fathers. He prays for them by name, and encourages faithful to email him prayer requests for mothers if they are able.
- **Praying for engaged/newly married couples.** Bishop Mark regularly prays for engaged couples or newly wed couples, that they may live their lives in the faith, be strengthened by the Holy Family, and open to God’s will in their lives.
- **Pray for the intentions of the faithful of the Diocese.** Bishop Mark has a rather large binder of prayer intentions given to him through the CSA prayer list as well as handwritten notes and emails from faithful across the state asking for his prayers.
- **Pray for Vocations.** Bishop Mark prays daily for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life so that the faithful of the diocese can continue to have good, loving priests and religious to minister to them in the future.

Shown above is a portion of the Celebrate Five with 5 page at <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/>. Click here to visit the page.

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. You may also call 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:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC,

at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.


Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org)

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

<p>Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast Day, September 14 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6</p> <p>Our Lady of the Rosary Memorial, October 7 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4</p>	<p>Advent First Sunday of Advent, December 1 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29</p> <p>Christmas Feast Day, December 25 The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20</p>
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Catholic Charities West Virginia | Acts of Service

Bishop Brennan is a true servant, reflecting the example of Jesus who served others freely and impartially. During his 5 years as Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Brennan has been compassionate, charitable, and actively engaged with the needs of West Virginians.

Inspired by Bishop Brennan's example, we have compiled 5 acts of service you can perform to celebrate and honor Bishop Brennan's time in our Diocese. Pledge to put your faith into action!

- Volunteer in Your Community** – The Church encourages communities to come together to support the vulnerable. Charity is not only an individual endeavor, but also a communal one, where groups and communities work together to address human needs. This collective action is vital for building a culture of solidarity and support.
Volunteer 5 hours of service in your community. To volunteer with Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit <https://www.ccwva.org/get-involved/volunteer/>.
- Listen and Encounter Others** – Engaging with others involves listening to their stories and recognizing their struggles. Listening is an act of love, and entering into dialogue with those in need can transform communities and build a more just society.
Spend an extra 5 minutes in conversation with someone you encounter throughout your day, learning more about his or her story and seeing Christ in that person.
- Serve the Vulnerable** – The call to serve is particularly directed toward the most vulnerable members of society. True service involves caring for those who are suffering or marginalized, promoting their dignity, and ensuring that their needs are met. Access to healthy food, shelter, clothing, and personal hygiene items helps vulnerable individuals stay healthy and maintain a sense of dignity and self-worth.
Contact Catholic Charities West Virginia or another local nonprofit agency to learn of unmet needs in your community. Donate 5 needed items or host a drive to collect them.
- Provide Spiritual and Emotional Support** – Beyond material assistance, providing spiritual and emotional support is crucial. Engaging with individuals through listening, companionship, and encouragement helps to foster a sense of belonging and dignity among those who are vulnerable.
Write a note to a person experiencing adversity, and Catholic Charities will give it to someone we serve. Share your support and encouragement in your note, letting the person know they are seen and they matter. Mail your notes to: Catholic Charities West Virginia | 2000 Main St. | Wheeling, WV 26003
- Advocate for Justice** – Serving the vulnerable also means advocating for their rights and dignity. The Church teaches that Christians are called to fight against social injustices and to promote a culture of solidarity. This includes addressing systemic issues that contribute to poverty and marginalization.
Invite an expert from Catholic Charities to speak to your group or parish about poverty, the issues affecting the poor and marginalized in West Virginia, and what you can do. Contact advancement@ccwva.org.

Screenshot

Shown above is a portion of the Celebrate Five with 5 page at <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/>. Click here to visit the page.

Anniversary...

cont'd from Page 1

prays for engaged couples or newly wed couples, that they may live their lives in the faith, be strengthened by the Holy Family, and open to God's will in their lives.

- For the intentions of the faithful of the Diocese. Bishop Mark has a rather large binder of prayer intentions given to him through the CSA prayer list as well as handwritten notes and emails from faithful across the state asking for his prayers.

- For Vocations. Bishop Mark prays daily for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life so that the faithful of the diocese can continue to have good, loving priests and religious to minister to them in the future.

Gift of Deed and Service:

Prayerfully consider the Corporal Works of Mercy in the Catholic Church.

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick – the present of your presence with the sick physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- Visit the prisoners – if not in person do it through ministry of cards/prayers/Mass intentions
- Bury the dead – Respect for life God created through prayer, in Mass intentions, or by visiting a cemetery.
- Give alms to the poor – gifts of treasure in a way that is pleasing to God.

Catholic Charities West Virginia presents us with a suggested Five Acts of Service to honor Bishop Brennan — a true servant, reflecting the example of Jesus who served others freely and impartially. Inspired by Bishop Brennan's example,

we have compiled 5 acts of service you can perform to celebrate and honor Bishop Brennan's time in our Diocese. Pledge to put your faith into action:

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Lastly, consider honoring Bishop Brennan's installation anniversary with a donation to support the ministries at Catholic Charities West Virginia. The link to donate is at: <https://dwc.org/celebrate-five/>.



Catechists, Catholic School Teachers, and Lay Leaders Invited to Faith-Enriching Opportunity

Attend a Talk/Conference Led by Consultor for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization; and Receive a Blessing and Commissioning in Your Ministry

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING — St. Michael Parish in Wheeling is inviting Catholic school teachers, lay leaders, and catechists to a prayerful and faith-enriching opportunity on the eve of the new school year.

Dr. Petroc Willey, professor of Catechesis at Franciscan University of Steubenville and a consultor for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, will give a talk/conference on the importance of catechetical formation of lay faithful in evangelization. The title of Willey's talk will be "Announcing the Good News – God's Way." The event will be held on Sunday, Aug. 25, from 10-11 a.m. followed by the Commissioning of Catechists, Teachers, and Lay Leadership at the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

Father Carlos Melocoton, pastor of St. Michael's, said the goal of the event is to help those who serve so generously in these roles in their ongoing formation.

"Proclaiming the Word of God is a responsibility we embrace as baptized Catholics. Our Universal Church emphasizes the importance of catechesis and evangelization, calling us to bring the Gospel to others," Father Melocoton said. "By deepening our knowledge of the faith, we can inspire and build confidence, enabling us to more effectively share the good news with those we serve."

Willey is an expert in catechesis and evangelization, Father Melocoton said, and his talk will provide valuable insights and examples on how lay leaders, catechists, and teachers can teach and spread the church's teachings to a broader audience. Father Melocoton noted that Willey's role as consultor for both the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

(appointed by Pope Benedict XVI) and the Dicastery for Evangelization (appointed by Pope Francis) underscores his expertise.

Individuals at St. Michael's will register Catholic school teachers, lay leaders, and catechists and call their names during the blessing. If the number to receive the blessing and commissioning is large, then only the names of the parishes and schools represented will be announced.

Reflecting on the blessing and commissioning, Father Melocoton recalled the words at the end of Mass: "The Mass is ended; go and announce the Gospel of the Lord; go and proclaim the word of God; go and glorify the Lord by your life." These words of commissioning signify Jesus sending his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God, Father Melocoton said.

"Every baptized person in the Holy Trinity is called to participate in the



Courtesy photo

Dr. Petroc Willey, professor of Catechesis at Franciscan University of Steubenville and a consultor for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

'munera' of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king," he said. "We commission our lay faithful with our prayers to help others mature in their faith and increase the number of active

disciples of Jesus Christ within His Church.

"Our laity can engage in public prayers, facilitate Bible studies, and apply Jesus's teachings in their daily lives," he continued. "Their participation in these areas is essential for deepening faith and fostering a vibrant, active community."

Father Melocoton also sees the event as an extension of the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last month.

"We have seen the remarkable influence of lay faithful at the recent National Eucharistic Congress, where they spoke to about 60,000 people," Father Melocoton said. "By offering similar formation within the Wheeling area and our diocese, we aim to empower our people to engage more deeply in their ministry and outreach."

Willey is married to Katherine; and they have four children and many

grandchildren. Originally from England, he has lived in Steubenville, Ohio, since 2015 where he is a professor of Theology and Catechetics at Franciscan University. Before his move to the United States, he worked in Catholic education, in Oxford and in Birmingham, for more than 25 years, in seminary and lay institutions, and in both traditional and distance education. He was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI a Consultor for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization and by Pope Francis as a Consultor to the Dicastery for Evangelization: Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World.

Willey encourages everyone who attends the talk to have a copy of Luke 1:26-38 (the Annunciation) shown below.

For more information, contact St. Michael Parish at (304) 242-1560.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!' But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

And Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I have no husband?' And the angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.

And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her.



Icon by David Clayton www.thewayofbeauty.org

Monroe County Church to Celebrate 185th Anniversary

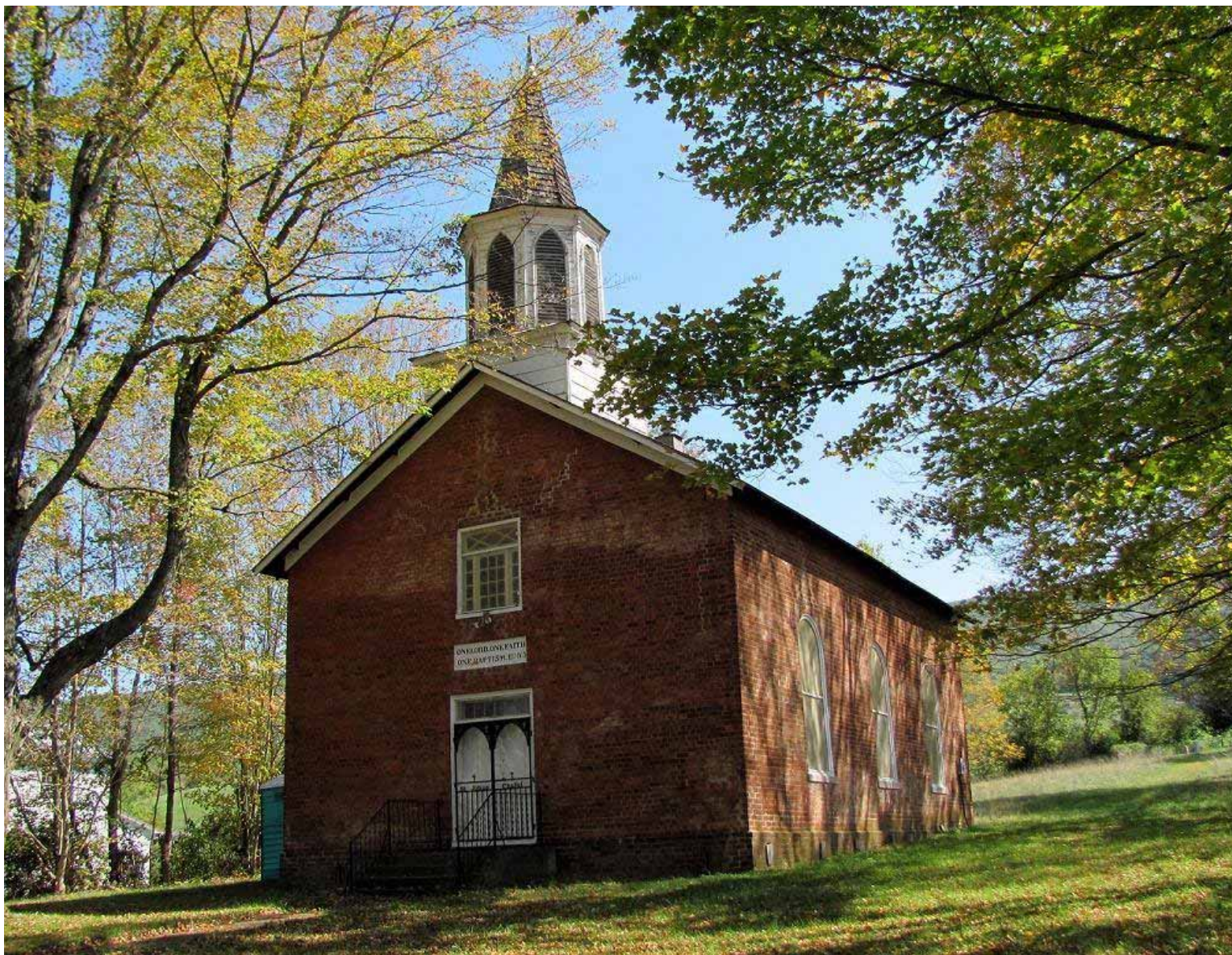
For at least 185 years, there has been a Catholic chapel in Sweet Springs, Monroe County, with the earliest records indicating the chapel was being built and was in use in 1839.

On Aug. 15, St. John Chapel will be open for public tours at 4 p.m. and for Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 6 p.m. An ice cream social will be held on the grounds following Mass, and the public is invited.

Built by slave labor on the Lynnside Plantation, the red brick church served as a family/community church for the family of Gov. John Floyd, his wife and daughters who had attended Catholic school when the late governor of Virginia was employed in Washington and later served as governor of Virginia in Richmond. The daughters and later his wife converted to the Catholic religion.

Served by priests from other Virginia parishes in the 1800s, primarily from the Catholic community in the Wytheville, Va., area, in the later part of the 1800s, it served as a starting point for establishing Catholic Churches in Lewisburg (Immaculate Conception) and Summersville (St. John's). The chapel is the oldest standing Catholic church in West Virginia still in use.

Much of the history of the church has been completed by Father Harry Winters OMI, the last resident Catholic priest in Monroe County. The church is now a chapel in the St. Charles Borromeo



West Virginia Humanities Council photo

St. John Chapel, Sweet Springs

Church Parish in White Sulphur Springs, which joins with the St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ronceverte—serving most of northern Monroe County in the Aug. 15 observance.

Music for the Mass will be provided by the Hymns and Hers, the choir of St. Catherine of Siena, and the newly organized choir at St. Charles Borromeo.

In addition to Msgr.

Kevin Quirk, newly appointed pastor of both St. Charles Borromeo and St. Catherine of Siena, priests from other parishes in southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia often concelebrate the Mass. In addition, Msgr. Williams from the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., has indicated he will be there for the celebration.

Books published about

the area by Father Winters about the Sweet Springs plantation and church history will be available for sale by members of the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus, who also help with the feast day observance.

Directions to the chapel are as follows: From the west, take I-64 east to Exit 183 and VA/WV 311 to Sweet Springs; from the

east, take I-64 west to Exit 10 Callahan and VA. 159 south to VA 311 to Sweet Springs; from southern West Virginia and southwest Virginia take US 219 north to Union and WV 3 east to Sweet Springs.

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



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SAINT JAMES THE GREATER, CHARLES TOWN

END OF LIFE: CATHOLIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

August 31, 2024

8 am Mass & Gathering in the Saint James Social Hall
Continental Breakfast Provided

Now and at the Hour of our Death

We prepare for eternal life by choosing to love and follow God now, in our daily lives and decisions. For example, through prayer and regular reception of the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, we obtain grace to live in ever-deeper communion with God and with one another in lives of faith, charity, and justice. We ask for Our Blessed Mother's help now, and we entrust ourselves to her further as we "surrender 'the hour of our death' wholly to her care."

Forming Our Consciences

Our journey with Christ naturally includes equipping our consciences to make morally good judgments and acting accordingly. Learning about the dignity of human life and the indispensable respect for it, as well as applicable principles for medical care, is particularly important in preparing for our eventual passing.

Some bishops offer guides applying moral principles to local legal options. Parish and online resources are also widely available for careful and prayerful study, and the Ethical and Religious Directives from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops give direction for health care services to those who are seriously ill or dying.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/catholic-considerations-our-earthly-passing>

- PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & DYING
- CATHOLIC BIOETHICS: FORMING OUR CONSCIENCES
- FUNERAL & CEMETERY PLANNING
- CHARITABLE LEGACY PLANNING
- LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS



We will take questions on the day of the seminar. We also invite you to send in questions, thoughts, and concerns about end of life issues. Your submissions will remain confidential and will be answered during the in-person presentation. If you prefer to send them by email, please send your questions to stewardship@stjameswv.org

'Abundant Data' Shows Elective Induced Abortion is Not 'Health Care,' Says OB-GYN

By **Katie Yoder, OSV News**

(OSV News) — Abortion, which intentionally ends the life of an unborn child, is not health care, according to a new publication by Dr. Ingrid Skop, an board-certified OB-GYN with more than 30 years of experience.

"Abundant data indicates that elective induced abortion fails to fulfill the criteria to be considered health care and is certainly not the type of medical intervention for which any health care professionals should advocate," the paper by Skop, vice president and director of medical affairs for the Charlotte Lozier Institute, reads. "Rather, abortion is the intentional ending of an unborn child's life that uses medical drugs and procedures to kill rather than heal, often harming his or her mother in the process."

The 25-page paper titled "Is Induced Abortion Health Care?" was published Aug. 7 by Charlotte Lozier, the research education institute of the national pro-life group Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. "While performing a critical examination of whether abortion fits under the classification of health care, Skop finds that abortion not only fails the principles of medical ethics toward the unborn child but also meets none of the criteria established by the American Medical Association for identifying health care that physicians should support.

"Since the Dobbs decision, we've seen increasingly that abortion advocates are trying to promote abortion as essential medical care," Skop told OSV News, referring to the Supreme Court decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, the court's 1973 ruling that previously legalized abortion nationwide. "What we see, however, is that more than 95% of abortions are in a healthy mom on a healthy baby."

The paper reviews the claims of medical organizations, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, that consider abortion "health care." After defining "abortion"

and "health care," it explores questions including whether abortion falls under "evidence-based health care"; whether it meets the standards of medical ethics; and whether women seeking abortion give truly informed consent.

Her paper, Skop told OSV News, seeks to expose the misinformation that calls abortion "essential medical care" in two ways: by looking at what evidence-based medicine is and by informing the American public about the poor quality of the data relied on by abortion studies in the United States.

For evidence-based medicine, particularly in this case, she said that there must be an illness or disease — and emphasized that, in most cases, there is no illness or disease being treated by abortion. As far as the data, she added, there are no mandates on a federal level requiring the reporting of the number of abortions performed or the complications or deaths associated with them.

"Many times when we're identifying complications and deaths, we're only finding the tip of the iceberg," she said. "We need better data as well, if we're going to try to make any type of a scientific conclusion about abortion."

The paper defines induced abortion as "an action taken to terminate a pregnancy with the intent that the unborn child die and that a live birth does not result."

"We've seen a lot of confusion because the layman's term 'abortion' is what we know in medicine as an 'induced abortion,'" Skop told OSV News.

She contrasted it with a miscarriage, which medical professionals call a "spontaneous abortion." While a doctor might use the same procedure for a miscarriage that is used in an abortion, the baby has already died in a miscarriage.

In her paper, Skop makes the case that the continuation of a baby's life, rather than his or her destruction in abortion, is health care.

"Obstetrics is the medical field concerned with the care and delivery of preg-

nant women," the paper reads. "The preservation and maintenance of pregnancy, along with prenatal care and delivery of babies, are forms of health care based on this definition."

"Disrupting the normal physiological process of pregnancy and ending an unborn human's life, at least in cases of elective abortions (i.e., the vast majority), is thus the antithesis of health care for pregnant women," it concludes, adding that abortion also presents a variety of health risks for women.

Citing a previous report from the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the paper states that nearly 96% of abortions in the United States "are estimated to be performed for non-medical, preferential reasons such as financial and social indications, or for unspecified reasons."

Even in the other cases, abortion is not necessary, Skop said. She revealed that she has cared for women suf-

fering from severe pregnancy complications where she needed to end the pregnancy, or separate the woman from her unborn child. But, Skop clarified, that's different from abortion.

Rather than directly end an unborn child's life by abortion, she induced labor and delivered him or her, Skop said.

"Most of the time when that intervention is needed, it is after the baby can survive (being) separated from his mother," she said. "But even if he's too young or too sick and he does not survive, my intent in that action was not to end his life. My intent was to protect his mother."

However you define it, she added, every state allows a doctor to perform that kind of intervention. She revealed that she, together with an attorney, have looked at the law in every state with pro-life protections that limit or restrict

abortion and found that each one allows an exception permitting an abortion (or separation, in this case) if it is needed to protect a woman's life.

Skop's main goal with the paper, she said, is "to get people to think more critically" and to investigate for themselves the claims made by those who support abortion.

"We need to start with the very first precept of medicine: What is the illness that we're treating? What is the disease?" she said. "Pregnancy is a normal physiologic event in a healthy woman's life."

"If we're treating social and financial problems," she concluded, "surely we can do so in a better way than by ending human life."

The paper is available at: <https://lozierinstitute.org/is-induced-abortion-health-care>

(Katie Yoder is a contributing editor for Our Sunday Visitor.)

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Harris Picks Minnesota's Walz as Her Running Mate

By Kate Scanlon, OSV News
WASHINGTON (OSV News)
 — Vice President Kamala Harris selected Gov. Tim Walz, D-Minn., as her running mate on the Democratic Party's ticket Aug. 6.

Harris secured her party's nomination for president shortly after President Joe Biden's historic announcement July 21 that he would end his own reelection bid and endorse her.

"I am proud to announce that I've asked (Walz) to be my running mate," Harris wrote in a post on X. "As a governor, a coach, a teacher, and a veteran, he's delivered for working families like his. It's great to have him on the team."

Walz, a former public school teacher, a former member of the Army National Guard and a former Minnesota representative in the U.S. House, was elected governor of Minnesota in 2018 and reelected in 2022. In his official biography, Walz's website touts his work on issues such as providing free school lunches and some paid family leave, but also efforts to expand legal protections for abortion.

Walz and his wife, Gwen, married in 1994 and have two children. He is Lutheran.

"It is the honor of a lifetime to join (Harris) in this campaign," Walz wrote in a post on X. "I'm all in. Vice President Harris is showing us the politics of what's possible. It reminds me a bit of the first day of school."

David Barrett, a presidential historian and professor of political science at Villanova University, told OSV News that Walz "obviously has made a great impression" on some Democrats in those interviews.

"He seems to excite people more on the left wing of the party," Barrett said, which could be both "a help and a hindrance."

Reported finalists considered by Harris for her running mate also in-

cluded Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, who is scheduled to campaign at the Philadelphia rally where Harris will introduce Walz as her running mate.

Robert Schmuhl, professor emeritus of American studies at the University of Notre Dame, who critically observes the modern American presidency, told OSV News, that Walz "brings governing experience to the Democratic ticket as well as several terms in Congress."

Schmuhl said Harris' choice shows she "didn't pick a running mate based on one state — as seemed to be the possibility with Gov. Josh Shapiro."

"She picked Walz for the greater potential that he'll contribute to the ticket from key constituencies in the critical battleground states," he said.

The Minnesota Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops, issued a statement Aug. 6, congratulating Walz on his selection as the Democratic nominee for vice president and assuring him of prayers, while illustrating areas of agreement and disagreement with the church's concerns.

"We are proud to have worked together with him to enact a nation-leading child tax credit and promote the well-being of immigrant Minnesotans," the statement said. "Yet, we also have had areas of strong disagreement, including protecting the innocent unborn from abortion, the protection of children from the manifestations of gender ideology, and the importance of parental rights in education."

However, the conference added that Walz has also showed "willingness to hear our concerns and change course" in some areas, "such as religious liberty."

Karoline Leavitt, press secretary for the Trump campaign, said in a statement, "It's no surprise that San-



OSV News photo//Lucas Jackson, Reuters
Democratic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz is pictured in a June 3, 2020, photo. Vice President Kamala Harris announced Aug. 6, 2024, that she has selected Walz as her running mate on the Democratic ticket for the 2024 presidential election.

Francisco Liberal Kamala Harris wants West Coast wannabe Tim Walz as her running-mate — Walz has spent his governorship trying to reshape Minnesota in the image of the Golden State."

Walz, she argued, "is obsessed with spreading California's dangerously liberal agenda far and wide."

"If Walz won't tell voters the truth, we will: just like Kamala Harris, Tim Walz is a dangerously liberal extremist, and the Harris-Walz California dream is every American's nightmare," she said.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, which works to elect pro-life candidates to public office, said in a statement, "Kamala Harris and Tim Walz make up the most pro-abortion presidential ticket America has ever seen. There is no daylight between them on this issue."

"Walz is no moderate when it comes to abortion," Dannenfelser said. "Last year Walz signed the 'PRO Act,' what was at the time the country's most extreme law enshrining abortion on demand throughout pregnancy as a 'fundamental right' without limits of any kind. He then signed further legislation grossly expanding taxpayer-

funded abortion, stripping away the state's informed consent protections, and significantly weakening protections for babies born alive."

"With Harris and Walz as standard-bearers, the Democratic Party has become the 'Shout Your Abortion' party, with no limits for any reason even in the seventh, eighth or ninth month," Dannenfelser argued, saying that in contrast "President Trump, JD Vance and the GOP ... support the right of the people to set limits on abortion and provide real options for mothers in need."

Harris, now with Walz as her choice for vice president, is starting a tour through battleground states with an Aug. 6 political rally in Philadelphia. Harris and Walz are expected to formally accept their party's nominations at the Aug. 19-22 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

Catholic Group Sues EEOC over Regulations Involving Abortion, Gender Identity

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The Catholic Benefits Association recently filed a motion for preliminary injunction against the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over two regulations it says violate Catholics’ religious beliefs.

The group, which represents 87 dioceses and more than 1,400 other Catholic entities, objected to two regulations issued earlier this year. One is the final regulation issued for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, granting workers protections for time off and other job accommodations for pregnancy-related medical conditions such as miscarriage, stillbirth and lactation — but also for abortion, which was opposed by many of the bill’s supporters, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The other was a provision of the EEOC’s “Enforcement Guidance on Harassment,” which CBA CEO Doug Wilson argued in a statement means that “if an employer declines to use an employee’s preferred pronouns or refuses to grant him or her access to bathrooms or locker rooms for the opposite sex, such decisions would constitute actionable sexual harassment.”

Both regulations, Wilson said, “imposed mandates unacceptable for Catholic employers and never intended by Congress.”

“After careful analysis there was no alternative but to litigate,” he said. “And now we are.”

Martin Nussbaum, CBA’s general counsel at the Colorado Springs, Colorado-based First and Fourteenth law firm, told OSV News “what happened this spring was both HHS and the EEOC issued these series of regulations, and the only way for Catholic employers to be protected from them is to seek relief through the court system, unfortunately.”

The CBA separately sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the EEOC over an HHS regulation issued in May that would expand civil rights protections for patients by prohibiting health care providers and insurers that receive federal funding from discriminating against those who seek treatment related to their gender identity or sexual orientation.

In June, the Supreme Court overturned a legal doctrine known as Chevron deference, reducing the regulatory power of federal agencies. Under the terms of that precedent — a product of the Supreme Court’s 1984 ruling in *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, which upheld an Environmental Protection Agency regulation — if Congress has not directly addressed a particular matter in a particular law, the courts must give “reasonable” deference to a federal agency’s interpretation of that law in its implementation.

Asked by OSV News if that ruling impacted their case, Nussbaum said that if Chevron had been still in place for the CBA’s legal challenge to the EEOC regulations, “Chevron would say that the court should defer to the bureaucracy that made these rules, it would put a heavier burden on us to challenge it.”

Arguing the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act regulation was broadened beyond the scope of congressional intent, Nussbaum said, “How does a bill that is supposed to be supporting pregnancy and childbirth become in the hands of the bureaucracy a regulation that requires them to also support abortion?”

A spokesperson for the EEOC did not immediately respond to a request for comment from OSV News. When it issued the latter regulation in April, EEOC Chair Charlotte A. Burrows said in a statement that harassment “both in-person and online, remains a serious issue in America’s workplaces.”

“The EEOC’s updated guidance on harassment is

a comprehensive resource that brings together best practices for preventing and remedying harassment and clarifies recent developments in the law,” she said. “The guidance incorporates public input from stakeholders across the country, is aligned with our Strategic Enforcement Plan, and will help ensure that individuals understand their workplace rights and responsibilities.”


In a declaration in CBA’s filing related to the EEOC’s enforcement guidance, Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis, said that requiring Catholics to identify persons “by a sex other than

their God-Gifted sex would be to require him or her to act against central, unchangeable and architectural teachings of the Catholic faith.”

The CBA’s membership comprises Catholic dioceses, hospitals, school systems, religious orders and other entities that offer their employees insurance and benefit programs that adhere to Catholic teaching.

The CBA’s legal action was filed July 24 in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota’s Western Division.



(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



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In Times of Trial Know that Nothing is Impossible for God, Pope Says

By **Cindy Woode, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Each Christian and the whole Catholic Church must hold fast to the promise that “nothing is impossible for God,” especially when facing difficulties, Pope Francis said.

Resuming his weekly general audiences Aug. 7 after a six-week summer break, the pope returned to his series of audience talks about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

“Without the Holy Spirit, the church cannot keep moving, the church doesn’t grow, the church cannot preach,” he told pilgrims and visitors sheltered from the summer heat in the air-conditioned Paul VI Audience Hall.

Two women holding signs and shouting for

the church to formally declare bullfighting a sin interrupted the reading of a passage from the Bible at the beginning of the audience. Security escorted them out of the audience hall.

Looking at how the Holy Spirit enlivens and assists the church, Pope Francis said people often wonder, “How is it possible to proclaim Jesus Christ and his salvation to a world that seems to seek only well-being in this world?”

The answer, he said, is given in the Acts of the Apostles: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses.”

Notice, the pope said, the words are almost the same as those the Angel Gabriel said to Mary when she asked how it would be possible that

she would conceive and bear God’s son.

“What is said about the church in general also applies to us, to every baptized person,” Pope Francis told the crowd. “In life, all of us sometimes find ourselves in situations beyond our strength, and we ask ourselves: ‘How can I cope with this situation?’ It helps, in such cases, to repeat to ourselves what the angel said to the Virgin: ‘With God nothing will be impossible.’”

The pope prayed that everyone would find the strength to keep going “with this comforting certainty in our hearts: ‘With God nothing will be impossible.’”

“If we believe this, we will perform miracles,” he said. “With God nothing will be impossible.”



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Eucharistic Reflection: Mary's First Communion

By Joyce Bibey

At the National Eucharistic Congress Dr. Edward Sri, best-selling Catholic author and international speaker, engaged an audience of more than 1,000 faithful of all ages who signed up for a breakout session based on one of his books, "A Biblical Walk through the Mass."

While the session was filled with many nuggets of inspiration, foreshadowing, messages, affirmations, and testimony; Sri made many of the attendees tilt their head in awe. He reflected his talk for a moment on Mary and the awesome image of her receiving the Holy Eucharist for the very first time.

So, we share this short article this weekend as we prepare to honor Mary on Thursday, August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption.

Sri quoted Pope Saint John Paul II, "Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist."

However, he questioned, "Have you ever wondered what it would be like for Mary, Our Blessed Mother, and what she must have been thinking at her First Holy Communion? The same Body and Blood sacramentally - within her again!"

He said while Scripture doesn't tell us when exactly she received the Eucharist for the first time, she wasn't at the Last Supper, but she was so close to the apostles she would have heard in great detail what Christ shared and believed wholeheartedly in the sacred mysteries.

"When we come to receive Communion, you are there to be united with Him at that very moment - like Mary, receiving the Body and Blood of Christ."

Transform yourself. Go back to those moments - Mary with Christ in her womb, the scene of the Last Supper, with Him at Calvary,



Joyce Bibey photo

Dr. Edward Sri, best-selling Catholic author and international speaker, is shown at the National Eucharistic Congress.

His days before the Ascension, and Mary at her first Communion - "welcoming once more 'that heart that beat in unison with hers.'"

"Let the past be made present," he said. "Let it transform us. Believe. If you long for transfor-

mation in your soul - where do you encounter that? The sacrifice of the Mass. Love. Be gentle. Serve. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb. Endure."

May we be more like Mary.



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A Celebration of Italian Heritage in Wheeling




Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan gives the final blessing at the Mass for the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival July 28 at Wheeling’s Heritage Port. Seventeen of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s 18 seminarians served at the Mass as they were in Wheeling for meetings with Bishop Brennan and the Vocations Office that weekend. Deacons for the Mass were Deacon Bill Klug and Deacon Tom McFadden. The music was provided by Chad Carter, chancellor of the diocese, and members of St. Michael Music Ministry of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. Participating was the Knights of Columbus Charles Carroll Assembly 1185 Honor Guard.

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West Virginians for Life Convention to be Held in Fairmont

FAIRMONT— The 2024 West Virginians for Life (WVFL) Convention is being held at Trinity Assembly of God in Fairmont on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The theme is Caring, Not Killing. The keynote speaker will be Wesley Smith, J.D., an internationally recognized authority on protecting people from assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Multiple presenters will teach, train, and equip participants, and a special section for teens will be available.

Registration is now open – secure your seat now, before prices

increase. Come to be inspired, learn, and find valuable pro-life resources — some for sale, some complementary. It will be worth your time!

Whether or not you are able to attend, would you please consider becoming an advertiser in the Convention Manual, or a sponsor for the event? These incredibly valuable supporters help keep the registration cost down, so that more people can participate.

For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.wvforlife.org/event/annual-state-convention-2024/>

St. Agnes Knights Holding Collection for Migrant Worker Kits

SHEPHERDSTOWN—The St. Agnes Knights of Columbus Council is ready to begin its annual Migrant Workers' Hygiene Kit project. "It is time to prepare hygiene kits for our regional migrant workers, who do so much to harvest our agricultural products," St. Agnes Parish officials said.

The kits are made up largely of generic (full-sized) toiletries, including: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, deodorant, bath towel, razors (5), shaving soap, (Suave) shampoo, comb, and a bandana. Baseball caps are also needed, and donations of these (new or used) will be welcome. The occasional soccer ball, pack of playing cards, or a frisbee is also a treat.

Collection boxes will be provided in the narthex of St. Agnes Church, as well as in the parish center.

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En tiempos difíciles, recuerden que nada es imposible para Dios, dice el Papa

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—Cada cristiano y toda la Iglesia Católica deben aferrarse a la promesa de que "nada es imposible para Dios", especialmente cuando se enfrentan a dificultades, dijo el Papa Francisco.

Reanudando sus audiencias semanales el 7 de agosto después de una pausa de verano de seis semanas, el Papa retomó su serie de discursos en audiencia sobre el papel del Espíritu Santo en la vida de la Iglesia.

"Sin el Espíritu Santo la Iglesia no puede avanzar, la Iglesia no crece, la Iglesia no puede predicar", dijo a los peregrinos y visitantes que se resguardaban del calor del verano en la Sala de Audiencias Pablo VI, con aire acondicionado.

Dos mujeres que portaban pancartas y pedían a gritos que la Iglesia declarara formalmente que las corridas de toros son pecado interrumpieron la lectura de un pasaje de la Biblia al comienzo de la audiencia. La seguridad las escoltó

fuera de la sala de audiencias.

Observando cómo el Espíritu Santo vivifica y asiste a la Iglesia, el Papa Francisco dijo que la gente a menudo se pregunta: "¿Cómo es posible anunciar a Jesucristo y su salvación a un mundo que parece buscar solo el bienestar?"

La respuesta, dijo, se da en los Hechos de los Apóstoles: "Recibiréis la fuerza del Espíritu Santo, que vendrá sobre vosotros, y seréis mis testigos".

Fíjense, dijo el Papa, las palabras son casi las mismas que el ángel Gabriel dijo a María cuando ella preguntó cómo sería posible que concibiera y diera a luz al hijo de Dios.

"Lo que se dice de la Iglesia en general, vale también para nosotros, para cada bautizado", dijo el Papa Francisco a la multitud. "Cada uno de nosotros se encuentra a veces, en la vida, en situaciones superiores a sus fuerzas y se pregunta: '¿Cómo puedo afrontar esta situación?'. Ayuda, en estos casos, repetirse a uno mismo lo que el ángel dijo a la Virgen: 'Para Dios nada será imposible'".



Foto CNS/Lola Gomez

El Papa Francisco dirige su audiencia general el 7 de agosto de 2024, en el Aula de Audiencias Pablo VI del Vaticano.

El Papa rezó para que todos encuentren la fuerza para seguir adelante "con esta reconfortante certeza en el corazón: 'Nada es imposi-

sible para Dios'".

"Si creemos esto, haremos milagros", dijo. "Nada es imposible para Dios".

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa 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.

**Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2024
Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

Saturday, September 21: Sacred Heart, Chester 5 p.m.
 Saturday, September 28: St. Mary, Petersburg; 4 p.m.
 Sunday, October 6: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown; 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane; 11 a.m.
 Sunday, October 27: All Saints, Bridgeport; 10 a.m.
 Saturday, November 9: St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont; 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday, November 16: Sacred Heart, Williamson; 7 p.m.
 Tuesday, November 19: St. Anthony, Follansbee; 6 p.m.

Employment Opportunity

**Assistant Director for
Marriage & Family Life
Ministries**

The Asst. Director for Marriage & Family Life Ministries will be responsible for all initiating, planning, implementing and executing all of the diocesan efforts in the areas of Marriage and Family Life Ministries, especially as detailed in the Vatican's "Catechumenal Pathway for Married Life" and the USCCB, "Called to the Joy of Love."

This will include marriage preparation efforts.

Required job qualifications: Three years experience in professional parish ministry and/or Catholic theology teaching; Catholic Faith; bachelor's degree in theology, religion, ministry, or catechetics, commitment to the Catholic understanding of marriage; excellent communication skills written and oral.

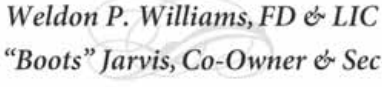
Please submit your resume along with three professional references to Daniel Maul at dmaul@dwc.org



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Daily Living
 with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings
 6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville
 6:30 WOWK CBS 13 Huntington-Charleston
 8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
 6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
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