Do you like living in your own country? Most people do. That's where your family and friends are. You speak the language and are accustomed to the climate. Why would you want to leave the place where you "fit?" Yet, some people do decide to leave their home countries. Why would they make such a hard decision? Suppose you are subject to religious, cultural or political persecution. Suppose you are without work or have lost everything in a flood or earthquake and cannot feed your family. Suppose you are a young person with dreams to make more of yourself than the circumstances in your home country will allow. Despite the loss of so much that is familiar and despite the risks migration often entails, you might well choose to leave your country of origin and go elsewhere.

In October I began a series of pastoral letters on the “seamless garment” of life issues, focusing first on the “hem” around that garment: respect for the physical life of the human being, so ruthlessly violated in abortion. In this letter, I focus on another life issue in the seamless garment: migration. It is a life issue because in most cases the physical or moral life of a person or family is at stake and, even when it is not, the individual is motivated to find a more propitious setting in which to flourish. I do not write from an ivory tower. I have known and worked with immigrants for many years.

Immigration has been highly politicized in our country but we Catholics must consider it in the light of our tradition of social justice. Our Church recognizes that people have a right to migrate to save or improve their lives. This is because the earth is not our own creation but God’s. He has given us all a fitting place to live. As Scripture says: The heavens are the Lord’s but the earth He has given to mankind [Psalm 115:16]. People have migrated from time immemorial. All of us in the western hemisphere, including Native Americans, are descendants of immigrants.

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a soft and raspy voice, Pope Francis began his weekly general audience by making the sign of the cross and explaining that “I'm still not well with this flu, and my voice isn't great,” so he would have an aide read his catechesis and greetings.

The gathering, in the Vatican’s Paul VI Audience Hall Nov. 29, was held the morning after the Vatican announced that Pope Francis had accepted his doctors’ advice and canceled plans to travel to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The pope’s main general audience talk, part of a yearlong series about evangelization, was read by Msgr. Filippo Ciampamelli, an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State.

But at the end of the audience, the pope took the microphone back to urge people to pray for peace.

“Let’s continue to pray for the serious situation in Israel and Palestine. Peace, please, peace,” the pope said.

“I hope that the cease-fire in Gaza continues so that all the hostages (taken by Hamas) are released, and access is allowed for Pope Francis Gives Father Higgs and Charleston's Catholic School Students a Thumbs up at Oct. 18 Audience

F

following his Oct. 18, Wednesday, audience at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican, Pope Francis greets Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston (right). “My school students (Charleston Catholic High School and Sacred Heart Grade School) send their love and prayers,” Father Higgs said to the Holy Father. “On hearing my words,” Father Higgs said, “Pope Francis smiled and gave me a thumbs up (shown above).” Father Higgs is holding a Sacred Heart Grade School magnet, which he carried with him on his trip to Vatican City and Rome. For a fun learning experience for the students, Father Higgs was photographed holding the magnet in different churches and places for a game called “Where in Rome is Father Don?” The students will view the photos and identify and research his locations. (Vatican Media Photo)
### Vatican Issues Letter to German Bishops

**Wuerzburg, Germany (OSV News) —** Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, informed the German bishops in an official note that the ordination of men to the priesthood and the church’s teaching on homosexuality were non-negotiable, the Catholic weekly newspaper Die Tagespost reported on Nov. 24.

The spokesman for the German bishops’ conference, Matthias Kopp, confirmed that the bishops had sent the letter at their Permanent Council at the beginning of the week.

In the letter dated Oct. 23 and addressed to the general secretary of the bishops’ conference, Beate Gilles, Cardinal Parolin drew red lines in the dialogue with the German bishops. He emphasized that the Vatican did not consider it possible to negotiate on the church’s teaching on homosexuality or the 1994 document “Ordinatio Sacerdotalis” in which John Paul II reaffirmed the exclusion of women from ordination to the priesthood.

Pope Francis recently expressed his concern about concrete initiatives individual dioceses and the Catholic Church in Germany as a whole are taking, including the establishment of a synodal council, which, he said, threaten to steer it away from the universal church.

“Instead of looking for ‘salvation’ in always-new committees and always discussing the same issues with a certain self-referentiality,” Catholics need to turn to prayer, penance and adoration as well as reach out to the marginalized and abandoned, the pope wrote in a recent letter. “I am convinced (it is) there the Lord will show us the way,” he wrote in the letter dated Nov. 10. Typed within German and signed by the pope, it was published in full by the German newspaper Die Welt Nov. 21. The letter was a response to four German laywomen who had written the pope in September 2022 expressing their “doubts and fears about the outcomes of the synodal Path,” which began in December 2019 and concluded in March 2023.

“I, too, share this concern about the numerous concrete steps that are now being taken by large parts of this local church that threaten to move further and further away from the common path of the universal church,” he wrote.

**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. 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: Ms. Brian Leigh, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 263; 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 1.833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting online 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 “Contact Us,” then “Submit a Complaint Form” or “Submit a 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 Suspected Cases of Allegations of Sexual Abuse:**

Speaking directly to the general secretary of the diocesan office, Beate Gilles, the Catholic weekly newspaper Die Tagespost reported on Nov. 24.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to 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: Ms. Brian Leigh, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 263; 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 1.833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting online 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 “Contact Us,” then “Submit a Complaint Form” or “Submit a 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 Suspected Cases of Allegations of Sexual Abuse:**

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to 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: Ms. Brian Leigh, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 263; 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 1.833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting online 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 “Contact Us,” then “Submit a Complaint Form” or “Submit a 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.

The Catholic Spirit

Letter...

Cont’d from Page 1

Americans, have distant or recent ancestors who came here from other parts of the world. The planet belongs to all of us. We are all neighbors. It’s not “us” vs. “them” but “all of us together.”

Although belonging to us all, the earth is divided into a system of nation-states, each with a government. Governments have the right to regulate the borders of their countries? Yes, because they must foster the welfare of their citizens. In the short term a large influx of migrants can put a strain on social services and stir up fear in the native population. I know because I was a bishop in dioceses along our southern border of the great difficulty they are facing in responding to the large number of migrants entering our country. The federal government should bring order to that situation and keep criminals out.

But it must be recognized that migrants bring benefits to our society. Contrary to anti-immigrant rhetoric, migrants do not usually take away jobs from the native-born. Some of them bring skills that we badly need in medicine, engineering and the sciences. Some are entrepreneurs and open businesses, providing employment to others. Some take jobs no one else wants. Migrants also add to the cultural and spiritual wealth of our nation, from inspirations in music and art to ethnic cuisine, from the Christmas tree of German immigrants to the pizza of the Italians.

Our Church has benefited for centuries from foreign-born immigrants who have dedicated their lives to serve our people. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American citizen to be canonized and the patron saint of immigrants, was a young Italian nun who came here in the late nineteenth century and founded orphanages, hospitals and schools for the poor. Other immigrants, such as St. John Neumann, who began the Catholic parochial school system in Philadelphia, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne who opened schools for girls and the first Catholic school for Native Americans, and St. Damien de Veuster, the servant of the lepers on Molokai Island, have contributed immensely to the good of our country.

Immigrants can bring unforeseen benefits. As an historian, I wonder whether the United States could have defeated both Germany and Japan in the Second World War without the millions of sons, daughters and grandchildren of the Irish, Italian, Polish and other immigrants who fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The victory of the free and the home of the brave. As Emma Lazarus wrote in a poem inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” That lamp beckons the afflicted and the hopeful to come to the land of the free and the home of the brave. I was a stranger and you welcomed me and I bless you for that.

If you wonder why I am addressing the issue of migration when there are proportionately fewer immigrants in West Virginia than in surrounding states, it is because some are here already and more will come, as we have limited jobs and that our help from Spanish Masses in Martinsburg, Charles Town, Clarksburg, Morgantown, Beckley, Huntington and Charleston. Many of our priests come from India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nigeria, Cameroon and other nations; some from a few decades ago and some from the Philippines, Nigeria, Cameroon and other Latin countries. I thank God that our West Virginia Catholics have welcomed and embraced them.

Considering the needs and contributions of migrants, it is distressing that our federal government has not reformed its immigration laws. If you wonder why some people come here without visas, it is because our national government has made it so. For the majority of likely immigrants, it takes years, sometimes decades, to get an interview and begin the visa process. Meanwhile, you could be killed for your faith or your political views or your family could starve. People in these situations are desperate and so they leave home and come here — which justice says they have the right to do. On Ellis Island in New York harbor, millions of migrants passed through its halls. Ninety-eight percent of them were limited. Only prostitutes, anarchists and the insane were kept out. Keep out criminals and terrorists who try to enter today but let the decent people in.

As for those migrants who are already here and want to stay, they should have full legal status. Many of those who enjoy the Temporary Protective Status want to stay, they should have full legal status. Many of those who enjoy the Temporary Protective Status have been here for more than twenty-five years, but Congress will not recognize reality and give them permanent residence. Others, called Dreamers, were brought here as little children. As one of them told me, “I don’t remember the country where I was born. This is my country. I want to live and work here.” We should also reject any form of second-class citizenship. All immigrants should be able to apply for citizenship on an equal basis. I have had the pleasure of witnessing immigrants swear their allegiance to the United States of America, which my father, the grandson of immigrants, fought to defend in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

It is lamentable that the West Virginia legislature last year passed a law requiring local police to enforce federal immigration laws and imposing penalties on civil jurisdictions that do not do so. Enforcing immigration law is the role of federal officials. Local police should be focusing on maintaining public order and solving actual crimes. All such a law does is to instill fear in a vulnerable group of people who generally cause no trouble. It makes them less likely to report crimes against themselves and to testify as witnesses to crime. How does that help local police fulfill their primary responsibilities? That law should be repealed.

Regardless of the circumstances or conditions of the migrants who arrive here, they are human beings made in God’s image and likeness. They are our brothers and sisters in the human family. They need food, clothing, a place to live and some means to support themselves. Our Church will continue to help them. As men and women of Christian faith, we should understand that in welcoming them, we welcome Christ, the Son of God, the stranger who migrated to earth and assumed a true human nature in order to save us. Being both generous and prudent for the long term, our federal and state governments and we Catholics should welcome migrants and lend them a helping hand. They are a blessing to us, not a curse. They will make our nation better than they found it. As Emma Lazarus wrote in a poem inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” That lamp beckons the afflicted and the hopeful to come to the land of the free and the home of the brave. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. That is the true spirit of America and the spirit of the Gospel. Let us live up to it as Americans and as Catholics.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Pope...

Cont’d from Page 1

the necessary humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Pope Francis, who speaks regularly by telephone with priests at Holy Family parish in Gaza City, told people at the archdiocese’s radio station that the school had been closed and that he was deeply concerned for its people. “I was a stranger and you welcomed me and I bless you for that.”

“Peace is a gift of God,” he said, adding that the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel and to help people in need. “Peace is not a gift of God’s hand but is born from faith in Jesus.”

If you wonder why I am addressing the issue of migration when there are proportionately fewer immigrants in West Virginia than in surrounding states, it is because some are here already and more will come, as we have limited jobs and that our help from Spanish MASSES in Martinsburg, Charles Town, Clarksburg, Morgantown, Beckley, Huntington and Charleston. Many of our priests come from India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nigeria, Cameroon and other nations; some from a few decades ago and some from the Philippines, Nigeria, Cameroon and other Latin countries. I thank God that our West Virginia Catholics have welcomed and embraced them.

As for those migrants who are already here and want to stay, they should have full legal status. Many of those who enjoy the Temporary Protective Status have been here for more than twenty-five years, but Congress will not recognize reality and give them permanent residence. Others, called Dreamers, were brought here as little children. As one of them told me, “I don’t remember the country where I was born. This is my country. I want to live and work here.” We should also reject any form of second-class citizenship. All immigrants should be able to apply for citizenship on an equal basis. I have had the pleasure of witnessing immigrants swear their allegiance to the United States of America, which my father, the grandson of immigrants, fought to defend in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

It is lamentable that the West Virginia legislature last year passed a law requiring local police to enforce federal immigration laws and imposing penalties on civil jurisdictions that do not do so. Enforcing immigration law is the role of federal officials. Local police should be focusing on maintaining public order and solving actual crimes. All such a law does is to instill fear in a vulnerable group of people who generally cause no trouble. It makes them less likely to report crimes against themselves and to testify as witnesses to crime. How does that help local police fulfill their primary responsibilities? That law should be repealed.

Regardless of the circumstances or conditions of the migrants who arrive here, they are human beings made in God’s image and likeness. They are our brothers and sisters in the human family. They need food, clothing, a place to live and some means to support themselves. Our Church will continue to help them. As men and women of Christian faith, we should understand that in welcoming them, we welcome Christ, the Son of God, the stranger who migrated to earth and assumed a true human nature in order to save us. Being both generous and prudent for the long term, our federal and state governments and we Catholics should welcome migrants and lend them a helping hand. They are a blessing to us, not a curse. They will make our nation better than they found it. As Emma Lazarus wrote in a poem inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” That lamp beckons the afflicted and the hopeful to come to the land of the free and the home of the brave. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. That is the true spirit of America and the spirit of the Gospel. Let us live up to it as Americans and as Catholics.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

May you have the gift of FAITH
the blessing of HOPE
and the peace of His LOVE
this Christmas & in the New Year

dwr.org/CSA

December 1, 2023

The Catholic Spirit 3

“One of the great gems in the crown of pastoral life in the Church is the presence and service of religious men and women,” Bishop Mark Brennan wrote in a Nov. 27 letter to priests of the diocese. “Eventually most religious sisters, brothers and priests have to retire from active ministry. We have to help them.”

“This collection has helped many religious communities in our country since it began in 1988,” the bishop wrote. “It is a simple fact that, having taken vows of poverty, religious do not usually have the resources to take care of all their needs when they reach an age when they can no longer actively serve. Yet they have given of themselves for many years to God’s people. It is our duty as Catholics to show our esteem and appreciation for their loving service.”

In 2022, parishioners contributed $85,039 to the collection. John Knutsen, director of the NRRO, stated, “We are privileged to support those who have dedicated their lives to tireless service, and we are immensely grateful for the continuing generosity of U.S. Catholic donors to this vital cause.”

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have selflessly served for decades without significant financial compensation. However, due to escalating health-care costs, numerous U.S. religious communities face a substantial gap between their elderly members’ needs and the financial resources available for their care. Many religious orders currently experience insufficient retirement savings.

The 2022 appeal demonstrated Catholics’ tremendous generosity by raising $27.6 million. These funds from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection provided financial assistance for retirement needs for 297 U.S. religious communities.

The NRRO coordinates the annual national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance to eligible religious communities to help care for their aging members. To address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, the Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988. The NRRO is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Dear Jubilarians,

Many years ago I served in a parish in the Dominican Republic and celebrated Mass from time to time with some religious Sisters who taught in a girls’ school. The oldest Sisters had come from Spain fifty or more years earlier. Having spent many years in the classroom, they were now retired but prayed daily for the school’s students and families. They were still engaged in doing good for others.

You are celebrating an anniversary of ordination or religious profession. Some of you are still busy in full-time ministry, others are retired but still serve in ministries and others cannot be active but surely offer prayers and sacrifices for God’s people. In whatever situation you find yourself, I hope you realize that you are still useful to God and to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

I congratulate you on your steadfast service to the Church. God’s grace has let you persevere in the promises or vows you made long ago at your ordination or religious profession. I praise God for calling you to His service and I thank you for responding. You give us all an example of faithfulness that we need to see.

As I have said before, I meet many people as I travel around the Diocese to visit our parishes, schools and other good works. I often hear from our lay people about the good influence that clergy and religious, still living or now deceased, have had on them. These lay men and women are grateful and so am I. Please pray that more men and women may respond to God’s call as you have. The Church needs priests, deacons and religious sisters and brothers to work with the lay faithful to bring others to Christ. If we pray earnestly, God will hear us.

May God richly bless you now and always.

Let us pray for one another.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Once more it’s Jubilee time and this means stepping back and remembering the highlights of your years of ministerial service, giving thanks for all the blessings, and acknowledging God’s handiwork through your ministry! Your faithfulness and your promises reflect God’s unconditional love. We appreciate your service in our Diocese in West Virginia, and hope that each one of you can find time and space to celebrate this milestone well, even as you journey on!

Sister Martha Gomez, RGS
Delegate for Consecrated Life

In Gratitude

of our Priests and Religious in West Virginia

For your years of faithful ministry to the people of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we thank you. Our prayers and heartfelt wishes are with you as you celebrate your Jubilee Anniversaries.

WEST VIRGINIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

www.kofc.org/joinus

304-232-0330

ALTMAYER
“THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNDAMENTAL PHILANTHROPIC" "THE "THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNDAMENTAL PHILANTHROPIC"

304-232-8510

Established 1914
Centre Wheeling Market House

109 Years

Coleman’s Fish Mkt.

RICH & SHIRLEY’S QUICKPRINT

RICH & SHIRLEY’S QUICKPRINT

(304) 233-7433
92 16th Street,
Wheeling, WV

(304) 233-7433
92 16th Street,
Wheeling, WV
60th Anniversary, Father William A. Anderson

Father William A. Anderson is celebrating his 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Father Anderson was ordained to the priesthood May 23, 1963, for the Diocese of Steubenville. He then came to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston June 15, 1996, and was incardinated into the diocese Dec. 20, 1999. Msgr. Luciana served in various parishes in the Diocese of Steubenville as associate and pastor. He also taught at St. John High School in Bellaire, Ohio. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, he served as administrator of St. Stephen Parish in Ona from 1996 to 1997 and as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington from 1997 to 2012. During that time, he also served as pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington from 2004 to 2008. Msgr. Luciana retired from active ministry Jan. 31, 2007.

60th Anniversary, Msgr. Lawrence Luciana

Msgr. Lawrence Luciana is celebrating his 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He attended St. John Vianney Seminary in Bloomingdale, Ohio, and was ordained to the priesthood May 23, 1963, for the Diocese of Steubenville. He then came to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston June 15, 1996, and was incardinated into the diocese Dec. 20, 1999. Msgr. Luciana served in various parishes in the Diocese of Steubenville as associate and pastor. He also taught at St. John High School in Bellaire, Ohio. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, he served as administrative assistant of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington from 1997 to 2012. During that time, he also served as pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington from 2004 to 2008. Msgr. Luciana retired from active ministry May 1, 2012.

55th Anniversary, Father William J. Petro

Father William J. Petro is celebrating 55 years of priesthood. He is a native of West Winfield, Pa. Father Petro received a Master of Arts from Capuchin College in Washington in 1967, and was ordained to the priesthood May 23, 1963, for the Diocese of Steubenville. He then came to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston June 15, 1996, and was incardinated into the diocese Dec. 20, 1999. Msgr. Luciana served in various parishes in the Diocese of Steubenville as associate and pastor. He also taught at St. John High School in Bellaire, Ohio. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, he served as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Parish in Ona from 1996 to 1997 and as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington from 1997 to 2012. During that time, he also served as pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington from 2004 to 2008. Msgr. Luciana retired from active ministry May 1, 2012.
50th Anniversary, Father John F. Beckley

Celebrating 50 years of priesthood is Father John F. Beckley, SM, originally from Minneapolis. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Marist College and Seminary in Framingham, Mass., in 1965. He completed his theological studies at Marist College/St. Paul’s College in Washington, DC, from 1969 to 1972, and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans from 1972 to 1973.


He served as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Brunswick, Ga., from 1979 to 1982, as chaplain at St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital in New York from 1982 to 1983, as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Gramercy, La., from 1983 to 1985, and then returned to New York to serve once again at St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital from 1985 to 1981. He then served as chaplain at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tampa, Fla., from 1991 to 2001, and then as coordinator of senior care for the Marist Society in Tampa from 2001 to 2007.

Father Beckley came to West Virginia in 2007 to serve at Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Wheeling. He retired from active ministry in 2018.

50th Anniversary, Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer

Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer is celebrating his 50th anniversary of priesthood. He is originally from Cumberland, Md., and is a 1970 graduate of Kilroe College of the Sacred Heart in Honesdale, Pa. He completed his theological studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis., and received a Master of Education in 1974 from La Salle University in Philadelphia.

He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Patrick Parish in Cumberland Aug. 18, 1973, by Bishop James E. Walsh of the Archdiocese of Baltimore for the Priests of the Sacred Heart. He served as pastor of Sacred Heart Seminary and School from 1973 to 1975.

For the next 27 years, Msgr. Fryer was a U.S. Navy chaplain and rose to the rank of captain. He served at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Va., among other locations.


Happy 50th Anniversary of Priesthood, Monsignor Patrick L. Fryer

Thank you for serving our country for 27 years as a U.S. Navy Chaplain, and serving six years as our Pastor!

Ad multos annos!

From all of us at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg
25th Anniversary, Father Neil R. Buchlein

Father Neil R. Buchlein celebrates 25 years of priesthood. He is originally from New Jersey and attended Don Bosco College in Newton, N.J., from 1972-1978 earning a B.A. in philosophy. He went on to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, and then St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., where he earned a Master of Divinity in 1997.

Father Buchlein was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt on June 13, 1998, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. He then served at St. Margaret Mary in Parkersburg as associate pastor from 1998 to 2001, Ascension Parish in Hurricane as pastor from 2001 to 2012, and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg as pastor from 2012 to 2013.

For the last 10 years, Father Buchlein has served as pastor at parishes in Boone and Logan counties. He was appointed pastor of St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Madison and St. Joseph the Worker Mission (now a chapel), Whitesville in 2013. In addition to those assignments, Father Buchlein was also appointed pastor of St. Barbara Mission in Chapmanville.

25th Anniversary, Msgr. Paul A. Hudock

Msgr. Paul A. Hudock celebrates 25 years of priesthood. The Inwood native is a 1989 graduate of Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in political science. He received a Master of Divinity in 1997 at St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

He was ordained to the priesthood June 13, 1998, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt. He served at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston as vicar from 1998 to 2001; St. John University Parish in Morgantown as associate pastor from 2001 to 2004; Sacred Heart Parish in Huntington as pastor from 2004 to 2005; and Marshall University in Huntington as chaplain from 2000 to 2003. He was priest secretary to the bishop from 2005 to 2012. He was appointed asocial secretary to the diocese’s Vocations Office in 2005 and became director in 2007, serving until 2015.

25th Anniversary, Father Biju Paul Parampil

Father Biju Paul Parampil, who is celebrating 25 years of priesthood, is from Kottayam, Kerala, India. He currently serves as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Wheeling. He then served at St. Margaret Mary in Parkersburg as associate pastor from 1998 to 2001, Ascension Parish in Hurricane as pastor from 2001 to 2012, and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg as pastor from 2012 to 2013.

For the last 10 years, Father Buchlein has served as pastor at parishes in Boone and Logan counties. He was appointed Logan pastor of St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Madison and St. Joseph the Worker Mission (now a chapel), Whitesville in 2013. In addition to those assignments, Father Buchlein was also appointed pastor of St. Barbara Mission in Chapmanville.

In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI named Msgr. Hudock a Chaplain to His Holiness, entitling him to be called monsignor. In 2012, he was appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee, where he served for the next three years. He was also chaplain at Bethany College and West Liberty University and chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council #11919 from 2005 to 2016. Msgr. Hudock was appointed pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling in 2015, where he served until 2022. He was designated pastor at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling from 2018 to 2021. He was appointed to the Diocesan College of Consultants from 2016 to 2020 and has served many terms on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council.

In August of 2023, Msgr. Hudock was assigned to Hispanic Ministry at St. Mary Parish in Morgantown, and Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg and continues to serve in that role.

25th Anniversary, Father Biju Paul Parampil

Father Biju Paul Parampil, who is celebrating 25 years of priesthood, is from Kottayam, Kerala, India. He currently serves as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Wheeling. He then served at St. Margaret Mary in Parkersburg as associate pastor from 1998 to 2001, Ascension Parish in Hurricane as pastor from 2001 to 2012, and St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg as pastor from 2012 to 2013.

For the last 10 years, Father Buchlein has served as pastor at parishes in Boone and Logan counties. He was appointed Logan pastor of St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Madison and St. Joseph the Worker Mission (now a chapel), Whitesville in 2013. In addition to those assignments, Father Buchlein was also appointed pastor of St. Barbara Mission in Chapmanville.
The Abbate Agency would like to congratulate all 2023 Jubilarians and express our sincere thanks for your commitment to doing God’s work!

Your faith guides your life, why not your financial decisions?

By entrusting the Knights of Columbus with your financial future, you are not merely making a decision for the benefit of your family – you are partnering with an organization that has worked to preserve life, protected the family, and defended the Catholic faith for more than 140 years.
75th Anniversary, Sister Gretta Schmitz, OSF

Sister Gretta Schmitz was born in Petersburg, Neb. She received her certification as a licensed practical nurse from the Omaha School of Practical Nursing in Omaha. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, she served as a licensed practical nurse at Mountaineer Family Health in Beckley (1975-1976), and at Rhodell Health Center in Rhodell (1976-2012). In retirement, Sister has served in the ministry of prayer and presence at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee (2017-2020) and now at Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Greenfield, Wis.

Cards for Sister Gretta may be mailed in sister's name, ATTN: U.S. Province Jubilee Committee, 1545 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215.

70th Anniversary, Sister Joyce Ann Waltz, CSJ

Sister Joyce Ann Waltz was born in Fairmont, where she attended St. Peter's Grade and High Schools. She entered the Congregation of St. Joseph on Feb. 2, 1953. She received a Bachelor of Science/Education degree in music from Marywood College in Scranton, Pa.

Sister Joyce Ann ministered as a teacher and principal in diocesan elementary and high schools including St. Francis Xavier in Moundsville, St. Vincent de Paul School and Central Catholic High School in Wheeling; St. Anne School in Bristol, Va.; Blessed Sacrament School in South Charleston; All Saints School in Bridgeport; St. Mary School in Clarksburg; and St. Patrick School in Weston. She also served as Coordinator of Learning at the Good Samaritan House in Wheeling.

Following her teaching career, Sister Joyce ministered to the sisters at Mount St. Joseph for several years and served on several congregational committees. She then served as a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Family Child Care & Development Center in Wheeling, one of the ministries in the Congregation's Mission Network.

Sister Joyce Ann resides in Wheeling and stays active by volunteering and in prayer ministry.

Happy Anniversary, Jubilarians of 2023

We are grateful for your life-long ministry and service in our diocese. Be assured of our prayers in your Jubilee Year and always.

Serra Club of Wheeling, West Virginia

The Wheeling Serra Club is a member of Serra International, which exists to foster and promote vocations to the Catholic priesthood and religious life and to encourage its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service. Find out more about the Serra Club and membership at the address below.

wheelingserra.org
Sister Jane Harrington, a native of Bluefield, entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1958, and professed first vows on July 31, 1961. She earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Religious Education degrees from Wheeling Jesuit University, and a Master of Science degree in chemistry at Purdue University.

In addition to teaching at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, Sister Jane served as principal at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg and as teacher and Co-Principal at Bishop Donahue High School in McMechen. She ministered as a pastoral associate with the Catholic Community of St. John Fisher at Bethany from 1984-1987. For 10 years she was Diocesan Regional Coordinator of Education and Formation in the southern portion of West Virginia. She was also a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Team during the 1980s. In 1997, Sister Jane became the first Executive Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund (now the Sisters Health Foundation) with offices in Parkersburg. She continued as Executive Director for fifteen years, retiring from the position in 2012. Since that time, she has served as chair of the West Virginia Oral Health Coalition, and member and Chairperson of the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition. Most recently, she has served as chair of the West Virginia Oral Health Coalition, and member and Chairperson of the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition.

Celebrating Jubilee Anniversaries in 2023

75th Anniversary
Sister Gretta Schmitz, OSF

70th Anniversary
Sister M. Bernadita Peterson, SAC
Sister Joyce Ann Waltz, CSJ

65th Anniversary
Sister Jane Harrington, CSJ
Sister Joan Singer, CSJ
Msgr. Lawrence Luciana
Father William A. Anderson

60th Anniversary
Sister Stella Cronauer, CSJ
Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl, CSJ
Sister Mary Terence Wall, SAC

55th Anniversary
Father William Petro

50th Anniversary
Sister Lorraine Therese DeFebbo, OSF
Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer
Father John Beckley, SM
Sister Stephanie Marie Kondik, OSF

25th Anniversary
Sister Pat Murray, CSJ
Father Neil R. Buchlein
Msgr. Paul A. Hudock
Father Biju Paul Parampil
70th Anniversary,
Sister M. Bernadita Peterson, SAC

Sister Bernadita Peterson entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters Congregation in Huntington on Oct. 8, 1950. Sister made her First Profession of Vows on Aug. 15, 1953, at St. Mary’s Convent, Huntington. After her First Profession, she attended Dunbarton College where she earned her BA in Business. Sister also attended summer classes in Education at Catholic University and Marshall University.

In 1957 she was assigned to Spring Lake, Mich., where she taught at St. Mary’s Elementary School. In 1961, she was transferred to Laurel, Md., where she taught at Pallotti High School. Sister made her Final Vows on Aug. 15, 1959, at St. Mary’s Convent, Huntington. In 1970, Sister earned her MA in English from St. Louis University. Most of Sister Bernadita’s early years of religious life were spent teaching. Sister has lived and served in many roles in the convents of the sisters in Maryland, Michigan, Italy, and Missouri. Her works of service also included six years as a General Councilor in Rome, as Retreat House Director of the Pallottine Renewal Center, Florissant, Mo., and as Postulant, Novice, and Junior Director to the USA Provinces’ young sisters living in the St. Louis area. Sister also served the community as Local Community Superior.

Sister Bernadita returned to Laurel, where she became the community treasurer. In early 2022, Sister Bernadita moved to Huntington, where she is currently living. Sister relates a special moment in her life was the first time she stood in front of the Handicap Encounter Christ group at the Retreat House. She knew that she was offering them a spiritual and fun encounter, with one buddy there, just for them.

65th Anniversary, Sister Jane Harrington, CSJ

Sister Jane Harrington, a native of Bluefield, entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1958, and professed first vows on July 31, 1961. She earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Religious Education degrees from Wheeling Jesuit University, and a Master of Science degree in chemistry at Purdue University.

In addition to teaching at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, Sister Jane served as principal at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg and as teacher and Co-Principal at Bishop Donahue High School in McMechen. She ministered as a pastoral associate with the Catholic Community of St. John Fisher at Bethany from 1984-1987. For 10 years she was Diocesan Regional Coordinator of Education and Formation in the southern portion of West Virginia. She was also a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Team during the 1980s. In 1997, Sister Jane became the first Executive Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund (now the Sisters Health Foundation) with offices in Parkersburg.

Sister Jane returned to Laurel, where she became the community treasurer. In early 2023, Sister Jane moved to Huntington, where she is currently living. Sister relates a special moment in her life was the first time she stood in front of the Handicap Encounter Christ group at the Retreat House. She knew that she was offering them a spiritual and fun encounter, with one buddy there, just for them.

Congratulations on Your Jubilees!

We are grateful for your service on our Board of Directors for Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Thank you for sharing your life and your ministry with the people of West Virginia!

We also congratulate all of the 2023 Jubilarians!
65th Anniversary, Sister Joan Singer, CSJ

Sister Joan Singer, a Wheeling native, entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1958 and professed vows in 1961. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Religious Education from Wheeling Jesuit University. In addition, she received a Master of Arts in English from West Virginia University and completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. She is certified as a chaplain through the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

Sister Joan taught at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, Fairmont Catholic Grade School and Fairmont Catholic High School in Moundsville, Corpus Christi Grade School in Warwood, Bishop Donahue High School in McMechen, and Wheeling Catholic Elementary School. She served in the Pastoral Care Department of Wheeling Hospital, ministering mainly at the Bishop Joseph H. Hodges Continuous Care Center, until her retirement in 2016. She also served as a member of the Advisory Committee for Mount Saint Joseph and for the Wheeling Associates. Sister Joan currently resides at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling where she enjoys her ministry of prayer and being present to the sisters there.

60th Anniversary, Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl, CSJ

As a child, Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl was a student of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling. First at All Saints Grade School in Bridgeport and later at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg. She entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1963. After graduation, she entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters Congregation on January 4, 1961, in Huntington. She made her First Profession of Vows on Aug. 15, 1963, and her Final Profession of Vows on Aug. 15, 1969, at St. Mary’s Convent Chapel, in Huntington. Before her profession of vows, Sister Mary Terence taught Vacation Bible School in Tazewell, Richland’s, and Grundy during the summer months. Following her first profession, she began serving the people in Logan, Man, Chapmanville and Holden, where she visited the sick, provided social work services to the poor and was religious education teacher at the local parishes.

For several years Sister would spend two – three weeks teaching religion to children living in thePowhatan and McDowell County parishes. In 1973, she was assigned to care for children at Pallotti Boarding School in Laurel, Md. Sister Mary Terence spent 10 years working in Retreat Ministry and supervising employees at the Pallotti Retreat Center, in Florissant, Mo. There, she also taught CCD and worked as a teacher’s aide.

Sister received her B.A. Degree in Religious Education from Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1982. She then became Pastoral Associate and Religious Education Coordinator at Sacred Heart Parish in Huntington, serving until 2022. Currently, she teaches students preparing for the sacraments of Penance and First Eucharist.

Sister Mary Terence has served as local superior of St. Mary’s Convent, Huntington, and was appointed vice provincial of the USA Province in 2018.

Sister Mary Terence shares a memorable story of leaving her teaching ministry in Logan and three young boys who were close friends, being in her class. Many years later, she learned that the three, sometimes mischievous young men, had very meaningful positions after higher education graduation. Two were in law enforcement, and one became a priest. Three men she is quite proud of.
60th Anniversary, Sister Stella Cronauer, CSJ

Sister Stella Cronauer is celebrating her 60th jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph of Baden, Pa. She entered the community Sept. 8, 1963, and professed first vows Aug. 18, 1966. She served in education (teacher, principal and co-administrator) in the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Columbus from 1966 to 1985. She also served as director of religious education/pastoral minister at St. James Parish in Sewickley, Pa., from 1985 to 1989 and then as associate director/consultant, adult catechesis, in the Diocese of Greensburg from 1989 to 1992. Since 1992, Sister Stella has ministered in West Virginia, serving as pastoral associate at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont. At that time, she also began her ministry as a therapeutic massage therapist. Reflecting on a key moment in her religious life, Sister Stella shares: “When turning 40, I suffered from a ruptured disc. That experience helped me to realize that God is in control and not me. It was during the healing process that I first experienced the effects of therapeutic massage. Because of this, I wanted to learn the skill of massage therapy to help others who are in pain. It has been a wonderful part of my ministry. I am so sorry that I haven’t been able to continue doing the therapeutic massage for the past five years since I’ve had both knees and right elbow replaced due to bone on bone arthritis in those joints. I feel honored and privileged to be able to respond to the Sisters of St. Joseph’s call to always serve God and our ‘dear neighbors’ with ‘eyes open, ears attentive, spirit alert ... sleeves rolled up for ministry.’”

50th Anniversary, Sister Lorraine Therese DeFebbo, OSF

Sister Lorraine Therese was born in Weirton,. She earned a B.A. in Music Education from Fontbonne University in St. Louis and an M.A. in Liturgical Studies form the University of Notre Dame. She was a teacher in the Archdiocese of St. Louis at many schools. She also taught in Illinois, Louisiana, and Wisconsin. Additionally, she was a member of her community’s leadership team and has ministered as choir director, pastoral associate, campus minister/liguist at Quincy University, and director of Music and Liturgy at St. Baise (now Holy Spirit) and St. Gabriel Parish in Hubertus, Wis. Sister has ministered as a radiology clerk at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center in St. Louis and as parish secretary at both Assumption Parish in Mattes, Mo., and Our Lady of the Pillar Parish. Currently, she serves as secretary for St. Thomas Holy Spirit Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis.

50th Anniversary, Sister Stephanie Marie Kondik, OSF

Sister Stephanie was born and raised in Weirton. She earned a B.A. in American Studies from Fontbonne University in St. Louis and an M.A. in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She was a teacher in the Archdiocese of St. Louis at many schools. She also taught in Illinois, Louisiana, and Wisconsin. Additionally, she was a member of her community’s leadership team and has ministered as choir director, pastoral associate, campus minister/liguist at Quincy University, and director of Music and Liturgy at St. Baise (now Holy Spirit) and St. Gabriel Parish in Hubertus, Wis. Sister has ministered as a radiology clerk at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center in St. Louis and as parish secretary at both Assumption Parish in Mattes, Mo., and Our Lady of the Pillar Parish. Currently, she serves as secretary for St. Thomas Holy Spirit Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis.

25th Anniversary, Sister Pat Murray, CSJ

Sister Pat Murray was one of four children born to John and Dorothy Murray of Berwyn, Ill. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Rosary College. She entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1998. She ministered in the Diocese of Ft. Wayne/South Bend, Ind., as a pastoral administrator, college campus minister, and director of Religious Education. In 2009, she became program director at ABLE Families in Kermit, a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph Mission Network. She was promoted to executive director in 2011. There, Sister Pat felt the call to transfer her vows to the Congregation of St. Joseph. She professed vows in 2016. She then served as a consultant for the West Virginia Home Visitors Program and as managing director of Ministry of the Arts in LaGrange Park, Ill. Sister Pat currently serves as the manager of Operations for The Leadership Collaborative, a formation program for emerging leaders among women religious and religious associates. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Sister Pat shared: “When I was discerning the transfer between two communities, it was very clear to me that God was with me during that time. I felt drawn to the Congregation of St. Joseph in such a way that only God could do, and I am grateful for the life and ministry I now have as a Sister of St. Joseph.”
The Catholic Spirit 15

Thank You

from the staff and residents of Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Welty Home, Welty Apartments, Braddock Apartments, and Welty TownHomes

Msgr. Lawrence Luciana
60 years

Father William A. Anderson
60 years

Father William Petro
55 years

Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer
50 years

Father John Beckley, S.M.
50 years

Father Neil R. Buchlein
25 years

Msgr. Paul A. Hudock
25 years

Father Biju Paul Parampil
25 years

Sister Greta Schmitz, OSF
75 years

Sister M. Bernadita Peterson, SAC
70 years

Sister Joyce Ann Waltz, CSJ
70 years

Sister Jane Harrington, CSJ
65 years

Sister Joan Singer, CSJ
65 years

Sister Stella Cronauer, CSJ
60 years

Sister Joan Kreyenbuhl, CSJ
60 years

Sister Mary Terence Wall, SAC
60 years

Sister Lorraine Therese DeFebbo, OSF
50 years

Sister Stephanie Marie Kondik, OSF
50 years

Sister Pat Murray, CSJ
25 years

May God bless you richly for your years of service.

304.242.1093 • www.weltyhome.org
The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

**OUR TEAM**

- David Michael Campsey MD
  Interventional Cardiology

- Deepak Hooda MD
  Interventional Cardiology

- Sushant Sharma MD
  Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362