

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Seminarian Clifton Mastran to be Ordained Deacon



Seminarian Clifton Mastran

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING — All are invited to gather at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 10 a.m. on Dec. 20 as Bishop Mark E. Brennan ordains seminarian Clifton Mastran to the diaconate.

“Clifton has had a long and winding road to this day and has persevered in his vocation admirably,” said Father John Soplinski, director of Vocations for the diocese. “He is a prayerful man and a worker, so we look forward to his ministry in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. We hope to see many of the faithful who have prayed for and supported Clifton attend... We earnestly pray for Clifton as he takes his vows of prayer, obedience, and celibacy.”

During the ordination, Mastran will be vested with the stole and dalmatic, the
See “Mastran” on Page 3

Pope Prays Mary Will Fill Believers with Hope, Inspire Them to Serve

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception as the Jubilee Year was ending, Pope Leo XIV prayed that “Jubilee hope” would “blossom in Rome and in every corner of the earth,” bringing with it reconciliation, nonviolence and peace.

Standing near the Spanish Steps in central Rome, at the foot of a towering column topped by a statue of Mary, the pope led thousands of Romans, pilgrims and tourists in prayer Dec. 8.

At dawn that morning, a firefighter named Roberto Leo, the fire service’s longest serving department head in Rome, climbed up 100 rungs of an aerial ladder to place a wreath of white flowers on the outstretched arms of the statue about 90 feet above the ground.

Following a tradition begun in 1958 by St. John XXIII, Pope Leo blessed a basket of white roses that assistants placed at the foot of the statue and read a prayer specifically written for this year’s feast, with references to what is going on in the church, the city and the world.

In the prayer to Mary, Pope Leo noted that the Jubilee year brought millions of pilgrims to Rome, representing “a humanity tried, at times crushed, humble like the earth from which God shaped it and into which he never ceases to breathe his Spirit of life.”

“Look, O Mary, upon the many sons and daughters in whom hope has not been extinguished: May what your Son has sown sprout within them — he, the living Word who in each person asks to grow still more, to take on flesh, face and voice,” the pope prayed.

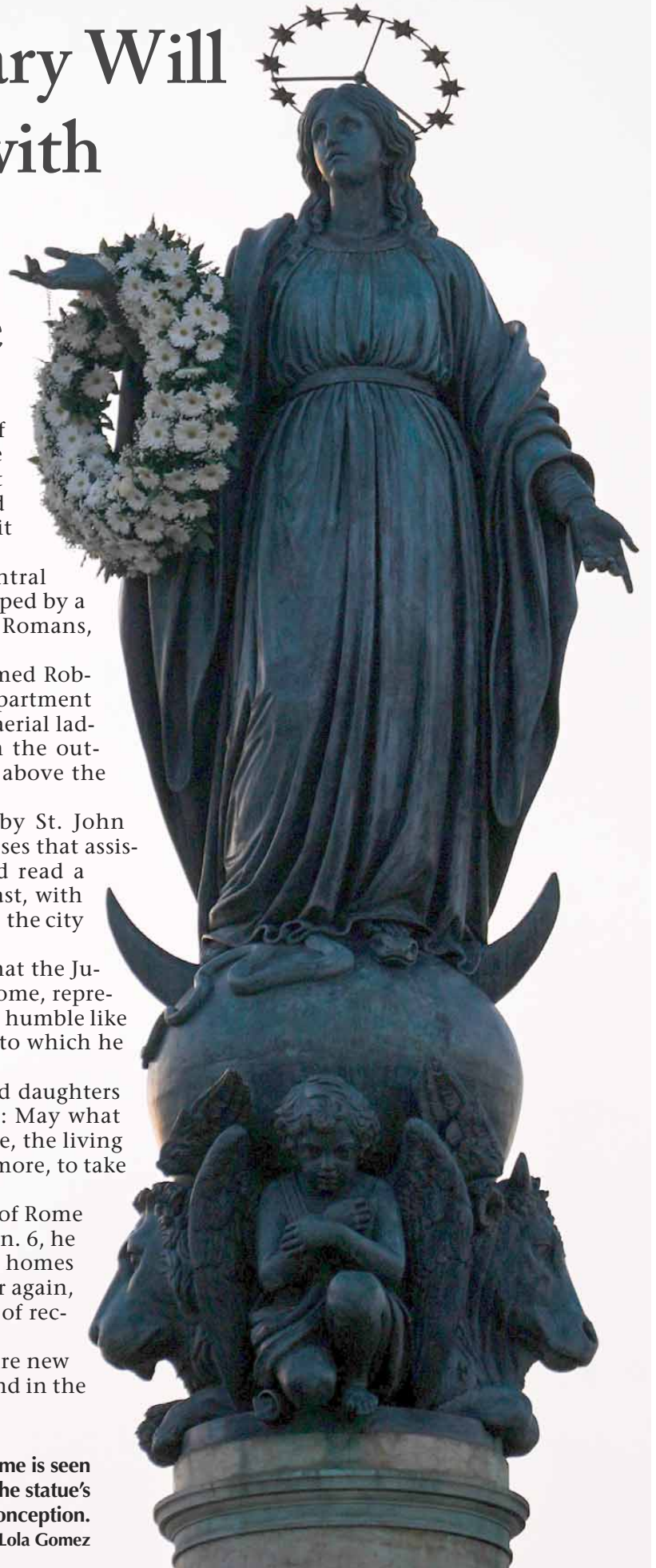
As the Holy Doors of the major basilicas of Rome are about to close at the end of the Jubilee Jan. 6, he said, “may other doors now open: doors of homes and oases of peace where dignity may flower again, where nonviolence is taught, where the art of reconciliation is learned.”

The pope prayed that Mary would “inspire new insights in the church that walks in Rome and in the

See “Mary” on Page 6

The Marian statue near the Spanish Steps in Rome is seen after a firefighter placed a wreath of flowers on the statue’s arm Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

CNS photo/Lola Gomez



Inside: Rorate Mass to be Celebrated Dec. 13 in Morgantown—a Special Candlelit Advent Celebration in Honor of the Blessed Mother, Page 4

Faith Leaders Gather in State Capitol to Speak against ICE Arrests, Page 5

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Contact your parish for Christmas Mass times

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly or indirectly, with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

2025 Print Issues and Dates: Christmas, December 19

Mastran ...

Cont'd from Page 1

vestments of a deacon. Vesting him will be Msgr. William Fay, a representative of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., and Father Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., pastor of St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart of Mary parishes in Weirton.


Once ordained a deacon, Bishop Brennan will present the Book of the Gospels to Mastran so that he may proclaim the Good News and model his life after Christ. The bishop will say to him: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Mastran will also receive an assignment which will be announced after the ordination.


Before entering Pope St. John XXIII National Seminar, Mastran had an 18-year professional career as a federal civilian employee within the U.S. Department of Defense. He also has a Bachelor of Science in computer science with minors in business administration and classical studies from the University of Florida.

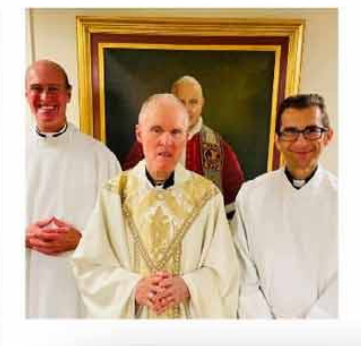
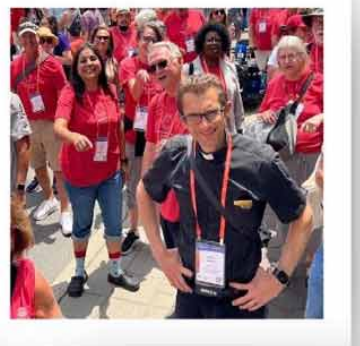

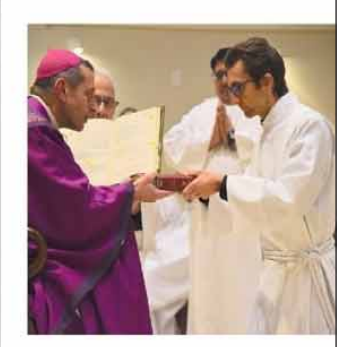


Mastran said he is grateful for his upcoming ordination which is a major step on the road to priesthood.

"To receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the gift of this vocation from Christ is an untold blessing, and, for me personally, Christmas is apparently coming a few days early this year!" he said. "And while the ultimate present and gift of the Priesthood of Christ will have to wait until tentatively May, I look forward to serving the good people of West Virginia and all of the Church as a deacon before serving as a happy, humble, and holy priest! Merry Christmas, and may God be with you all in this joyous season!"




Join us as we celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate of *Clifton Mastran* Saturday, December 20, 2025 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling



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Rorate Mass to be Celebrated Dec. 13 in Morgantown

A Special Candlelit Advent Celebration in Honor of the Blessed Mother

MORGANTOWN — An Advent tradition that is ancient in origin is surprisingly beginning to resurface in devotion in these modern years. Have you ever heard of a Rorate Mass (or "Rorate Caeli Mass")?

Just imagine – it's the cold, frosty hours before dawn. Even though the sun won't be up for some time, you roll out of bed and dress in church-going clothes before making the drive to the parish. The church looks totally dark, but when you walk in, many tiny, ardent flames are blazing on the altar and in the pews. The warm sparks throw hushed, rosy hues against the shadowed

walls. Mass begins, still in the semi-dark of candlelight.

The choir begins chanting, "Drop down, you heavens, dew from above..." The readings speak of a Savior who will be born of a Virgin. Hot wax drips down the candles. As the Mass progresses, dawn creeps up to the stained-glass windows. The sunlight has begun to stream through the windows. The little points of flame are pale in the morning light...

This is a taste of the Rorate Mass—a special candlelit Mass celebrated in honor of the Blessed Mother on an Advent Saturday (this year on Dec. 13 at 7 a.m. at St. John University

Parish, Morgantown).

The Rorate tradition began around the 13th century during a surge of devotion to Mary in the life of the Church. Named for the first word of its entrance antiphon in Latin, the Mass is prayed as morning dawns, symbolizing the coming of the Christ Child's light at Christmas. By the end of the Mass, the church is lit with the natural sunlight, symbolizing Christ being born from the Virgin's womb.

This will be the fifth year St. John's is offering the Rorate Mass. A light breakfast reception will be held after Mass in the Newman center next door.

Hurricane Knights of Columbus Remind All of the Reason for the Season

Courtesy Photo
After placing their "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign, are Hurricane Knights of Columbus members (from left) Nathaniel Ketterman, Mike Page, Ashley Stinnett, Will Dempsey, and Bob Matheny.



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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.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

Faith Leaders Gather in West Virginia State Capitol to Speak against ICE Arrests

CHARLESTON — West Virginia faith leaders and community members gathered outside Governor Patrick Morrisey's office on Monday Dec. 8 for a press conference to speak against the state police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cooperating to arrest and incarcerate people in West Virginia, "many of whom have no criminal records."

The group delivered a petition to Governor Patrick Morrisey and other state officials which calls on the Governor to issue a moratorium on ICE arrests in West Virginia during the holiday season. The petition, signed by nearly 700 people, reads in part:

"I am writing to respectfully request that you issue a temporary moratorium on the detentions of undocumented immigrants within the state of West Virginia for the months of November and December 2025, in honor of the upcoming holiday season, which includes the celebration of Christmas.

The Christmas season is a time of profound spiritual reflection, compassion, and the celebration of family bonds, principles that are deeply cherished by the citizens of West Virginia. For the Christian community, which includes a significant portion of the undocumented population in the state, the holidays are particularly sacred."

Speakers at the press conference, emceed by Reverend Jeff Allen, spoke from various faith traditions about the contributions of immigrants in West Virginia and what the story of Christmas and Las Posadas remind us about the Christian duty of providing sanctuary.

Msgr. Paul Hudock, Hispanic minister with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, said:

"We ask the Governor show clemency by recognizing the humanity of undocumented immigrants during the Christmas season. Most of those being detained are otherwise innocent of major crimes. Please do not add to human suffering by separating families during the season of Christmas."

Reverend Cindy Briggs-Biondi, pastor at St. Marks United Methodist Church spoke at the press conference saying:

"Caring for immigrants and working to end unjust arrests and deportations is an act of Christian discipleship. It is faithfulness to the God who liberated Israel, who

came to us as a refugee child fleeing Herod, and who still meets us every day in the faces of those seeking safety. To welcome the immigrant is to welcome Christ. To stop the harm of detention and deportation is to stop harm against Christ's own body. That is our calling, our witness, and our holy responsibility."

Rachel Dash with West Virginia Council of Churches Family Concerns Program Unit Immigration Task Force said to those gathered:

"We Jews have a collective memory that reminds us what it is like to be dehumanized, to have our families ripped apart, and made to fear for the safety, security, and lives of ourselves, our families, and our children. My paternal grandparents and their families fled Russia in the late 1800's to escape atrocities ordered by the czar that included forced exile, violence, and massacre of one ethnic group, the Jews.

What is happening in this country against those who came to this country as so many of us did — to escape violence and persecution, or to create a better life while contributing to their communities — chills me. Governor Morrisey, use your power justly. Stop these horrific ICE raids."

Reverend Zach Drennen, the rector of Saint James Episcopal Church of Lewisburg, said:

"All our baptismal traditions might be different, but in the Episcopal Church we take vows that come right out of a core tenant that we are all children of God, and that we promise to love our neighbor as ourselves. In Genesis, we read that human beings were created in the image and likeness of God, which we take to mean that we ourselves have that same divine spark that God has. And that means all of us. So when we separate children from their parents, we are abandoning our core tenants and not respecting the divine dignity of every human being. We are not living into the vows we take as Christians."

Following the press conference, the group reenacted the story of Mary and Joseph looking for a safe place to stay in Bethlehem on the evening of the birth of Jesus Christ. The group went from door to door, delivering the petition to the offices of the Governor, Attorney General, Senate President, and House Speaker.

Organizers of the event included the WV Council of Churches, American Friends Service Committee, and the Diocese of Charleston-Wheeling.



Rev. Zach Drennen photo

Msgr. Paul Hudock performs Las Posadas service in the upper rotunda at the state capitol.



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Collection will be held in parishes throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on the weekend of Dec. 13-14.

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Faithful Urged to Return to Fatima Message about First Saturdays Devotion on Its Centennial

By **Kimberley Heatherington, OSV News**

(OSV News) — Your mother would like a word about some unfinished business — your Blessed Mother, that is, who in 1925 asked the faithful to fulfill the First Saturdays devotion.

It's a request that — on its Dec. 10 centennial — is often referred to as "forgotten" among the supernatural events surrounding Fatima. But following the better known 1917 apparitions, Sister Lúcia de Jesus Rosa dos Santos — one of three Fatima visionaries, who later became a Carmelite nun — revealed Mary returned to her twice while she was boarding at a convent in Pontevedra, Spain, and specifically requested the practice.

Catholics worldwide were asked to dedicate the first Saturday of the month — for five consecutive months, thus "Five First Saturdays" — to confession, reception of holy Communion, and the rosary and meditation on its mysteries.

"I think 100 year anniversaries are significant because it helps remind a new generation of these devotions that don't die off," Barbara Ernster, communications manager and editor for the World Apostolate of Fatima USA, told OSV News.

While no canonical inquiry was made, the First Saturdays devotion was approved by the bishop of Leiria, Portugal, on Sept. 13, 1939.

"Our Lady asked us to do this, and the Fatima message is timeless," said Ernster, "because it is the Gospel message. It's never going to be outdated."

Speaking from Fatima — where she was participating in a centenary program and conference as part of the World Apostolate — Ernster reinforced the message of peace.

"One of the things that Lúcia had said so often, is that it could help stave off wars and help contribute to the peace of the world. And we see ourselves in situations now where we hear of a third world war — anything could spark it. Even in our own country, there's so much division ... And so," Ernster concluded, "we do this so that we can help bring about peace — peace to our families, to our nations, to our church."

St. Carlo Acutis shared that, in a dream after Sister Lúcia's death, she told him, "The practice of the five First Saturdays of the month could change the destiny of the world."

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke — former prefect of the Vatican's Supreme Tribunal and archbishop of St. Louis from 2004-2008, has urged greater participation in the First Saturdays devotion, backing a French-led initiative known as the "Alliance of the First Saturdays of Fatima," which also launched the "First Sat-

urdays of Fatima Jubilee 2025" on Jan. 4.

"The approaching centennial of the apparition of the infant Jesus and his Most Holy Mother to Sister Lucia at Pontevedra on Dec. 10, 1925, invites the faithful to renew, with deeper faith and greater fervor, their practice of the First Saturdays Devotion of Reparation," Cardinal Burke said in a message sent to OSV News.

"This devotion, insistently requested by Our Lady herself as an act of loving reparation to her Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, remains of enduring importance for the salvation of souls and for peace in the world," added the prelate, who, as bishop of La Crosse, Wisconsin, (1995-2004), founded the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe there.

On Dec. 10, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe will celebrate Mass to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Pontevedra.

"I encourage all to persevere in this devotion," invited Cardinal Burke, "with Our Lady's confidence in God's fidelity to his promises of victory over sin and the victory of eternal life."

Father Edward Looney, secretary of the Mariological Society of America, also said the faithful should heed Mary's petition.

"When it comes to Fatima, we all strive to pray the rosary every day as she requested. The diehards observe the First Saturday devotion," he shared. "If all practicing Catholics kept to this request, as a priest, I would be very busy with confessions."

Noting that First Saturdays are also meant to be in reparation for offenses against Our Lady, Father Looney



Colleen Rowan photo

Pictured is a section of the Our Lady of Fátima Garden at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

ney added, "We've seen statues that have been vandalized and people speaking ill of Mary. The First Saturdays call us to renew our love for Mary and to spread it so that her immaculate heart will triumph!"

For those who can't make a trip to Fatima or Pontevedra, the World Apostolate of Fatima USA is offering a virtual First Saturday Pilgrimage to 12 sacred sites related to Fatima and the three visionaries (click link) at: <https://www.bluearmy.com/announcing-2025-2026-first->

saturday-virtual-pilgrimage.

Short videos filmed on location will include a reflection on the events and the devotion. "The biggest thing is that this was the part that we were supposed to do, that was given to us," Ernster emphasized. "The church was given its part at Fatima, but the laypeople were given their part — and so we do this to help respond to the message that Our Lady brought to us."

(Kimberley Heatherington is an OSV News correspondent.)

Mary ...

Cont'd from Page 1

particular churches that in every context gather the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of our contemporaries — especially the poor and all who suffer."

Pope Leo also expressed the hope that baptism, which washes every person free of original sin, would "bring forth holy and immaculate men and women, called to become living members of the Body of Christ — a body that acts, consoles, reconciles and transforms the earthly city where the city of God is being prepared."

In a world filled with "changes that seem to find us unprepared and powerless," he asked Mary to intercede and help.

"Inspire dreams, visions and courage, you who know better than anyone that nothing is impossible for God, and at the same time that God does nothing alone," he prayed.

The pope also asked Mary to help the church al-

ways be "with and among the people, leaven in the dough of a humanity that cries out for justice and hope."

Before heading to the Spanish Steps, the pope had led the recitation of the Angelus prayer at noon with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

By preserving Mary from any stain of sin from the moment of her conception, he said, God granted her "the extraordinary grace of a completely pure heart, in view of an even greater miracle: the coming of Christ the savior into the world as man."

That extraordinary grace bore extraordinary fruit, he said, "because in her freedom she welcomed it, embracing the plan of God."

"The Lord always acts in this way: he gives us great gifts, but he leaves us free to accept them or not," the pope said. "So, this feast, which makes us rejoice for the unsullied beauty of the Mother of God, also invites us to believe as she believed, giving our generous assent to the mission to which the Lord calls us."

Guadalupe Pilgrims Flood Mexico City as U.S. Parishes Join Hemisphere-Wide Celebration

By Ines San Martin, OSV News

(OSV News) — As Dec. 12 approaches, millions of pilgrims are converging on the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the most visited Marian shrines in the world. The feast honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe — celebrated across the Americas and in the Philippines — is again drawing crowds far beyond Mexico's borders.

Authorities in Mexico City expect between 10 and 12 million pilgrims in the days surrounding the feast, with families, parish groups, dancers and torch runners arriving from across the country. Roads near the basilica have been closed, security forces deployed, and the familiar rituals — roses, mariachis and the midnight singing of *Las Mañanitas* (the traditional Mexican birthday song sung as a “serenade to the Virgin”) — once again signal the beginning of the hemisphere's most visible Marian celebration.

According to tradition, in 1531 the Virgin Mary appeared to an Indigenous convert, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, leaving her image on his cloak after he gathered Castilian roses as a sign for the bishop. The *tilma*, considered miraculous by millions, is displayed prominently at the basilica and remains a focal point for devotion nearly five centuries later. The cloth has been studied extensively — second only to the Shroud of Turin, some experts say — yet the image's composition, including what appear to be 13 human figures reflected in the Virgin's eyes, remains unexplained.

Each December, devotion centered at Tepeyac — the small hill where Mary is believed to have appeared and beside which the current basilica was built in 1976 — extends far beyond Mexico. In the United States, dioceses with significant Latino populations prepare for processions, early-morning Masses, *Matachines* dancers and parish serenades.

In New York, an official pilgrim image from Mexico City has been displayed at St. Patrick's Cathedral since Dec. 1, drawing parish groups and visitors in the lead-up to the feast. Cardinal Timothy P. Dolan will celebrate Mass there on Dec. 12, following a pilgrimage through Manhattan. In the country's capital, the Archdiocese of Washington will hold its annual “Walk with Mary” Dec. 13 — a procession that typically draws several thousand people — beginning at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concluding



OSV News photo/Raquel Cunha, Reuters

A pilgrim walks through the mountain pass between the Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanos, known as Paso de Cortes in Santiago Xalitzintla, in the Mexican state of Puebla Dec. 9 ahead of the annual feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The pilgrims will arrive at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City where they will celebrate her feast day, Dec. 12.

with a rosary and Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

On the West Coast, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles held its 94th annual Guadalupe Procession and Mass on Dec. 7, continuing one of the city's oldest religious processions. The celebration followed a 2025 pilgrimage of the archdiocesan images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego to more than 50 parishes.

On the feast's eve, Indigenous dancers and mariachis will gather at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels for *Las Mañanitas* before a midnight Mass. In the Diocese of San Diego, a long-established procession through North Park and a bilingual Mass will continue a tradition of more than half a century near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Further east, the Diocese of St. Augustine in Florida — the site of the first Mass celebrated on what became U.S. territory in 1565 — will mark the feast with a Dec. 11 Mass celebrated by Bishop Erik Pohlmeier at St. Joseph Catholic Church, followed by *Aguinaldo* Masses leading up to Christmas Eve, echoing customs familiar in both Latin America and the Philippines.

Aguinaldo Masses are a series of dawn Masses celebrated from Mexico, through Spain and the Philippines for nine days before Christmas, starting Dec. 16, to honor Mary and prepare for Jesus' birth, and are also known as *Simbang Gabi* in the Philippines.

“These examples reflect a devotion that began with Hispanic and Filipino immigrants but has continued to grow across the church in the United States,” said Gabriela Sakmar, president of the Detroit-based Federation of Associ-

ations of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

She told OSV News that the expansion of celebrations into parishes nationwide began “when Hispanic families set roots in this country” and requested that their pastors join them in honoring the feast.

“Bishops were quick to notice the devotion has been growing, and not only within the Hispanic or Filipino communities,” she said. “Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the U.S. right-to-life movement, and the Knights of Columbus have a strong devotion to her as well.”

Sakmar, who returns to Mexico annually though not in December — “too many people travel on those days,” she said with a laugh — sees Guadalupe as a “bridge” in a divided society.

“That was precisely the mission of the *Morenita* (“little dark-skinned”), to unite Mexico's Indigenous population and the Spaniards,” she said. “These were two completely different worlds, and evangelization seemed impossible. Yet after her apparition, we saw some of the most numerous conversions in our history.” Some historians speak of over 10 million baptisms in the decades following the apparition.

“As a Hispanic,” Sakmar added, “whenever I see Our Lady of Guadalupe in a parish, I know that I am welcomed there.”

Throughout Latin America, Guadalupe's image is displayed in homes and chapels from Patagonia to the Panama Canal. Processions in Guatemala, Ecuador and Colombia mirror Mexican customs, while murals and banners frequently invoke her as a protector of migrants

See “Guadalupe” on Page 8

Guadalupe ...

Cont'd from Page 7
and the poor.

In the Philippines — where Pope Pius XI named her patroness in 1935 — thousands of faithful are expected to visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Makati City throughout the novena and on Dec. 12 to pray for families, migrants and the protection of unborn life.

At the Vatican, the feast is marked annually with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, a tradition begun under Pope John Paul II and continued by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. In a 2019 homily, Pope Francis described Mary of Guadalupe as "woman, mother and mestiza," a figure capable of uniting divided peoples. The celebration is expected to continue under Pope Leo XIV, who told reporters Nov. 18 that he hopes to visit both the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and the Basilica of Guadalupe soon.

What distinguishes Guadalupe from other Vatican-approved Marian apparitions is not only its antiquity but its distinct iconography and cultural resonance. The image on the tilma — often read as combining Indigenous and Christian symbols — portrays a woman neither fully Spanish nor fully Indigenous, clothed with stars and standing before the sun and moon. Many Mexican Catholics regard her as the first symbol of a new mestizo identity forged after the Spanish conquest.

Over centuries, her figure has moved from church walls to the mainstream of culture. She appears on street art, lowriders, storefronts, T-shirts and Mexican tortillas. Her image has been adopted by musicians, athletes, tattoo artists, and even gangs or drug traffickers — a sign, clergy often note, of the deep imprint she has left on the Mexican imagination, even when misused. For many ordinary Catholics, however, she remains a sign of protection, maternal closeness and identity.

(Ines San Martin writes for OSV News from St. Petersburg, Florida. She is vice president of communications at the Pontifical Mission Societies USA.)

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH, WHEELING

Bishop Mark Brennan - Celebrant
Friday, December 12
6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish
Reception to Follow

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, MOOREFIELD

Friday, December 12
5:30 p.m. Holy Rosary | 6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish
Reception to Follow

HOLY FAMILY, RICHWOOD

Thursday, December 11
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, BECKLEY

Friday, December 12
11:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CLARKSBURG

Friday, December 12
11:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish | Party in the church hall after Mass.

Immaculate Conception would be grateful if you could bring a donation of dried beans and rice for those in need.

ST. MARY, MORGANTOWN

Friday, December 12
6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish | Party in the church hall after Mass.

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St. Joseph the Worker Students Help Strengthen Food Security in Weirton during Advent

This Advent season, the community of St. Joseph the Worker Grade School in Weirton came together in a beautiful way, said school officials. Each class collected items for the Brooke-Hancock Food Security Team, helping to provide support and comfort to families in need in the community. "Our students showed incredible generosity, reminding us all of the true spirit of Advent — preparing our hearts through acts of love, service, and giving," officials posted on the school's Facebook page. "We are so proud of our students and grateful for every family who contributed to this meaningful project." The students are shown with the donations and representatives of the Food Security Team. Courtesy photo



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A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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Trump Marks Feast of Immaculate Conception, a Day 'Special to Our Catholic Citizens'

By OSV News

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — In a Dec. 8 statement marking the feast of the Immaculate Conception, President Donald Trump called it “a Holy Day honoring the faith, humility, and love of Mary, mother of Jesus and one of the greatest figures in the Bible.”

“On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Catholics celebrate what they believe to be Mary’s freedom from original sin as the mother of God,” the statement said. “She first entered recorded history as a young woman when, according to Holy Scripture, the Angel Gabriel greeted her in the village of Nazareth with news of a miracle: ‘Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you,’ announcing that ‘you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him

Jesus.’”

“In one of the most profound and consequential acts of history, Mary heroically accepted God’s will with trust and humility: ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word,’” it continued. “Mary’s decision forever altered the course of humanity. Nine months later, God became man when Mary gave birth to a son, Jesus, who would go on to offer his life on the Cross for the redemption of sins and the salvation of the world.”

The feast, which marks the church’s teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin at her conception by a unique grace from God, is a holy day of obligation for Catholics.

The statement said, “For nearly 250 years, Mary has played a distinct role in our great American story,” not-

ing in 1792, the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll — who was a cousin to Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence — consecrated the nation to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception.

Trump also praised “American legends like Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frances Xavier Cabrini, and Fulton Sheen, who spent their lives glorifying God in service to others, have held a deep devotion to Mary.”

“In her honor, and on a day so special to our Catholic citizens, we remember the sacred words that have brought aid, comfort, and support to generations of American believers in times of need,” the statement said. It concluded with the text of the Hail Mary.

First lady Melania Trump is Catholic. On May 25,

2017, during her husband’s first term, her spokeswoman confirmed her religion in a statement to CNN. The confirmation came a day after the president and first lady had a brief audience at the Vatican with Pope Francis, who blessed Melania’s rosary. “Shortly after her visit with Pope

Francis,” CNN reported, the first lady “tweeted a photo, saying she was ‘humbled by the honor’ to have visited with the pontiff.”

President Trump publicly identifies as a non-denominational Christian. Vice President JD Vance is the second Catholic to hold that office.



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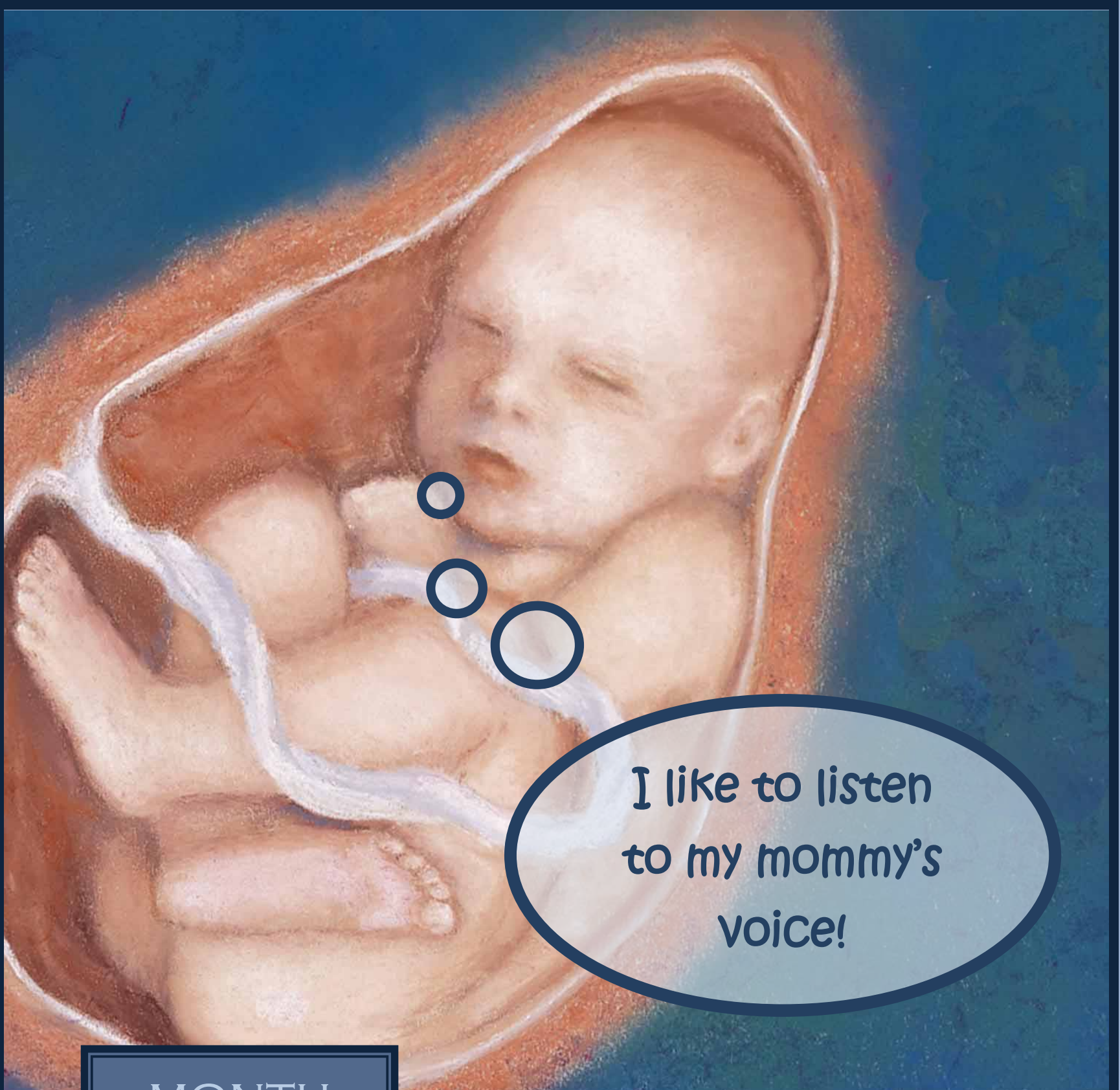
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8

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Information on the developing baby was taken from: *Life before Birth* by Marjorie A. England, © 1996, Mosby-Wolfe, Times Mirror Int'l. Pub., Ltd., London, and *Abortion: Questions and Answers*, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wilke, © 1985, Hayes Publishing Company, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.

A Vatican Commission Recently Said 'No' to Women Deacons; Two Members of the Commission Explain Why

By **Gina Christian, OSV News**

PHILADELPHIA (OSV News) — A newly released Vatican commission report on the issue of women deacons ultimately shows the profound theological mystery of Christ's relationship to the church, as well as the rediscovery of the long-dormant diaconate itself, experts told OSV News.

At Pope Leo XIV's direction, the Vatican published a seven-page synthesis report from the "Study Commission on the Female Diaconate" on Dec. 4.

Established by Pope Francis in 2020, the commission continued the work of a previous group in examining the history of women deacons in the New Testament and the early Christian communities.

The commission — which included five women and five men, among them two permanent deacons from the United States and three priests — voted against ordaining female deacons and deferred the issue to "further theological and pastoral study."

In addition, the commission stressed the final decision rests with the Catholic Church's magisterium, and called for expanded participation of women in other areas of the church's life and ministry.

Addressing the issue of women deacons requires "the perspective of discovering what Our Lord would want," Deacon Dominic Cerrato, one of the American permanent deacons to serve on the commission, told OSV News Dec. 4. "In other words, we simply can't say, 'This is what people want.' This is a theological question."

The deacon is director of Diaconal Ministries, which works to support deacons in their ministry, and recently served as head of the diaconate office of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

The synthesis report itself, citing Pope Benedict XVI, also affirms the issue is primarily a theological one: "We know, however, that a purely historical perspective does not allow us to reach any definitive certainty. Ultimately, the question must be decided on a doctrinal level."

Deacon Cerrato and Dea-

con James Keating, spiritual theology professor at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, have written and consulted extensively on the permanent diaconate and seminary formation. They noted that simply pointing to historical references of women deacons in the early church can obscure the extensive theological dimensions of the issue.

In fact, those historical references aren't always well understood by many in the first place, they said.

While the diaconate traces its roots to the commissioning of seven men as such in Acts 6:1-7, deaconesses "didn't appear until the fourth century," explained Deacon Cerrato.

Their emergence was due to "cultural conditions which tended to segregate the sexes more than we do today," said Deacon Keating — and, said Deacon Cerrato, due to the fact that at the time, baptism, then performed as a full immersion into water, "was done in the nude."

"And so it was important that bishops, for modesty's sake, didn't see the women who came up for baptism," said Deacon Cerrato.

"There is no evidence that I have seen which places these women deaconesses within the liturgy of the Western church functioning as the proclaimers of the Gospel and serving at the altar during the preparation of the bread and wine," said Deacon Keating, who also served on the commission.

"The question is not whether or not there were deaconesses in the early church. There certainly were; can't be denied," said Deacon Cerrato. "The question is whether they were the equivalent to the male diaconate."

Yet "they related to the bishop very differently as well as to the presbyterate. ... There was no hope of them going on to the priesthood," he said. "So fundamentally, they were a ... different kind of thing than the male deacon."

Once the liturgical form of baptism changed to its present rite, which no longer requires full immersion, the deaconesses "moved on into what would later be religious orders," said Deacon Cerrato. "So they existed for a specific reason and then faded off."

As the church expanded, the deacons themselves also gradually declined, starting in the fifth century. In 1967, Pope Paul VI formally reestablished the permanent diaconate in the Latin Church, following the Second Vatican Council, with calls for such renewal first issued during the Council of Trent and gaining momentum during the Second World War.

The permanent diaconate, along with the presbyterate (priesthood) and episcopacy (bishops), is now one of the three degrees of the sacrament of holy orders in the Catholic Church.

Such historical context is crucial, said Deacon Keating, who stressed that "the restoration of the diaconate" as a whole "is only 60 years old."

"The church is still discovering its beauty and its full mission," he said. "The gathering of this commission indicates the church is trying to listen to the Holy Spirit as the diaconate ... begins to penetrate the imagination of the church and its members."

Deacon Keating said the study commission "appears to have taken into consideration both the movements of secular ideas (women's rights and equality) and the historical and theological developments regarding diaconal identity."

In doing so, he said, "the commission meditated upon a vital truth: Christ is the bridegroom of the church."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church — citing the prophets, St. John the Baptist, St. Paul and the words of Christ himself — states that the unity of Christ with his church is "often expressed by the image of bridegroom and bride," with Christ joining the church to himself in "an ever-

lasting covenant."

"Christ's intention is to espouse those who have entered the mystery of faith as his bride," Deacon Keating explained. "In their service at the altar, the ordained sacramentally embody Christ's own spousal self-gift."

Crucially, said Deacon Keating, "the masculine identity of Christ is intrinsic to his mission as bridegroom," and as a result, "fundamentally, women cannot become deacons."

Deacon Cerrato observed that "if you take away this beautiful imagery of Christ and his bride, the church — where, of course, the head is represented by the clergy, and the church is the bride" in "beautiful nuptial imagery" — the result is "a theological transgenderism."

Deacon Keating said the Eucharist communicates the identity of Christ as the bridegroom of his church — and that "this spousal self-offering of the one Christ takes the mission of three grades of holy orders acting in unity at the altar to express it."

He stressed that "rightfully, many desire to correct any wrongs done to women where offices and ministries were denied to them unjustly" — but, he said, "the liturgy has not carried injustice toward women within it."

"It has only carried the salvific acts of Christ the bridegroom within it, acts of self-donation toward his beloved bride," said Deacon Keating.

Deacon Cerrato said it's also key to clarify "what constitutes justice" — adding, "for us, God constitutes justice."

"The very first revelation that God gave is that he

created man in his image, male and female," said Deacon Cerrato. "And so the church understands there's a complementarity in these two, which society rejects. Society wants to say that equality means sameness. And the church says, 'No, it doesn't mean sameness in the sense of the egalitarian sense. It means that there's a sameness, there's an equality of dignity, but there's a complementarity to it.' And understanding the complementarity gives us insight into the very nature of God."

Ruling out women as deacons doesn't preclude a life of holiness in Christ, said Deacon Keating.

"Women of course can be Christ-like due to the sacraments of initiation," he said. "Empowered by this grace, women image Christ morally in daily life unto sanctity."

Deacon Keating, echoing the commission's synthesis report said that "many roles within the church outside the Eucharistic liturgy, where ordination is essential, should be open to women."

"We have recently seen Pope Francis place women in positions of governmental power and influence," he said. "No doubt Pope Leo will continue this."

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)

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USCCB Racial Justice Chairman Releases Statement on Somali Community in the U.S.

WASHINGTON—In light of recent statements regarding the Somali community in the United States, Bishop Daniel E. Garcia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation, called on all people to remember each person's God-given human dignity.

Bishop Garcia's full statement is below:

"As Catholics, we believe that every person is beloved by God and created in his image. Each child of God has value and dignity. Language that denigrates a person or community based on his or her ethnicity or country of origin is incompatible with this truth. I call on all—public officials, community leaders and individuals — to refrain from denigrating and dehumanizing language. May we recognize the rich gifts that neighbors from diverse cultures bring to our communities. The Body of Christ is beautiful in its diversity and each part, while different, is valued and needed. I pray that together, we can be people of welcome, respect, and understanding."

Bethlehem Celebrates First Christmas Tree Lighting Since War as Pilgrims Slowly Return

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (OSV News) — Bethlehem lit its 65-foot Christmas tree in Manger Square Dec. 6 — the city's first full public celebration since 2022 and the start of the Israel-Hamas war 10 months later.

The Dec. 6 ceremony drew thousands of local residents, signaling a cautious return to festivity as a U.S.-brokered ceasefire continues to hold. Pilgrims are also slowly returning to the birthplace of Jesus. Among them is Ukrainian pilgrim Nataly Taratuta, who traveled nearly two days from her war-torn homeland to pray at the Church of the Nativity. Standing at the silver star marking Christ's birthplace, she said the quiet grotto felt like "a sacred privilege," and she prayed for peace in Ukraine, Israel, Pales-

tine and beyond.

Bethlehem officials say hotels are beginning to see new reservations and more events are planned through Christmas. As one local resident put it: despite the ongoing suffering, "Jesus Christ brings peace to this land." Ranya Malki Bandak, the director of the Bethlehem Peace Center at Manger Square, which is tasked with arranging the Christmas celebrations, said it was a scramble to prepare everything for the tree lighting ceremony after such short notice was given following the signing of the ceasefire — and despite continuing conflict in Gaza. The traditional Christmas market will be held at Nativity Square and other events will also take place leading up to Christmas, she said.

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El Papa ora para que la Virgen María llene de esperanza a los creyentes y los inspire a servir

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

ROMA (CNS) — Al celebrar la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción al finalizar el Año Santo, el Papa León XIV rezó para que la esperanza jubilar floreciera "en Roma y en cada rincón de la tierra", trayendo consigo la reconciliación, la no violencia y la paz.

De pie cerca de la Plaza de España, en el centro de Roma, al pie de una imponente columna coronada por una estatua de María, el Papa dirigió la oración de miles de romanos, peregrinos y turistas el 8 de diciembre.

Al amanecer de ese día, un bombero llamado Roberto Leo, el jefe de departamento con más años de servicio en el cuerpo de bomberos de Roma, subió los 100 peldaños de una escalera aérea para colocar una corona de flores blancas en los brazos extendidos de la estatua, a unos 27 metros del suelo.

Seguendo una tradición iniciada en 1958 por San Juan XXIII, el Papa Leo bendijo una canasta de rosas blancas que sus ayudantes colocaron a los pies de la estatua y leyó una oración escrita específicamente para la fiesta de este año, con referencias a lo que está sucediendo en la Iglesia, la ciudad y el mundo.

En la oración a María, el Papa León señaló que el año jubilar atrajo a millones de peregrinos a Roma, en representación de "una humanidad probada, a veces aplastada, humilde como la tierra de la que Dios la moldeó y en la que no

cesa de soplar su Espíritu de vida".

"Mira, oh María, a tantos hijos e hijas en los que no se ha apagado la esperanza: haz brotar en ellos lo que tu Hijo ha sembrado, Él, Palabra viva que en cada uno pide crecer aún más, tomar carne, rostro y voz", oró el Papa.

Ahora que las Puertas Santas de las principales basílicas de Roma están a punto de cerrarse al final del Jubileo, el 6 de enero, dijo: "Que se abran ahora otras puertas de casas y oasis de paz en los que renazca la dignidad, se eduque en la no violencia, se aprenda el arte de la reconciliación".

El Papa rezó para que María inspire "nuevas intuiciones a la Iglesia que camina en Roma y a las Iglesias particulares que en cada contexto recogen las alegrías y las esperanzas, las tristezas y las angustias de nuestros contemporáneos, sobre todo de los pobres, y de todos los que sufren".

El Papa León también expresó la esperanza de que el bautismo, que lava a cada persona del pecado original, "siga generando hombres y mujeres santos e inmaculados, llamados a convertirse en miembros vivos del Cuerpo de Cristo, un Cuerpo que actúa, consuela, reconcilia y transforma la ciudad terrenal en la que se prepara la Ciudad de Dios".

En un mundo lleno de "cambios que parecen encontrarnos desprevénidos e impotentes", pidió a María que intercediera y ayudara.

"Inspíranos sueños, visiones y valor, tú que sabes mejor que nadie



Foto CNS/Lola Gomez

Roberto Leo, un bombero veterano, coloca una corona de flores en una estatua de la Virgen María cerca de la Plaza de España en Roma, el 8 de diciembre de 2025, fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción.

que nada es imposible para Dios, y que Dios no hace nada solo", rezó.

El Papa también pidió a la Virgen María que ayudara a la Iglesia a estar siempre "con y entre la gente, levadura en la masa de una humanidad que clama justicia y esperanza".

Antes de dirigirse a la Plaza de España, el Papa había dirigido el rezo del Ángelus al mediodía con los visitantes en la Plaza de San Pedro. Al preservar a María de cualquier mancha de pecado desde el momento de su concepción, dijo, Dios le concedió "la gracia extraordinaria de un corazón totalmente

puro, en vista de un milagro aún mayor: la venida al mundo, como hombre, de Cristo Salvador".

Esa gracia extraordinaria dio frutos extraordinarios, dijo, "porque ella, en su libertad, lo acogió abrazando el proyecto de Dios".

"El Señor siempre actúa así: nos concede grandes dones, pero nos deja libres para aceptarlos o no", dijo el Papa. "Así, esta fiesta, que nos hace regocijarnos por la belleza inmaculada de la Madre de Dios, nos invita a creer como ella creyó, dando nuestro generoso consentimiento a la misión a la que el Señor nos llama".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Se-

guro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

School Nurse

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is looking to fill the position of School Nurse for its School Based Health Program. This is a full-time position requiring 40 hours per week for 40 weeks. The position is located at St. Vincent de Paul School, St. Michael Parish School, Central Catholic High School and Our Lady of Peace School.

The school nurse is responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating school health services within the context of the School Based Health Program. The nurse serves in the roles of program manager, case manager, direct care provider, collaborator, advocate, educator and counselor to students, parents, faculty, and the community as appropriate.

The successful candidate will possess a current valid WV Nursing License with a BSN. Pediatric, adolescent or public health experience is desired. The individual must be able to function independently within scope of practice. Interested persons should submit a resume to Erin McFarland, School Based Health Coordinator at emcfarland@stvincentschool.org

Provider Support Specialist

Full Time, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa.) The Provider Support Specialist of the Child Care Resource Center is responsible for assisting child care providers in the West Virginia CARES system, WV STARS Career Pathway system, providing support in person or on the phone as needed, participating in community outreach events, and relieving the Supervisor of clerical duties and minor administrative business details.

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required; bachelor's degree in human services or related field or early care and education or child development. The definition of related fields includes social work, sociology, psychology, counseling, interpersonal communications, elementary or special education, and behavioral science; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment as well as independently; ability to follow directions and work well with others; ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks simultaneously; knowledge of office equipment and understanding of sound basic office procedures; prior use and understanding of computers, word processing and spread sheet application. Have a good understanding of how to use technology such as internet, Microsoft Office programs, and other programs as needed; good typing and editing skills; ability to work with persons from varied socio-economic backgrounds; willingness to work with people of cultural, ethnic and racial diversity; ability to maintain confidentiality, good written and oral communication skills; must hold a valid driver's license and able to drive throughout the covered region and state. Click here to apply.

Homeless Winter Shelter Assistant

Part Time, located in Morgantown. At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

The Winter Shelter Assistant (WSA) will provide essential 24-hour awake coverage and supervision of the assigned shelter. This position is responsible for the welfare, safety and comfort, as well as daily support to the shelter residents. The incumbent is expected to always stay awake during shift.

Job responsibilities include: Create a welcoming environment for shelter clients, including greeting clients, orienting new clients to the shelter, and answering questions; empower shelter clients and provide support and crisis intervention through a trauma-informed care lens; provide resource information or triage questions for families residing in the shelter; ensure the safety and security of the shelter and the residents by enforcing house rules and conducting inspections during shift and reporting incidents by following protocols; support and assist guests with their shelter needs as they arise (ex. questions, concerns, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, bedding, food and more); maintain the safety and security of shelter property, and report concerns to Shelter Director.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

Answers phone calls and relays important telephone calls to Service Specialist and

Shelter Director; document shift notes at least once per shift and completes proper documentation, including but not limited to task list checks off lists, incident reports, reasonable suspicion forms, and mandated reporter documentation/reporting duties.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily; the requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required; high school diploma; at least one (1) year related work experience in direct service, preferably working in residential shelter services environment; ability to work a flexible schedule, working as a part of a 24 hour on-call system, and always staying awake during work hours; ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds; ability to respond to physical emergencies, including immediate evacuation of campus buildings and potential client medical and behavior situations

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Click here to apply.

HR Generalist, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

The Human Resources Generalist as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Human Resources Generalist will work as part of the HR team with a focus on supporting the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese. The generalist will also serve to drive the onboarding process within the Diocese.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Performs all onboarding for Diocese, including schools and parishes; works directly with school administration and staff to ensure accuracy and proper use of entire HRIS system; supports person for Family Medical Leave and Short Term Disability; ensures all ACA reporting and maintains file accuracy in the payroll system; assists with open enrollment for all

benefit platforms; helps maintain organizational guidelines; maintain employee files and records electronically; monitors HR Help Desk; backup for Diocesan Pension Plans.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate; Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources or Business; five (5) years' experience in human resources; firm knowledge and understanding of human resources best practices; knowledge and experience working with payroll and HRIS applications. Labor relations and policy experience a plus; ability to maintain confidentiality; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and current resume to: Debbie Turziano, Director of Human Resources at dturziano@dwc.org.

DWC is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Employment Opportunities

Saint Joseph School Elementary/Middle School Principal

Saint Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking a principal who understands that this is a ministerial position at a religious institution and that there is within the Catholic Church a body of officially taught and commonly accepted beliefs, the communication of which is a fundamental purpose and mission of a Catholic school and that its students and staff have a right to expect such communication implicitly and explicitly from its president, principal and teachers, regardless of the subject areas, grades or courses being taught.

Reports to: Head of Schools

Job Description: According to Policy 2212.3 of Diocesan policy for Catholic Schools, the principal will serve as administrator, spiritual leader, financial manager and chief academic officer. The principal's responsibilities include, but are not limited to: curriculum, staff development, facilities, sports, finances and all day-to-day operations of the school. The principal reports to the pastor/designated pastor of the school.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

Performance Responsibilities:

General Duties: Chief Academic Officer

As the chief academic officer, the principal will fulfill administrative duties including, but not limited to, those required as the leader of the school:

Spiritual Leader: Ensures a strong Catholic identity in the school, working with teachers, students and their families to continually build the faith community.

Instructional Leader: Ensures academic excellence driven by a variety of

teaching and learning strategies.

Guides teachers to use data to make instructional decisions.

Is the chief communicator of the school to families.

Managerial Leader: Manages the school staff, including teachers and other school personnel.

Ensures staff is continually focused on school improvement through the accreditation process.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

Facility Manager: Oversees the management of the school facility

Financial Manager: Oversees the management of finances

Day-to-day school decisions will be the responsibility of the school principal. Regular meetings with the pastor/designated pastor must occur. Working as a team is essential to the success of the impact that the leadership will have on the school community.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Practicing Catholic; Committed to Catholic education and the core values of Catholic schools; Committed to the leadership capacity within Catholic schools; Should be certified or eligible for certification in the state of West Virginia; Master's degree or related work experience preferred.

Please send a letter of introduction and resume to Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS
IN WEST VIRGINIA

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

WVUHeart & Vascular
Institute