



## W.Va. Catholic Schools Continue to Outperform Counterparts

### National Report Card Notes Public School Decline

**WHEELING** — As West Virginia Catholic school students continue to outperform their public-school counterparts on the state and national levels, Catholic school administrators are aiming to do even better.

This fall the U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported public schools' standardized assessments are "appalling and unacceptable." While education experts attribute increasing rates in decline as a snowball effect to the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic school administrators are able to tout steady increases in student achievement. During and since the pandemic Catholic schools in West Virginia have been able to continue to move forward instead of catching up.

NCES and The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a congressionally authorized project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, reported that math and reading results for the nation are down, and like many of the states, West Virginia's public school scores are lower than the national average. Meanwhile Catholic schools scores remain higher than the state and national averages according to the Nation's Report Card reported by NAEP.

"Private and Catholic schools are expected to outperform public schools, so that is not the grabbing headline, but what is important to highlight is that when we faced a crisis situation, we were ready from the top down to quickly work together to problem solve – turn a challenge into an opportunity, because we did that and continue to do so – our students have not fallen through the cracks," Superintendent of Catholic Schools in West Virginia Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S. said. "Our principals and teachers turned on a dime to provide lessons remotely, while reaching out to our students and families to monitor progress and their well-being. We responded without hesitation and then put our heads together on how to safely get back into the classroom as soon as possible."

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## Hurricane Knights Remind All of True Meaning of Christmas



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Knights of Columbus Council #9483 of Hurricane stand behind the council's "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign they placed in the community. The message of "Keep Christ in Christmas" is promoted by knights' councils throughout West Virginia and the nation. "Ever since there has been a Knights of Columbus in Hurricane we have been reminding everyone to 'Keep Christ in Christmas,'" council members said.

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# Schools..

**Cont'd from Page 1**

It was that swift and decisive faith filled decision making to prioritize our students' academic progress, as well as mental and physical health that set them apart, she said.

"We are not perfect, nor do we pretend to be, but with a steadfast focus on our faith we trust God will continue to guide us to help our children reach their full potential," Deschaine said.

Backed by assessments that are given three times a year, the Catholic Schools of West Virginia can provide educators, families, and the students the opportunity to identify any learning gaps, as well as identify areas where the student can be challenged at a higher level.

The diocesan schools partner with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for their state-aligned, online Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments.

"Our MAP assessments truly serve as a roadmap for us for grade level aptitude, and college and career readiness," Associate Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak said.

"The NWEA tests are adaptive, meaning students are measured where they are across grade levels instead of just at their grade level," Hornyak said. "The online test adjusts during the assessment based on the student's right or wrong answers. A right answer challenges the student to a harder question. A wrong answer bumps down a level to identify where the student's ability is in the subject area, resulting in an identification marker of what the child's needs may be to grow in this subject area. The teacher then can adapt their lesson plan to help the student attain individual goals, grade level goals, and cross grade level goals."

Deschaine added assessing the focus of the Catholic school system is also key to the overall success of the students.

"Just as we expect our students to be better than yesterday in every way, we look at ourselves as a whole system to do the same," she said, noting the system's Intentional Growth Plan (IGP) – a four-year roadmap of accountability for stronger Catholic grade and high schools in the state. "In collaboration with our principals, pastors, parishes, parents, alumni, and diocesan staff work to continually improve and grow in our Catholic Identity, leadership, academic excellence, and operational vitality. Hand in hand with our Cognia accreditation process we continue to evaluate our performance not only in the classroom, but also across the board and

then aim higher." Enrollment retention is part of the IGP.

Prior to the pandemic Catholic schools across the nation were reporting a steady decline in enrollment. However, in the last year those numbers are changing. Catholic grade schools have seen a 5.8% increase, and the preschool level experienced a 33.5% enrollment increase from the Fall of 2020 to the Fall of 2021.

"In the 18 months, we have seen more enrollment retention and increases than we have seen in decades in our Catholic schools, as parents prioritized in-person learning, values, mental health, and social interaction in addition to academics," Deschaine said. "We know the critical value of being together. Our schools provide an environment that is an extension of family. We are committed to providing a quality education and are unapologetically Catholic. Lessons in Catholic faith are integrated into all subject areas and activities."

Reports following 2020 show that transfer students are doing well in the Catholic school setting. According to the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), 95% of parents said their child had positive academic experiences and 90% said the communication received from the school was excellent.

"What is also an elite finding of the NCEA report is that new families – Catholic and non-Catholic – said the best attribute of Catholic school 'is the caring and effective faculty and staff'," Deschaine said. "Parents may be choosing to enroll in our school because of a desire to have reliable in-person learning or higher test scores, but the bottom line is those things happen, because our teachers and staff truly care about the children sitting in our classrooms."

More than 4,400 students are enrolled in one of 24 Catholic schools in 13 counties of the state and approximately 1,750 of those students are non-Catholic.

The Catholic school system will be accepting applications for enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year in February. To learn more about Catholic education in West Virginia go to: <https://wvcatholicschools.org>.

Families who have applied for the state's Hope Scholarship Program – an education savings account (ESA) – are welcome to apply. It is important to note that the Hope Scholarship program is run by the state of West Virginia not the diocese or the WV Catholic school system. For more information about the Hope Scholarship go to: <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com>.

**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](http://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](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

**To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

**To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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**Father Patrick M. McDonough**  
1940-2022

Father Patrick M. McDonough died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, in St. Albans, W.Va., at the age of 82. He was born in Scranton, Pa., to James and Josephine McDonough. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother James "Jim" McDonough.

He graduated from Scranton Preparatory High School in 1958. He attended St. Joseph Preparatory Seminary, Holy Trinity, Ala., from 1958-1962 for preparatory studies; Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, Winchester, Va., from 1962-1964 for philosophical studies; and St. John Vianney Seminary, Steubenville, Ohio, from 1965-1968 for his Theological studies. Father McDonough earned his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Scranton in 1966; Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology from The Catholic University in Washington in 1968; and a master's degree in Counseling from Marshall University in 1979.

Father McDonough was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges on May 18, 1968.

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Father McDonough was first assigned to serve for five months as associate pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Huntington. Then from November 1968-1970 he was associate pastor of St. Anne Parish, Bristol, Va. (which was part of the Diocese of Wheeling at the time). He went on to serve as associate pastor of St. Theresa Parish, Morgantown from 1970-1971; interim pastor at Christ the King in Dunbar for two months; associate pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Beckley from 1971-1973; and associate pastor at

St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton from 1973-1974. In 1974 he was named pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish, Huntington, where he served until 1984. He served as pastor of St. Mary Parish, Holden from 1984-1987, while also serving as administrator of St. Edmund Mission, Man from 1986-1987. He served the last 35 years as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and School, St. Albans (since June 24, 1987).

He is survived by his brother Rev. Joseph McDonough.

Visitation will be held from 3-8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 19, and from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1023 Sixth Ave., St. Albans.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 19, at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

The funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church with Celebrant and Homilist Fr. Joseph McDonough in the presence of Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Jim McDonough Scholarship Fund, c/o St. Francis of Assisi School, 525 Holley Street, St. Albans, WV 25177.

The Mass will be livestreamed to the diocesan Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/DiocesefofWheelingCharleston>; and the diocesan website at: <https://dwc.org>.



**Sister M. Annette (Rose) Crnkovich, SAC**

"God has given us Mary as an example. In fact, Mary walked so faithfully in the footsteps of her Son, that she surpassed all the angels and saints."

—St. Vincent Pallotti

Sister M. Annette (Rose) Crnkovich, SAC, a member of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, Queen of Apostles Province, was born August 25, 1924, in Gary, the daughter of the late George and Antoinette (Visick) Crnkovich. Sister was baptized at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Gary. Sister Annette died on the evening of Thursday, December 8, 2022, at the age of 98, at St. Mary's Convent Infirmary in Huntington. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Sr. Monica Crnkovich, Sr. Marguerite Crnkovich, both Pallottine Missionary Sisters, her brothers Nicholas and Thomas Crnkovich. She is survived by two sisters, Katherine (Crnkovich) Caldwell and Antoinette (Crnkovich) Paas.



Sr. Annette entered the Congregation of Pallottine Missionary Sisters on December 8, 1942, in Huntington. How fitting that the Lord would take her peacefully to her final home on the 80th anniversary of her entrance date, the beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Sr. Annette made her First Vows on August 15, 1945, and her Final Vows on August 15, 1951, at St. Mary's Convent Chapel, Huntington.

Sr. Annette's educational background was in Elementary and Early Childhood Education; spending most of her life as a Catechist, as well as an elementary school and kindergarten teacher. Her ministries were carried out in Ashkum, IL, Spring Lake, MI, Laurel, MD, and at Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Fatima Schools in Huntington. Sister organized and taught in the kindergarten program at Our Lady of Fatima from 1978 to 1993.

Following her retirement from teaching, Sr. Annette, believing that her work for the Lord was not over, continued to minister to others by serving as patient visitor, receptionist, and customer service representative at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington until September 2009. Sister resided in the Sisters' Infirmary at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, WV, where she served her fellow Sisters as Eucharistic Minister for those living in the Infirmary community. Sister was known to be a wonderful cook and baker, joyfully baking a delicious, tastefully decorated Feast Day cake for each member of the local community on their special day.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Medical Center Sisters Chapel on December 14, 2022, at with Msgr. Dean G. Borgmeyer officiating. Sister Annette's body was interred at Spring Hill Cemetery in Huntington with other Pallottine Missionary Sisters.

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# St. Peter Parish in Farmington Celebrates 100th Anniversary



Rylee Chamberlain Photo

From left are altar servers Jared and Jordan Aloj, Father Kishore Babu Varaparla, HGN; Bishop Mark Brennan; Father Binu Emmanuel, CST; Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., cross bearer John Petrucci; and Very Rev. Casey B. Mahone, V.F.

**By Colleen Rowan**

“Today we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our church, where we gather every Sunday to thank God, to worship God,” said Father Binu Emmanuel, CST, to begin the Nov. 6 Mass celebrating this joyful and momentous time in the life of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Farmington.

In welcoming all to the celebration, Father Emmanuel shared that he is the 19th priest to serve at the parish. He is administrator of St. Peter’s.

“Friends,” he said, “as we rejoice

on the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our parish, I feel humbled to stand before you.”

Father Emmanuel also welcomed Bishop Mark Brennan, who celebrated the Mass, as well as concelebrants Very Rev. Casey B. Mahone, V.F., pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg; Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston; and Father Kishore Babu Varaparla, HGN, administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont.

“It’s important to celebrate anniversaries,” Bishop Brennan said at

the beginning of the Mass. “They are markers for us along a journey. We look back and we thank God for those who established this parish. We thank God for those who established this community of Catholic faith here in Farmington. It’s a challenge to us now to carry on, to bring forth the fruits of our faith into this community.”

A reception was held following the jubilee Mass. During the Mass and festivities, senior parishioners Alice Priester, Rosalee Menas, and Violet Alasky were honored. Also recognized were parishioners who have been married for 50 years or

longer: Donnie and Diane Aloj, Jack and Ruth Lemley, Manuel and Paula Llaneza, Richard and Charlotte Kovar, George and Betty Joe Tippner, and Keith and Mary Rad-dish.

New members who joined the parish during the jubilee year were also recognized. They are Daniel and Abbie Faith, Willamena Sliger, Theodore Glance, Delaina Kucish, Bernadette Harker, and Theresa Davies.

Bishop Brennan presented the awards, and St. Peter Parish Council President Kathy Pitman was the emcee at the reception.

**See “Farmington” on Page 5**





Rylee Chamberlain Photo  
 Bishop Mark Brennan presents an award to Richard and Charlotte Kovar who have been married for more than 50 years.

Rylee Chamberlain Photo  
 Violet Alasky (left) and Alice Priester are pictured with Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

## Farmington...

Cont'd from Page 4

According to information compiled by parishioner Franchesca Aloï, St. Peter Church was established in 1859. At that time the Baltimore and Ohio railroads passed through the Fairmont area and brought an increase of Catholics. St. Peter's was a mission church of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont then and Mass was only celebrated in Farmington once a month in private homes.

In 1878, St. Peter's lot was purchased. In 1932, the Altar and Rosary Society and Legion of Mary Catechism was started. In 1949, the altar was extended, a sacristy was added, a kitchen was built in the parish hall, and the property across from the church was purchased. In 1957, parish activities increased, and a parent educator group was started. A memorial to coal miners was built that year. In 1969, St. Peter's began to grow more spiritually and there was an increase in mission work and liturgy study. The church underwent extensive remodeling. In 1995, the pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Mannington also became the pastor of St. Peter's, and the parish hall was completed.

Parishioners said St. Peter's has always been a parish built on faith, love, service, community, and honesty.



Rylee Chamberlain Photo  
 Dennis and Mike Roncone, guest choir, provide the music during the anniversary Mass.



Rylee Chamberlain Photo  
 Pictured, from left, are Don, Diane, and Franchesca Aloï, the parish's original choir.

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# On Guadalupe Feast, U.S. Church Reaffirms its Solidarity with Immigrants

By **Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the U.S. bishops' migration chairman reaffirmed the church's solidarity with immigrants, "each one of them a brother or sister to us all."

"When we speak about the issue of immigration, we are fundamentally addressing the movement of people—human persons created in the image and likeness of God," said Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration.

"Unfortunately, this truth is often obscured by political rhetoric, fear-mongering and hyperbole. Our Lady

of Guadalupe points us toward a better way, one that ultimately leads to reconciliation," he said in a statement issued late Dec. 12.

"The bishops of the United States continue to affirm the natural right to migrate, balanced with the sovereign right of countries to uphold their borders, as well as their obligations to provide humane processes for newcomers," Bishop Seitz added.

He said the bishops also believe that "time, resources and political will are best spent making structural improvements to our broken immigration system."

With the arrival of "greater numbers of families and individuals at

our border with Mexico," the federal government must provide "critical infrastructure" to "meet their humanitarian needs."

During Advent especially, "these newcomers are visible signs of Christ among us," Bishop Seitz said. "Let us meet this moment not with policies of exclusion and indifference but with a spirit of compassion and generosity. We pledge our support and cooperation in meeting these challenges."

He invited Catholics and all people of faith to pray "that through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we may give comfort to those forced to leave their homes, and may Our Lady be a guide to all those entrusted with

the responsibility of leadership."

Our Lady of Guadalupe is a symbol of unity, peace, compassion and hope for people around the world. She is the patroness of all the Americas.

Her feast day is marked by special Masses, colorful processions and the recitation of the rosary to commemorate Mary's miraculous appearances as Our Lady of Guadalupe to the visionary St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac Hill near what is today Mexico City in December 1531, when she left her image on his "tilma," or cloak.

Fiestas featuring mariachi bands and "matachines," or dancers, also are part of celebrations of the Marian feast.

## The Devil is Sneaky, so Christians Must be Watchful, Pope Says

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Vigilance is an essential part of the spiritual life because the devil will try to sneak in when one is not paying attention or, especially, when a Christian thinks he or she is making a lot of progress on the road to holiness, Pope Francis said.

"When we trust too much in ourselves and not in God's grace, then the Evil One finds the door open. So, he organizes an expedition and takes possession of that house," which is a person's spiritual life, the pope said Dec. 14 at his weekly general audience.

Since late August, the pope has been using his general audience talks to explain the process of spiritual discernment according to the teaching of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits.

When discernment has led to a good decision, one that increases spiritual growth and brings one closer to doing the Lord's will, he said, the process is not complete.

"If vigilance is lacking," the pope said, there is "a very high risk that all will be lost. It is a danger not of a psychological, but of a spiritual order, a real snare of the evil spirit."

Part of discernment is being watchful to safeguard one's heart and soul, he said. Vigilance "is the frame of mind of Christians who await the final coming of the Lord; but it also can be understood as the normal attitude to have in the con-

duct of life, so that our good choices, taken at times after challenging discernment, may proceed in a persevering and consistent manner and bear fruit."

In greeting French speakers at the audience, the pope noted how Advent reminds Christians of the importance of watchfulness or vigilance.

"We await the coming of the Lord, and we remain attentive to our more fragile brothers and sisters who knock at the door of our hearts," the pope said. "This is how we build our lives with discernment and consistent with the Gospel."

"Let us ask the Lord to keep us vigilant in humility and in availability" to those in need, he said.

When one does something good, the pope said, there often is a temptation of pride, "the presumption of being righteous, of being good, of having everything in place. Often, we will hear someone say, 'Yes, I was bad before, but I converted and now my house is in order, thanks be to God,' and they relax."


At moments like that, the pope said, the devil will not overpower a person, but will be very "polite" and ask to come in, then he will make himself at home.

"Watch over your heart because vigilance is a sign of wisdom, it is above all a sign of humility" and of knowing that without God's help, one can fail, the pope said. "Humility is the high road of the Christian life."

## Like 5th Circuit, 8th Circuit Strikes Down Biden's Transgender Mandate

By **Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis Dec. 9 permanently blocked a transgender mandate the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services implemented as a revision to the Affordable Care Act. The mandate forces doctors and hospitals to perform gender-transition procedures on their patients even if this violates their conscience and best medical judgment. The 8th Circuit concluded the mandate violates a key federal law protecting religious liberty — the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The Biden administration has 45 days from the date of the ruling to ask the 8th Circuit to rehear the case, *Sisters of Mercy v. Becerra*, or 90 days to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. "The federal government has no business forcing doctors to violate their consciences or perform controversial procedures that could permanently harm their patients," said Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm representing the plaintiffs. "This is a commonsense ruling that protects patients, aligns with best medical practice, and ensures doctors can follow their Hippocratic oath to 'do no harm,'" he said in a Dec. 9 statement. The 8th Circuit's ruling echoes a unanimous ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which struck down the mandate in a late August ruling in *Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra*. The Biden administration had until Nov. 25 to appeal the 5th Circuit's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, but no appeal was filed.



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# RCIA is Now 'OCIA': What's Behind Name Change?

By Daniel Meloy, Catholic News Service

**IRA TOWNSHIP, Mich. (CNS)** — For anyone interested in becoming Catholic, wishing to complete the sacraments or wanting to learn more about what the church teaches, the answer for decades was “join RCIA.”

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which the church brings in new converts and educates catechumens and candidates, has been a staple in Catholic life and lingo for years.

But in November 2021, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops changed the name of one of the best-known acronyms in the church, re-orienting the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) into the new Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

So, is the new answer simply, “join OCIA”? Yes, but there's more to it than that.

The change from “rite” to “order” is in part because of a retranslation of the Latin name into English, said Mercy Sister Esther Mary Nickel, director of sacred worship in the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship.

“(The bishops) retranslated the Order of Initiation of Adult Catechumens (Ordo Initiationis Christianae Adultorum) from Latin,” Sister Nickel told Detroit Catholic, the archdiocese's news outlet.

“When I studied in Rome, we had OCIA, because it was all in Latin. All we have done is taken the ‘O,’ which is ‘ordo,’ and made it back to ‘order,’ instead of the ‘R’ for ‘rite.’ I don't want to say it was a mistranslation, but the new translation is more comprehensive.”

It might seem like semantics, but changing the process of entering the church from a “rite” to an “order” has practical implications, Sister Nickel said.

For one thing, rites are still part of the order but the new structure is meant to invite candidates and catechumens into a continuous process of spiritual formation as opposed to fixed checkpoints on the path to baptism, first Communion and confirmation.

Ideally, those interested in joining OCIA would not have to wait until the fall to do so, Sister Nickel said.

“We want to propose and help people institute in Families of Parishes (parish clusters) an ongoing catechesis and formation so people can come into the church more frequently and not necessarily wait to begin the process of faith formation as disciples. That will be the big differ-

ence of a yearlong catechesis and accompaniment,” she explained.

The catechumenate is meant to be an ongoing formation process in which the initiated are invited to become involved in the parish, attend Mass and OCIA classes and work with catechists in delving into topics such as creation, salvation, the sacraments, the church and the four “last things” (death, judgment, heaven and hell).

Still part of the OCIA process are rites such as the Rite of Entrance to the Catechumenate and the Rite of Sending, which both occur at the parish level, and the Rite of Election, which occurs at the cathedral with the bishop, said Amy Wyss, associate director of sacred worship at the archdiocese.

“Following that is a series of rites called the scrutinies, and after that are the Rites of Initiation,” Wyss explained.

These rites are not new to the church, but by making the entire process an “order,” the candidate or catechumen understands the rites received in church or at the parish are just one part of the ongoing journey of discipleship that will culminate with baptism and confirmation — usually during the Easter Vigil — but will continue throughout their lives.

Catechumens (those who have yet to be baptized) and candidates (those yet to be confirmed in full communion with the Catholic Church) will not progress to the next rite in the OCIA process until they are ready, Wyss said.

“It's about a relationship with Jesus Christ. It's about coming to knowledge of Jesus Christ and then bringing my life into conformity with his teachings. Yes, we have these beautiful experiences in the liturgy that are integrally part of this. But what is happening is the process of coming into relationship with our Lord,” she said.

A major benefit is that people can enter the OCIA process at any time in the calendar year and can receive the sacraments of initiation at any time, not just during Easter.

“For those coming into the catechumenate, it's not a straight line where everyone is doing the same thing or on the same path,” said Tina Kovalcik, director of religious education at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ira Township, 40 miles northeast of Detroit. “If they are not ready

to go through to the next step, we don't push them. It is up to the catechumens and the pastor, and if they are not at the level of faith yet, we don't go through with the next rite. Likewise, others really catch onto it and are ready almost immediately.”

The OCIA process encourages candidates and catechumens to take charge of their faith education, ask questions of catechists and explore the answers.

Most catechumens and candidates will still be received into the church during the Easter Vigil, but OCIA encourages them to get involved in the parish community even before they receive the sacraments, sowing seeds of discipleship that will grow well beyond confirmation, said Matthew Hunt, director of religious education at St. Thecla Parish in Clinton Township, near Detroit.

In some cases, a person might be spiritually ready to join the church before Easter, and that's an option, Hunt said.

“Instead of just waiting, if a person has the conviction in their heart, if they are ready, they can join the church quicker than waiting for the Easter Vigil,” Hunt said. “For a lot of people, the waiting sometimes is the downfall. You have to wait and go through the process, and some people need that. But at any point a priest can get a special dispensation to do confirmation.”

(Meloy is a staff writer for Detroit Catholic, the news outlet of the Detroit Archdiocese.)

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# All Saints Parishioner Receives Eagle Scout Award

**BRIDGEPORT** — On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 20 in a solemn ceremony held at All Saints in Bridgeport, Zachary Lunsford recently received a most prestigious award as a Scout, the award of Eagle Scout. He has been in Scouts for 10 years.

In order to achieve the rank of an Eagle Scout, a scout first has to achieve several ranks in Scouting.

While working towards “Eagle”, a big part of the requirements is a service project that benefits the community.

For his project, he planted three trees and put in 2 benches at Compton Park in Bridgeport on June 18 to beautify the park.

A friend of his from high school proposed to his high school girlfriend on one of the benches recently.

As part of the Eagle Scout Curriculum, he also had to earn a total of 21 merit badges. He now has a total of 30.

Once all the rank requirements, merit badges, and project were done, he had to meet with his Scout Master, then upon approval, he had to attend a board of review with the council. A board review consists of 3 or 4 board members

from the Mountaineer Scouting Council who come and talk with a scout about their Scouting journey. They also discuss with him about what he did with his project.

Zachary currently attends Bridgeport High School, as a junior and is currently in the Spanish Club, and Spanish Honor Society, and has earned academic letters for the last two years. Over most of his life, Zachary says he is proud to say that he has been involved with his parish of All Saints Church, Bridgeport, in many ways. He has assisted with altar serving, participated as a ‘Wiseman’ in the parish nativity, operated cameras for the online broadcast, and for the last four years he and his brother Matthew have prepared fire for the Easter vigil. He continues to be an active member of the parish.

One of the 12 points of the Scout Law is reverence. Zachary is proud to be an Eagle Scout and a member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Courtesy Photo

Zachary Lunsford is pictured with Father Walter Jagela, pastor of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport.



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# CDU Honors Archbishop Cordileone, Champion for Human Dignity, at 39th Gala

Catholic Distance University honored Archbishop Cordileone of the Archdiocese of San Francisco with the Founders Award, its highest honor, for his “fearless pastoral leadership in upholding the truths of the Catholic Church” at its annual gala on Nov. 17. The event was held at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., and offered the CDU community an opportunity to celebrate the university’s 39th year and look toward its future. The Very Reverend Joseph R. Gibino, pastor and vicar for Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Brooklyn, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

## Archbishop Cordileone Delivers Remarks upon Receiving the Founders Award

CDU Chancellor and USCCB President Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, presented the Founders Award to Archbishop Cordileone, lauding him as “a champion for human dignity, an outspoken advocate for the unborn, mothers in crisis, the rights of migrants and immigrants, and the homeless, and a staunch defender of the Catholic faith” whose mission aligns closely with that of CDU.

Archbishop Cordileone thanked attendees for all they do to support CDU.

“Education is such an important part of rebuilding civilization,” he said, “and our civilization is being attacked on so many fronts.”

“We live in an age that contests what is good,” he said, decrying attacks on innocent human life.

### Truth, Beauty, and Goodness

He reflected on the enduring power of truth, beauty, and goodness as doorways to God for all in an age of secularism and cancel culture, giv-

ing the destruction of Notre Dame Cathedral as an example. “The entire world mourned the loss,” he said. “The timelessness of sacred beauty gives it the power to lift us out of the world of time and gives us a glimpse of that which transcends time...ultimately, the reality of God.”

### Cancel Culture Targets Western Civilization and Ultimately the Church

Archbishop Cordileone spoke about the long history of cancel culture and its painful legacy.

“We are living in an age of cancel culture. Was not our Lord ejected from influence because he posed a threat to the worldly power of the governing authorities and the leaders of his own people? Were not the people quick to judge without thinking things through?”

“What do the cancellers really want to cancel out?” he asked. “It is far more than those who disagree with them. The real activists are seeking to discredit the great protagonists of western civilization—both in the history of our country and in the Church.”

“By trying to cancel out western civilization, what the cancellers are really trying to cancel out is the Church,” he continued, explaining that “Mass encapsulates all of western civilization and brings together truth, beauty, and goodness all in one place.”

“We need to gaze upon Christ on the cross and truly behold our king, the one who truly gave all for us though He had no need to receive anything from us. Jesus Himself is the blueprint for a civilization of truth and love, a civilization imbued with a Christian ethos. The drive to cancel this out, then, is a drive to cancel out the founder of the Church, our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.”



Courtesy Photo

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of the Archdiocese of San Francisco is honored with the Founders Award. Pictured, from left to right: Chairman Stephen Pryor, President Dr. Marianne Evans Mount, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, and Chancellor Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Jesus Came to Cancel Out Sin

But, he reminded the crowd, “There is one cancel culture our Lord did come to establish: cancelling out sin. He has done that on the cross, cancelling out the debt we owed to God but could not pay ourselves.”

“That is the good news, and the pattern for how the human person lives in accordance with the original human dignity that God gave us. But someone needs to tell this to the world. To open deaf ears and break through the cacophony of postmodern cancel culture so the message can get out, penetrate hearts, and take root there,” Archbishop Cordileone said.

He thanked the CDU community for using modern technology to educate and evangelize.

### Academic Convocation Mass and Graduation

The evening began with an Academic Convocation Mass for the class of 2021-2022, which included a graduation ceremony for the graduates present. They hailed from throughout the USA and Canada.

Archbishop Broglio served as the principal celebrant. The Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Cordileone, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington; Bishop Mark E. Brennan of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Bishop Emeritus Paul S. Loverde of the Diocese of Arlington; Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Octavio Cisneros of the Diocese of Brooklyn; and 15 priests and deacons.

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## Charleston Knights Thank Students and Parishioners for Help with Boxes of Joy for Children in Need in Latin America

**CHARLESTON**—Thanks to the generosity of the students and parents of Sacred Heart Grade School and the parishioners of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, the Knights of Columbus Council 12630 sent 105 Boxes of Joy to the Cross Catholic Processing Center in Doral, Fla., that will soon be on their way to make Christmas a little brighter for some children in Latin America.

Knight Bill Coyle said yes to a call offering the donation of the remaining non-perishable food from the recently closed Risk's Fas Chek Market.

An estimated over 120 boxes of food were sent to the Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay County, council members said. "Thanks to Kaye, Leigh Ann and Jeff Risk. Jeff observed that his father would be pleased the food went to a worthy cause," they said. The knights are also conducting their annual Food Drive to benefit the Risen Lord Food Pantry and were to have information available after all of the Masses at the basilica.

"Please consider a donation of \$17 for a turkey or ham or \$30 for a meal [adjust for inflation if you wish]," council members said.

Checks should be made out to K of C 12630 and placed in the collection or mail to K of C/ PO Box 11578/Charleston, WV 25339. Non perishable food such as peanut butter, [crackers], tuna, canned soup, canned vegetables or fruit are welcome in the Gathering Space.

## Bluefield Knights Thank All Who Helped with Dinner for Manor Residents

**BLUEFIELD**—The Knights of Columbus Council 1404 of Bluefield thanked everyone that helped with the recent dinner they held for residents of the West Virginian Manor Apartments in Bluefield.

"From the people who bought turkeys, bought pies, made sides, served, cleaned up, the Knights of Columbus, church members and volunteers.

"Thank you! We couldn't have done it without you. We are grateful for each and every one of you!" they said.

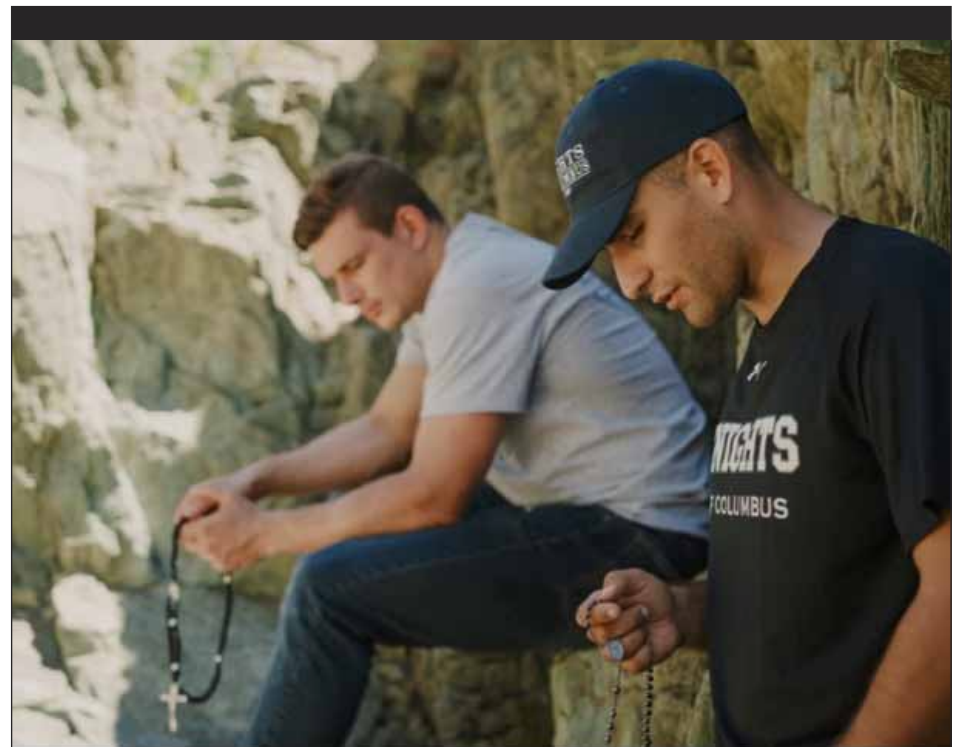
## St. Agnes Knights Honor Their Former Chaplain



Courtesy Photo

The St. Agnes Knights of Columbus in Shepherdstown recognize their former chaplain, Father Mat Rowgh, Dec. 1. Father Rowgh served as chaplain from 1993 to 2020. Deputy Grand Knight Arnold Thomas (left) and Grand Knight Dom Massimino (right) present a plaque to Father Rowgh (center).

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# Secret 'Santa'

By Herman Hundley

I have been given the honor and feel very humbled to share my life of Santa Claus. The name of the real Santa is Saint Nicholas. His feast day is December 6th. The earth is wide and great. Saint Nicholas knew he could not get to all on this great and wide earth. He asked good and kind people to go to the children and take their gifts and tell them of the Christ child. To become a Santa for Saint Nicholas you must become an extension of him.

Since I was a young boy, I have always believed in Santa Claus; from me getting the Roy Roger's cowboy suit to my own bicycle. I have always been involved with the Catholic Church and school in Oak Hill. Then about 37 years ago the Holy Spirit took over. We had a Catholic family, the Kilianys, move from Pittsburgh to Oak Hill and we became family friends. Mrs. Kiliany called me one day and said she needed a Santa for their McDonald's stores in Oak Hill, Summersville and White Sulphur, WV. I said what do I do or say. She told me that I would know what to do; just listen to the children. So, I did that, and what a great feeling it was.

I received a message from a child — that was 37 years ago. I saw through his eyes that I could be Santa Claus. To this day I go visit him and his children. When entering his residence, I immediately feel that God knew my love for the children but also older people that still believed in Santa. Everyone called me Santa and their



Courtesy Photo  
Santa Claus, a.k.a. Herman Hundley, a parishioner of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Oak Hill, visits faith formation students at the parish Dec. 4. Hundley is also an extraordinary Eucharistic minister, lector, and member of the pastoral council.

bright eyes telling me they believe.

One of my favorite remembrances of someone who wanted to sit on Santa's lap was a beau-

tiful 90-year-old lady who had never sat on Santa's lap.

My own family knows then I "become" Santa, that my job is serving children. I have had the privilege of being invited to churches, schools, parades, pancake breakfasts, nursing homes, and even families that ask me to visit their homes before Christmas Eve. One of my favorites places to go serve is the beautiful Toys-for-Tots.

I have visited three military bases; Fort Knox, KY, Fort Lewis-McClure base, and Fort Polk, LA. The weather was working in my favor, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, when I visited Fort Polk, LA. I rode in on a "Big Fire Truck". The temperature got to 32 degrees and it snowed and the "Polar Express Train" came into the Fort Polk base. In fact, the Polar Express Bell is on my hat to this day. I really needed to make the boys and girls happy because at the time most of their parents were deployed overseas.

Every child I see I ask them what they want and I tell them it is Jesus' birthday. I tell them that I love them and wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to them and their families.

Adults and senior citizens love Santa as much as children! I treat them all the same.

My greatest honor of being Saint Nicholas was when I was asked by the parish priest to carry in our Baby Jesus into the church and place him in the crib. I know that that is the perfect place for Santa Claus to be.

Don't forget my cookies and milk; and also, the reindeer would love a carrot!

"Through a child's eye you will find love."

Merry Christmas to all. God has truly blessed me and has allowed me to be a man of Saint Nicholas.

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# Wheeling University & Bethany College Sign Articulation Agreement for Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

**WHEELING** — The continued partnership between Wheeling University and Bethany College will help produce more well-trained physical therapists to treat patients in West Virginia and across the country.

This month, the two Ohio Valley institutions signed an additional articulation agreement that will allow at least two students a year from Bethany's undergraduate programs into Wheeling's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The students must meet all of the university's qualifications and academic requirements.

"Wheeling University is happy to sign this agreement with Bethany College, which will offer students from our neighboring institution a seamless transition into our Doctor of Physical Therapy program. This agreement will benefit those students seeking an advanced degree, while producing more physical therapists to meet the health care needs of residents in our local community and across the country," said Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University.

Bethany's Interim President Dr. Jamie Caridi added, "Our articulation with Wheeling University will offer Bethanians a new graduate program while maintaining the integrity of traditionally small class sizes and connections with faculty. In offering a field with opportunities in various settings, students will work on developing professional skills while fostering their rich individual development that will translate into ethical care post-graduation. We are thrilled to be able to offer students a new opportunity that allows them to translate values instilled through their time at the college into hands-on work."

This new partnership between the two institutions will allow students in Bethany's undergraduate programs who meet the specific qualifications and prerequisites courses, acceptance into Wheeling's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. A partial listing of the courses/prerequisites include: An overall cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or higher; a grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or higher in the required prerequisite courses, which include, but are not limited to BIO 124/125, BIO 325/326, BIO 302/303, BIO 328/334, CHEM 110/111, CHEM 112/113, PHYS 101/110, PHYS 102/111, PSYC 101, MAT 160;

Higher level courses may be substituted for lower-level courses in the same area; a minimum grade of B in each required prerequisite course.

According to Dr. Alison Kreger, PT, DPT, Ed.D., director of Wheeling's DPT program, "This collaboration between Wheeling and Bethany will bring more graduates from a West Virginia institution into the university's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. This partnership will help both Bethany and Wheeling facilitate the training of physical therapy professionals who, upon graduation, will provide quality patient care."

Bethany Provost and Dean of Faculty Dr. Anju Ramjee said, "This articulation is allowing Bethany College to offer students a higher level of education while maintaining the

added value of being at a smaller institution. We are looking forward to seeing the impact these students will make in a world where we need more health care professionals."

Wheeling University's DPT program emphasizes a whole person approach to the investigation of clinical issues using a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) format. PBL encourages teamwork, open discussion, and researching appropriate resources to acquire the essential didactic knowledge.

Through this unique learning format, Wheeling's physical therapy graduates demonstrate exemplary professionalism, exceptional skills and problem solving, as well as the ability to access and utilize knowledge, reflective of a commitment to life-long learning, according to Kreger.

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## En Español

# María acompaña a migrantes que se dirigen al norte, dice papa en la fiesta de Guadalupe

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)**—Durante este "tiempo amargo" de guerra, hambre, injusticia, y pobreza, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe invita a todos a abrir sus vidas a su hijo, Jesús, y aprender a amar a los demás como él lo hace, indicó el papa Francisco.

"El Señor, a través de la Virgen Madre, nos sigue dando a su hijo, que nos llama a la fraternidad, a dejar de lado el egoísmo, la indiferencia, y la enemistad, invitándonos a implicarnos unos con otros 'sin demora', a salir al encuentro de nuestros hermanos y hermanas que han sido olvidados y desechados por nuestras sociedades consumistas e indiferentes", expresó.

Hoy, como hace cinco siglos cuando Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se apareció a San Juan Diego, ella "vinó a acompañar al pueblo americano en este duro camino de pobreza, explotación, colonialismo socioeconómico y cultural", dijo el Santo Padre en su homilía durante una misa en la Basílica de San Pedro el 12 de diciembre, fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

"Ella está en medio de las caravanas que caminan hacia el norte en

busca de libertad y bienestar. Ella está en medio del pueblo americano, cuya identidad está amenazada por un paganismo salvaje y explotador, herido por la predicación activa del ateísmo práctico y pragmático", señaló el papa, en comentarios escritos a mano que no formaban parte de su texto preparado previamente.

Debido a su dificultad para caminar, el papa Francisco no participó en la procesión hacia la basílica y se sentó a la derecha del altar.

El cardenal Marc Ouellet, prefecto del Dicasterio para los Obispos, fue el celebrante principal. Después de incensar el altar, se dirigió a una réplica de la tilma de San Juan Diego, que lleva la imagen de María, quien se apareció al santo indígena en 1531.

En su homilía, el papa reflexionó sobre la lectura del Evangelio de San Lucas, que recuerda que María fue "a toda prisa" a visitar a su prima Isabel después de que el ángel Gabriel le dijera que iba a concebir al Hijo de Dios a través del Espíritu Santo, y que Isabel también estaba embarazada.

"En Jesús, nacido de María, el eterno se convierte para siempre e irreversiblemente en 'Dios-con-nosotros' y camina a nuestro lado como hermano y compañero", manifestó el Santo Padre en su homilía.

"Nuestro Dios guía en todo momento la historia humana, nada queda fuera de su poder, que es ternura y amor providencial", acotó, y "nunca deja de velar por nuestro mundo, necesitado y herido, deseoso de asistirlo con su compasión y misericordia".

Dios envió a María como mensajera "hace casi cinco siglos, en un momento complicado y difícil para los habitantes del nuevo mundo", dijo el Sumo Pontífice.

"Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe vino a las tierras benditas de América, presentándose como la 'madre del verdadero Dios por quien vivimos' para consolar y atender las necesidades de los pequeños, sin excluir a nadie, para abrazarlos, como una madre cariñosa, con su presencia, amor, y consuelo", dijo. "Es nuestra madre mestiza".

Este año, la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se celebra "en un momento difícil para la humanidad. Es un tiempo amargo, lleno de estruendos de guerra, creciente injusticia, hambruna, pobreza, y sufrimiento y hambre", expresó.

Y, sin embargo, Dios muestra su amor divino y nos dice "que también este es un tiempo propicio de salvación", dijo.

Nuestra Señora "quiere encontrarnos también a nosotros, como un día conoció a Juan Diego en el Cerro del Tepeyac", México, y "nos ruega que le permitamos ser nuestra madre, abrir nuestra vida a su hijo, Jesús, y acoger su mensaje para aprender a amar como él", dijo el Santo Padre.

El papa Francisco instó a todos los fieles "de la iglesia peregrina en las Américas" participar en los preparativos para la celebración del Quinto Centenario de la Aparición Guadalupeana en 2031, que comienza con la Novena Intercontinental Guadalupeana el 12 de diciembre de 2022.

"Este camino de celebración", dijo, "tiene como objetivo promover un encuentro con Dios a través de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, para la renovación del tejido social y eclesial de estos pueblos y comunidades".

Sin embargo, el papa expresó su preocupación por "propuestas con un sesgo ideológico-cultural de diversa índole que quieren apropiarse del encuentro del pueblo con su madre, que quieren desestimar y difrazar a la madre. Por favor, no dejemos que el mensaje se destile" o que se convierta en algo "mundano e ideológico".

### Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Rejoicing with Joe

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we rejoice that the coming of the Lord draws near, we at Catholic Charities also rejoice with the people we serve and our community partners across the Mountain State. Guided by God’s love, we – Catholic Charities staff & volunteers, neighbors in need and community - based organizations – work together to overcome obstacles and realize lasting and meaningful change.

In May 2022, “Joe’s” home near Cabell County filled with three feet of flood water, causing significant amounts of damage throughout. Flood waters destroyed Joe’s vehicle as well as his utility building and left his yard covered with debris. Joe did not have flood insurance, and no federal or state aid was available for repairs. Joe contacted Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) for assistance.

Catholic Charities West Virginia’s Disaster Services Specialist connected Joe to a variety of resources and helped him develop a plan for long-term recovery. American Baptist Disaster Relief mucked out and cleaned his home. They also removed flood-damaged floors and walls. Family and friends provided support for the clean-up as well.

Through the generosity of Catholic Charities USA, CCWVa purchased and installed a new furnace and assisted with the purchase of kitchen cabinets.

The Knights of Columbus donated gift cards that Joe could use for immediate needs. The Disaster Representative for the Knights of Columbus in West Virginia delivered the cards to Joe’s home. Joe was once a member of the Knights, and he shared that he was over-



Catholic Charities West Virginia and community partners helped to replace a flood-damaged utility room in a client’s home in this ‘before and after’ view.

Courtesy Photo

joyed at the visit and the generous donation. Joe anticipates his home will be fully restored by early 2023. To learn more about

Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org). The Mission of Catholic

Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes, and families to

provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



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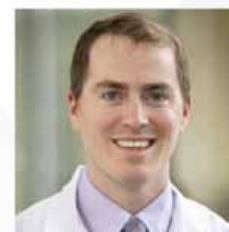
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