

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit



Gloria in Excelsis Deo

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To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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 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, 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, 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, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
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ON THE COVER

The stained glass window of the nativity at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling is pictured. Courtesy Photo

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Tune in to Bishop Brennan's Celebration of Christmas Eve Mass at the Cathedral

By Colleen Rowan

Bishop Mark E. Brennan will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass this evening at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 6 p.m. Those who cannot be present in person for this joyful celebration can tune in to the livestream of the Mass on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dioceesofwheeling-charleston or on the diocese's website at dwc.org.

The Mass is being sponsored by WVU Medicine and by a generous bequest to promote outreach to shut-ins throughout West Virginia, said Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the diocese.

The Mass will also be televised at Midnight on the following channels: WTRF-TV7 Wheeling; WBOY/NBC Clarksburg/Morgantown; WDVM Martinsburg; WOWK Charleston/Huntington; and WVNS Beckley/Bluefield.

This year, Bishop Brennan re-

turns to the cathedral for Christmas Mass after joining the Catholic faithful of the southern region of the state last year at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

"We hope you will join Bishop Mark Brennan as he celebrates Mass for the Nativity of the Lord at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling," diocesan officials said, inviting all to this year's celebration.

Those who attend the Mass in person are reminded of the bishop's request that all wear a mask, other than young children under the age of 2, in all churches of the diocese.

"May God bless you and your family as you prepare for the coming of Christ," diocesan officials said.

Bishop Brennan has also offered a Christmas Message to the faithful of the diocese. The message may be viewed by visiting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Oqg62wUfns

BISHOP BRENNAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



*to the faithful of the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

Visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Oqg62wUfns

Christmas Mass²⁰²¹

CELEBRATE THE MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

We hope you will join Bishop Mark Brennan as he celebrates
Mass for the Nativity of the Lord at the
Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 6 pm, Friday, Dec. 24.

The Mass will be livestreamed on our website, DWC.ORG, and also
available on our diocesan Facebook page at
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON.

The faithful may also view the Mass on television. See below for a
list of channels broadcasting the celebration. May God bless you
and your family as you prepare for the coming of Christ.

**CHRISTMAS MASS WILL BE BROADCASTED
AT MIDNIGHT ON THE FOLLOWING CHANNELS**

WTRF-TV7	WHEELING
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WOWK	CHARLESTON/HUNTINGTON
WVNS	BECKLEY/BLUEFIELD

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Bishop Brennan Celebrates Mass at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Continuous Care Center

Bishop Mark E. Brennan celebrated Mass at the WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Continuous Care Center on Dec. 22. He celebrated the Mass for all hospital employees as well as the CCC residents. Following the Mass, the bishop greeted residents and visited staff throughout the center.

Pictured, from left, are: Father Michael Nwokocha; Sister Karen Kirby; Christine Tarr, CCC administrator; Bishop Brennan; Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration; and Father Cyprian Osuegbu.
Courtesy Photo



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A Letter from Bishop Brennan to Synod Participants

Monday, December 20, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
I have the privilege and pleasure of serving as the Bishop of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese. It is likewise my joy to cooperate with Pope Francis in promoting the welfare of the Church and the mission of all its members to bring Christ to others and others to Christ.

The Pope has asked us all to participate in what he calls a “synodal process” in our parishes, institutions and in other group settings.

What is a “synodal process?” It is basically an assembly that discusses matters of importance for our living of the Christian faith. The term “synod” was used in the ancient Church when bishops met about issues particular to their times. Since the last Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church, – Vatican II (1962-1965) – there have been meetings every two or three years of a Synod of Bishops, representatives of the world’s bishops’ conferences, to discuss various topics.

What Pope Francis is asking of us is that, prior to the next Synod of Bishops in Rome (fall, 2023), we engage in our local dioceses in a synodal process so that, when the bishops gather in Rome to discuss the synodal dimension of Church life, they may have a clearer view of how our people are experiencing the Catholic faith. It is a “bottoms up” approach rather than a “top down” one.

The three key elements of the synodal meetings in our parishes and other groups are: communion, participation and mission. Communion means that we seek together the light of the Holy Spirit, who, according to Jesus’ promise, leads us into all truth [John 16:13]. We respect what the Spirit has led the Church to understand in the past regarding faith and morals but we now ask the Spirit to help us see what we need to know about contemporary matters. So, communion is characterized first of all by prayer, individually and as a group, and then by respectful listening as members of the group speak. Speakers must be allowed to speak uninterruptedly and without fear but they must also remember that they are not there to air personal grievances or score points but to contribute their insights to a gathering of believers jointly seeking the truth for the good of the Church.

Participation means casting a wide net to offer as many people as possible

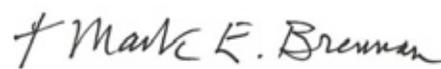
the opportunity to contribute the wisdom gained from their experience of faith. Not only parish groups, but college students, youth groups, the clients of Catholic Charities, residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, Catholics who are disaffected from the Church and members of the West Virginia Council of Churches, among other groups, will be invited to take part.

As for mission, this is the goal of the synodal process. Mission is what the Lord Jesus wants us to do: Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you [Matthew 28:19-20]. We must be committed to inviting back those Catholics who no longer walk with us in faith and to inviting the many West Virginians who have no religious affiliation whatsoever to follow Christ with us. The synodal process must motivate us to reach out to our neighbor with faith and love or it will be sound and fury signifying nothing [William Shakespeare, Macbeth].

As the Pope and the bishops gathered with him in Rome in 2023 will reflect on the contributions from Catholics and friends from around the world, so I hope to find in your discussions ideas and recommendations to foster the mission of our Diocese. We cannot stand pat while a field of grain needs harvesting. We must act boldly to share our faith with others while enhancing our family life in the Church.

I am grateful to you for your interest in this synodal process. It speaks of your love for the Lord and for your Church. Let us keep the intention of a fruitful synodal process in our daily prayers. May the Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and St. Joseph, patron of our Diocese, guide us through his Holy Spirit to the fullness of truth and life.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

SYNOD Listening Sessions

Check updates at <http://dwc.org/synod-sessions/>



Ascension Parish, Hurricane: Jan. 9, 5 p.m. – Middle / Senior High Youth; Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m. – Parish Women; Jan. 17, 7 p.m. – Parish Pastoral Council; Jan. 25, 7 p.m. – Parish Men

Holy Family, Richwood: First Session—Dec. 11 following Mass; Second Session—Dec. 12, following Mass

Holy Rosary, Buckhannon: Third Session—Jan. 11, 1 p.m.; Fourth Session—Jan. 13, 1 p.m.

Holy Trinity, Nitro:
First Session—Jan. 8 after Mass; Second Session—Jan. 9 after Mass; Third Session—Jan. 13, 6 p.m.; Fourth Session—Jan. 15 after Mass; Fifth Session—Jan. 16 after Mass

Immaculate Conception, Fairmont
Jan. 17, 1 p.m.; Jan. 20, 7 p.m.; Jan. 22, 10 a.m.; and Jan. 23, noon

Sacred Heart, Bluefield: First Session—Dec. 14, 1 p.m.; Second Session—Dec. 16, 6 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton: First Session—Jan. 13, 1-2:30 p.m.; Second Session—Jan. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.; Third Session—Feb. 9, 1-2:30 p.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 9, 6-8:30 p.m.

St. Catherine of Siena, Ronceverte: First Session: Dec. 5—12 p.m.; Second Session—Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

St. Charles Borromeo, White Sulphur Springs: First Session—Dec. 20, 6 p.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Beckley: Second Session—Jan. 9, after 11 a.m. Mass; Third Session—Jan. 18 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown: First Session—Jan. 9 after Mass; Second Session—Feb. 19 after 5:15 p.m. Mass; Third Session—March 8 10 a.m.

St. Francis of Assis, St. Albans: First Session—Jan. 9, 1 p.m.; Second Session—Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.

St. John, St. Marys: First Session—Jan. 25; Second Session—Inclement weather date, Feb. 1

St. Michael, Wheeling: Second Session:—Jan. 9, 6 p.m.; Third Session—Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.

St. Peter, Farmington: First Session—March 20 following Sunday Mass

St. Peter Claver, Huntington: First Session—Jan. 9 after 11 a.m. Mass

St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs: Second Session—Jan. 6, 5 p.m.; Third Session—Jan. 22, 10 a.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m.; Fifth Session:—Feb. 23, 2 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling: First Session—Feb. 6; Second Session—Feb.16; Third Session Inclement weather date, Feb. 20

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CHRISTMAS, THE **JOY** OF OUR HEARTS,
AND THE **HOPE** OF OUR WORLD.



WISHING YOU A **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
& **HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**



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Installation Ceremony Held for Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede

WHEELING—Bishop Mark E. Brennan presided over a Mass Dec. 3, where Ginny R. Favede was installed as the 13th president of Wheeling University. Favede had chosen to postpone this official installation to focus on the university and its students due to COVID.

Before more than 200 guests inside Troy Theater, University Board Chair Maribeth Arlia administered the official oath of office to Favede before family, friends, delegates, alumni, faculty, employees, students, the Jesuit community, and dignitaries.

During his Homily, Bishop Brennan commended Favede for bringing hope to “a university community that to quote Isaiah ‘one that was living in gloom and darkness.’ She has done so because she believes that Catholic education at the university level is still relevant in this city and in these times of great social ferment and division.”

The bishop noted that the president faced and continues to face a ‘mountain of challenges.’ He added, “But your approach is not ... ‘it’s my job, I’ll put in my eight hours each day and then go home, and pick up my paycheck.’ No, you believe in the mission of this school, which is to foster faith and virtue among its students and to equip them with knowledge and skills that will make them useful for our society and our church.”

He said Favede is the kind of leader Wheeling University needs and commended her for her courage and compassion to provide such leadership. Bishop Brennan encouraged her to nourish herself with daily prayer so that “you will have the strength to climb mountains and all those challenges that you face every day, and (the strength) to foster the faith and spirit of Jesus Christ on this campus.”

The bishop ended, “Ginny Favede – you are a blessing to this school. Be stout-hearted,

work hard and wait patiently for the bounty of the Lord to appear.”

Following the bishop’s homily, Arlia officially installed Favede as the president, granting her “all the rights, privileges and responsibilities” the office holds. The president accepted the leadership responsibilities, saying, “With God as my witness, I pledge to lead with humility, honesty, and integrity, and always strive to make decisions that are in the best interest of Wheeling University.”

Bishop Brennan concluded the ceremony with a prayer for the president. “Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of the universe and Father of all: you have called us to serve you and praise you each day. Look with mercy on your daughter, Ginny Favede, who will serve as President here at Wheeling University. Bless her and purify her heart this day that she may always live the example of Jesus. Bless too the members of the Wheeling University community – students, faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, and benefactors – may they continue to grow in unity and love as they strive to be a sign of your presence in our midst.”

At the conclusion of the Mass, Favede offered remarks, saying Archbishop John Swint believed the diocese had an obligation to provide students in Appalachia educational opportunities grounded in the Catholic tradition. She expressed her gratitude to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for its partnership and support of the institution from the beginning.

“This place ... is extraordinary. One only needs to spend an afternoon here to recognize it. (It is) The people who make up the fabric of this place,” Favede explained, and proceeded to lift up faculty, staff, and coaches, some who have worked at Wheeling for many years.

“They stay out of love, devotion, not just a job – you can find that anywhere. This



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark E. Brennan is pictured with Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University.

is a way of life – a calling,” the president said. Among those that Favede expressed gratitude for were the three Jesuits – Father James Conroy, Father Richard McCouch, and Father Hadi Sasmita – “who choose to be here, remaining loyal to their Jesuit mission and to this University’s faculty, staff, and students. Their loyalty and love of this place led them to request to remain as part of our campus and commit themselves to help in saving this special place.”

The students who attend Wheeling, Favede said, are special. “Wheeling’s students have, in some ways, renewed my hope in humanity ... Our students are astounding human beings who possess the ability to change the world. This campus is overrun with these brilliant, young, generous souls ... every day, this University teaches all of us how to be a person for others – it’s a beautiful concept isn’t it?”

She explained that remaining true to the founding principles and mission must always be a priority. “Since

1954, Wheeling has given students opportunities to grow through traditional learning models, experiential experiences, internships, community service, and faculty-guided research ... Our mission is more than words on a page – it is a part of our soul as a university. It is woven into every aspect of university life – not just for our students, but our faculty and employees.”

“At Wheeling University, we prepare our students to enter the world engaged, involved in their communities, taught to use their God-given talents not just for personal fulfillment, but in service to others. At Wheeling University, teaching strength of char-

acter will always be our calling. At Wheeling University, we will always educate students for life, leadership, and service. At Wheeling University, our mission will always be to be men and women in service to others ... to produce intelligent, moral leaders who will champion the Ignatian values of faith, peace, and justice,” she added.

Favede ended, “Bishop Brennan, members of the Board of Trustees, thank you for the faith you have placed in me. I am beyond blessed to be given the mission to lead this magnificent place. Please join me as we continue to carry our mission forward, guided by our Catholic faith to work together, serving one another and the Lord to make the world a better place.”

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Special Collection Set for Jan. 1-2 to Support Recovery Efforts in Kentucky

Donate on the Diocese of
Wheeling-Charleston's website:
dwc.org/disasterrelief

Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of Jan. 1 and 2 in all parishes and missions of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred in Kentucky, leaving severe damage and significant loss of life. Donations can also be made at your parish or on the diocesan website at dwc.org/disasterrelief.

Proceeds will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities agencies on the ground, working in the communities affected by the tornadoes.

Please remember in prayer all those who have lost their lives in the wake of these disasters, as well as all those who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water, especially as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.

Above: Debbie Cansler stands in what remains of the upstairs portion of her home in Dawson Springs, Ky., Dec. 13 after tornadoes ripped through several U.S. states. CNS Photo/Jon Cherry, Reuters



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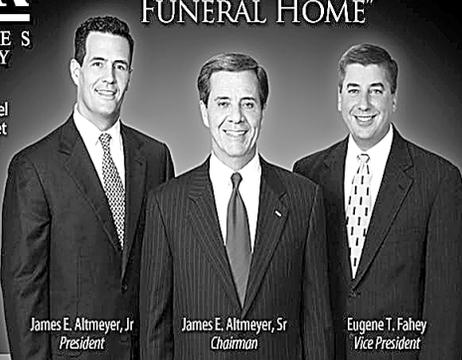
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Jesus' Humble Birth a Reminder of God's Love for Humanity, Pope Says

By **Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The birth of the son of God in a humble stable, in the presence of both lowly shepherds and majestic Magi, is a “universal event that concerns all of humanity,” Pope Francis said.

During his weekly general audience Dec. 22, the pope said that only through humility can one truly understand God and oneself because it “opens us up to the experience of truth, of authentic joy, of knowing what matters.”

“The Magi may have even been great according to the world’s logic, but they made themselves lowly, humble, and precisely because of this they succeeded in finding Jesus and recognizing him. They accepted the humility of seeking, of setting out on a journey, of asking, of taking a risk, of making a mistake,” he said.

Among those present in the Paul VI audience hall were a group of asylum-seekers who, with the pope’s help, arrived in Italy Dec. 16 from Cyprus under a special humanitarian visa program.

Pope Francis thanked Italian authorities for facilitating their transfer and said those who seek refuge and a better life are not just the concern of the country they arrive in but “for all of humanity.”

“All we need to do is to open one door: the door of the heart,” the pope said. “Let us not forget that this Christmas.”

During the audience, the pope paused his series of talks on St. Joseph to reflect on the coming celebration of Christ’s humble birth in Bethlehem.

“Let’s think (about that),” he said. “The Creator of

the universe was not given a place to be born.”

The shepherds, who visited the manger after receiving an announcement of Jesus’ birth by an angel, “personify the poor of Israel, lowly people who interiorly live with the awareness of their own want.”

“Precisely for this reason, they trust more than others in God. They were the first to see the son of God made man, and this encounter changed them deeply,” the pope said.

While little is known of the Magi, he continued, their journey to find Jesus represents those “who have sought God down through the ages, and who set out on a journey to find him.”

“They also represent the rich and powerful, but only those who are not slaves to possessions, who are not ‘possessed’ by the things they believe they possess,” he added.

Despite the vast differences between the shepherds and the Magi, both shared in the joy of Jesus’ birth because their humility led them to see God. The pope said that for Christians, humility “leads us also to the essentials of life, to its truest meaning, to the most trustworthy reason for why life is truly worth living.”

The celebration of Christmas, he added, is a time to invite everyone, especially the poor and those who do not believe in God, to see the “reason for our joy.”

The reason, Pope Francis said, is “knowing that we are loved without any merit, we are always loved first by God, with a love so concrete that he took on flesh and came to live in our midst. This love has a name and a face: Jesus is his name, he is the face of love — this is the foundation of our joy.”



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis kisses a young boy during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Dec. 22.

COVID-19 Vaccines Present ‘No Ethical Problem,’ Says Head of Papal Academy

By **Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has reaffirmed its support of COVID-19 vaccines with both the head of the Pontifical Academy for Life and a Holy See communique reiterating Pope Francis’ insistence that getting inoculated is “an act of love.”

The Holy See issued its written communique Dec. 22 following the publication the same day of an executive summary by the Vatican’s COVID-19 Commission and a note by the Pontifical Academy for Life; both documents were dedicated to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children.

At the documents’ presentation, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the papal academy, told Catholic News Service that authorized COVID-19 vaccines present no ethical dilemma, while refusing them is irresponsible toward oneself and others.

Archbishop Paglia said the church has long been very careful and attentive to the morality of vaccines using cell lines developed decades ago from the tissue of aborted fetuses. It has established that “there is no ethical problem” for the recipient and no cooperation with evil because of the “remoteness” of the original abortions.

“Rather, the problem is the inverse.

The risk is the irresponsibility toward oneself and others” by refusing vaccination against a deadly disease, he said.

Also, all vaccines for adults and children, he explained, “must be safe, authorized and guaranteed” by the proper authorities.

Dr. Alberto Villani, an academy member and head of general pediatrics and infectious diseases at the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome, told CNS it also is important to remember the ethical dilemma caused by those who intentionally refuse vaccination against COVID-19 and fall seriously ill, requiring hospitalization.

This takes up limited spaces and equipment in hospital intensive care units, denying immediate or adequate care for others, he said.

Villani said it also was questionable when people argue that “only a few” people die or get seriously ill from COVID-19, as if there were “an ethical threshold” of an acceptable number of deaths when in reality each single life has value.

The Holy See statement comes one year after the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published its “Note on the morality of using some anti-COVID-19 vaccines.” Therefore, the Vatican said, “it seemed opportune to reaffirm the favorable position of

the Holy See toward vaccines.”

“The Holy Father has defined vaccination an ‘act of love’ seeing as how it aims to protect people against COVID-19,” the communique said. Pope Francis also has repeated the need for the international community to increase cooperation so that “everyone has quick access to vaccines, not as a matter of convenience, but of justice,” it added.

The statement comes as there is ongoing opposition to authorized COVID-19 vaccines and concerns about the morality of using vaccines that used — in either the development or testing phases — cell lines developed decades ago from the tissue of aborted fetuses.

The three vaccines approved for use in the U.S. — Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen — all rely on abortion-derived cell lines, the first two in testing and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine throughout the development, testing and production stages.

In a December 2020 document, the U.S. bishops reiterated Catholic teaching on morally compromised vaccines, noting their use can be justified amid urgent health crises, a lack of available alternatives and their remote connection with the abortions from which their cell lines originated.

The bishops’ document echoes the guidance issued by the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation, which said in its note Dec. 21, 2020, that “all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion.”

However, the doctrinal congregation emphasized that “the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines.”

The congregation repeated the Vatican’s call on pharmaceutical companies and governmental agencies to produce, approve and distribute ethically acceptable vaccines, that is, without using morally compromised cell lines at all.

The doctrinal office also said that “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary.” But from an ethical point of view, “the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one’s own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good,” it added.

Archbishop Lori: FDA Decision on Medical Abortion Puts Women's Lives, Health at Risk

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By no longer requiring the abortion drug mifepristone to be picked up in person, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is “merely succumbing to the abortion industry’s pressure to loosen safety standards,” instead of protecting the lives and health of mothers and children as it should do, said the U.S. bishops’ pro-life chairman.

“Every life is sacred: the lives of mothers and the lives of the unborn,” said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “Not only does this decision further the tragic taking of unborn lives but it does little to care for the well-being of women in need.”

“Far from the accompaniment that women in crisis pregnancies deserve, this decision would leave women alone in the midst of trauma, often without any medical attention or follow-up care,” he said in a statement issued late Dec. 16.

Earlier in the day, the FDA announced it would permanently lift its requirement that a prescription for the abortion drug be picked up in person, which now allows clinics,

medical offices and hospitals to prescribe the drug via telemedicine and send it directly to the patient by mail or through a mail-order pharmacy.

The agency said “the benefits of the drug outweigh the risks,” but it added a requirement that pharmacies that dispense the drug be “specially certified.”

Under the Biden administration, the FDA had temporarily lifted the in-person requirement amid the pandemic in April of this year, and said a full review of the regulation would be conducted.

The FDA voluntarily took this action when faced with a court order fought for and obtained in 2020 by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of supporters of legal abortion that would have forced the agency to lift the in-person requirement.

The brand name for the abortion drug mifepristone is Mifeprex. Also called RU-486, it is used to end a pregnancy during the first 10 weeks.

It is a two-drug regimen: A woman takes mifepristone first to block the body’s progesterone and stop the pregnancy from advancing. Then a day or two later, this is followed by a second drug, misoprostol, which causes cramping and bleeding to empty the uterus.

The protocol was first approved in 2000 with limits on its distribution. The FDA placed it in a special category — “risk evaluation and mitigation strategy” — which it does for drugs that may be associated with life-threatening side effects, according to the National Right to Life Committee.

“One of the essential tasks of governments is to safeguard the health and well-being of citizens,” but instead the FDA has loosened its health safety standards with its decision, Archbishop Lori said.

“I call on leaders of every level of government to stand with women in need by promoting policies that recognize the value and human dignity of both mother and child, rather than further promoting the devastating tragedy of abortion,” he said.

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said the FDA decision does not “make this abortion process safer for women. What these changes do is make the process easier for the abortion industry.”

“The FDA knows the dangers of this abortion drug combination, but in the name of political expediency, has lifted the safety measure requiring an in-person doctor’s visit,” she said in a Dec. 16

statement.

The American Medical Association and other major medical groups have said mifepristone has built up a strong safety record since 2000.

But according to the National Right to Life Committee, the FDA “has a record of nearly two dozen deaths and thousands of complications associated with the use of the mifepristone/misoprostol abortion-drug combination.” Agency documentation also describes “adverse events” from the use of the two drugs, including serious infections and severe hemorrhaging, the committee said.

“Making this change permanent puts women at greater risk because they may not be adequately screened to make sure they have no disqualifying conditions like allergies or ectopic pregnancy and are not so far along that the drugs will not work or are more likely to result in life-threatening complications,” said Randall K. O’ Bannon, director of education and research at the National Right to Life Committee.

“Without that screening or monitoring, the likelihood of hemorrhage, infection and missed ectopic pregnancy are greatly increased,” O’ Bannon added in a statement. “There is a greater possibility that a

woman experiencing these adverse events may end up in the emergency room and could arrive too late for life-saving treatment.”

Georgeanne Usova, senior legislative counsel at the ACLU, said in a statement: “The FDA’s decision will come as a tremendous relief for countless abortion and miscarriage patients.”

The ACLU considered the in-person requirement “a medically unnecessary restriction and outdated.”

Like other opponents of the FDA decision, Melanie Israel, policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation’s DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society, called it “a surrender to the abortion industry’s demands” and said it “comes at the expense of women’s health and safety.”

Israel urged Congress and state lawmakers to “counteract the FDA’s decision” and protect life and women’s health “with new policies that prohibit telemedicine abortions, strengthen informed-consent requirements and ensure stronger reporting requirements to better track complications.”

According to CNN, 19 states already have prohibitions in place “that effectively ban the use of telemedicine for medication abortion.”

Pope Names Cardinal Czerny Interim Head of Dicastery

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thanking Cardinal Peter Turkson for his five years of service as prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Pope Francis has decided to name new leadership for the office, said a Vatican communique.

Beginning Jan. 1 and for a limited time, Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny will serve as prefect and Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli will continue to serve as interim secretary, Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, said in a statement Dec. 23.

In August 2016, Pope Francis had announced the formation of the dicastery by merging the former pontifical councils for Justice and Peace, Cor Unum, Migrants and Travelers, and Health Care Ministry.

The dicastery began operations Jan. 1, 2017, under statutes approved for a five-year experimental period. The pope tapped Cardinal Turkson, who had led the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace since 2009, to lead the office for that five-year period.

With that mandate up, Bruni said, all the “superiors” of the office offered Pope Francis their resignations. Those superiors apparently included Cardinal Czerny and Scalabrinian Father Fabio Baggio, both of whom were undersecretaries of the dicastery’s Migrants and Refugees Section. Bruni did not say if Father Baggio will continue in his role.

Rumors about the dicastery leadership offering the pope their resignations began a week before the Vatican announcement.

Presenting Pope Francis’ message for World Peace Day 2022 at a Vatican news conference Dec. 21, the 73-year-old Cardinal Turkson told reporters, “All assignments, appointments in the Holy See have a five-year limit. And when five years are up, it is expected that we place our mandate back in the hands of the Holy Father and await whether he confirms, reassigns or prolongs the appointment.”

The cardinal, who’d had a private meeting with the pope Dec. 20, did not provide any details about the meeting. All he would tell reporters Dec. 21 was that he was waiting to

hear from Pope Francis.

“If the Holy Father decides to have me continue, that’s what it is. If he decides to reassign me, that’s what it is,” he said. “All of us come here to help and support the Holy Father in his ministry.”

Cardinal Turkson, who was born in Nsuta-Wassaw, Ghana, is the only African currently heading a major Vatican office.

Cardinal Czerny, a 75-year-old Jesuit who was born in the Czech Republic but grew up in Canada, has been one of the two undersecretaries for migrants and refugees since the dicastery was founded. Pope Francis ordained him a bishop and inducted him into the College of Cardinals in 2019.

In March, Pope Francis had named Sister Smerilli, an Italian economist, undersecretary for faith and development at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. He named her interim secretary of the dicastery in August after the resignations of Msgr. Bruno-Marie Duffé, secretary, and Argentine Father Augusto Zampini, adjunct secretary.

The change in leadership at the dicastery comes not only at the end of the office’s first five years of existence, it also comes six months after Pope Francis asked Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago to conduct a visitation of the dicastery “in the context of a normal examination of the activity of the dicasteries, aimed at obtaining an updated understanding on the conditions in which they operate.”

Similar visitations had been conducted of the congregations for Clergy and for Divine Worship and the Sacraments before new prefects were appointed for each.

Cardinal Turkson continues to serve as a member of congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith, Catholic Education, Divine Worship and the Sacraments and the Evangelization of Peoples, as well as the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The former archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana, Cardinal Turkson has worked at the Vatican since 2009 when Pope Benedict XVI called him to lead the then-Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Vatican Answers Questions on Limits Regarding Pre-Vatican II Mass

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Responding to 11 questions it said had been raised about Pope Francis' document restricting celebrations of the pre-Vatican II Mass, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments offered a few concessions to bishops but insisted the entire Latin-rite Catholic Church must move toward celebrating only one form of the Mass and sacraments.

"It is sad to see how the deepest bond of unity, the sharing in the one bread broken which is his body offered so that all may be one, becomes a cause for division," wrote Archbishop Arthur Roche, prefect of the congregation, in a document published Dec. 18.

In a formal "responsa ad dubia" — response to questions — Archbishop Roche said, "It is the duty of the bishops, cum Petro et sub Petro (with and under Peter, the pope), to safeguard communion, which, as the apostle Paul reminds us, is a necessary condition for being able to participate at the eucharistic table."

Writing to the presidents of bishops' conferences, the archbishop said, "As pastors we must not lend ourselves to sterile polemics, capable only of creating division, in which the ritual itself is often exploited by ideological viewpoints."

In July, Pope Francis promulgated his apostolic letter "Traditionis Custodes" (Guardians of the Tradition), declaring the liturgical books promulgated after the Second Vatican Council to be "the unique expression of the 'lex orandi' (law of worship) of the Roman Rite," restoring the obligation of priests to have their bishops' permission to celebrate according to the "extraordinary" or pre-Vatican II Mass and

ordering bishops not to establish any new groups or parishes in their dioceses devoted to the old liturgy.

The document overturned or severely restricted the permissions St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had given to celebrate the so-called Tridentine-rite Mass as an outreach to followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre and to minister to Catholics attached to the older ritual.

In his document, Pope Francis asked bishops to "designate one or more locations where the faithful adherents of these groups may gather for the Eucharistic celebration," but he said those locations should not be parish churches and the bishops should not establish new "personal parishes" solely for celebrations in the old rite.

Archbishop Roche said several bishops asked if it would be possible for them to request permission from the Vatican to allow the celebrations in parish churches when other suitable locations were not available.

"The exclusion of the parish church is intended to affirm that the celebration of the Eucharist according to the previous rite, being a concession limited to these groups, is not part of the ordinary life of the parish community," the archbishop wrote.

However, he said the Vatican would consider bishops' requests for exceptions, but "such a celebration should not be included in the parish Mass schedule, since it is attended only by the faithful who are members of the said group. Finally, it should not be held at the same time as the pastoral activities of the parish community."

And, he said, "it is to be understood that when another venue becomes available, this permission will be withdrawn."

Another question regarded the use of other pre-Vatican II rituals for the celebrations of other sacraments. Archbishop Roche said that baptisms, confession, marriages and the anointing of the sick could be celebrated according to the old rites, but not confirmation or ordination. And, he said, that permission is limited to "personal parishes" totally dedicated to the celebration of the older liturgy.

On other questions:

— Archbishop Roche said a priest who does not recognize "the validity and legitimacy of concelebration" and, particularly, who refuses to concelebrate, even at the annual chrism Mass with the bishop, must not be given permission to celebrate the old rite since the refusal "seems to express a lack of accept-

ance of the liturgical reform and a lack of ecclesial communion with the bishop."

— He said the insistence in "Traditionis Custodes" that a bishop obtain from the Vatican permission to allow a priest ordained after the document's publication to celebrate the old liturgy "is not merely a consultative opinion, but a necessary authorization."

— Deacons and other instituted ministers participating in celebrations of the old rite also must have the permission of the bishop, just like the priests presiding do.

— A priest who celebrates a weekday Mass according to the current rite of the Catholic Church cannot celebrate a second Mass according to the old rite on the same day.

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New Virtual Learning Courses Available

Three, five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly, live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of the books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, and phone number.

The New Testament Cycle 1 **Jan. 17 - Feb. 20**

(Registration open)

This course explores the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. The course is a general overview introducing the student to the cultural context, composition, themes, and pastoral application of the New Testament accounts for growing in Biblical knowledge. We will study the texts from the threefold perspective of the World within the Text: Literature, The World behind the Text: History, and the World in Front of the Text: Our Culture. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

Introduction to Prayer Cycle 2 **March 7 - April 9**

(Registration opens Jan. 19)

"Prayer is our means of taking a sighting, of reorienting ourselves – by reestablishing contact with our goal. In the presence of God many components of our life fall into perspective and our journey makes more sense. Prayer is inseparable from living." (Casey, p.5). This course explores prayer as essential to our lives as Christian people, as individuals, and within our community of faith. Through this course, students will explore the qualities, forms, and expressions of prayer that help to form and sustain our lives as Catholic Christians.

Survey of Catholic Doctrine **Cycle 3 April 25 - May 15**

(Registration opens March 9)

This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. Participants will be asked to identify the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.

Vienna Parish's Giving Tree Helps Provide Food for the Homeless in the Community



Courtesy Photo
The annual Advent Giving Tree at St. Michael Parish in Vienna benefits The Stone Soup Kitchen at St. Francis Xavier Parish in downtown Parkersburg. Once again, St. Michael parishioners have been overwhelmingly generous. Their provisions for the soup kitchen are shown above under the tree. They have helped restock the shelves to feed the homeless and hungry for over seven years.

Employment Opportunity: Full-Time Campus Minister, Shepherd University

The Campus Minister, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values articulated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement.

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad program of campus ministry for the Catholic Community of students and faculty at Shepherd University based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit and the new evangelization.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry at Shepherd University; coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries in collaboration with the designated priest Chaplain; develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, Chancery supervisor, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services including retreats, faith-sharing groups and other formational events, appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; manage day to day operation of the Campus Center, including buildings and properties, as well as maintain its website and social media; represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community building relationships and networks among faculty, staff, administration and students; form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus; work irregular hours including weekends and evenings; regularly communicates with and sends reports to Chancery supervisor; collaborates with the Department of Formation & Mission, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Office of Social Ministry, as well as other campus ministers in offering opportunities relevant to young adults; supervises and supports any campus ministry volunteers and committees; and recruits and supports volunteer campus peer ministers.

QUALIFICATIONS: Holds a master's degree in theology, or related field preferred; C.C.M.A. Certification preferred (or willing to pursue certification); is able to give evidence of personal commitment and witness to, and sound knowledge of, the teachings and life of the Catholic Church; has practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs; experience in and knowledge of campus life; interpersonal communication and effective presentation skills; and must possess a valid driver's license. Bi-lingual proficiency English/Spanish, a plus.

Interested candidates may forward a cover letter and resume to mwalsh@dwc.org.

Register for January TEC



TEC stands for Teens Encounter Christ. TEC is an international, spiritual-renewal movement in the Catholic Church that strives to bring young people and adults into close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. TEC is a community, led by the Holy Spirit, that gathers people into Christian groups of faith, while attempting to incorporate its ministry into the overall ministry of their members' dioceses and parishes.

The next TEC retreat that will take place in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be held from Friday, January 14th to Monday, January 17th, at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, West Virginia.

It will be free for all teens who are in their junior year of high school through first year of college.

You can register to attend or volunteer at this retreat on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's website (dwc.org) and clicking Events at the top right of the home page.

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<https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/tec/>

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Katherine worked with Catholic Charities Case Manager Joe Sparksman to set goals for herself. Katherine learned about budgeting and saving money. She and Joe identified opportunities and obstacles to reaching her goals.

The family is now thriving in their new home and working toward new goals. "Joe was our mentor. He helped walk us through everything, set us up with the programs we needed to get our life straight," said Katherine. "We were

able to save and pay our first month's rent at a [new] house [Catholic Charities] connected us with."

It might feel difficult to give money to someone you've never met. But when you donate to Catholic Charities West Virginia, your gift is helping a neighbor in need. And that person is being treated with dignity.

The second collection at all Christmas Masses will go directly to benefit clients of Catholic Charities. Please give generously so your neighbors can receive the services they need to be happy, healthy, and reach their full potential.

Merry Christmas!

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and this program, visit 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.

St. Agnes Knights Present Coats for Kids in Kearneysville



Courtesy Photo
At North Jefferson Elementary School in Kearneysville, Bob Rizzo of the St. Agnes Knights of Columbus presents coats for kids in need, collected by the council, to Guidance Counselor Vickie Taylor. The council has given 120 new coats throughout the area.



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Papa: El humilde nacimiento de Jesús muestra amor de Dios por la humanidad

Por Junno Arocho Esteves,
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—El nacimiento del hijo de Dios en un humilde establo, en presencia tanto de humildes pastores como de magos majestuosos, es un "evento universal que concierne a toda la humanidad", dijo el papa Francisco.

Durante su audiencia general semanal del 22 de diciembre, el papa dijo que solo a través de la humildad se puede comprender verdaderamente a Dios y a uno mismo porque "nos abre a la experiencia de la verdad, del gozo auténtico, de saber lo que importa".

"Los Magos pueden haber sido incluso grandes según la lógica del mundo, pero se hicieron humildes, humildes, y precisamente por eso lograron encontrar a Jesús y reconocerlo. Aceptaron la humildad de buscar, de emprender un camino, de preguntar, de correr riesgos, de equivocarse", dijo.

Entre los presentes en la sala de audiencias de Pablo VI se encontraba un grupo de solicitantes de asilo que, con la ayuda del papa, llegaron a Italia el 16 de diciembre de Chipre bajo un programa especial de visas humanitarias.

El papa Francisco agradeció a las autoridades italianas por facilitar su traslado y dijo que quienes buscan refugio y una vida mejor no son solo preocupación del

país al que llegan, sino "de toda la humanidad".

"Lo que tenemos que hacer es abrir una puerta: la puerta del corazón", dijo el papa. "No lo olvidemos esta Navidad".

Durante la audiencia, el papa hizo una pausa en su serie de charlas sobre San José para reflexionar sobre la próxima celebración del humilde nacimiento de Cristo en Belén.

"Pensemos (en eso)", dijo. "Al Creador del universo no se le dio un lugar para nacer".

Los pastores, que visitaron el pesebre tras recibir un anuncio del nacimiento de Jesús por parte de un ángel, "personifican a los pobres de Israel, gente humilde que vive interiormente con la conciencia de su propia miseria".

"Precisamente por eso, ellos confían más que otros en Dios. Fueron los primeros en ver al hijo de Dios hecho hombre, y este encuentro los cambió profundamente", dijo el papa.

Si bien se sabe poco de los magos, continuó, su viaje para encontrar a Jesús representa a aquellos "que han buscado a Dios a lo largo de los siglos y que emprendieron un viaje para encontrarlo".

"También representan a los ricos y poderosos, pero solo a aquellos que no son esclavos de las posesiones, que no están 'poseídos' por las cosas que creen que poseen", agregó.



Foto CNS/Paul Haring

El papa Francisco saluda a la gente durante su audiencia general en el aula Pablo VI en el Vaticano el 22 de diciembre de 2021.

A pesar de las grandes diferencias entre los pastores y los magos, ambos compartieron la alegría del nacimiento de Jesús porque su humildad los llevó a ver a Dios. El papa dijo que para los cristianos, la humildad "nos lleva también a lo esencial de la vida, a su significado más verdadero, a la razón más confiable de por qué la vida realmente vale la pena vivirla".

La celebración de la Navidad, agregó, es un momento para invitar

a todos, especialmente a los pobres y los que no creen en Dios, a ver el "motivo de nuestra alegría".

La razón, dijo el papa Francisco, es "saber que somos amados sin ningún mérito, siempre somos amados primero por Dios, con un amor tan concreto que se encarnó y vino a vivir entre nosotros. Este amor tiene un nombre y un rostro: Jesús es su nombre, él es el rostro del amor, este es el fundamento de nuestro gozo".

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 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.

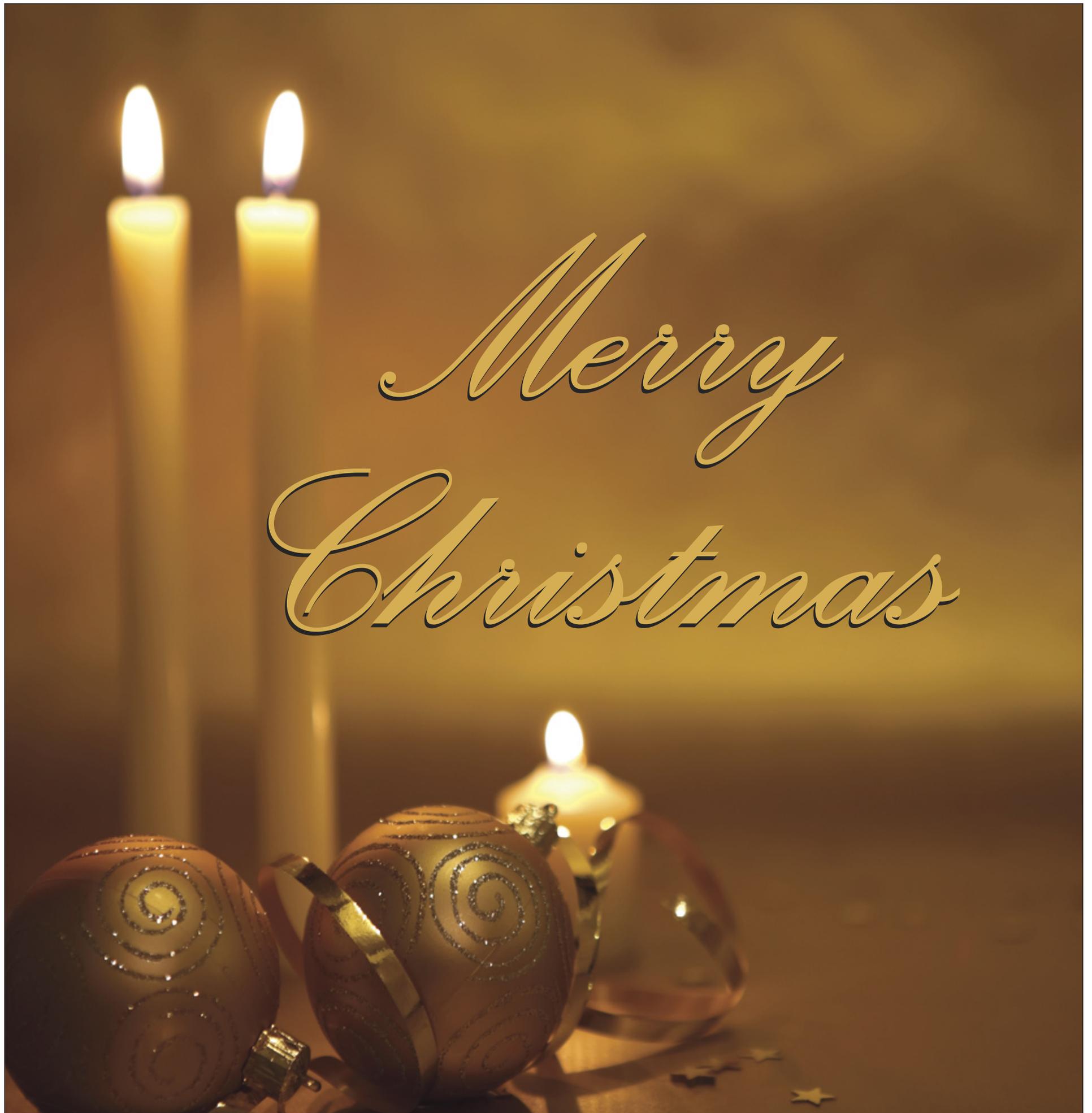
Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, 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, 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, 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.



Merry Christmas

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