

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Jourden Travis Moger Ordained Deacon

By Colleen Rowan

“Your model as a deacon and later as a priest should be the Lord himself,” Bishop Mark Brennan said to Jourden Travis Moger moments before ordaining him to the diaconate. The ordination was held just days before Christmas at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling gathering clergy, religious, and many happy faithful from around the diocese with Deacon Moger’s family and friends.

Deacon Moger is married and was an ordained Baptist minister who converted to Catholicism six years ago. Bishop Brennan ordained him a transitional deacon Dec. 21 on path to ordination to the priesthood, having been approved by the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and personally dispensed from the promise of celibacy by Pope Francis.

The diaconate is all about service, Bishop Brennan said in his homily at the ordination Mass. “Our candidate for this order, Jordan Travis Moger, is no stranger to service,” the bishop said, pointing to his education in divinity school and service to Baptist congregations as a minister, his more than 20 years as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, and his marriage to his wife Amelia—together raising four children to know and love God and neighbor.

“Travis, you have served your family, your God, his disciples, and your country,” Bishop Brennan said. “God called you to serve and you have responded. And in God’s providence you met a few Catholic priests who enlightened you about our Church and its teachings... That, coupled with your study of Church history and, in particular, your prayer and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, that led you to embrace the Catholic faith.”

Although it meant forgoing his Navy chaplain career, the bishop said, Deacon Moger along with his wife and their son Mark entered the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2018 at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Purcellville, Va. Having sensed early on a call to be of service to God’s people and having exercised that call, he then pondered the possibility of—as a married, former Baptist minister—receiving Holy Orders in the Catholic Church as Catholic priests in the Latin Rite do not marry.

“We follow the Lord Jesus literally in holy celibacy,” the bishop said. “And while celibacy has its unique challenges and is no guarantee of the personal holiness of the celibate, nonetheless priestly celibacy has been over many centuries shown to be of great spiritual benefit to the Catholic Church. The personal experience of many of us here this morning can testify to the holy and generous celibate priests we have known.”

The Latin Rite has exceeded all the other rites
See “Moger” on Page 3



Bishop Mark Brennan ordains Deacon Jourden Travis Moger to the diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Dec. 21. Colleen Rowan photo

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

2025 Issues and Print Dates:

- Month of the Holy Family, February 7
- Lent, March 7
- Easter, April 18
- Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23
- Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15
- Triumph of the Cross, September 12
- Month of the Rosary, October 3
- Advent, November 21
- Christmas, December 19

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan, clergy, and the congregation at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling give a round of applause to Deacon Jourden Travis Moger at the end of the Election of the Candidate during his ordination to the diaconate Dec. 21.

Moger...

Cont'd from Page 1

of the Church in responding to the Lord's command to evangelize the nations owing very much to celibate priests and religious, the bishop said.

The Latin Rite of the Catholic Church will continue to choose, as priests, men who receive from the Lord the charism of celibacy, trusting that he will provide enough such candidates to meet the pastoral needs of the Church, Bishop Brennan said.

"He hasn't failed yet. He won't fail in the future," the bishop said. "But this confidence in the Lord's providential care for his celibate priesthood allows the Church to make exceptions where they are judged appropriate."

Turning to Deacon Moger, the bishop continued, saying, "Having considered your early sense of a call to ministerial service, your living out of that call in a church where married clergy were the norm, and your decision for reasons of faith and conscience to become a Catholic, Pope Francis, his advisors, and I have decided that you merit that exception."

The bishop then spoke of the

abiding value of the diaconate, which was instituted in the Apostolic Age to meet the needs of the growing church. Deacons served with distinction for some centuries before becoming in practice the final step toward ordination to the priesthood.

"Wisely, the Second Vatican Council restored the permanent diaconate and we now have a solid corps of permanent deacons in our diocese, a number of whom are present with us this morning," Bishop Brennan said. "But whether a man remains a deacon for the rest of his life or transitions to the priesthood, the call to serve the needs of God's people remains the heart of this first rung on the ladder of Holy Orders."

As a deacon, the bishop said, Deacon Moger will proclaim the Word of God in preaching, teaching, and counseling; will offer the Church's sacraments by administering Holy Communion; and, if the occasion arises, baptizing, witnessing marriages, and conducting funerals; and help people in their spiritual and material needs.

"And when you stand by the altar, you will be an icon of the unity of the love of God and the love of neigh-

bor," the bishop said to him. "Your very person testifying to both."

In the second reading for the Mass (1 Timothy 2:8-10, 12-13), St. Paul says, regarding men to be chosen as deacons, "they should be tested first; then, if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons."

"Travis, you have been tested over many years and nothing has been said against you," the bishop said to him. "You are a worthy candidate for the diaconal service in the Church."

The bishop told him that grace of Holy Orders will enhance his commitment to that service, giving added strength in serving God's people. As a deacon, he will speak and act in the name of Christ and his Church.

"Keep in mind then his warning in the Gospel not to abuse your legitimate authority which you will exercise under my and your pastor's supervision," the bishop cautioned. "As an old priest said, 'Be kind, be kind, be kind.' You will know a lot more about Christian Doctrine and Church history than most people but do not be overbearing, lest they be turned away by the messenger and lose the benefit of the message. Your model as a deacon and later as a priest

should be the Lord himself. The son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. Ministry involves suffering, but we take it on knowing that if we are united to Christ our suffering on his people's behalf is redemptive. Serve well as a deacon and, God willing, next spring we will gather again so that I may ordain you a priest."

The Rite of Ordination

The Rite of Ordination began before the homily with the Election of the Candidate as Deacon Moger came to stand before the bishop.

"Relying on the help of the Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ, we choose this man, our brother, for the Order of the Diaconate," the bishop said at the end. This was met with a round of applause from the bishop, clergy, and the congregation.

In the Promise of the Elect (which began after the homily), Deacon Moger stood before the bishop and promised to serve the people of God as a deacon. Those

See "Moger" on Page 4



Colleen Rowan photo

The bishop, clergy, and all gathered pray the Litany of Supplication as Deacon Moger prostrates himself before the altar during his ordination to the diaconate.

Moger...

Cont'd from Page 3
gathered at the cathedral then prayed the Litany of Supplication as he prostrated himself before the altar. Deacon Moger then knelt before the bishop, who laid his hands on his head and prayed the Prayer

of Ordination. Deacon Moger was vested with the stole and dalmatic (vestments of a deacon) by his wife and Deacon Larry Hammell.

Deacon Moger then knelt before the bishop who placed the Book of Gospels in his hands, saying: "Receive the Gospel of

Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Deacon Moger then received the Kiss of Peace from his brother deacons.

Deacon Jourden Travis Moger

Deacon Moger has been undergoing training through Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., for the past year to form him in the Catholic understanding of ministry.

Deacon Moger's wife is a pediatric nurse. He said she has been his biggest supporter throughout his life's journey. She also teaches third grade CCD at their parish and just finished a two-year master catechist formation program in the Diocese of Arlington, Va.

They were married July 28, 1990, in Livermore Falls, Maine. They have four children: Natalie Hynes (32), Nadine Klein (29), Madeline Moger (27), and Mark Moger (25); and four grandchildren: Boaz Hynes (6), Ezra Hynes



Colleen Rowan photo

Deacons and seminarians pray the Litany of Supplication during Deacon Moger's ordination to the diaconate.



Colleen Rowan photo

Deacon Moger's son Mark and wife Amelia pray the Litany of Supplication during his ordination to the diaconate.

(5), Lydia Hynes (3), and Ada Klein (1).

Deacon Moger is originally from Ocala, Fla., and was ordained at Brassfield Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) in Creedmoor, N.C., in 1991. He received a master's in theology from Christendom College Graduate School of Theology in 2024; and a Ph.D. in

history from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) in 2011. He was a Fulbright Scholar, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Germany in 2005-2006; received his master of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993; and received a Bachelor of Arts from **See "Moger" on Page 5**



Colleen Rowan photo

Deacon Moger is vested with the stole and dalmatic (vestments of a deacon) by his wife Amelia and Deacon Larry Hammell.



Colleen Rowan photo

Deacon Moger receives the Kiss of Peace from his brother deacons.

Moger...

Cont'd from Page 4

Dallas Baptist University (summa cum laude) in 1988.

Deacon Moger also has extensive military service. He has a 26-year military career as a U.S. Navy chaplain and retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve with the rank of captain in

2018. He served in combat in Iraq as chaplain for the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment (infantry) in 2003. In federal civil service from July 2017 to December 2023, he

worked as a full-time historian for the U.S. Army Center of Military History and for the Naval History and Heritage Command, both in Washington, D.C.



Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Brennan, clergy, and seminarians are pictured with Deacon Moger after his ordination to the diaconate.

Young Mother Completes Program at Martinsburg Maternity Center

By Meg H. Partington

MARTINSBURG—With confidence earned by overcoming some of life's most difficult challenges and support from a Martinsburg maternity center, a young single mother is stepping into a new home and a new chapter of her life.

Savannah Smith (not her real name) is the first guest of Mary's Refuge to complete the program by reaching the goals she set for herself, including having a stable job and saving enough money so she can live on her own.

"Once they reach their goals and they're ready, it's their time," said Allison Ferrell, executive director of Mary's Refuge.

The 20-year-old has had a job working the night shift at Procter & Gamble since August 2023, got a car and a learner's permit, and has two lessons left to complete her driver training in hopes of obtaining a license. She moved into her new home on Dec. 19 with her son, who will turn 2 in April 2025.

Smith moved into Mary's Refuge — the first maternity home in the Eastern Panhandle — in March 2023, just a few weeks before her son's birth.

A day before she moved out of the building on Stephen Street just outside downtown Martinsburg, Smith said she was stressed about packing and relocating her personal belongings, but was clear about what most excited her about the next stage of her life: "Freedom."

She was ready to be free of the worries that plagued her as a pregnant teen, when she often had insufficient food, hydration and hygiene items, and lived in a home infested with bed bugs. She was free from homelessness, which she experienced several times because of her now ex-boyfriend's behavior, which led them to repeatedly get kicked out of residences.

Smith attributed her success to staying focused on her goals and said she would advise other young single mothers currently going through what she did to "stay yourself."

"Just having a supportive environment and having people to talk with" was vital to Smith's progress, Ferrell said.

"I'm super proud of her," Ferrell said. "She has taken full advantage of what Mary's Refuge has to offer. She still has us as a support system to fall back on if needed."

In addition to being a place to



Meg H. Partington photo

A young mother who moved into Mary's Refuge—the first maternity home in the Eastern Panhandle—in March 2023 recently was the first to complete the program and move out on her own. Part of the home is shown above.

call home, the refuge offers budgeting and parenting classes, help with education and employment, and connections to resources for young mothers to rebuild their lives during pregnancy and after they give birth. They also have access to the nearby St. Joseph's Angels boutique, a ministry of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg.

Ferrell said the staff and volunteers at Mary's Refuge connected Smith with resources such as MountainHeart Community Services Inc. and Eastern Panhandle Instructional Cooperative (EPIC).

The maternity home opened Jan. 9, 2023, and is now occupied by 10 mothers and 16 children. A 17th child is due to arrive Dec. 30 after a scheduled C-section. Other women are on a waiting list.

"Her whole mindset was low self-esteem, not a lot of confidence," Petrlik said while describing Smith when they met for the first time through YoungLives, through which mentors walk alongside teen moms, link them with community resources and share the Gospel. Now, "This girl is not afraid to speak up for herself," she said.

With a stable living situation and people "speaking life into her," Petrlik said she witnessed in Smith an "almost complete 180 (degree turn) in who she is, what she stands for. Seeing that confidence and independence come has been the highlight."

Despite Smith's newfound independence, Petrlik is confident that their relationship will stay strong.

"I don't think it will change a bit," Petrlik said. "I can't see my life without them."

Petrlik's children, ages 14, 15 and 17, remarked to her recently how they can't imagine the Smiths not being part of their tight-knit circle, particularly the toddler.

"He's brought so much joy and happiness. He adds that extra joy and light," Petrlik said.

There certainly have been difficult times for Petrlik while she helped her mentee work through insecurities and fears. But every detour and downturn was worth it because neither of them gave up.

"I do not regret it; I wouldn't change it," Petrlik said. "God is surrounding her with the people he has designed to be in her life."

For more information about Mary's Refuge or to make a donation, call 304-350-1632; email life@marysrefuge.com; or go to marysrefuge.com.

(Meg H. Partington is administrative assistant at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.)

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St. Joseph School Students Honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

MARTINSBURG — St. Joseph School students in grades kindergarten through eight celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12. Costumed eighth-graders re-enacted the story of Saint Juan Diego, a peasant to whom the Blessed Mother Mary appeared in 1531 in a remote region of Mexico. She appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe, an Aztec princess with dark skin and native clothing, expectant with Jesus, and requested that Juan Diego go to the archbishop and request that a church be built in her honor on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City.

The archbishop did not believe that Mary appeared to a poor man and requested a sign of the Blessed Mother. The saint returned to Tepeyac Hill, where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared again, this time instructing

him to gather the roses that were miraculously blooming nearby and present them to the archbishop. Juan returned to the archbishop with the roses tucked in the folds of his cloak. As the roses fell to the ground at the feet of the archbishop, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was revealed on the surface of the garment. The archbishop accepted that as a sign and gave permission to begin building the church. Today, the basilica is among the most-visited Catholic shrines in the world.

The SJS students sang a traditional folk song titled “La Guadalupana,” and the eighth-graders led students in grades kindergarten through five on mini retreats that included saints bingo, recitation of the rosary, crafts about Mary and stories about her appearances around the world.



Courtesy photo
Eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg led a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 by re-enacting the story of a vision of the Blessed Mother that appeared to Saint Juan Diego in 1531. Students who portrayed Marian apparitions, as depicted in “Our Lady’s Wardrobe,” are shown with a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. From left are Grace Derrick, Elianna Kaudy, Shayla Do, Daphne Sama, Principal Maria Byrd, Sara Vloedman, Mia MacDonald, and Addison Michael.



Courtesy photo
Eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg led a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 by re-enacting the story of a vision of the Blessed Mother that appeared to Saint Juan Diego in 1531. From left are student Brock Riggleman; teacher Sarah Middlemiss; students Henry Hilton, Alaina Ala, Adelyn Alter, Matthew Billmyer, Jeremiah Simpson, Franklin Koons, Isaac Antonetti, Noah Harding, Jahziel Araujo-Ramirez, Madison Regalia, Matteo Furman, Alexis Dinh, Grace Derrick, Addison Michael, Shayla Do, Mia MacDonald, Elianna Kaudy, Sara Vloedman, Nathalie Palma Vasquez, Daphne Sama, and Camille Frail; Father Thomas Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg; Father Joyson Varghese, parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish; and teacher Amariliz Kelley.

Hurricane Knights Remind All of the Reason for the Season



Courtesy photo
Knights of Columbus Council 9483 of Hurricane reminds the community of the reason for the season with the "Keep Christ in Christmas!" sign. From left are council members Bob Matheny, Tanner Westfall, Mike Page, and Will Dempsey.

Martin Luther King Events in Wheeling Announced

WHEELING — The Martin Luther King Celebration Committee has announced a lively schedule of events designed to honor the memory of King and promote the equality, peace, and brotherhood that he worked to achieve.

Committee Chair Ron Scott Jr., YWCA Wheeling Culture and Diversity director, invites the community to attend the events. All are free.

Scott said the MLK observation continues to be relevant more than 50 years after King's death. Racism and religious persecution continue today. "It's important that we keep the dream alive amidst the wars, hatred, and religious persecution that still continue," he said.

This year's events include the following:

Friday, Jan. 17

- Rabbi Joshua Lief will preside at Shabbat Service, Temple Shalom, 23 Bethany Pike, Wheeling, 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Saturday, Jan. 18

- Student Panel Discussion, 2 p.m., Wheeling University Troy Theater

- Ohio Valley Festival for Filmmakers of Color 7 p.m., Wheeling University Troy Theater

- MLK March, 2:15 p.m. All are invited to join this year's MLK March, with marchers gathering at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at the Windmill atop Martin Luther King Boulevard. The march, which will begin at 2:15 p.m., will end at West Virginia Northern Community College, 1704 Market Street, Wheeling.

Participants are encouraged to park near the college and either walk to the top of the hill to begin the march or take advantage of the free

shuttle bus service.

Sunday, Jan. 19

- MLK and Rosa Parks Award Presentations, 3 p.m. West Virginia Northern Community College

- MLK Dinner, 4 p.m. at the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, 1610 Eoff Street, Wheeling

- Interfaith Prayer Service and Awards Presentation, 6 p.m. at Bethlehem Apostolic Temple, 330 Main St., Wheeling

Monday, Jan. 20

- Children's programming at Laughlin Memorial Chapel, 129 Eighteenth Street, Wheeling. The guests will include local students and the winners of the Martin Luther King essay, music, and video contests.

The MLK celebration events are planned and presented by a committee of clergy and lay volunteers representing dozens of houses of worship. For more information, email Ron Scott Jr. at cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org.

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MERRY Christmas



Pope, Bishops, Hundreds of Faithful Pray for Victims of Shocking Christmas Market Attack

By OSV News

MAGDEBURG, Germany (OSV News) — Several hundred people gathered at Magdeburg Cathedral in the evening of Dec. 21 for an ecumenical prayer service to remember the victims of the Dec. 20 Christmas market attack in the central German city, which killed five, including a 9-year-old child, and injured over 40 people, leaving some in critical condition.

Bishop Gerhard Feige of Magdeburg said that the “brutal attack” left the community “sad and angry, helpless and fearful, uncertain and desperate, speechless and stunned, and deeply affected.”

He continued: “We are here in the cathedral tonight with feelings that cannot be grasped.”

The service was attended by injured victims, relatives and rescue workers as well as the country’s President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Hundreds of people also followed the service on the cathedral square in the cold and rain via a screen broadcast.

Pope Francis sent a telegram to the German president, expressing he “learned with dismay” about the attack.

“His Holiness expresses his participation in the grief of those affected,” the telegram, sent by Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said. It added the Holy Father “assures all the victims his spiritual closeness.” The pope thanked those “supporting the victims during this difficult time,” invoking “divine consolation” to all those who lost their lives.

Church bells rang at 7:04 p.m. in Magdeburg, the exact time of the attack in the city 80 miles west of Berlin, where roughly 240,000 people live.

The attacker who ploughed a car into a crowd of shoppers is a 50-year-old doctor who immigrated from Saudi Arabia in 2006, and who surrendered to police at the scene.

“Together, we are here tonight to give each other support, to endure what is incomprehensible. We are here together because we will not let hatred and violence have the last word,” Bishop Faige said during the prayer service. “Together we stand by the side of those who are mourning the loss of someone, who are afraid for injured relatives or who were at the Christmas market on Friday and are still in shock and need to come to terms with what they have seen and what has happened.”

Protestant Bishop Friedrich Kramer said in his sermon: “We are shocked and ask ourselves: Is there still a safe place, a place of peace?”

Perpetrators of violence sit on “the throne of attention.” Bishop Kramer continued: “Let us not give this perpetrator of violence any space.”

Initial speculation about a possible Islamist background to the attack is now considered unlikely.

Just three minutes away from the scene of the horror attack, the local community organized a memorial, laying flowers and cuddly toys in front of St. John’s Church in Magdeburg’s city center.

Emergency counsellor Corinna Pagels was on the scene on the evening of the crime. She was standing in front of St. John’s, looking after the mourners who came to the memorial site. “Listening, hugging, comforting” is what she did throughout the evening of Dec. 20, she said.

All available emergency counsellors and crisis intervention teams from all over the region of Saxony-Anhalt were on duty in Magdeburg that evening. “We are now in the hospitals, on the children’s wards and here at the scene of the incident — for many people, the shock is only now really sinking in. Many are traumatized,” Pagels told KNA German Catholic news agency.

Pagels also has an image of the night of the crime that she can no longer shake off: “There was a dead woman lying there. And her grieving husband was lying on top of her and just didn’t want to get up and let go of his wife.” Her colleague told her of an injured child lying next to his injured mother, screaming loudly in pain and fear.

Such a horrific attack happening just four days before Christmas Eve left Pagels deeply shaken. “I don’t think we’ll be putting up a tree this year. Christmas has taken on a different meaning now,” she told KNA.

Chancellor Scholtz promised the state’s support for all those who have fallen victim to this “terrible, insane act.”

Earlier on Dec. 21, Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops’ conference, and Bishop Kirsten Fehrs, chair of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, said: “Our thoughts and prayers are in Magdeburg at this time.”

“The inhumane attack in Magdeburg leaves us stunned,” they added. “The horror, grief and sympathy are felt by many people throughout Germany and the world today.”

So many innocent people “fell victim to this senseless violence just before Christmas,” Bishop Bätzing and Bishop Fehrs continued. “Our thanks go to the dedicated emer-



OSV News photo/Christian Mang, Reuters
People lay candles and tributes Dec. 21 at the site where a car drove into a crowd at a Magdeburg Christmas market in Magdeburg, Germany. Germans mourned the death of at least five people, including a 9-year-old, who were killed, and hundreds others who were injured after a Saudi doctor intentionally drove into the busy Christmas market the previous day.

gency services, who have been caring for the injured since yesterday and are working hard to find out what happened, as well as to the emergency counsellors who are

supporting people at this moment and accompanying traumatized people.”

(KNA German Catholic news agency contributed to this report.)



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National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Named a Jubilee Year Site

By **Gina Christian, OSV News**

(OSV News) — The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the nation's patronal church, has been named a special place of pilgrimage for the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year 2025, the theme for which is "Pilgrims of Hope."

The designation — made by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' administrative committee and announced Dec. 16 — enables pilgrims to gain the Jubilee Year indulgence.

USCCB president Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services said in a media release issued by the shrine that "visiting the basilica is a powerful way to take advantage of the grace of the Jubilee and to be filled with the hope that flows from the embrace of our Mother."

Basilica rector Msgr. Walter Rossi said he was "grateful to the Administrative Committee for the privilege of designating Mary's Shrine as a special place of pilgrimage for the Holy Year.

"This honor will provide a moment of grace for all 'Pilgrims of Hope' during the Jubilee Year and will be especially beneficial to those who are unable to travel to Rome to pass through the Holy Doors and obtain the Jubilee Indulgence."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that sin incurs a "double consequence." While the sacrament of reconciliation restores men and women to grace and "intimate friendship" with God, the church teaches that "temporal punishment of sin remains." This requires purification through works of mercy, charity, prayer and penance to complete the soul's conversion. Such temporal punishment can also be remitted, in whole or in part, through indulgences granted by the church.

Pope Francis issued a May 13 decree specifying the ways in which the Jubilee Year indulgence can be obtained.

Conditions include true repentance, freedom from any affection for sin, a spirit of charity, receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and holy Communion, and praying during the Jubilee Year for the pope's intentions.

In addition, pilgrims must make either a pilgrimage or pious visit to one of the designated Jubilee sites in the world. Those unable to travel — such as cloistered orders, as well as the elderly, the infirm and their caretakers, and the incarcerated — can obtain the indulgence through prayer, including the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) and the Profession of Faith, and the offering up of their sufferings. The indulgence will also be extended to the faithful who carry out works of mercy and penance.

The national shrine, open every day of the year, provides four daily Masses from Monday through Saturday, and seven Masses (including the vigil) on Sunday. Confession is available five hours each day.

The basilica is the largest Roman Catholic church in North America and among the 10 largest in the world. Among those visiting the shrine have been two saints, John Paul II and Mother Teresa of Kolkata, and two other popes, Benedict XVI and Francis.

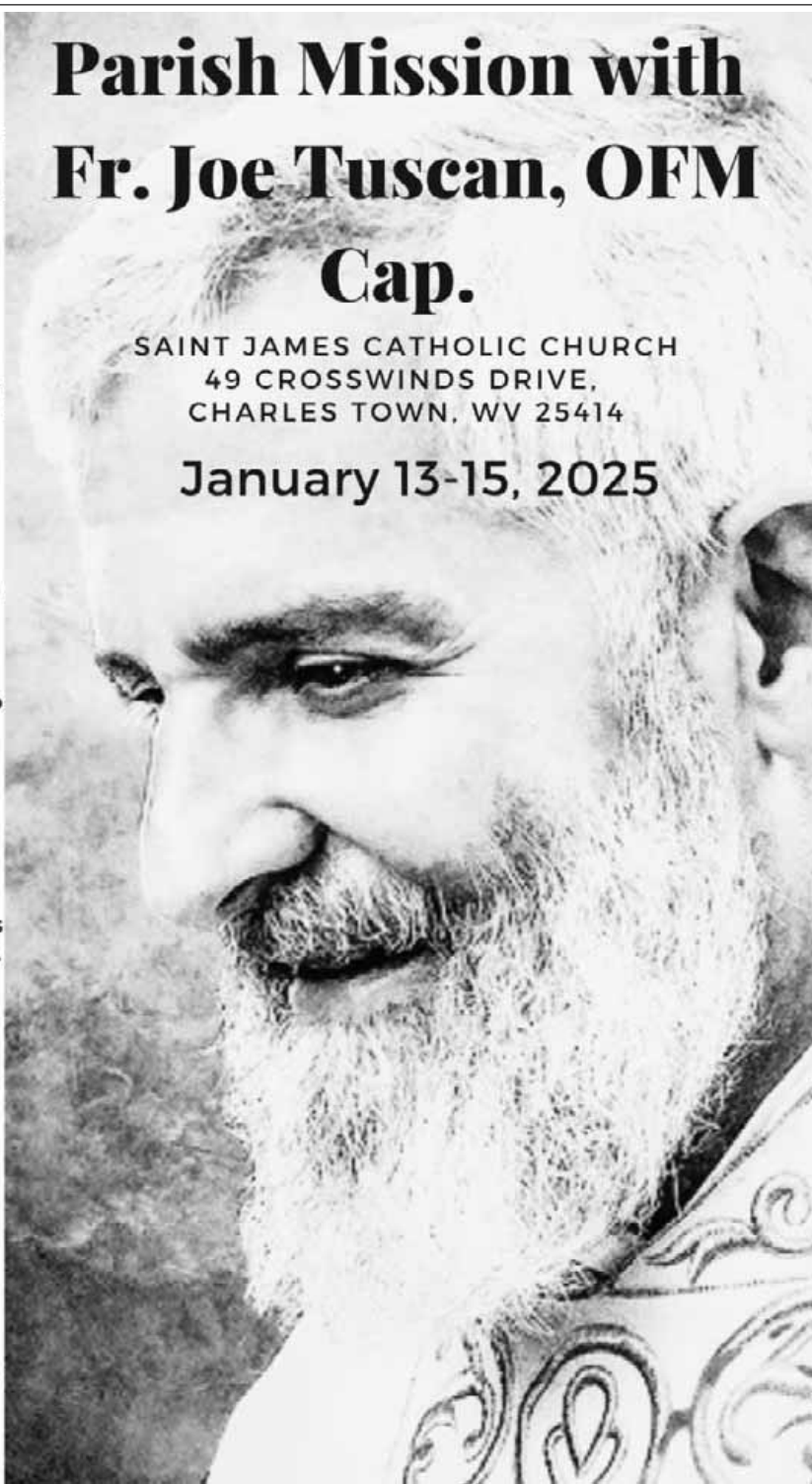
(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News. Follow her on X @GinaJesseReina.)

Fr. Joseph was born in Columbus, OH, in 1967 and was raised in Canton, OH. He earned his Bachelor's degree in 1989 from Borromeo College Seminary. In 1990, he professed his first vows as a Capuchin Franciscan friar. Making his Perpetual vows in 1993, he went on to earn his Master's degree in theology in 1995 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1997. His first assignment after ordination was in Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific where he served for four years. Returning to the US in 2001, he has ministered in various capacities as a parochial vicar and pastor, as well as a military and hospital chaplain; he also served in our Province's Custody of Puerto Rico. Our brother currently serves as the national director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers and in full-time preaching ministry for the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine, offering retreats and reflection days for parishes, Religious and Priests. Fr. Joseph can be viewed on several YouTube channels and has appeared on Catholic Radio and TV outlet

Parish Mission with Fr. Joe Tuscan, OFM Cap.

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Ten Things to Know about Jubilee 2025, the Holy Year

By Maria Wiering, OSV News

(OSV News) — Signs around the Eternal City declare “Roma si trasforma” — “Rome is transformed” as an explanation for the ubiquitous infrastructure projects underway, including the restoration of iconic sculptures and monuments, ahead of Jubilee 2025, a Holy Year that began Christmas Eve.

While the metropolis is seizing the opportunity for renewal, that is ultimately the jubilee’s expectation for the entire church. “For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ ... of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as ‘our hope,’” Pope Francis wrote in the document that officially declared the year.

Here are 10 things to know about the upcoming Jubilee Year.

1. A jubilee year, also known as a “holy year,” is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years.

According to the Vatican website for the jubilee, these years in Jewish history were “intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.”

2. Jubilee 2025 opens Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican immediately before Pope Francis celebrates midnight Mass. Holy Doors will also be opened at Rome’s three other major basilicas: St. John Lateran on Dec. 29, St. Mary Major on Jan. 1, and St. Paul’s Outside the Walls on Jan. 5.

A Holy Door will also be opened Dec. 26 at Rebibbia Prison, a Roman prison Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass and

wash inmates’ feet on Holy Thursday.

The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity. In 1423, Pope Martin V opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran — the Diocese of Rome’s cathedral — for the first time for a jubilee. For the Holy Year of 1500, Pope Alexander VI opened Holy Doors at Rome’s four main basilicas. At the end of a holy year, the Holy Doors are formally closed and then bricked over by masons.

3. The theme of the Holy Year is “Pilgrims of Hope.” The papal bull, issued May 9, that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled “Spes Non Confundit,” or “Hope does not disappoint,” drawn from Romans 5:5. “Everyone knows what it is to hope,” Pope Francis wrote. “In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.

“Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt,” he continued. “Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope.”

Pope Francis also hopes the year draws Catholics toward patience, which he described in “Spes Non Confundit” as a “virtue closely linked to hope,” yet can feel elusive in “our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now.”

4. Drawing on their Jewish roots, jubilee years emphasize the sacrament of reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ.

5. The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for “signs of hope” in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the

elderly, migrants and people “in difficult situations.” He has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address “ecological debt,” which he described as “connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time.”

6. Expect an influx of pilgrims in the Eternal City. Italy’s National Tourist Research Institute projects 35 million visitors in 2025, nearly triple of its 13 million visitors in 2023. Pilgrimage is a “fundamental” part of jubilee events, Pope Francis said in “Spes Non Confundit.” “Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life,” he wrote.

He noted that jubilee pilgrims are likely to visit Rome’s Christian catacombs and its seven pilgrim churches — the basilicas of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Lawrence, Holy Cross and St. Sebastian — destinations St. Philip Neri popularized in the 16th century with a 15-mile walk. Twelve other Roman churches, including the Sanctuary of Divine Love in southeast Rome, are designated “jubilee churches” intended as gathering spots for pilgrims during the jubilee.

Experts in the travel and hospitality industries suggest anyone heading to Rome in 2025 — pilgrim or not — book accommodations, tickets and tours in advance. Visitors may also be expected to pay an increased tourist tax, depending on their type of accommodations.

7. Major events are happening in Rome, including jubilee gatherings with liturgies, speakers and papal audiences to celebrate different groups within the church. The first is the Jubilee of the World of Communications Jan. 24-26, followed by the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel Feb. 8-9. The jubilee also includes gatherings for artists (Feb. 15-18), deacons (Feb. 21-23) and even marching bands (May 10-11). Some

of these special gatherings will coincide with major canonizations, such as the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis during the Jubilee of Teenagers April 25-27, and the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee of Young People July 28-Aug. 3.

Expect some events to highlight the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which Christians received the Nicene Creed. This year, despite different liturgical calendars, the dates for celebrating Easter align in the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, leading some, including Pope Francis, to call for a “decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter,” which was discussed in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.

8. Expect Rome to sparkle and shine. Many famous sites and artworks in Rome and at the Vatican have been cleaned or restored for the jubilee, much to the chagrin of many tourists in 2024, who found major monuments obscured by fencing, scaffolding and tarps. Many of those projects are expected to be completed with a fresh-face reveal in time for the jubilee. In October, St. Peter’s Basilica revealed its newly restored baldacchino, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the 1600s, after 10 months of work. Also receiving cleaning or restoration are Michelangelo’s Pietà, Bernini’s Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona, and Bernini’s angels on the Ponte Sant’Angelo.

9. While many jubilee events will take place in Rome and at the Vatican, it’s a celebration for the whole church. On Dec. 29, diocesan bishops are expected to open the Holy Year locally with Masses at their cathedrals and co-cathedrals. Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their cathedral during the year, and should watch diocesan communications for local events. While Pope Francis encouraged bishops to designate Holy Doors for their own cathedrals during the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015, there will only be Holy Doors at the Vatican and in Rome this year.

10. The Jubilee Year concludes with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica Jan. 6, 2026, on the feast of the Epiphany. However, the Holy Doors at Rome’s other major basilicas will close Dec. 28, 2025, the same day dioceses are to end local celebrations of the Holy Year.

The Jubilee Year also looks ahead to 2033, when the church will mark the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, which Pope Francis called “another fundamental celebration for all Christians.”

(Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.)

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Wheeling University Helps Local Organizations



Courtesy photo

The employees from the Wheeling University Admissions and Financial Aid offices sponsored a toy drive to help Catholic Charities West Virginia. Employees donated all types of toys to make this Christmas season brighter for children in the Ohio Valley.

WHEELING — Wheeling University students, faculty and staff partnered with Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army to make the holidays brighter for area families.

“I am grateful to all our employees and students who donated food, toys and clothing to make the holiday season brighter for so many families this year. Our mission calls us to be men and women in service to others, and it is wonderful to see how our Wheeling University community lives this mission each day,” said Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D., president of Wheeling University.

The Athletic Department sponsored a Stuff the Truck food drive at the Wheeling University West Liberty Football game. Students, employees, and fans were asked to bring nonperishable food items to the game. Sports Information Director, Zack Zeigler organized this event and with the assistance of Aladdin Dining Services, they delivered nearly 600 pounds of food to the Catholic Neighborhood Center.

“As the city of Wheeling’s university, events like this are our way of giving back to a community that has done so much for us,” said Wheeling University Athletic Director Carrie Hanna. “As a campus community we are called to live our mission of educating for life, leadership and service with and among others, and this is one of the many ways we strive to live out that mission.”

The Student Affairs staff led a drive to have Wheeling University students, faculty, athletic teams and staff sponsor children who

were part of the Salvation Army Angel Tree project. In all, Wheeling University sponsored 114 children and purchased items such as bikes, winter coats, books and toys.

“I am grateful to my staff for organizing this project which warmed the hearts of so many children in our area. None of us realized that so many employees and students would participate. We not only collected all of the gifts, but our Coordinator of Student Activities and Events, Stefon Napier organized volunteers to load all of the gifts onto a truck for the Salvation Army and then unload it at their headquarters,” said Mike Kochka, dean of students.

Lt. John Lawrence of The Salvation Army said that when institutions like Wheeling University get involved, things in the community can change quickly. “Every dollar helps. Every volunteer hour helps. But when an institution like Wheeling University gets involved in such a big way, it changes the

landscape of what we’re able to accomplish. They really set a great example for what is possible in just a couple weeks when administration, staff, and students get excited about making a difference,” he said.

Employees also collected and delivered toys to Catholic Charities West Virginia. Lead by the Admissions Office, Wheeling University delivered several large boxes of toys for the Catholic Neighborhood Center to distribute.

“The university mission to help others is part of the fabric of this campus community. To serve to others, especially at Christmas, warms the hearts of everyone at Wheeling University. We hope this small gesture makes Christmas brighter for members of the greater Wheeling community,” said Jennifer Board, vice president of Enrollment at Wheeling University.

“Catholic Charities West Virginia is so grateful for Wheeling University’s ongoing commitment

to providing for those living on the margins. The students, staff, and faculty have been shining a light on issues of poverty and justice since the university’s founding, and we’re happy that we can partner to bring the joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons to our neighbors in Wheeling,” added Mark Phillips, president of Catholic Charities West Virginia.



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El Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción nombrado lugar de peregrinación del Año Jubilar

Por Gina Christian, OSV News

(OSV News) — La Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción en Washington, la iglesia patronal de la nación, ha sido nombrada lugar especial de peregrinación para el Año Jubilar 2025 de la Iglesia Católica, cuyo tema es "Peregrinos de Esperanza".

La designación, hecha por el comité administrativo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU. (USCCB) y anunciada el 16 de diciembre, permite a los peregrinos obtener la indulgencia del Año Jubilar.

El presidente de la USCCB, el arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio, de la Arquidiócesis de los Servicios Militares de Estados Unidos, dijo en un comunicado de prensa emitido por el santuario que "visitar la basílica es una manera poderosa de aprovechar la gracia del Jubileo y llenarse de la esperanza que brota del abrazo de nuestra Madre".

El rector de la basílica, Monseñor Walter Rossi, dijo estar "agradecido al Comité Administrativo por el privilegio de designar el Santuario de María como lugar especial de peregrinación para el Año Santo".

"Este honor proporcionará un momento de gracia para todos los 'Peregrinos de la Esperanza' durante el Año Jubilar y será especialmente beneficioso para aquellos que no puedan viajar a Roma para atravesar las Puertas Santas y obtener la Indulgencia Jubilar".

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica enseña que el pecado incurre en una "doble consecuencia". Mientras que el sacramento de la reconciliación restaura a hombres y mujeres a la gracia y a la "profunda amistad" con Dios, la Iglesia enseña que "las penas temporales del pecado permanecen". Esto requiere la purificación a través de obras de misericordia, caridad, oración y penitencia para completar la conversión del alma. Tal castigo temporal también puede ser remitido, en todo o en parte, a través de indulgencias concedidas por la iglesia.

El Papa Francisco publicó un decreto el 13 de mayo en el que se especifican las formas en que se puede obtener la indulgencia del Año Jubilar.

Las condiciones incluyen el arrepentimiento verdadero, la liberación de cualquier afecto al pecado, un espíritu de caridad, recibir los sacramentos de la reconciliación y la sagrada Comunión, y rezar durante el Año Jubilar por las intenciones del Papa.



Foto OSV News/Bob Roller

Los obispos estadounidenses han designado la Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción de Washington como lugar especial de peregrinación para el Año Jubilar 2025. Una foto de archivo muestra las flores de primavera que florecen fuera de la basílica.

Además, los peregrinos deben realizar una peregrinación o una visita piadosa a uno de los lugares del mundo designados para el Jubileo. Quienes no puedan viajar -- como las órdenes de clausura, los ancianos, los enfermos y sus cuidadores, y los encarcelados -- podrán obtener la indulgencia mediante la oración, incluidos el Padre Nuestro y la Profesión de fe, y el ofrecimiento de sus sufrimientos. La indulgencia se extenderá también a los fieles que realicen obras de misericordia y penitencia.

El santuario nacional, abierto todos los días

del año, ofrece cuatro misas diarias de lunes a sábado, y siete misas (incluida la vigilia) los domingos. La confesión está disponible cinco horas al día.

La basílica es la mayor iglesia católica romana de Norteamérica y una de las diez mayores del mundo. El santuario ha sido visitado por dos santos, Juan Pablo II y la Madre Teresa de Calcuta, y por los papas Benedicto XVI y Francisco.

(Gina Christian es reportera multimedia de OSV News.)

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 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 eclesísticas 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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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

Employment Opportunities

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests. The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions. Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function. Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area. Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

For more information, contact the Director, Gerri Wright at (304) 342-0507.

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Guest Services Coordinator

The Guest Services Coordinator at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Guest Services Coordinator is responsible for working with guests to plan and book lodging and events. Some of the required qualifications include multi-tasker, problem solver & self-starter, detail oriented, excellent written & verbal skills, computer knowledge, team player and welcoming & respectful to all faith & secular guests. Additionally, the position entails the ability to perform the physical requirements of kitchen aide & housekeeper.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Works in kitchen & housekeeping when needed.

For more information and to schedule an interview, contact the Director, Gerri Wright at (304) 342-0507 or gwright@dwc.org

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

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

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

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVU Heart & Vascular Institute