Bishop Brennan Addresses Canon Law Society of America on Restoring Trust in the Church

By Colleen Rowan

“You make a promise, and you keep it,” that is how trust in the Catholic Church will be restored, Bishop Mark E. Brennan said. The bishop shared this and other thoughts when sat down with The Catholic Spirit Nov. 22 to talk about his Oct. 13 presentation “Lack of Trust in the Institutional Church and the Need to Restore It” to the Canon Law Society of America (CLSA) in San Diego, Calif.

“I was asked to speak about the lack of trust in the institutional church,” Bishop Brennan said. “But I also wanted to talk about how you restore that trust. How do we move towards building up trust in the church? Basically, you do this by proving you’re trustworthy. You keep your word. You keep your promises.”

That is what Bishop Brennan has been focusing on in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston since becoming its ninth bishop in the summer of 2019. He has since been traveling the diocese and getting to know his people. “I've been to almost all the parishes now,” the bishop told The Catholic Spirit. “I've been to 23 of our 24 Catholic schools since the school year began in late August.”

The bishop shared this in his address to the CLSA as well as other efforts in the diocese to restore trust, starting with the Diocesan Finance Council. The bishop emphasized that canons 492 and 493 envision a council that truly functions to assist the bishop in diocesan finances.

“Building on the efforts of Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, who served as apostolic administrator of Wheeling-Charleston for a year and gave it much attention, I was able to increase its geographical representation and include more women on the board,” Bishop Brennan said.

Pro-Lifers Hopeful about Outcome of Dobbs Case, Urge Prayers for Court

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee Dec. 1 urged Catholics, people of other faiths and all people of goodwill to unite in prayer that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn Roe v. Wade in its eventual ruling on Mississippi’s ban on most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

His statement was issued the same day the court heard oral arguments in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, an appeal from Mississippi. Its ban was struck down by a federal District Court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

The Mississippi law is being challenged by the state’s only abortion facility, the Jackson Women’s Health Organization. It’s the first major abortion case the court has heard in decades.

“In the United States, abortion takes the lives of over 600,000 babies every year,” said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health could change that.”

“We pray that the court will do the right thing and allow states to once again limit or prohibit abortion, and in doing so protect millions of unborn children and their mothers from this painful, life-destroying act,” he added. “We invite all people of goodwill to uphold the dignity of human life by joining us in prayer and fasting for this important case.”

If the court’s ruling, expected in July, upholds the ban, it possibly also could overturn Roe and send the case to the court hearing oral arguments in the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, an appeal from Mississippi to keep its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.
Audit Shows Protocols Have Impact on Reducing Risk of Abuse

The results of the 2020 Annual Audit relative to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People indicate that the implementation of Safe Environment protocols in dioceses throughout the United States continues to have an impact on reducing risk and prompting survivors of abuse to come forward.

There are 22 allegations nationwide involving current or former clergy, and 23 involving a current or former employee of a Catholic Church entity. This includes 17 allegations of sexual abuse, 3 involving sexual misconduct, and 2 involving sexual harassment.

The majority of the allegations occurred during the period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The average number of days reported was 835 days, with a range of 365 to 1,095 days.

The most common type of allegation was sexual abuse, with 13 allegations. The second most common was sexual misconduct, with 5 allegations.

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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 anyone who has information about suspected sexual misconduct to contact civil authorities in the appropriate jurisdiction and visit www.reportabuse.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 800-552-6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese 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 the following offices at 304.230.1504 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelers, Jr., V.D.D., ext. 270. You may also contact 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 “Complaint and Reporting.” You can also 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.

For information on the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting misconduct, the Diocese also 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 844.723.8081. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities.

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Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that each diocese 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 conducted online or via live workshop. For more information, please contact the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, then “Office of Safe Environment” or “Office of Safe Environment.”
Mark Sadd Elected Chair of the U.S. Bishops’ National Advisory Council

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—Mark A. Sadd of Charleston has been elected chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ National Advisory Council (NAC). Bishop Mark E. Brennan, who also serves on the NAC, is happy that Sadd is serving in this role.

“We’re very proud that our West Virginia voice is going to be heard,” Bishop Brennan said. “I think he will be respectful that everyone gets a chance to be heard.” Bishop Brennan went on to commend Sadd for the presentation he gave to the U.S. bishops during their November assembly in Baltimore.

The NAC, Bishop Brennan said, is comprised of committed Catholics from around the country. “They take their responsibility very seriously,” he said, noting that the council is mostly lay people.

Sadd has been serving on the council since 2019. In his role as chair, he heads the NAC’s Executive Board. “The Holy Spirit has really surprised me including my appointment in the first place,” Sadd said. “I never would have imagined that I would be in a position to address all of the U.S. bishops on behalf of so many.”

The U.S. bishops founded the council in 1966 as a new expression of synodality in the church, Sadd said. “The NAC thinks and acts with the faith and doctrine of the church to give our bishops our best consensus advice and insights on how to proceed with their substantial work through the USCCB. It’s important to understand that the advice of the NAC is just that, advice. I have observed that our bishops seriously listen and respond to the NAC’s advice, and input,” Sadd said.

The council has 44 members, mostly lay women and men from all around the nation. Serving with them are five bishops, six priests, two deacons, one religious brother, and four religious women and men. “In a nice coincidence,” Sadd said, “I am honored to serve as chair while Bishop Brennan is serving as a NAC member.”

As chair, Sadd and five council colleagues plan meetings throughout the year. “We make sure that we take up important and timely issues that the bishops face or want to address in the USCCB’s strategic plan for the church in the United States,” Sadd said. “For example, the bishops now, rightly, are emphasizing the growing unbelief in the truth of the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist as Christ’s unique gift of grace to us. During the last meeting, we addressed the state and future of Catholic elementary and secondary education in the United States and how we, as a council, have weighed in heavily on the disgrace of abuse within the church. One NAC meeting just before I joined the group was devoted entirely to that topic.”

In 2019, Sadd’s NAC colleagues elected him to serve as chair-elect for 2021 and then as chair for 2022. The 2021 chair, Scott Voinich of Georgia, served in that capacity until he became very ill in September and was unable to complete his term as chair through the end of the bishops’ meeting in Baltimore in November, Sadd said. Father Michael Fuller, USCCB general secretary, then appointed Sadd as chair to complete Voinich’s term through the end of 2021. He has been serving as chair since mid-October and will complete his term through 2022. He will then serve as past chair through 2023, when his time on the NAC ends.

Sadd was nominated to serve as an at-large member on the NAC in 2018 by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore. The bishops who serve on the USCCB governance body approved his appointment, and his first meeting was in spring 2019.

Sadd is a member of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston and a member of the Knights of Columbus St. Michael the Archangel Council 12630. He is also president of both the Serra Club of Charleston and St. Paul Radio Co., which owns or operates three Catholic radio stations, WLUX, WNUX and WOUX. He is also a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

“It has been a joy to be able to represent our Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in this small way to seek the greater good for the church,” Sadd said, “and I don’t let the NAC members ever forget that I am a Mountaineer.”

Bishop Brennan also told the CLSA that Sadd of Charleston has been serving in this role since the people had no voice with the establishment of the Diocesan Council of Laity 50 years ago.

“Looking beyond West Virginia, Bishop Brennan said in his address to the CLSA, that and asking for Rome’s approval to make it particular law for the church in the United States. That would give the statement teeth. I hope that some people might say, ‘A little late in the game but the right move,’ and that it would enkindle a little more confidence in episcopal leadership, give encouragement to our Child Protection officers and remove some protection from priests and lay people who know that, presently, the Dallas norms that apply to them do not apply to bishops.”

Bishop Brennan also told the CLSA that a better effort must be made in reaching out to victim survivors of clerical child abuse. While monetary settlements are made, he said, they do not bring healing. Counseling is offered either through the church or by a counselor of the victim’s choice. Many bishops have spent hours listening to the stories of those who survived abuse, Bishop Brennan said, but it is difficult to reach victims.

“The wounds are so deep and stay so raw,” Bishop Brennan said. “I have met with a few victims but not many have accepted my invitation to meet with them. The lack of trust in bishops becomes very palpable in this experience. But we must keep trying, especially because the spiritual good of these brothers and sisters is at stake.”

These are just some of the issues Bishop Brennan shared with the CLSA. His talk will be printed in full in an upcoming CLSA publication.

In ending his address to the CLSA, the bishop said: “The Catholic Church has been through worse times than these but that does not excuse indifference and inaction on our part today. This is, after all, the Church Christ founded, the sacrament of his salvation for a world that desperately needs his grace. It is the Lord’s will that his church has shepherds at different levels. That makes it impera-


dive to show by our words and deeds that the Church is promoted.”

In more efforts, Bishop Brennan pointed to “healing circles” in the diocese where clergy, religious, and the faithful can talk openly about the scandals of the church. Talking about it helps, the bishop said, but cautioned the faithful to not just focus on the past.

“My overall impression is that West Virginia Catholics don’t want to get stuck in the past. They do want to move forward,” Bishop Brennan told The Catholic Spirit.

Looking beyond West Virginia, Bishop Brennan said in his address to the CLSA, that parishes, schools and youth programs are safer for young people today than they were 30, 40 or 50 years ago.

“In addition to those diocesan Review Boards that function well,” he said, “we do extensive screening of candidates for the priesthood and diaconate, Catholic school teachers, youth ministers and volunteer workers who work with youth.”

Bishop Brennan went on to tell the CLSA of that as a parish priest in 2002, he had to apply the provisions of the Dallas Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People to himself. “I know, I’m not alone,” he said in his address. “In the 2018 revision of the charter in a section near the end entitled, ‘Statement of Episcopal Commitment,’ we bishops said: ‘We will apply the requirements of the Charter also to ourselves, respecting always Church law as it applies to bishops.’ I would favor a definitive vote by the Bishops’ Conference saying exactly that and asking for Rome’s approval to make it particular law for the church in the United States. That would give the statement teeth. I hope that some people might say, ‘A little late in the game but the right move,’ and that it would enkindle a little more confidence in episcopal leadership, give encouragement to our Child Protection officers and remove some protection from priests and lay people who know that, presently, the Dallas norms that apply to them do not apply to bishops.”

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1. Advent

As we enter into the season of Advent, a season of “joyful anticipation,” we first stir up theembers of our hope for Christ’s return in glory, a hope that is so easily suffocated in the activities and concerns that fill our daily lives. It is, therefore, to remember that Jesus promised to return and, being a God-man of his word, he will do so at a time and in a way that he considers right. It will be a wonderful thing when he returns to manifest to the whole world his saving work. How do we prepare for his coming? By following him in faith and love. Should we die first, as have our forebears, our faith in him and love for God and neighbor will allow us to be confident as we meet him and learn our eternal destiny.

In early Advent we relive ancient Israel’s yearning for a Savior but then we turn our focus in the latter part of the season to the events immediately preceding Christ’s coming: the announcement of his conception in the Virgin Mary, the nativity, the conception and birth of John the Baptist, Joseph’s marriage to Mary at God’s command, the pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for the census. Finally, the Messiah is born and we rejoice in song and flowers and wreaths in our Christmas Masses. God has kept His promise to give us a Savior. Between his first coming in humility and his final coming in glory, the Lord comes to us gently in our prayer, our reception of him in the Eucharist, our devout confessions, our meditation on his Word, our acts of kindness to others. Read Revelations 3:20 to grasp the personal encounter he wants to have with you. Even before his coming, he forewarned us, “If you love me, you will not stay in the dark always! I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near [Philippians 4:4-5]. He is near to all who will open the door to him and let him in. Be that person and you will have a fruitful Advent.

2. The US Bishops’ Recent Meeting

You may have read about what the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops does at its semi-annual meetings but we had one in mid-November in Baltimore, MD, the first diocese in the newly independent United States. It was our first in-person meeting in two years and on that score alone was a blessing. As a participant, I found the bishops strongly committed to working for the good of our people. We heard addresses from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Pope’s Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, from Archbishop José Gómez of Los Angeles, the President of our Conference, and from West Virginian Mark Saad, now the chair of the National Advisory Council, which proposes agenda items to the bishops and responds to the bishops’ decisions. All spoke of the importance of Catholics being united in the Church’s faith, believed and taught from the days of the Apostles, that Jesus Christ makes himself substantially present in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. I suspect it is in part a result of a diminished sense of the supernatural leading to a practical materialism. This materialism does not allow for the sovereign God to intervene in His creation to change, in a mysterious and spiritual way, bread and wine into Christ’s Body and Blood while leaving the material elements unchanged. Everything is interpreted on the horizontal level; the vertical level is left out. So, as this thinking goes, the Eucharist could not possibly be Jesus.

In addition, Americans’ high regard for individualism can lead to unfortunate results if it reaches beyond its proper limits. Sadly, we see many examples in our society of Catholicism that undermines personal opinion over even the strongest consensus of others, thus undermining the common good. I think that the resistance to being vaccinated against the Coronavirus and wearing masks when in group settings is a prime example. But this heightened individualism also influences some Catholics’ view of the Eucharist. They hold to their erroneous opinion despite the testimony of Scripture and the experience of saints and ordinary Catholics through the centuries who have found such great strength through the Lord whom they received in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

We need, then, to stir up our people’s faith in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, lest it cease to be the “source and summit” of the Christian life and our sacrament of unity with the Lord and with one another. That is why the US bishops approved The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church. It will give us a useful theological framework for our Eucharistic Revival Project and provide some marvelous testimony of Catholics, ordained, religious and lay, to the immense spiritual power of the Sacrament.

3. The need for a Eucharistic Revival Project

The Eucharist, both its celebration in the Mass and its reception in Holy Communion, is the foundation of our Catholic faith; for we believe that the sacrificial and redemptive mystery of the Cross is uniquely and uniquely in that it becomes what it signifies: the very Person of Jesus, the Son of God, once crucified for us and now risen from the dead. It is distressing that, long before the COVID-19 pandemic, many Catholics have stayed away from Mass and therefore from the Lord who wants to give himself to them in the Eucharist.

Moreover, the bishops of our country have learned from both national surveys and anecdotal evidence that many Catholics, even some who regularly go to Mass and receive Holy Communion, do not believe that they truly receive Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar.

For this reason we will launch a Eucharistic Revival Project nationwide on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 19, 2022. We need this Project because, as pastors of souls, we are concerned that our brothers and sisters who lack the Church’s faith in Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist may not receive any benefit from their reception of the Sacrament. The Lord presents himself – “Body of Christ, Blood of Christ” – but if we say, “No, it’s not you; it’s just a piece of bread or a reminder of you,” can we expect him to bless us? He stands at the door and knocks but what if we won’t let him in? How can he dine with us? [See Revelation 3:20]

How could it come to pass that many Catholics today do not share the Church’s faith, believed and taught from the days of the Apostles, that Jesus Christ makes himself substantially present in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood? I suspect it is in part a result of a diminished sense of the supernatural leading to a practical materialism. This materialism does not allow for the sovereign God to intervene in His creation to change, in a mysterious and spiritual way, bread and wine into Christ’s Body and Blood while leaving the material elements unchanged. Everything is interpreted on the horizontal level; the vertical level is left out. So, as this thinking goes, the Eucharist could not possibly be Jesus.

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4. The worthiness to receive Holy Communion

Regarding a person’s reception of Holy Communion, the bishops repeated traditional Catholic teaching in our Eucharistic document that we should approach the Sacrament only if we are not conscious of having committed mortal sins of which we have not repented and been absolved in the Sacrament of Penance. This applies to everyone. Prominent Catholics bear a special responsibility not to lead others into error by receiving the Eucharist if they teach or live in a manner that contradicts authentic Catholic doctrine. Those who do so risk the eternal consequences of mortal sin.
Letter... Cont’d from Page 4

prominent Catholics included were those in others’ lives, starting with parents, teachers and coaches and reaching up to university officials and professors, CEOs and their teams, labor leaders, media and entertainment personalities and politicians. Remember Jesus’ words: Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea (Matthew 18:6). Being looked up to brings a heavy moral and spiritual responsibility to one who has influence over others.

The great error of those who persist in receiving Christ in the Eucharist while continuing to betray Christ in practice is their separation of personal piety from the demands of Christ’s justice and love. Throughout the prophetic Amos in a passage often quoted by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., God said to the people of Israel: I hate, I spurn your feasts, take no pleasure in your solemnities; your cereal offerings I will not accept, nor consider your staid-feed peace offerings... But if you would offer me holocausts, then let justice surge like water and goodness like an unfalling stream [5:21-24]. Isaiah directed the same message to the princes and people: What care I for the number of your sacrifices, says the Lord. I have had enough of wholeburnt rams and fat of fatlings... When you spread out your hands, I close my eyes to you. Though you pray the more, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood! Wash yourselves clean! Put away your bloodied gaze from my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan’s plea, defend the widow [1:10:17]. God expects us to pray and to worship Him to treat our fellow human beings with justice and mercy; otherwise, He says, our worship is worthless and our prayers go unheard.

Second, and this is an obvious one is Judas Iscariot’s reception of Christ’s Body and Blood at the Last Supper. Canon 221 of the Code of Canon Law expressly says: “Those who... obstinately persevere in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy communion.” He is directed to the individual minister of Holy Communion (clerical or lay), who must be certain of three things: that the person has committed a sin that is objectively grave, that, after being warned, he or she refuses to desist from committing that sin, and that the sin is widely known by the Catholic faithful. That is a high bar. Canon 915 does not give authority to a bishop to forbid a person from receiving the Eucharist throughout his diocese; that would require a formal trial in which the accused would have the right both to the presentation of information and to self-defense (see canon 221). By no means does canon 915 give to an episcopal conference the right to forbid a Catholic, even one who notoriously violates Catholic teaching, from receiving Holy Communion. So, canon law is not so easy to apply in this case.

Turning from Church law to the Scriptures, we find some very interesting situations in which objectively unworthy persons receive the Eucharist. The most obvious one is Judas Iscariot’s reception of Christ’s Body and Blood at the Last Supper (Luke 22: 14-23). Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him [Matthew 26: 21, 22]. Yet Jesus did not stop him from receiving the Eucharist. He did foretell that Judas would come to a bad end but not by his disciples’ hands.

St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34 deals with a situation in which people are receiving the Eucharist unworthily. The Corinthians were dividing themselves at the communal meals they had before they celebrated the Eucharist. Some members of the community brought food and ate well while poorer members had little or nothing to eat. Paul condemns the selfish behavior of the first group and then describes the Last Supper, in which Jesus said: This is my Body, and establishes the legal right to abortion. The measure, which was passed by both houses of Congress in a package signed by President Biden, states that abortion is a “fundamental right,” that the court has the power to strike down laws that would otherwise make abortion illegal. Many pro-lifers hoping Roe will be overturned have pointed to what he said were “incredible arguments” that he said were made by lower court judges. Among their comments was Soto’s called the “utterly weak and time-worn arguments” that he said were made by lower court judges. He added that “millions of faithful Catholics across the nation are hopeful that the Supreme Court will restore sanity to our nation’s most basic moral law.”

As Christmas we will celebrate the birth of our Savior. He came to do us the immense gift of freeing us from our sins from spiritual and temporal death. Let us, in the midst of this plague, do good to others and to ourselves by practicing both patience and prudence. A blessed Advent season and Christmas to you all!

Sincerely in Christ,

[Signature]

Bishop Mark E. Brennan

SYNOD Listening Sessions

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

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

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

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

St. Michael, Wheeling: Second Session—Jan. 25, 10 a.m.; Third Session—Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs: First Session—Dec. 8 immediately after the 5 p.m. Mass; 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.

Court... Cont’d from Page 1

the abortion issue back to the states to decide laws on it. Archbishop Lori directed people to www.prayforobdobbs.com for Catholic and ecumenical prayers and resources for community engagement and action “as we await the court’s decision in this case.

Pro-life advocates and supporters of keeping abortion legal gathered outside the Supreme Court. Beyond the court building’s steps, statements about the Mississippi law and predictions about the outcome of the case came from all quarters. U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., predicted there would be “a revolution” if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

Father Tom DeLauro, D.D., called on the Senate to Pass the Women’s Health Protection Act. The measure, passed by the House Sept. 24, codifies Roe and establishes the legal right to abortion on demand if the case came from all quarters. U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., predicted that a law would be “a revolution” if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

When you receive his sacramental Body, Paul tells the Corinthians, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. It was Jesus’ physical body that died on the cross, not his sacramental body. So, when Paul tells the Corinthians that anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself, he is saying—given the context of reprimanding selfish behavior— that they have not discerned that Jesus’ sacrifice of his body on the cross was a supreme act of love. The wealthier Corinthians should imitate Jesus’ loving behavior by sharing their food rather than ignoring the bodily needs of their poorer brethren.

Yet Paul never tells the offending Corinthians to stop receiving the Eucharist. He puts the burden on: a person should examine himself and so eat the bread and drink the cup. Like Jesus, he does speak of God’s judgment on those who persist in acting selfishly: many among you are ill and infirm and a considerable number are dying. If we discerned ourselves, we would not be under judgment but since we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. Paul leaves the punishment to God.

Before concluding that someone should be denied the Eucharist, ask yourself: did Jesus do the right thing or the wrong thing when he allowed Judas Iscariot to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood? Did St. Paul do the right thing or the wrong thing in not forbidding the selfish Corinthians from receiving the Eucharist? It is hard to argue against the Lord’s and his Apostle’s example. If those who persist in deserting the Lord are to be denied the Eucharist, should they not also be denied holy communion? They eat and drink a judgment against themselves. If they imitate Judas Iscariot, they are betraying the Lord they receive. We should pray for them, that they may be converted to the truth, for they remain our brothers and sisters.

5. To conclude: a thought on the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has not gone away. We must be patient and prudent. Simple protective measures, such as being vaccinated and wearing masks in group settings, make sense. I urge you to trust that the vaccines we prayed for will help you and others stay healthy. I hope you understand that wearing a mask is an annoyance but not a grave hardship. We are honoring the Lord’s command, Love your neighbor as yourself, when you adopt these safety measures. Let us pray for all those who are sick, for those who died and for the consolation of their families, for our dedicated health care personnel and our essential workers.

At Christmas we will celebrate the birth of our Savior. He came to do us the immense gift of freeing us from our sins from spiritual and temporal death. Let us, in the midst of this plague, do good to others and to ourselves by practicing both patience and prudence. A blessed Advent season and Christmas to you all!

Sincerely in Christ,

[Signature]

Bishop Mark E. Brennan
December 2021

Dear Jubilarians,

You have responded to the Lord’s call to ordained and consecrated life for many years and have reached another milestone in your service to God’s people. I offer you my sincere respect and congratulations.

Milestones mark progress in a journey. For each of you, that journey has been unique in its timing, types of ministry, experiences, graces received, challenges met and people encountered. Yet you have not walked alone. Others have walked with you, cherishing your friendship in Christ, benefiting from your help and often helping you to offer God faithful service. They join me in thanking God for you and in praying for your perseverance in joy and holiness.

Some of you are actively engaged in pastoral ministry, others are officially retired but “helping out” in various ministries, and still others, for reasons of advanced age or poor health, offer your prayers and sufferings to God for the rest of us. However you serve, draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation [Isaiah 12:4], the source of refreshment for all who serve the Lord. Whatever your age or condition, trust God: They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles’ wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint [Isaiah 40:31].

Keep the matter of vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life close to your heart and in your prayers. We must support and pray for married and single people as well, but ask the Lord to raise up those who are called to enter more fully the Church of Jesus Christ – especially the years here in West Virginia; not to mention the tremendous experience that we have had in the past two years with Covid that affected our lives in every part of our being, challenging us to be creative and courageous. It’s my hope that each one of you can find time and space to celebrate this milestone well, even as you journey on!

May God pour out His blessings upon you and keep you in His care!

Fraternally in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Dear Fathers and Sisters:
The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrates your spirit of commitment and dedicated service to the Lord and His Church as we honor all of you in this year of Jubilee. Your faithful presence and ministry have made a lasting impact on the good people of West Virginia. The Church has grown because of your love. Our Diocese remains grateful for your collaboration in building up the Kingdom of God. May the Lord continue to bless you with good health, happiness and peace.

Respectfully yours in Christ,
Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr.
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
It’s Jubilee time once more and this means stepping back and remembering the highlights of your years of ministerial service, giving thanks for all the blessings, and acknowledging God’s handiwork in and through you! Every year of vows and promises had its own challenges and outcomes that reflect your shared commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ – especially the years here in West Virginia; not to mention the tremendous experience that we have had in the past two years with Covid that affected our lives in every part of our being, challenging us to be creative and courageous. It’s my hope that each one of you can find time and space to celebrate this milestone well, even as you journey on!

Sister Martha Gomez, RGS
Delegate for Consecrated Life

In Gratitude of our Priests and Religious in West Virginia

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

WEST VIRGINIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
www.kofc.org/joinus

Jubilarians of 2021
A Special Section, Pages 6-16

December 3, 2021
The Serra Clubs of Charleston & Clarksburg

Congratulate the 2021 Jubilarians

for your Anniversaries of Priesthood & Religious Life

Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus
55 Years

Father John N. Duhaime
50 Years

Father William K. Matheny, Jr.
25 Years

Sister Angelina Cavallaro, CSJ
80 Years

Sister M. Diane Bushee, SAC
65 Years

Sister Elizabeth Monsanto, SAC
60 Years

Sister Virginia Yeager, CSJ
60 Years

Sister Mary Irene Sorber, SCC
55 Years

Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJI
25 Years

(Not pictured are Father Pius Akajiofor, 25 Years; and Father John Hue Tran, SVD, 25 Years)

It is our honor to honor you today.

The Serra Clubs of Charleston and Clarksburg are committed to promoting and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Today, we join Bishop Mark Brennan and everyone across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in honoring you, our dear jubilarians, and to thank you for your ministry as priests and women religious, for your lives of dedicated service to God’s people in West Virginia, and for the kindness and love you have shown throughout your lives. Be assured of the continued prayers and support of our members.

Serra Club of Charleston
Mark A. Sadd, President

Clarksburg Serra Club
Dr. Tom Condron, President
Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus, 55th Anniversary

Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus is a native of Ranshow, Pa., and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling May 14, 1966. He is a graduate of St. Anthony Porchial School and St. Edward Catholic High School in Shamokin, Pa., and continued his education at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, graduating with a degree in philosophy in 1961. He received his master's in English literature from The Catholic University of America in Washington and attended seminary in the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio. Msgr. Sacus also received a degree in secondary education from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in 1976. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling May 14, 1966. He then served as associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg until 1970. From 1970 to 1971, he was associate pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Moundsville. He received his first pastorate in 1971 serving in Radford, Va. From 1972 to 1977, he served as pastor at St. John Parish in Mullens and then served as chaplain at Wheeling Hospital from 1977 to 1979. From 1979 to 1982, he was an active duty chaplain in the United States Air Force as a captain. During his service with the Air Force he was stationed in Dover, Del., Incirlik, Turkey; and Shreveport, La.

He later retired from the Air Force Reserves as a lieutenant colonel. After active duty, he was assigned as pastor of St. Peter Parish in Farmington in 1982. From 1983 to 1986, he served as pastor of St. Francis Xavier in Moundsville. While there he served as chaplain at the West Virginia Penitentiary in Moundsville and taught religion to high school juniors. From 1986 to 1996, he was assigned as pastor of Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City, Holy Rosary Parish in Sistersville and St. Lawrence Mission in Middlebourne. He became pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley in 1996.

In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI named Msgr. Sacus a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, entitling him to be addressed as monsignor. Msgr. Sacus also served as vicar forane of the Beckley Vicariate and on the Presbyteral Council. Msgr. Sacus retired from active ministry October 1, 2015. He came out of retirement in October of 2020 to serve as temporary administrator of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling, St. John Parish in Benwood, and St. James Parish in McMechen. He was elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbytery Council and is currently priest in residence at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

Father John N. Duhaime, 50th Anniversary

Father John N. Duhaime is originally from Manchester, N.H. He attended Salette Minor Seminary in Enfield, N.H., and St. Mary Queen of the Clergy Seminary in Quebec, Canada. He also attended St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, Pa., and St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore. Father Duhaime was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on May 29, 1971. From 1971 to 1973, he served as associate pastor of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont. He then served as associate pastor at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley from 1973 to 1975 and at St. Paul Parish in Weirton in 1975. In 1974, he was appointed as chaplain of the veterans hospital. He served as pastor of Christ the King Parish in Waynesburg from 1976 to 1978, Our Lady of Victory Parish in Gary from 1978 to 1986, and Sacred Heart Parish in Rainelle from 1986 to 1996. He also served as chaplain at the Federal Reformatory for Women in Alderson. In 1996, he became pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Hinton and St. Mary of the Greenbrier Mission in Alderson.

Father Duhaime retired from active ministry in 1998 but continued to serve as chaplain at the Federal Reformatory for Women until 2015. In 2020, he moved to the Welty Home for Assisted Living in Wheeling.
Happy Anniversary
to our former pastor, Msgr. Sam Sacus,
still a full-service priest!

Msgr. Sam Sacus
Fifty-Five Years of Priesthood

Wishing you, our former pastor,
a very happy anniversary!
From all of us at St. Francis de Sales
Parish and School, Beckley

Congratulations to the Jubilarians of 2021

We especially congratulate our Priest in Residence,
Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus, celebrating 55 years of Priesthood.
God bless you all in your Jubilee year and always!

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
CELEBRATING 2021 JUBILARIANS

PRIESTS

+ 55 Years
  Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus

+ 50 Years
  Father John N. Duhaime

+ 25 Years
  Father Pius Akajiofor

+ 25 Years
  Father William K. Matheny, Jr.

+ 25 Years
  Father John Hue Tran, S.V.D.

WOMEN RELIGIOUS

+ 80 Years
  Sister Angelina Cavallaro, CSJ

+ 60 Years
  Sister Elizabeth Monsanto, SAC

+ 65 Years
  Sister M. Diane Bushee, SAC

+ 55 years
  Sister Mary Irene Sorber, SCC

+ 60 Years
  Sister Virginia Yeager, CSJ

+ 25 Years
  Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJI
Our congratulations to

Priests and Women Religious of
the Mountain State

Celebrating their Jubilee Anniversaries

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Sister Angelina Cavallaro entered the Congregation of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Francis Borgia in Anmoore, West Virginia, on August 15, 1941. Following her novitiate experience, she professed her vows on St. Joseph’s Day in 1944. Sister received a B.S.Ed. degree in elementary education from Duquesne University and an M.S.Ed. degree in special education from St. Louis University. As a teacher, Sister Angelina served first in Diocesan elementary schools: St. Agnes in Charleston; St. Peter School and St. Joseph Villa Kindergarten in Fairmont; St. Francis Xavier in Moundsville; and Blessed Martin in Wheeling. She also served as houseparent and teacher at St. Vincent Home for Girls in Wheeling. From 1961 until 1969 she provided a Special Education Class for special needs students in Wheeling and neighboring cities. From 1969-1979, she served as a faculty member in the Department of Education at West Liberty State College. Following preparation and certification in clinical pastoral education, Sister Angelina embarked on a new career in pastoral ministry in 1979. Until her retirement to Mount St. Joseph in 1997, she served the pastoral needs of patients and families at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, United Hospital Center in Clarksburg, and St. Joseph Hospital in Parkersburg. Sister Angelina is currently active in prayer ministry at Mount St. Joseph, and expresses deep gratitude to her family, her community and especially to God for all her life’s blessings.

A great achievement

Sister Angelina Cavallaro entered the Congregation of St. Joseph from her home parish of St. Francis Borgia in Anmoore, West Virginia, on August 15, 1941. She spent many years as a special education teacher and college instructor before embarking on a new career in pastoral ministry in 1979. Until her retirement to Mount St. Joseph in 1997, she served the pastoral needs of patients and families at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, United Hospital Center in Clarksburg, and St. Joseph Hospital in Parkersburg. Sister Angelina is currently active in prayer ministry at Mount St. Joseph, and expresses deep gratitude to her family, her community, and especially to God for all her life’s blessings. We congratulate her as she celebrates her 80th Jubilee Anniversary – and thank her for the years of service to the Catholic Church and to the people of North Central West Virginia.
Sister M. Diane Bushee, SAC, 65th Anniversary

Sister Diane Bushee, SAC (Theresa Frances) entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Huntington July 16, 1953. Sister made her first vows on August 15, 1956, at St. Mary's Hospital Chapel, Huntington.

She earned her Diploma in Nursing from St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1959 and her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Nursing Administration from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Sister Diane made her Final Vows on August 15, 1962, in Huntington. She served as Director of Nursing Service from 1964-1974 and Assistant Administrator from 1974-1977 at St. Mary's Medical Center. Sister Diane was elected Provincial of the North American Province of Pallottine Missionary Sisters, a position she held from 1977 to 1986. Following her service as Provincial Superior, sister served as interim principal of St. Vincent Pallotti High School in Laurel, Md., from 1987-1988. Sister Diane then completed an Internship in Mission Integration at Mercy Center, Farmington Hills, Michigan, after completing her term as Provincial.

Sister served in a part time position as the Diocesan Coordinator of Health Affairs for Wheeling-Charleston from 1992-1998. Sister retired from her position as Vice President of Mission Integration at St. Mary's Medical Center, a position she held from 1990 until March 2021. Sister Diane was joined by members of the Pallottine Sisters Community in Huntington and friends as she celebrated her 65th Jubilee on August 15 at St. Mary's Medical Center Sisters Chapel. The Mass was presided by Father Gideon Olugbami, Chaplain.

Sister Elizabeth Monsanto, SAC, 60th Anniversary

Sister Elizabeth Monsanto, SAC (Irma Monsanto) entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Belize, Central America on January 4, 1959. After graduation from St. Catherine's Academy in 1953, Irma Monsanto, presently Sister Elizabeth Monsanto, began her teaching career at St. Joseph's Grade School, teaching seven of her siblings. In 1957 Sister Elizabeth enriched her professional education at St. John's Teacher's College in Belize, earning her Teaching Diploma there. Immediately after her studies, she entered the Novitiate of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province.

During her teaching ministry, Sister Elizabeth was Principal at the Grade School, in Benque Viejo del Carman for 13 years; sister continued her education in the United States, at Notre Dame College, Indiana, earning her Bachelor's Degree, in Speech and Drama, in 1972. She then returned to Belize as Principal of St. Francis Xavier High School where she served until 1978. Sister Elizabeth journeyed back to the USA for medical reasons and, became a member of the North American Province of Pallottine Missionary Sisters in 1979; sister spent a brief time in Huntington; she then moved to Florissant, Mo., where she generously served as Director of Teen Retreats, at the Pallottine Renewal Center for 34 years. While in St. Louis, sister served as the Superior of the local Pallottine Community. Sister also took on the sacred task of Days of Re-Creation for Senior Citizens. Sister Elizabeth, spent three summers at Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., where she earned her Master's Degree in Christian Spirituality.

Sister Elizabeth moved to the St. Mary's local community in Huntington in 2011. She has shared her cooking and baking talents with the sisters since her arrival and has been a supporter of the Congregation through her prayer ministry. Joined by members of the Pallottine Sisters Community in Huntington and friends Sister Elizabeth celebrated her 60th Jubilee on Sunday, August 15 at St. Mary's Medical Center Sisters Chapel. The Mass was presided by Father Gideon Olugbami, Chaplain.
Sister Virginia Yeager, CSJ, 60th Anniversary

Sister Virginia (Ginny) Yeager, originally from St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1961, having graduated from Wheeling Central Catholic High School. She made her first profession of vows on the Feast of St. Ignatius in 1964. Sister received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education from St. John College in Cleveland; a certificate in Spirituality and Worship from the Jesuit School of Theology, and an MA in Applied Theology through the School of Applied Theology in Berkeley, California; certification as both a Board Certified Chaplain and supervisor through the National Association of Catholic Chaplains as well as Board Certified Educator with the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education.

Initially she taught in parochial schools: St. Francis Xavier in Moundsville, Blessed Trinity in Wheeling and at Fairmont Catholic. She also served as pastoral associate at St. Theresa Parish in Morgantown and provided pastoral service as a staff member of the Wheeling-Charleston Office of Spirituality and Worship. She ministered at St. Francis Hospital/Thomas Health System in Charleston as Vice-President for Mission and Director of Pastoral Care and the Clinical Pastoral Education Program from 1991 until her retirement in 2019. In times past, she served within her congregation as Coordinator of Formation and Novice Director as well as in Community Leadership for ten years as well served on the original CSJ Community Life and Ministry Committee.

Sister Mary Irene Sorber, SCC, 55th Anniversary

Sister Mary Irene Sorber has been in religious life for 55 years, beginning with the investing ceremony into the Novitiate of the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, N.J. During those years she worked in education as a primary teacher and as a vice-principal. She was also on the administration team of her community, was administrator of Villa Pauline Retreat House, and served as Local Coordinator of the new Motherhouse of the Sisters of Christian Charity. Currently, Sister Mary Irene ministers at the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston as an itinerant Spiritual Companion/Director. She is willing to help in parishes any way that is needed in spirituality.

“Picking out one significant event in my life is difficult since there have been many. Most recently my service to our community stands out. God has asked a lot of letting go from our Sisters as we had to leave both our Infirmary in Danville, Pa., after 50 years and our Motherhouse after 84 years to move into a new Motherhouse which brought both groups of Sisters into one new way of being. It was my privilege to be the coordinator of this move. Of course, this was not done solely by me but with the help of all my religious Sisters in some way, our Companions of Pauline and many other volunteers in addition to our nursing staff, facilities management and food service. The Sisters’ beautiful willingness and self-giving were a true witness to me as our name implies...Sisters of Christ-like Love. I will never forget their love and witness of God’s will in their lives.”

Congratulations 2021 Jubilarians

Sister Virginia Yeager, CSJ 60th Anniversary
Sister Angelina Cavallaro, CSJ 80th Anniversary

Congratulations to our Jubilarians and all those in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrating this year. We thank you for sharing your lives and ministry with the people of West Virginia.

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Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJI, 25th Anniversary

Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, a member of the Sisters of the Child Jesus of Zimbabwe, celebrates 25 years of Religious Profession. She made her First Profession of vows on January 6, 1996.

Before coming to West Virginia in 2004, she worked as a High School Religion Teacher in Zimbabwe. Currently, Sister Maria is involved in Parish Ministry, serving as DRE at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg.

“It doesn’t seem possible that I have been a Sister for 25 years! Wow, it sounds long and old, but I’m thankful and grateful for my life and for all the people who have been part of it. In my early years, my family and teachers nurtured in me a love for God and the joy of being a Catholic. My mother, in particular, is very devoted to St. Ann and the blessed Mother. I learned to pray the rosary at a tender age. Being a Sister of the Sisters of the Child Jesus, I have been given the chance to teach children in Zimbabwe and here in West Virginia. I got the opportunity to meet many types of people and learn from them. I have so many memories of my students, their parents, and Catechists over the years. Now, as a missionary in a foreign land I have left my country, my parents, my siblings, my friends, and all my relatives, whom I love so much. How much I emptied myself, that much God filled me with His graces. To all of you who worked with me in Zimbabwe and those journeying with me at Immaculate Conception in Clarksburg, at this stage of my life, I say thank you for all the spiritual opportunities you have given me and I am deeply grateful. This event of my 25th Jubilee brought many wonderful memories and a deep sense of gratitude to God’s mercy and faithfulness, as well as to my SJI Sisters’ kindness, companionship, and all the spiritual opportunities that have been given me, I am deeply grateful."

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” (Luke 1: 46-47) Thank you and God bless you All!!!

Congratualtions Jubilarians

Morgantown

Magnificat

From St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

The women of Morgantown Magnificat thank you for your fiat!

www.magnificat-ministry.org

Happy 25th Anniversary
Sister Maria!
We love you!

Immaculate Conception Parish
Clarksburg, WV

Catholic Distance University
EST. 1983
With joy in our hearts, we thank the priests and women and men religious for their service and ministry to the diocese and offer our heartfelt congratulations and prayers!

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Thank You

from the staff and residents of Welty Properties: Welty Home, Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Welty Apartments, Braddock Apartments & Welty Townhomes

Monsignor Samuel S. Sacus
55 years

Father John N. Duhaime
50 years

Father Pius Akajiofor
25 years
(photo unavailable)

Father John Hue Tran, SVD
25 years
(photo unavailable)

Father William K. Matheny, Jr.
25 years

Sister Angelina Cavallaro, CSJ
80 years

Sister M. Diane Busbee, SAC
65 years

Sister Virginia Yeager, CSJ
60 years

Sister Elizabeth Monsanto, SAC
60 years

Sister Mary Irene Sorber, SCC
55 years

Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJ
25 years

May God bless you richly for your lives of service.

GOOD SHEPHERD NURSING HOME

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By Joyce Bibey

The eight Catholic schools in the Northern Panhandle are excited to be collaborating to present the gift of song and prayer for the Ohio Valley.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, the schools, which include St. Joseph the Worker School, St. Paul School, and Madonna High School, all of Weirton; Corpus Christi School, St. Michael School, St. Vincent de Paul School, and Central Catholic High School, all of Wheeling; and Our Lady of Peace School, of Marshall County, will join together to perform classic Christmas carols at 7 p.m. at the Nutcracker Village in Steubenville, Ohio. “The joint choir performance is going to be a great event,” said Kim Edmiston, Advancement Director for St. Paul School. “The 8 Northern Panhandle Catholic Schools have been collaborating on this event since summer! We are so excited that it’s finally time to join our voices for Christmas.”

The individual schools have been working with their local music teachers with tracks provided to all the schools by Jay Yelenic of St. Vincent de Paul School and Matt White of Central Catholic High School. Carrie Shultz from St. Paul School will be directing the choir at The Nutcracker Village. Prior to the pandemic the schools collaborated in 2020 to present “Lord, Let Me Walk,” a Lenten reflection with prayer, song, interpretation, and meditation, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

“We have learned in the past that when we gather our Catholic Schools together amazing things happen,” Edmiston said, as she recalled the hundreds of people from the four counties in the Northern Panhandle, who attended their last event to celebrate their faith through music and prayer.

For those unable to attend, the performance will be shared on the diocesan Facebook page.

CDU Offers New Literature Course This Winter

WEST VIRGINIA—Catholic Distance University’s new faculty member Brandon Harvey will teach ENG 111 Introduction to Literature in the Winter II term, which begins March 14. Students who complete this eight-week, online course will become familiar with some of the works of the great authors of the past and become comfortable conversing about them to explore the ideas of today.

With the addition of this course, BA degree completion students can now complete all nine of their required English Language Arts credits at CDU. ENG 111 is an initial survey of the importance of literature and some of the great works of Imaginative Literature. Harvey will lead students through an examination of texts that provide examples of different literary forms and genres from various time periods to engage the Great Conversation of Western Civilization through such literature but also within the Catholic Tradition. Students will engage these masterpieces through both critical and reflective reading to develop and analyze key ideas. Visit cdu.edu/up-coming-terms/ for a full list of courses, and e-mail admissions@cdu.edu or call 1-888-254-4CDU with questions.

CCWVs Emergency Assistance Helps

As the days get shorter and the nights get colder, many of our sisters and brothers are struggling. Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWV) provides the services people need to experience safety and security. Our Emergency Assistance program is one example. We can act quickly when a client receives a shut-off notice for electricity or gas. In the winter, these are truly lifesaving utilities. "Mary" is one client who benefited from Emergency Assistance. When Mary got hurt at work, she had to undergo major surgery because of her injury. She was in a particularly vulnerable situation because her worker’s compensation benefits ran out before she fully recovered. She couldn’t earn money. So Mary fell behind on her electric bill. And when she got a shut-off notice from the power company, her stress level skyrocketed. She reached out for help. CCWV staff collaborated with other organizations to get her bill taken care of. Through a combination of grant funds and generous donations, we were able to offer Mary some of the safety and security she deserves. For Mary, being “safe and secure” means she can keep the lights on as she focuses on her recovery. It means she is part of a loving community that cares.

To learn more, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.
La coleción ayuda al envejecimiento en las órdenes religiosas

WEST VIRGINIA — La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston llevará a cabo la coleción del Fondo de Jubilación para Religiosos del 11 al 12 de diciembre. La apelación parroquial está coordinada por la Oficina Nacional de Jubilación Religiosos de la Diócesis de San Francisco, D.C. Las ganancias ayudan a las comunidades religiosas de toda el país a cuidar a los miembros mayores. “En los últimos años, los católicos de West Virginia han mostrado su apoyo con muchas donaciones”, dijo la hermana Martha Teresa Gomez, RGS, Delegada de Vida Consagrada para el Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston. “También disfrutamos de la presencia de religiosos y religiosas en todo el estado. Su generosa donación sostiene a nosotros en el conjunto del brindarles atención física y espiritual”. El año pasado, la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston donó $67,050.45 a la coleción. “Me alenta continuamente la abrumadora generosidad de los católicos estadounidenses”, dijo la directora ejecutiva de NRRO, la hermana Stephanie Still, C.R. "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 la oficina de Seguridad 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 formalmente, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: la Diócesis desea informar a las autoridades diocesanas sobre cualquier abuso sexual, e incluir a las autoridades civiles. No estamos pidiendo que los religiosos mejoren su comportamiento, solo que informen cualquier abuso que hayan cometido. La Diócesis también ha establecido un formulario formal para informar sobre abuso sexual. Las ganancias ayudan a las comunidades religiosas a cuidar a sus miembros y a planificar el futuro de sus miembros más mayores. Las donaciones también financian recursos para ayudar a la comunidad religiosa a mejorar el cuidado de sus ancianos y planificar las necesidades de jubilación a largo plazo. Las órdenes religiosas no tienen acceso a financiación diocesana, sino que se dan económicamente autónomos y, por lo tanto, son responsables del apoyo y el cuidado de todos sus miembros. Si bien muchas órdenes religiosas utilizan llamamientos separados para el fondo de sus acreedores jubilados, la coleción anual del Fondo de Jubilación para Religiosos es para miembros de órdenes religiosas de EE. UU. Y beneficia tanto a hombres como a mujeres religiosas. Visite retiredreligious.org para obtener más información.

Gran Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe se celebrará en Martinsburg

La parroquia de San José en Martinsburg invita a todos a su Gran Fiesta a la Virgen de Guadalupe el 12 de Diciembre del 2021. El 12 de Diciembre nos reuniremos en “Lackey Hall” de la Iglesia de San José a cantarle “Las Maríaritas a la Virgen, comenzando a las 5:00 de la mañana seguro con la anuencia de las 6:00 con la Misa en su honor. Después de la Misa nos trasladamos en procesión hacia la Escuela San José y se seguirá celebrando en el salón de la cafeteria con platos mexicanos, bailes y mucho más.

Para obtener mayor información o donativos, llame al (304) 267-7307 o (304) 267-4898.
Merry Christmas

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Dr. Miravalle to Present Talk on St. Joseph in Weirton

World-renowned Mariologist Dr. Mark Miravalle will present a talk on St. Joseph Dec. 10 from 7:30-8:15 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton followed by Q & A. All will pray the rosary before the event at 7 p.m. Call the rectory at (304) 723-2054 for more details.

He has been a professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville since 1986, where he has been the recipient of several teaching awards and holds the St. John Paul II Chair of Mariology. He is president of the International Marian Association “comprised of more than 130 theologians, bishops, clergy, and laity worldwide who seek to promote Marian devotion and doctrines” such as the Blessed Virgin Mary as Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix. He has made numerous appearances on radio and television, including EWTN, National Family Catholic Radio, CNN Latin America, BBC, Fox News, and the NBC Series “Dateline.” He has authored more than 20 books on Mariology and Spiritual Theology.

GLOBAL CATHOLIC TOURS of VA

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10 Days Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest
Sep 19-28, 2022 $3999. Includes 3 nights Vienna, 3 nights Salzburg, 4 nights Budapest. With Fr Bjorn Lundberg from Winchester, VA.

13 Days Istanbul and Greece
Nov 7-19, 2022 $4999. Includes 2 nights-Istanbul, 1 night each in Kavala, Thessaloniki, Kalambaka & Delphi, & 3-nights in Athens. Plus a 3 day cruise to Islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, & Santorini. With visit to Ephesus. With Fr Shafer from Colonial Beach, VA.

11 Days Catholic Ireland. Sep 12-22, 2022
$xxx. Includes 1 night Limerick, 2 nights Kilkenny, 3 nights each in Galway and Dublin. With Fr Art Bufogle from Marlinton, WV.

For brochures or more information, contact John Tagnesi by calling 1-888-544-4461 or by e-mail to jtag1964@verizon.net

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