

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Advent is Opportunity to Get off Pedestal of Superiority, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — The season of Advent is a moment of grace to help believers stop being presumptuous and pretending to be self-sufficient, Pope Francis said.

There is only one way to begin a new life: “the way of humility — to be purified from the sense of superiority, from formalism and hypocrisy,” the pope said Dec. 4, the second Sunday of Advent.

People need to see themselves “as sinners, and to see Jesus as the savior who comes for us, not for the others, for us, just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved,” he told visitors and pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the recitation of the Angelus prayer.

The day’s Gospel reading described St. John the Baptist’s sharp rebuke of those who were known for their duplicity and presumption, and his urgent appeal to repent.

When St. John the Baptist says, “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance,” the pope said, “This is a cry of love, like the cry of a father who sees his son ruining himself and says to him, ‘Don’t throw your life away!’”

If people presume they always are right, they will fail to welcome this loving invitation and miss an opportunity to begin a new life, he said.

“In essence, dear brothers and sisters, hypocrisy is the greatest danger, **See “Advent” on Page 2**



### *A Team Effort*

**Courtesy Photo**  
Finn McLane, a second-grader at St. Paul School in Weirton, gets a little help from his classmates placing the angel on the Christmas tree they decorated in front of St. Paul Church in Weirton Dec. 2. Lifting McLane are second-graders Caleb Shultz (wearing the red coat) and Kye Ryan.

# A Letter from Bishop Brennan

December 5, 2022

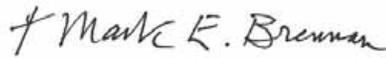
My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has learned that Rev. Will-Roger Malave, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, has been added to the Archdiocese of Hartford's list of clergy with credible allegations of sexual abuse against them. Fr. Malave served in West Virginia as Administrator of St. Martin Parish in Cameron, St. Joseph Parish in Proctor, and St. Boniface Parish in Camden during the years of 1993 to 1998. The Official Catholic Directory lists Fr. Malave as retired and on leave from Hartford.

Our Diocese has not seen a criminal complaint of any sort, nor any information related to the credible allegation. We are working from informa-

tion provided to us by the Archdiocese of Hartford in Connecticut. I do encourage anyone with any information pertaining to sexual abuse by Fr. Malave to first report to civil authorities and then to the Office of Safe Environment at the Chancery by calling directly at (304) 230-1504.

I encourage everyone to pray for abuse victims and survivors and hope that all investigations will proceed thoroughly and fairly.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

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

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

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

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Very Rev. Joseph M. Konikattil, Assoc. V.F.**, has been incardinated into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, effective immediately.

**Father Anthony G. Thurston** has been incardinated into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, effective immediately.

In consultation with Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of the Archdiocese of Delhi, **Father Frederick D'Souza** is ap-

pointed parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling with residence at the parish rectory, effective immediately.

In consultation with Bishop James Thoppil of the Diocese of Kohima, India, **Father Joy Raphael** is appointed administrator of St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood, St. Zita Mission in Masontown, and St. Edward the Confessor Mission in Terra Alta with residence at the parish rectory in Kingwood, effective Nov. 17, 2022.

**Father Charles E. McGinnis, Jr.**, is now on a leave of absence, effective immediately.

## Advent..

Cont'd from Page 1

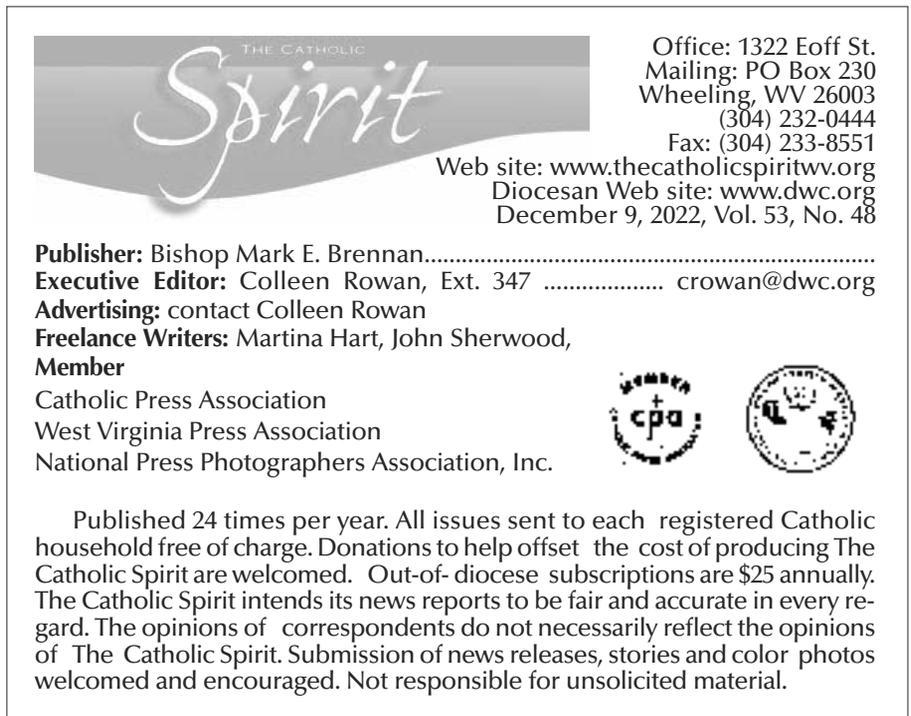
because it can even ruin the most sacred realities. Hypocrisy is a serious danger. This is why the Baptist — as Jesus would be later — is harsh with hypocrites," the pope said.

It is important to welcome God with humility, he said, "not bravura: 'We're strong; we are great people!'"

"Each of us needs to confess our own sins, our

own failings, our own hypocrisy," the pope said. "It requires getting off the pedestal and being immersed in the water of repentance."

"Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks — every one of us has them — and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God's pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended," he said.



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# Catholic Charities Converts Ballroom to Overnight Shelter

**WHEELING**—Several individuals and organizations have spent months collaborating to find a space to provide temporary overnight shelter for adults experiencing homelessness this winter in the city of Wheeling.

That shelter has finally been found. Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) will convert the grand ballroom at its administrative office into a temporary shelter.

“The city of Wheeling is blessed by a community who shows tremendous mercy, love and compassion,” said Beth Zarate, CCWVa chief executive officer and president. “As winter and cold weather approaches, providing warmth, nourishment, rest and safety for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness is our privilege.”

In addition to providing the space in the diocesan-owned property, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston donated \$10,000 for shelter operations.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ (Matthew 25:35-36) These words from Christ in Matthew’s Gospel serve as a roadmap for how we should treat our brothers and sisters,” said Bishop Mark E. Brennan. “We are called to serve others, especially the less fortunate.”

Set to open Thursday, December 15, the temporary shelter is designed to keep individuals warm during the upcoming winter. The winter shelter will operate from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. through mid-March or longer, depending on weather conditions.

“Winter is upon us and there is great urgency in sheltering those who are living in tents,” said Melissa Adams, city of Wheeling homeless liaison. “We are in the process of preparing the Catholic Charities space to welcome up to 60 individuals this winter season.”

Operations will fall under the newly created 501c3 nonprofit the LIFE HUB. The LIFE HUB was created as a 501c3 nonprofit organization, a program of the Wheeling Housing Authority partnering with



Courtesy Photo

From left: Joyce Wolen, John Moses, Deacon George Smoulder, Melissa Adams, Mark Phillips, and Beth Zarate.

the city of Wheeling. The goal of the LIFE HUB is to acquire and operate a spacious shelter year-round for homeless adults and families. The program will also provide a variety of services under one roof to strategically and compassionately help the homeless successfully and efficiently navigate through a variety of systems that include housing, employment, education, health and mental health, to ensure a rapid response to basic emergent needs.

“We needed to stabilize the upcoming winter first. Now that the project is moving forward in the Catholic Charities building, we can begin long-term planning of the LIFE HUB in the very near future,” explained Joyce Wolen, Wheeling Housing Authority executive director. “Other communities have adopted and implemented this model with exciting success. The key is collaboration and cooperation with the many resources

in the community. We are looking forward to inviting to the table all organizations serving the homeless in our area for planning meetings,” said Wolen.

Retired Youth Services System Chief Executive Officer John Moses has joined the overnight shelter project in a temporary role to oversee day-to-day operations for the upcoming winter. Moses is being assisted by a team of familiar faces who have worked in the former Winter Freeze Shelter. He is also joined by another community familiar face – former Catholic Charities Executive Director and retired United Way Director Deacon George Smoulder.

“We are grateful for all of the individuals, organizations, foundations and faith-based community that have supported the winter shelter efforts through financial and in-kind gifts over the last several years,” said Moses. “We thank them for their continued sup-

community can not only be safe during the harsh winter months, but also receive other vital services they need to help them get back on their feet,” said Bishop Brennan. “I especially thank Beth Zarate, chief executive officer of CCWVa, and Mark Phillips, chief operating officer of CCWVa, for taking the initiative in finding a solution to shelter the homeless. This collaboration is a testament to the great work that can be accomplished when many organizations band together to ensure the dignity of our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Donations are needed for the temporary winter shelter. Checks may be made out to the LIFE HUB and mailed to P.O. Box 2089; Wheeling, WV 26003. A temporary website landing page will be launched in the next couple of weeks to take online donations as well at [lifehubwv.org](http://lifehubwv.org). Questions may be directed to the following: Melissa Adams at (304) 234-3610 or [madams@wheelingwv.gov](mailto:madams@wheelingwv.gov); John Moses at (304) 215-8904 or [johnmoses@comcast.net](mailto:johnmoses@comcast.net); Joyce Wolen at (304) 639-8429 or [joyce@wheelingwv-pha.org](mailto:joyce@wheelingwv-pha.org).

port this year. The winter shelter would not happen without it.”

“I am proud of the work of the diocese, CCWVa and local civic leaders to create this space so that our homeless



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Accepting New Patients

# A Letter from Bishop Brennan on Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious

*Collection During Masses This Weekend, Dec. 10-11*

November 28, 2022

As you likely know, religious sisters, brothers and priests worked for years in our schools, hospitals, parishes, and service agencies without receiving (or requesting) monetary compensation. Now the great majority of them are old and sometimes sick and handicapped. Their religious orders, taking their vow of poverty seriously, did not generally save money for retirement. They assumed that there would be a steady stream of younger religious to support those who grew old.

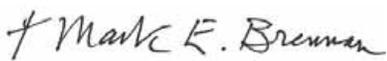
The drastic decline in religious vocations led to a crisis in which religious orders had a large number of old and incapacitated members and few younger ones who could both carry on their ministry and care for their elders. This led the US Bishops in 1988 to institute the Retirement Fund for Religious to help religious congregations care for their aging and infirm members.

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will soon take place the weekend of December 10-11. I urge you to remember how much these elderly brothers and sisters of ours have contributed to the good of the Church. You may have been touched personally by their generous care for you. Now is your turn to be generous in support of them.

We all are aggrieved when we hear of clergy and religious who have abused the young, but we must remember that the overwhelming majority have served with love and integrity. Let us honor their service by offering them our own.

May the Lord Jesus, born of a poor virgin for our sake, look kindly on you and your loved ones as you observe the joyful season of Advent in preparation for the great feast of Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



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**Elderly religious need your help.** Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give generously.

**Please give at your local parish.**

**To donate by mail:**

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*Make check payable to Retirement Fund For Religious*

**[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)**

Visit [retiredreligious.org/2022photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2022photos) to meet the religious pictured.

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# More Than \$115,328 Raised by the Faithful on Giving Tuesday

By Colleen Rowan

**WEST VIRGINIA**—On Giving Tuesday (Nov. 29) faithful across West Virginia generously gave to support the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA). And donations are still coming in.

“At the end of day on the 29th we had raised over \$100,000 and donations have continued to be sent in from the parishes,” said Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the diocese. “Our current Giving Tuesday total is \$115,328 and counting.”

Giving Tuesday, Sforza said, is a global movement that inspires people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

“For us it is a time that Catholics across the diocese come together in support of their parishes, shared ministries, Catholic education and outreach efforts across our state,” she said. “There are various ways to get involved. You can donate your time, your talents, or your treasure to support your favorite causes.”

Donations made by the faithful

“I want to take this opportunity to thank our generous donors for the many ways they share their gifts with their parish family throughout the year.”

—Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the diocese

on Giving Tuesday were applied to parish CSA goals, Sforza said, not-

ing that the first 50 percent of the parish goal supports Faith Formation and Evangelization efforts, Catholic education, and outreach efforts across the state.

“Parishes receive everything over 50 percent of the goal,” she said.

Each year, the CSA offers the faithful a way to support their parishes while at the same time supporting Catholic schools, outreach to the poor, evangelization, vocations, and other ministries around the state. Sforza said the 2022 appeal is currently at 87 percent of goal with almost \$1.75 million pledged.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank our generous donors for the many ways they share their gifts with their parish family throughout the year,” she said. “Their participation in the diverse works of the church and community demonstrates that the light and love of the Christ Child shines brightly in their parishes and throughout the state.”

Sforza continued, saying: “As we strive to meet the spiritual and

pastoral needs of our parish families, we must also recognize the financial needs and provide support to the various ministries and programs supported by the CSA, such as Catholic Education, Faith Formation and Evangelization, and Catholic Charities West Virginia. This year, gifts to the Catholic Sharing Appeal enlivened ministries, strengthened families, and enriched parish life.”

In his letter to the faithful on the CSA website, Bishop Mark Brennan said that the need for outreach to the young, the vulnerable and the less fortunate across West Virginia has continued to grow.

“Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to make a significant contribution toward meeting those needs, making more resources available to care for those around us, despite a declining Catholic population.”

Donations to the 2022 appeal will continue to be accepted through Dec. 31. Donations can easily be made online at [csa.dwcministries.org](http://csa.dwcministries.org).



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# Pope Approves New Law Strengthening Oversight of Vatican-Related Entities

**By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Pope Francis has approved a new law strengthening the oversight of Vatican-related foundations and nonprofit organizations as well as detailing sanctions and clarifying existing norms on transparency, accountability and mandated compliance with anti-money laundering measures.

The new law, which takes effect Dec. 8, applies to all legal “persons” or entities dedicated to a specific purpose and that are connected to the Holy See or Vatican City State.

These entities include foundations, nonprofit or volunteer organizations and specific funds that are dependent on and supervised by either the Secretariat of State, the Governorate of Vatican City State, an office of the Roman Curia, a pontifical academy or university, or some other Vatican-related body.

Because these entities were established by “the initiative of private individuals” to carry out a mission or purpose beyond the work of the Roman Curia, they enjoy “a certain administrative autonomy,” the pope

wrote in an apostolic letter published “*motu proprio*,” (on his own initiative) Dec. 6.

However, since their assets and “goods are part of the patrimony of the Apostolic See, it is necessary for them to be subject not only to the supervision of the curial institutions on which they depend, but also to the control and supervision of the economic bodies of the Roman Curia,” the pope wrote.

Specifically, the Secretariat for the Economy will supervise, inspect and verify the economic and financial activities, assets and budgets of these legal entities as well as their compliance to international standards against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The law specifies the secretariat and the office of the Vatican auditor general may have access to all accounting records, information on financial transactions, donors, beneficiaries, governing members and other necessary information about the legal entity. It also outlines the process for the handling, liquidation and transfer of assets after an entity is suppressed.

The new law on “legal persons” related to the Holy

See/Vatican City State reflects a number of recommendations made by Moneyval, the European financial watchdog committee, in its 2021 report assessing the Vatican’s compliance with financial regulation standards to prevent financial crimes such as money laundering and terrorism financing.

The 275-page report had a nine-page section dedicated to “legal persons and arrangements,” saying there was “no guidance or overarching law that comprehensively addresses registration, administration and winding up (liquidating assets) of legal persons.”

The Moneyval report noted there had been “ongoing oversight of activities of all legal persons,” an understanding of the potential risks they presented and an effective vetting process in place of those involved as members and in management of these entities.

However, among its recommended actions, Moneyval suggested Vatican authorities “should continue to pursue the introduction of an overarching law to cover the registration, administration and winding up of legal persons in the Holy See/Vatican City

State”; provide guidance on the “creation of legal persons in order to provide an overview of the applicable legal provisions and processes applied in practice and make it publicly available”; and review the administrative sanctions applicable to legal persons in order to ensure compliance.

Moneyval had listed 48 known Vatican-related “legal persons” in an appendix to its 2012 report, detailing each one’s stated mission, legal representative and supervising body.

Some of that information has changed since then, but among the entities listed they include: the Vatican employees’ health care assistance fund and pension fund; the “Nostra Aetate” Scholarship Foundation; the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem; the Vatican-owned pediatric hospital’s Bambino Gesù Autonomous Foundation; Caritas Internationalis; and the Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation.



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# Supreme Court Appears Ready to Support Web Designer in Free Speech Case

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — In a case examining the scope of free speech protected by the First Amendment, the Supreme Court Dec. 5 ultimately seemed to favor a broad view of free speech.

And in this case, the speech involved what a graphic designer who creates websites should not have to say.

Colorado designer Lorie Smith, who runs a web design company called 303 Creative, has said she should not be required to create wedding websites for same-sex couples based on her Christian beliefs about marriage.

Colorado state law forbids businesses from discriminating based on sexual orientation. Smith contends her First Amendment right to free speech exempts her from the law.

But she lost her case in the lower court when the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the state has a compelling interest to protect its citizens “from the harms of discrimination.”

Kristen Waggoner, the Alliance Defending Freedom attorney representing Smith, before the Supreme Court, specifically argued that companies whose work centers around expression have First Amendment protections from being compelled to say things that go against their personal beliefs.

If Smith’s case sounds familiar, that’s because it is very similar to a recent case involving a Colorado baker who refused to make a custom wedding cake for a same-sex couple based on his religious beliefs.

In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that the baker’s refusal to make a wedding cake did not violate Colorado’s anti-discrimination law.

In its ruling, the court did not specifically deal with First Amendment protections allowing businesses to refuse clients’ requests based on the owners’ religious convictions.

A ruling in favor of the web designer in this case could give broad leeway to business owners to deny services based on their own beliefs and would trump anti-discrimination laws.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, joined by the Colorado Catholic Conference and other religious groups, sided with the designer as they did with the baker five years ago. In their amicus brief they said this case gives the

court the chance to clarify free speech issues it said the court fell short of doing in the previous case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*.

In the current case, Smith, has not denied a service as the baker did in refusing to bake a custom cake for the same-sex couple. Smith is asking the court to weigh in before she even begins designing wedding websites, saying she has been worried that her refusal to design a same-sex wedding website would violate Colorado’s public accommodations law.

Some of the justices brought up hypothetical cases that could come up if they ruled in the state’s favor asking Colorado Solicitor General Eric Olson if people could be forced to write news releases for the Church of Scientology or a Black Santa actor could be forced to pose with a child in a Ku Klux Klan outfit — incidents that Olson said would not apply under the state’s law.

Conversely, Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked if a ruling in favor of the designer would mean web designers could refuse to work with interracial couples or disabled couples.

A majority of the justices seemed willing to carve out narrow exemptions to discrimination laws.

Justice Clarence Thomas emphasized that this case was distinct from other public accommodations cases because of the speech aspect, pointing out: “This is not a hotel, this is not a restaurant, this is not a riverboat or a train.” Similarly, Justice Brett Kavanaugh asked about how one would determine even within the wedding industry what types of services count as speech.

In response, Waggoner told the court she wouldn’t be in front of them today representing a caterer, for example, but she would likely represent a custom wedding cake designer, bringing the previous court case to mind.

The USCCB’s brief said there is a “pressing need for the court to clarify how the compelled speech doctrine applies to wedding-vendor cases and other disputes.” It urged the justices to do what they have done in the past: “Apply the Free Speech Clause to protect religious speech, thereby strengthening liberty not just for the religious but for all society.”

It also said the current case “provides an ap-

propriate and especially important opportunity to invoke free speech protections again to address the ongoing tensions in wedding-vendor cases and in the current cultural context more broadly” and implored the court to “protect individuals from compelled speech and to provide space in the public square for minority voices.”

Other groups that filed briefs on behalf of the wedding vendor included CatholicVote.org, the Thomas More Society, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and the Becket Fund.

DignityUSA, an unofficial Catholic support group for gay Catholics and their families, and New Ways Ministry, a Catholic pastoral outreach to LGBTQ people and their families, joined a brief filed by 30 religious and civil rights groups opposing the graphic artist’s case.

“Carving out this broad exemption would allow public businesses to legally exclude customers based on their identities,” it said, adding that “instead of safeguarding every citizen’s right to buy goods and services from businesses open to the public,” the proposed exemption “would further hurt the very people these civil rights laws were designed to protect.”

Twenty states supported Smith in friend of the court briefs. They say that they have public accommodation laws on the books, but their laws exempt those businesspeople who make their living creating custom art. Twenty-two states support Colorado and have similar laws in place protecting people from discrimination, which is also backed by the Justice Department.

A decision in the case is expected in late June.

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# Elkin's St. Brendan Parish to Celebrate 125th Anniversary

**ELKINS**—St. Brendan Parish will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on Dec. 18. Parishioners, both current and former, and former pastors have been invited to mark its founding in March of 1897.

The event will begin at noon in the parish hall. Parishioners are asked to bring a side dish. The entrée, drinks, and dessert will be provided.

In 1893, Father Hai-mann, the pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Thomas, traveled to Elkins once a month to celebrate Eucharist for the newly begun mission parish. From the beginning, he spoke of erecting a church building for the mission of Elkins. In 1896, a parcel of land at the corner of Randolph Ave. and Park St. was acquired for \$300 and by March of

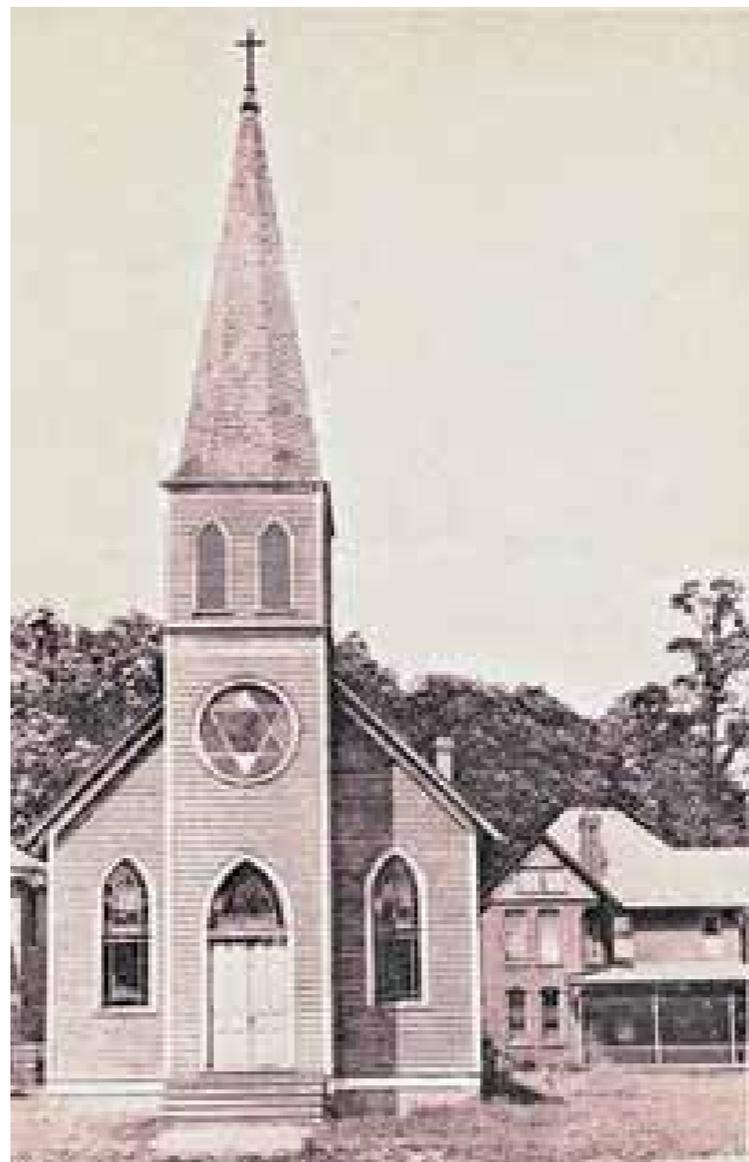
1897, a wooden Catholic church building was constructed.

At that time, the first pastor in Elkins, Father John J. Daly, was assigned and the church became a parish instead of a mission. In October 1900, the bishop dedicated the church under the name and patronage of St. Brendan. The name Brendan was an appropriate name for the parish situated in the midst of such beautiful mountains, since the name means, "A Dweller in The Hills". A small one-room Catholic school was started in September 1907 with an enrollment of sixty-five children. A larger school building was constructed in September 1920. In 1921, a convent was added to house the nuns who taught at St. Brendan



Courtesy Photo

St. Brendan Church in Elkins



First St. Brendan Church, 1918

Courtesy Photo

School; both of which ultimately closed in the late 1960s due to declining enrollment and rising costs.

By 1928, the original wooden church was razed and a new and larger masonry church was constructed on the original church's site. Property for the St. Brendan Cemetery was purchased south of Elkins on the road to Beverly. In the years that followed, a number of improvements to the new church were made, including new pews

and an organ.

Changes rooted in the Second Vatican Council during the 1980s required a need to renovate places of worship. When the estimated cost of renovation

reached \$500,000, the current pastor asked the parish to vote on whether to proceed with the renovation of the existing church or build a new church on eight acres **See "Parish" on Page 11**



Courtesy Photo  
Father Daly, first pastor of St. Brendan Parish



Courtesy Photo  
First Communion, 1964

Courtesy Photo

# Parish...

**Cont'd from Page 10**  
adjacent to the cemetery on the Beverly Pike.

On September 25, 1995, the parish took its first major step in building its new parish home. Parishioners joined in an official groundbreaking ceremony on the building site. During the next four years, parish members and the Elkins community watched the new parish home being built. Throughout the building of the new parish home, parishioners took part in tours during each new phase of the construction.

After the parish moved to the new church building, the old building was sold, renovated, and reopened as the Randolph County Community Arts Center in 2001. The beautiful stained - glass windows, large crucifix, and Stations of the Cross plaques had been removed and incorpo-

rated into the design of the new church.

On October 3, 1999, Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt joined with twenty-five ordained priests of the diocese and close to seven hundred parishioners and visitors, to dedicate the new St. Brendan Parish home. Shortly after the dedication, St. Brendan's became the home for a cluster of parishes that included St. Patrick Parish in Coalton, Resurrection Mission in Belington (now closed), and St. John Bosco Parish in Huttonsville.

During its 125-year history, St. Brendan Parish has been led by 14 pastors who have been assisted by 38 sisters and eight deacons. Currently, the parish is led by Father James. E. O'Connor, pastor. Father O'Connor is assisted by Deacon John Sarraga, permanent deacon at St. Brendan's, and Deacon Raymond Goodwin, permanent dea-



Courtesy Photo

The confirmation class of 2021 is pictured with Bishop Mark Brennan.

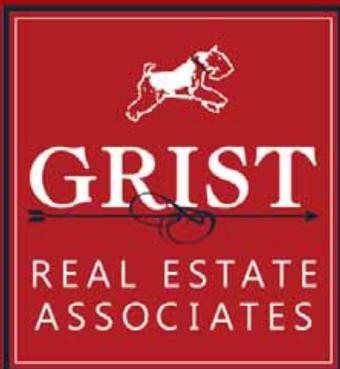
con and director for Religious Education at St. Brendan's.

One hundred and twenty-five years after its founding, St. Brendan Par-

ish continues to thrive, grow, and conduct its mission "as stewards of God's creation, striving to work for the greater honor and glory of God, in its families

and community."

This article is based on the history that was originally published in the 2009 St. Brendan Parish Directory.



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Helen M. Alvaré,  
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olic sex, marriage, and parenting teachings and the "architecture of the faith," specifically, God's identity, how He loves us, and how He wants us to love Him and one another.

- Describe the unity of Catholic teachings about sex, marriage, and parenting, and about social justice.

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Tuition is just \$525. To apply and enroll, contact Admissions at [admissions@cdu.edu](mailto:admissions@cdu.edu); 1-888-254-4CDU. Be sure to enroll soon as spots are limited.

## Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg to Host Christmas Cello and Piano Concert



Courtesy Photo

Pictured are Robin Bohn and Ashley Driscoll.

By Joyce Bibey

**CLARKSBURG**—Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg will host its annual Christmas Cello and Piano concert at 6 p.m., Dec 30, in the church.

The free program on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph will feature Ashley Driscoll on cello and Robin Bohn on piano. Driscoll has advanced degrees in cello performance, conducting, and education. She has played frequently for parishes throughout the county. She grew up in the Clarksburg/Bridgeport area and now lives in Virginia, teaching high school music, has a private cello studio for students, and conducts the Loudoun County Youth Orchestra. Bohn serves as the music director at Immaculate Conception and has taught music and choir at several schools in Harrison County.

The duo has shared their talents and performed together several times at Immaculate Conception as recently as this past summer.



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# Papa: Adviento presenta oportunidad para dejar de sentirse superior

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — La temporada de Adviento es un momento de gracia para ayudar a los creyentes a dejar de ser presuntuosos y pretender ser autosuficientes, dijo el papa Francisco.

Solo hay una forma de comenzar una nueva vida: "la forma de la humildad: purificarse del sentido de superioridad, del formalismo y la hipocresía", dijo el papa el 4 de diciembre, segundo domingo de Adviento.

Las personas necesitan verse "pecadoras, y ver a Jesús como el salvador que viene por nosotros, no por los demás, por nosotros, tal como somos, con nuestras pobreza, miserias y defectos, sobre todo con nuestra necesidad de ser resucitados, perdonado y salvados", dijo a los visitantes y peregrinos reunidos en la Plaza de San Pedro para el rezo del Ángelus.

La lectura del Evangelio del día describió la severa reprensión de San Juan Bautista a aquellos que eran conocidos por su duplicidad y presunción, y su llamado urgente al arrepentimiento.

Cuando San Juan Bautista dice: "Produce buenos frutos como prueba de tu arrepentimiento", el papa dijo: "Este es un grito de amor, como el grito de un padre que ve a su hijo arruinándose y le dice: 'No ¡No desperdicies tu vida!'".

Si las personas suponen que siempre tienen razón, no aceptarán esta amorosa invitación y perderán la oportunidad de comenzar una nueva vida, dijo.

"En el fondo, queridos hermanos y hermanas, la hipocresía es el mayor peligro, porque puede arruinar incluso las realidades más sagradas. La hipocresía es un peligro grave. Por eso el Bautista —como lo sería después Jesús— es duro con los hipócritas", dijo el papa.

Es importante acoger a Dios con humildad, dijo, "no con bravura: '¡Somos fuertes, somos grandes personas!'".

"Cada uno de nosotros necesita confesar sus propios pecados, nuestras propias fallas, nuestra propia hipocresía", dijo el papa. "Requiere bajarse del pedestal y sumergirse en el agua del arrepentimiento".

"El Adviento es un momento de gracia para quitarnos las máscaras -cada uno de nosotros las tenemos- y ponernos en fila con los humildes, para liberarnos de la presunción de la creencia de ser autosuficientes, para ir a confesar nuestros pecados, los ocultos, y acoger el perdón de Dios, pedir perdón a aquellos a quienes hemos ofendido", dijo.

"Así es como se comienza una nueva vida", dijo.

Foto de CNS/Vatican Media  
El Papa Francisco está enmarcado por el árbol de Navidad en la Plaza de San Pedro mientras dirige el Ángelus desde la ventana de su estudio con vista a la plaza en el Vaticano el 4 de diciembre de 2022.



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

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

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

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades 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 Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

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

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

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

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Courtesy Photo



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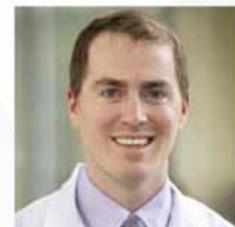
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