

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

An Easter Message from Bishop Brennan



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the faithful and the palms at the start of Palm Sunday Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston April 13. He then celebrated Chrism Masses at the basilica the next day and at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 15. He celebrated the Mass of the Lord's Supper-Holy Thursday and the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion-Good Friday at both St. Anne Parish in Webster Springs and Holy Family Parish in Richwood and then brought 13 people into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil at St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway April 19. He then returned to Wheeling to celebrate Easter Sunday Mass at the cathedral April 20.

My friends in Christ, when you hear continually of wars, terrorist attacks, plane crashes, earthquakes that kill thousands, tropical storms that threaten to wipe out small island nations, not to mention the breakup of marriages, the abandonment of children and their abuse, all kinds of scandals in civil society and the Church, human ideologies that divide even people of faith – do you wonder if things can ever change? The wisdom writer, Qoheleth, in the Old Testament said: *What has been will be again, what has been done will be*

done again. There's nothing new under the sun [Ecclesiastes 1:9]. The French say, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." Is there any hope for real change in human affairs or is it déjà vu all over again? Must we resign ourselves to a continual repetition of the calamitous news of the past?

Jesus Christ changes all that. He is absolutely new in the world's history as the unique union of God and man. He lived among us for thirty-three years, he preached, worked miracles, suffered and died. Then something utterly un-

heard-of happened: he rose bodily from the dead. It was not a resuscitation back to natural life but a true overcoming of death by the power of his divinity, a rising to a new kind of life in which he can never again suffer or die. The Son of God has shown us that there is indeed something new under the sun.

The risen Lord was seen by many people before he ascended back to his Father (read I Corinthians 15:5-8). He reigns now in heaven as the invisible Head of his Body on earth, the

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Msgr. Lawrence J. Luciana

Msgr. Lawrence Luciana was born of parents Dominic Luciana and Lena Staffileno August 30, 1937 in Dennison, Ohio. Msgr. Luciana's parents and their two sons, and daughter, Eugene, Lawrence and Marlene moved to Steubenville, Ohio, in his early childhood. He attended St. Peter School, Steubenville, 1943 to 1951. He attended Steubenville Catholic Central School from 1951 to 1953 and entered St. John Vianney Seminary, Bloomington, Ohio, during his sophomore year of high school.

Msgr. Luciana was ordained May 23, 1963 in Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy, Ohio. He was assigned to reside at St. Joseph Church (Wolfhurst) Bridgeport, Ohio, June 8, 1963 and was a full time instructor at St. John High School, Bellaire, Ohio, for three years. During this time he was administrator of Immaculate Conception Mission, New Matamoras and Hannibal Mission, Ohio. He had residence at St. John Vianney Church, Powhatan Point, Ohio, 6/6/64 to 8/27/66. He served as administrator of St. Henry Church, Harriettsville, Ohio, 12/17/65 to 5/5/69, during which time he took up residence, St. Peter and Paul Church, Lore City, Ohio, 6/4/66 to 8/17/68, to begin his priestly work as full-time instructor, Guernsey Central, Cambridge, Ohio, for three years. During this time he was also assistant Vocation Director. He was appointed an assistant in residence, St. Mary Church, Fulda, Ohio, 8/17/68.

Msgr. Luciana's ministry of almost 15 years at St. Stephen Church, Caldwell, Ohio, began as administrator pro tem 3/28/69 at the time of the sudden death of Father Stephen Patala. Msgr. Luciana was appointed pastor there 3/25/71. Bishop John King Mussio named Msgr. Luciana a Prelate of Honor (Monsignor), August 1977. He was appointed pastor of St. Peter Church, Steubenville, 1/6/84. He remained pastor there until his retirement from active ministry 11/4/93.

During his active ministry, he served as a member of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission for three years. He received the Bishop John King Mussio Award from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 1990 in recognition of this service to the Catholic Church. He was director for the Catholic Woman's Club, Visitation Deanery, 11/22/71 and chaplain for the Catholic Woman's Club, Assumption Deanery, 2/9/80.

After his retirement from active ministry in 1993, he took up residence at St. Ambrose Church, Belpre, Ohio, for almost three years. During this time, he celebrated Masses in the two St. Ambrose Churches, Belpre and Vincent and, also, in churches in Parkersburg. In 1996 he was asked by Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt to become administrator of St. Stephen Church, Ona. Msgr. Luciana was excardinated from the Diocese of Steubenville 12/20/99 and was incardinated into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. He served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington for almost 15 years and, for part of that time, as pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Hunting-



ton until his retirement from active ministry.

Msgr. Luciana retired from active ministry on May 1, 2012. He was a popular priest known for his devotion to every aspect of pastoral care. He has proven to be an exemplary administrator, an inspiring preacher, and a consummate evangelizer, having brought untold numbers into the Catholic Church wherever he was assigned in his 50 years as an active priest.

Msgr. Luciana passed away after a lengthy illness at the Woodlands Retirement Center in Huntington on April 9, 2025 at the age of 87.

He is preceded in death by his parents and several loving aunts and uncles who played a major role in his life.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Eugene (Gene) Luciana, & Betty Ann of Darien, Ct.; and his sister and brother-in-law, Marlene (Luciana) Gaffoli and Anthony (Butch) Gaffoli of Naples, Fla. He is also survived by his cousins, JoAnn Barnabei of Weirton, and Jerry (Lucille) Durante, of Manchester, Francesca Lombardo Alves, of Ohio, Mary Ann (Ron) Lash, and JoAnn DeKatch all of Michigan. As well as, multiple nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and one great-great niece and three great-great nephews, whose lives he has touched and are all better for having received Monsignor's unlimited amount of love, kindness, and priestly guidance over the years.

He was a loving son and grandson to our mother and grandmother (Nano) and a loving brother to Gene and Marlene, as well as a caring and devoted Uncle to all his nieces and nephews. He will be deeply missed and will live on in our hearts forever because of the imprint he left behind on each of us by the example of his faith filled life, his giving nature and his unconditional love for so many. The family of Msgr. Luciana also wishes to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to the Woodlands administrative and health care staff and to Dr. Stephen Petrany and Dr. Lisa Cain for the outstanding care and unwavering support given to Monsignor and his family during his lengthy illness. We will forever be grateful for the dedication given to our loved one.

Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Mark E. Brennan on Thursday, April 24 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Huntington. Visitation will be conducted on Wednesday, April 23 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Huntington. A Vigil Service will follow at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Huntington. An additional Mass for Msgr. Luciana will also be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 25 at St. Peter Catholic Church, Steubenville, Ohio. Rite of Committal will be held at 1 p.m. in St. Paul Cemetery, Weirton. Reger Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.regerfh.com. To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Msgr. Lawrence Luciana, visit the site's flower store.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

2025 Print Issues and Dates:

Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23; Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19



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Martina Hart photo

Bishop Mark Brennan mixes the Sacred Chrism at the Chrism Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston April 14.



Colleen Rowan photo

Deacon John Basil carries the Oil of the Catechumens at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 15.

Message...

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Church. Although invisible to our eyes, he is with us in his Word, in his Sacraments – Baptism and especially the Eucharist – in our daily prayer, in the community of believers, in those in need with whom he personally identifies and teaches us to serve. He keeps his word.

If in your life there is still bad news, the old news of sin, betrayal, hardship, suffering, disappointment, put your trust in the risen Lord Jesus. He said: *Come to me, all you who are weary and heavily burdened and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden light* [Matthew 11:28-30]. If he could rise from the dead, he can help you. Accept the yoke of discipleship more willingly and find out how good the Lord is. *No one who believes in him will be disappointed* [Romans 5:5].

We who believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior rejoice as we celebrate at Easter his triumph over sin and death. But his resurrection to new life is not merely a historical reality but an ongoing promise to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help [Hebrews 4:16]. Be of glad heart, my brothers and sisters! We will have to put up with the old ways of the world while we live in it but already the principle of a new and glorious life has been introduced into creation by the coming in flesh and rising in that same flesh of the Person of Jesus Christ,



Colleen Rowan photo

Priests renew their priestly promises at the Chrism Mass at the cathedral.

our Lord and God. He will sustain us in faith and love until his second coming, when all his saving work will reach its fullness.

Meanwhile, let your Easter Alleluias sound loud and clear. We have good news to share with the world: there truly is something new under the sun: God has united Himself to human beings and a man has risen from the dead, promising to share

his new life with us. *In hope we were saved*, says St. Paul [Romans 8:24]. Let this hope in Christ buoy you up and lead you to glory!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

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with Fr. Chapin
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Morgantown Couple has Marriage Blessed by Pope Francis at ‘Sposi Novelli’

By Maria Cicchino (She and her husband Dr. Robert Cicchino are members of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown. After their wedding last year, they attended “Sposi Novelli” at the Vatican to have their marriage blessed by Pope Francis.)

I, Maria Martino, married Dr. Robert Cicchino on June 1, 2024 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Stonewood, WV. It is the church that my mother and father were married in, and that I grew up going to with my family.

Monsignor Anthony Cincinnati married us there as he is a close family friend. He was accompanied by Father Kumar and Deacon John Yaquina. We had a large Catholic, Italian wedding. We had a full Mass for the ceremony, and a big reception with 325 guests. At the reception, we celebrated many Italian traditions, such as after dinner espresso, dancing the Tarantella, a cookie table, and pasta alla ruota (pasta in a cheese wheel).

The following day, Robby and I left for Italy where we started in Rome. While in Rome, we were gifted the opportunity to have our marriage blessed by Pope Francis at the Vatican. It was an experience truly too amazing to put into words.

Side note: prior to the wedding, my mother asked if I wanted to try on her wedding gown. Of course, I said yes, and she brought the box down from the attic. It is not been opened since her own wedding. She opened it up, I tried it on and it fit perfectly. She kindly offered that I could bring it to Italy as she knew Robby and I were going to be attending “Sposi Novelli.” It was such a special moment, being able to wear my mother’s wedding gown to the Vatican to be blessed by Pope Francis.

The morning of the Papal Audience, I donned my mother’s wedding gown and veil, and Robby wore a suit, and we walked to Saint Peter’s Square. As we were checked in and presented our tickets, we were shown where we would be seated. I was in shock when I saw that we would be seated on the same platform as Pope Francis. We were among 50 couples from around the world who were there for the “Sposi Novelli.”

Sitting at our seats, we were at the foot of Saint Peter’s Basilica. I looked up to gaze at its beautiful architecture that looked as though it



Photo courtesy of L'Osservatore Romano

Pope Francis greets Dr. Robert and Maria Cicchino of Morgantown at “Sposi Novelli” at the Vatican last year.

had descended from Heaven itself.

Once the entire audience was present, a marching band began to play and cheers could be heard from the crowd in the back. Pope Francis was being brought out in the “Pope Mobile” to wave and greet the general audience. As the cheers grew louder I could tell that he was near. He emerged from the crowd and was escorted to his seat. It was unbelievable to conceive that we were in the presence of the direct line to Heaven. The moment we first saw him in person was very emotional.

During the audience, he said a prayer, a Homily, and a blessing which was translated to several languages so everyone present could understand. Once the audience concluded, Pope Francis began to make his way to the members anxiously awaiting their moment with him. He was taken row by row, pausing at each person, hold-

ing their hand, and sharing a moment and a blessing with him.

As he grew near, I thought I would be nervous, but I was at such peace. Pope Francis then approached me, I instinctively bowed my head in reverence, and requested his blessing on my marriage, my family, and myself. He responded in Italian with a blessing and the sign of the cross waved over me, then he moved on to my husband. My husband remarked that he didn’t want to miss a single moment of eye contact with Pope Francis, as he spoke with him, also requesting and receiving his blessing.

The moment was so overwhelming, so emotional, yet so peaceful, I truly have a hard time describing it to others. I feel so profoundly honored to have been able to experience this with my husband.

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Thirteen Entering the Church at Easter Vigil in Gassaway, Receiving the Sacraments from Bishop Brennan

By Colleen Rowan

Back in December at the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) Workshop in Morgantown, Father Thien Duc Nguyen, SVD, pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and Risen Lord Mission in Clay, joyfully shared with Bishop Mark Brennan that 13 people would be entering the Church at the Easter Vigil at his parish church. Commending Father Thien on this accomplishment, the bishop said that he would join them for the celebration.

A little more than a month before the Mass, Bishop Brennan was able to meet the elect and candidates from the two churches as they gathered with him at the Rite of Election at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston on March 9.

Among those who were coming into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in Gassaway was the McLaughlin family from St. Thomas Parish—candidates Joshua and Robin and their four children Molly, William, and Matthew (members of the elect) and 2-year-old Ciaran who would be baptized.

“We are very excited to be coming into the Church this Easter,” Robin said. “We are thankful for all that God has done for us and continues to do. We have come to know many wonderful people who have such loving hearts for Christ. It is an honor for Bishop Brennan to visit our parish!”

Also members of the elect from St. Thomas who were to receive the sacraments were the Shaver family—Caleb James and his wife Shaina and their children Beva and Fiona.

From Risen Lord Mission were candidate Damion Shanafelter and his daughter Summer Shanafelter, a member of the elect, who came into the Church together.

Another candidate was Victoria Grose, also of Risen Lord. And her conversion story is the perfect example of how a parish community evangelizes



Bishop Mark Brennan stands with the elect and candidates from St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and Risen Lord Mission in Clay after the Rite of Election at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 9. Bishop Brennan was to gather with the group again in Gassaway to celebrate the Easter Vigil at St. Thomas Church April 19.

Courtesy photo

just by reaching out to those in need.

“We helped her with our food pantry eight years ago when she and her husband lost their jobs,” Father Thien said of Victoria. “Later, they both found work, and she came back to volunteer at our food pantry two days every month. After eight years, she has now decided to join our church.”

The St. Thomas Food Pantry in Gassaway and Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay are well known for the help they provide in the community. Together, they serve about 350 to 400 families a month, Father Thien said.

Recently, the two churches started a Walking with Moms in Need Baby Pantry.

Risen Lord also has the Backpack Program providing children with enough food to eat at home over the weekends when schools are closed. “We provide weekly food bags to more than 300 kids in Clay Elementary School, 121 students at Burnsville Elementary School weekly,

and 15 to 20 moms a month with diapers, formula,” Father Thien said.

For Victoria and her husband and four children, the Risen Lord Food Pantry was a lifeline.

“My kids would have starved if it wasn’t for the pantry,” she said. “I’m being honest. The pantry

kept us going.”

Victoria started helping out at the food pantry during the flood of 2016 that devastated the community. “They helped a lot of people,” she said. “I’ve been doing it ever since.”

In her time as a volunteer, Victoria found herself in need once again; and,

again, the Risen Lord Food Pantry was there to help. After falling and breaking her arm, she was out of work for about five to six weeks.

“The church helped me with my expenses. I really appreciated it,” she said. “They didn’t have to do
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Victoria Grose, a candidate from Risen Lord Mission in Clay, was among the 13 who were to enter the church at the Easter Vigil at St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway. She is shown above, on the right, volunteering at the Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay.

Courtesy photo

Catholic Charities Launches Relatives as Parents Program

HUNTINGTON — Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is expanding its services in Huntington to offer a new Relatives as Parents (RAPP) program. The program launched on April 10.

“Our mission is to equip relatives caring for children with the knowledge and support they need,” said Diana Bell, CCWVa assistant chief program officer. “This program will offer a welcoming space where caregivers can access guidance, resources, and encouragement as they navigate their caregiving journey.”

The RAPP program will provide developmental, behavioral, and healthcare support for high-risk children and families in Cabell County.

“This initiative is about strengthening families by helping them build a stable foundation,” said Joe Sparksman, CCWVa Western Region director. “Through goal-setting and practical solutions, we aim to empower caregivers to overcome challenges and create a nurturing environment for the children in their care.”

Relative or kinship caregiving involves full-time responsibility for raising a child from one’s extended family. While many caregivers are grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, and close family, friends also step into this vital role when parents are unable to provide care.

Thousands of children in West Virginia are currently being raised by relatives, a number that continues to rise, with many cas-

es connected to the opioid crisis.

“Kinship caregivers often face a unique set of legal, financial, and emotional challenges,” Sparksman added. “Our RAPP program is designed to help ease these burdens by offering both practical resources and compassionate support for caregivers and the children they are raising.”

The program is funded by a 2024 Healthy Communities grant from the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington. This year, the program aims to serve 10 families—approximately 30 individuals—through 11 monthly sessions. Caregivers will work alongside a CCWVa case manager to navigate stress, financial concerns, and other barriers.

Each session will include educational presentations on topics such as school enrollment, parenting strategies, food and nutrition, child safety, self-care, government benefits, and financial literacy. Children will benefit from interactive childcare, homework assistance, and themed art activities.

A meal will be provided, and transportation assistance is available. The program has no income requirements.

“This program fosters a sense of community among caregivers, giving them a space to share their experiences, find support, and learn from one another,” Sparksman said.

Additional families are still being accepted into the program. To learn more, contact Jessica Wormington at (304) 955-9012 or jwormington@ccwva.org.

Church...

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that, but they did.”

It was in 2023 that she felt called to join the Church when she attended the Risen Lord Volunteer Dinner and was among six honored with the Matthew 25 Award.

“That was my first time inside the church,” she said. Feeling welcomed at the church after attending Mass for some time, Victoria decided to become Catholic.

“As a priest, I am filled with joy to see Vicki move from the table of food to the table of the Eucharist — from seeking the bread for daily needs to receiving the Bread of Eternal Life, the Body of Christ in the Eucharist,” Father Thien said.

In anticipating the Easter Vigil, Victoria said, “It is a great honor to know I will receive the sacraments from the bishop. I know not everybody has that opportunity. We are blessed.”

Father Thien shared that he, as a missionary priest, and his parishioners were encouraged by Bishop Brennan’s commitment to celebrate Easter in Gassaway.

“His willingness to come to a small parish like ours to celebrate the Easter Vigil shows me his eagerness and the love he puts into action, as he encour-

ages us in his pastoral letter, ‘Bringing People to Christ,’” Father Thien said. “He is not only encouraging us with words but also through his presence and actions. It will be a meaningful moment that strengthens both the faith and the bond between the bishop, the new members of the church, and the entire parish community.”

Although this is a joyful time for the people of St. Thomas and Risen Lord, they will soon have to say goodbye to their beloved Father Thien, who has been with them for nine years. As a priest of the Society of the Divine Word, Father Thien will be leaving at the end of May to take on a new assignment as a formator at the Society of the Divine Word Theologate in Chicago, “where we have about 20 to 25 seminarians studying theology and preparing for ordination.”

As he prepares to leave, Father Thien and his parishioners of the two churches can look back on and rejoice in all they have accomplished together, in being like Christ, in these small communities with the food and baby pantries, the Backpack Program for children, and the many other ways they have reached out to those in need over almost a decade to now bringing 13 people into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

(Note: Press time for this issue was two days before the Easter Vigil.)



Courtesy photo

Families participating in the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) enjoy a fun face painting activity in Wheeling.

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U.S. Bishops Support Bill Easing Immigrant Religious Workers' Path to Permanent Residency

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**
WASHINGTON (OSV News)

— The U.S. bishops on April 10 told congressional lawmakers they support bipartisan legislation that would ease some immigration restrictions on religious workers from other countries, allowing them to stay in the U.S. while they wait for permanent residency.

The legislation, titled the Religious Workforce Protection Act, was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Jim Risch, R-Idaho, and in the House by Reps. Mike Carey, R-Ohio, and Richard Neal, D-Mass.

If signed into law, it would permit religious workers already in the U.S. on temporary R-1 status with pending EB-4 applications to stay

in the U.S. while waiting for permanent residency, Collins' office said. All five of those members are Catholic.

"When Maine parishes where I attend Mass started losing their priests, I saw this issue creating a real crisis in our state," Collins said in an April 8 statement. "Recently, three Catholic parishes in rural Maine — Saint Agatha, Bucksport, and Greenville — were left without priests for months because their R-1 visas expired while their EB-4 applications were still pending."

The National Study of Catholic Priests — released in 2022 by The Catholic University of America's Catholic Project — indicated 24% of priests serving in the U.S. are foreign-born. A majority of these were ordained outside the U.S.,

while others are foreign-born priests who came to the U.S. as seminarians, were ordained in the U.S. and are also subject to visa renewals.

"Our bill would help religious workers of all faith traditions continue to live and serve here in the United States while their applications for permanent residency are being fully processed," Collins said. "Many Mainers and Americans cannot imagine their lives without the sense of community and services their local religious organizations provide — with this legislation, I hope they never have to."

Kaine likewise said in a statement, "I first started hearing about churches losing trusted priests through my Parish, St. Eliz-

abeth's in Richmond, where we have had priests who were immigrants, and often have visiting priests, some of whom are immigrants as well."

"But as it turns out, this problem is not unique to Virginia — it's impacting religious congregations of many faiths, all across the country," he said.

Bishops Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, James T. Ruggieri of Portland, Maine, and Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio, were among the religious leaders who offered statements of support for the bill in press releases from Collins and Kaine's offices, alongside representatives of evangelical Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and

See "Path" on Page 8

Novena to St. Gianna to Unite Faithful in Prayer for Pregnant, Parenting Moms in Need

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Thousands of Catholics across the country will unite in prayer for pregnant and parenting moms in need during an April 19-27 novena inspired by St. Gianna Beretta Molla, an Italian doctor, wife and mother who sacrificed her own life for the life of her child.

The novena is sponsored by Walking With Moms in Need, an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

St. Gianna "is a powerful patron for pregnant and parenting mothers," says the text for the first day of the novena posted on the Walking With Moms in Need website, www.walkingwithmoms.com/saint-gianna-novena.

"As a physician, wife, and mother, she knew intimately what it was like to struggle with a challenging medical diagnosis during pregnancy," the text continues. "We ask St. Gianna's prayers for all women who are pregnant during this time, especially those who are particularly vulnerable, that they be supported and strengthened by God and their loved ones."

While pregnant with her fourth child in 1961, St. Gianna learned she had a tumor in her uterus. Doctors discussed having an abortion to preserve St. Gianna's life. Instead, she chose to only have the tumor removed, understanding this could save her child but lead to further, per-

haps deadly, complications for her.

Both the baby and St. Gianna survived the surgery. Knowing she could lose her life delivering her child, St. Gianna prayed to God and told the doctors and her family: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate, choose the child. I insist on it. Save the baby."

On April 21, 1962, Gianna Emanuela Molla was born. Over the next few days, her mother experienced serious complications and despite several treatments, died a week after giving birth. As word spread of St. Gianna's action, the Catholic Church opened her cause for sainthood. She was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1994 and canonized in 2004.

The first day of the novena is a prayer offered "for all women facing difficult or challenging pregnancies." Prayers on subsequent days are offered for: all health care workers; healthy supportive marriages; family life; service organizations; faithful to be inspired by service; families facing a difficult or challenging diagnosis; the sick; and all mothers.

The full text of the novena can be found in English and Spanish on the Walking With Moms in Need site, which has a link for participants to sign up to receive daily emails with the novena intention, prayers and a brief reflection. It also has a link to a Vatican biography of the saint.



OSV News photo/courtesy Diocese of Springfield
 St. Gianna Beretta Molla is seen with her children in this 1959 photo. The Italian doctor and mother, who sacrificed her own life for the life of her child, was canonized by St. John Paul II in 2004.

Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:
 Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
 (304) 3233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Walking with
 Moms in Need



Powhatan's Sacred Heart Food Pantry is Committed to Helping Neighbors in Need

By Colleen Rowan

POWHATAN — The Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Powhatan operates in West Virginia's poorest County of McDowell and exists because of the will of one woman and her army of volunteers and donors.

Sacred Heart Mission's own Lori Bishop started the food pantry eight years ago, growing it into a ministry that provides 118 boxes of food for families and individuals in need every month.

"This time we have a big jug of apple juice, sloppy joes, green beans, corn, two cans of soup, peanut butter, jelly, a can of tuna," Bishop told *The Catholic Spirit* in February. "We're giving out mashed potatoes, gravy mix. I picked up fresh chicken yesterday. It's up at the church in the freezer. I've got my fingers crossed the power won't go off."

That worry was because of the devastation from historic flooding the county was experiencing at the time which led to an extension of the pantry into the next day.

"I've called everybody on my list," Bishop said. "The roads are still bad. So, I said, well I'm sure we won't give it all out Friday, so we'll be there Saturday also."

The food pantry is made possible through donors who keep it open. A large donation from a foundation comes to Bishop each December along with monthly checks from former parishioners and residents of the county.

Bishop opens the pantry every month with the help of 12 volunteers. The men who volunteer carry boxes out to the cars waiting for pick-up.

Bishop shops for the food herself along with a friend of hers from Bluefield. "My partner in crime," she said, laughing. "We go out and buy all the groceries."

By no means an easy task. When the pantry first started, they were giving out 30 boxes. "Three cases of this, three cases of that were all we needed," Bishop said. "But now we need 10 of everything."

The Sacred Heart Food Pantry has grown so much over the years, but it is much more than giving out food. It's about connecting with the community.

Bishop will get calls about someone who doesn't have any food for the week or a family whose home burned down. "Can we fix them some food?" they will ask.

"And I always have stuff on hand that I can throw together some boxes," Bishop said.

"We've made relationships with the neighbors," she added. "They come over and do yard work for us and keep an eye on the church, because nobody lives there. I never knew these people personally until we started the food pantry."

One man who lives in the community grows vegetables hydroponically. He sent 50 fresh bunches of lettuce for the food distribution one month. Another man who lives in nearby Elkhorn has



Courtesy photo

Lori Bishop, fourth from left, who started the Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Powhatan, is pictured with volunteers at the pantry.

chickens, and he brings fresh eggs to add to the food boxes when he can. Bishop saw him and his family recently at Family Dollar in Northfork, and he asked her for prayers as they were dealing with health issues.

"It's a lot more than giving out food," Bishop said. Some people come to the pantry and just want to talk.

Volunteers are members of Sacred Heart and several are non-Catholics who live nearby. A couple of former parishioners who now live in the Princeton area help every month as well. Most of

the volunteers are retired and are committed to the work they do at the pantry.

"What one person can't do, somebody else does," Bishop said. "One non-Catholic that works with us is 79 and would not miss it."

Most of the people who receive provisions from the food pantry each month are elderly, but the ministry does have a few families with children that it serves.

To help support the Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Powhatan, contact Bishop by e-mail to twinmamma86@gmail.com.

Path...

Cont'd from Page 7

Hindu organizations. In an April 10 letter to members of Congress, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, as well as Bishop Seitz, who is chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, urged lawmakers to pass the legislation "to ensure communities across our nation can

continue to enjoy the essential contributions of foreign-born religious workers who lawfully entered the United States on a nonimmigrant religious worker (R-1) visa."

They said that there are many Catholic priests, women religious, and laypersons working in Catholic ministries in that category.

"Some parishes, especially those in rural or isolated areas, would go without regular access to the sacraments, if not for these reli-

gious workers," the bishops said. "Additionally, dioceses with large immigrant populations rely on foreign-born religious workers for their linguistic and cultural expertise. We would not be able to serve our diverse flocks, which reflect the rich tapestry of our society overall, without the faithful men and women who come to serve through the Religious Worker Visa Program."

They said, "Simply put, an increasing number of American families will be

unable to practice the basic tenets of their faith if this situation is not addressed soon. Likewise, hospitals will go without chaplains, schools will go without teachers, and seminaries will go without instructors."

The bishops urged law-

makers to cosponsor "this vital measure and to work toward its immediate passage, thereby furthering the free exercise of religion in our country for the benefit of all Americans."

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

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Accepting New Patients

Seminarian Joseph Derico Receives Candidacy

By Joyce Bibey (Courtesy of FaithInWV)

WESTON—As the Spring Semester draws to a close in a few weeks, we celebrate the accomplishments of these men and pray for God's love and mercy to surround them every moment of their journey, so their hearts and minds are filled with confidence, mercy, and joy!

A gracious example of that joy was certainly obvious at Mass on April 11 at St. Patrick Church's in Weston as seminarian Joseph Derico's candidacy to the Holy Orders was accepted. During the Mass he declared publicly his desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God, the diocese, and mankind. What made it extra special? His acceptance, declared to Bishop Mark Brennan and Vocations Director Father Brian Crenwelge, was in front of his pastor Father Douglas Ondeck, St. Patrick School Principal John Riley, faculty, students in grades K-8, family, fellow parishioners, and friends.

Derico, who is finishing his fourth year of college seminary at Pope St. John Paul II College Seminary (in Washington, DC), is an alum of the grade school. Typically, the Rite of Candidacy happens at seminary, however, Derico upon seminary college graduation in May will be off to begin studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Therefore, he and Bishop Brennan chose to have the significant celebration "at home."

There are three significant rites for seminarians discerning and preparing for the priesthood. These steps may vary depending on the seminary. They are Candidacy, Lector, and Acolyte.

Candidacy is the formal recognition by the Church of a seminarian's commitment to study for Holy Orders. The title of Lector gives the seminarian the privilege of "proclaiming the readings from Scripture (except for the Gospel)." The Ministry of Acolyte is the final ministry seminarians receive before ordination as a transitional deacon. The instituted acolyte is appointed to assist the deacon and serve the priest in the celebration of the liturgy.

Seminarians that are Lectors include: Timothy Kawash, Michael Tupta, and Nathan Schmidt.

Those who are Acolytes are Bryan Tedeschi, Michael Aiello, Dominic Re, and Clifton Mastran.

Seminarian Jourden Travis Moger, now Deacon Travis Moger will be ordained to the priesthood on May 30 at St. Joseph Church, Martinsburg.

Keep Praying for Our Seminarians!

The following is a list of our seminarians noting the level they are completing this year, their seminary, and what parish they are from:

Deacon Jourden Travis Moger, Fourth Theology, Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Home parish: St. James the Greater, Charles Town)

Clifton Mastran, Fourth Theology, Pope St. John XXIII Seminary (Home parish: St. John, Wellsburg)

Michael Aiello, Second Theology, Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Home parish: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston)

Dominic Re, Second Theology, Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Home parish: Sts. Peter and Paul, Oak Hill)

Bryan Tedeschi, Second Theology, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, (Home parish: St. James the Greater, Charles Town)


Timothy Kawash, First Theology, Pontifical College Josephinum (Home parish: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston)

See "Candidacy" on Page 10




Joyce Bibey photo

Seminarian Joseph Derico is pictured (from left to right) with his mother Kim, Bishop Mark Brennan, his father Tim, and brother Tom.




The Seven Last Words of Christ


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Fr. Daniel Heusel




Fr. Joseph Wiley



Fr. Carlos Melocoton




Fr. Pen Manikyalarao



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Sandra Mick photo

At St. Patrick Church in Weston, St. Patrick School students watch as seminarian Joseph Derico receives candidacy to the Holy Orders from Bishop Mark Brennan April 11. Derico is a parishioner and graduate of the school.

Candidacy...

Cont'd from Page 9

Nathan Schmidt, First Theology, Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Home parish: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling)

Michael Tupta, First Theology, Pontifical North American College (Home parish: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston)

Joseph Derico, Fourth College, St. John Paul II Seminary (Home parish: St. Patrick, Weston)

Donvito Cortese, Third College, Pontifical College Josephinum (Home parish: St. James the Greater, Charles Town)

Peter Russman, First Philosophy, Pontifical College Josephinum (Home parish: St. James the Greater, Charles Town)

Christian Davis, Propaedeutic Year, Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Home parish: St. John University Parish, Morgantown)

Andrew Dean, Propaedeutic Year, Mount St. Mary's Seminary (Home parish: St. John University Parish, Morgantown)

Reece Lopatka, Propaedeutic Year, Pontifical College Josephinum (Home parish: St. John University Parish, Morgantown)

num (Home parish: St. John University Parish, Morgantown)

Sebastian Lasko, Propaedeutic Year, Pontifical College Josephinum (Home parish: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg)

Christopher Nelson, Propaedeutic Year, St. John Paul II Seminary (Home parish: St. James the Greater, Charles Town)

David Hensler, Propaedeutic Year, Pontifical College Josephinum, (Home parish: St. John, Marietta, Ohio)

Send them a note of encouragement this week as they approach finals and their summer assignments.

—Mount St. Mary's Seminary, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

—The Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43225

—Pope John Paul II College Seminary, 145 Taylor Street NE, Washington, DC 20017

—Pontifical North American College, 00120 Vatican City State, Europe

—Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, 558 South Avenue, Weston, MA 02493



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project rachel

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Women's Day of Recollection to be Held in Martinsburg

Participants Can Obtain a Jubilee Indulgence

MARTINSBURG—A Women's Day of Recollection, "Learning to Receive the Father's Heart," will be presented by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy (St. Faustina's Order) at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg on Saturday, May 3.

St. Joseph Church is a Designated Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee Year 2025 and a Jubilee Indulgence can be obtained on this day.

The day includes Mass, talks, Adoration, confession, time for personal prayer and spiritual conversations with the sisters and is being sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #392 in Martinsburg.

The Mass and rosary will be at 8:30 a.m. Check in is at 9:30 a.m. The day ends at 3 p.m.

The cost is \$10 for CDA members and \$15 for nonmembers. Lunch is included. For tickets, call the parish office at (304) 267-4893 by Friday, April 25. Space is limited.

'Prepare Your Heart for a New Pentecost' at Seminar in Morgantown

MORGANTOWN—"Are you living a life of victory or defeat? Are the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) evident in your life? Prepare your heart for a new Pentecost this year!" Morgantown Magnificat members said as they invited all to an upcoming gathering.

They encouraged area faithful to join them at a four-night Life in the Spirit Seminar, "that will enable you to see how easy it is to yield to the Holy Spirit and grow fruits that satisfy your soul."

The seminar will be held on Thursdays (May, 1, 8, 15 and 22) from 7-9 p.m. at St. Mary Parish's Peace Hall in Morgantown.

The seminar is open to all teenagers, men, and women who want to be "clothed with power from on high," organizers said.

Email to register at: cmcomer13@gmail.com or call Mary at (304) 319-2747 by April 27. A \$20 donation is suggested to cover expenses.

Reunion Planned for Those Who Attended St. Francis Borgia and All Saints Schools

BRIDGEPORT — Reuniting a Legacy of Faith, Education, and Community, a reunion celebrating Catholic school education for students who attended St. Francis Borgia School in Anmoore (1934 - 1954) and All Saints School in Bridgeport (1954-1982) will be held at All Saints Parish, 317 Main Street, Bridgeport, on Saturday, June 28. The schools were founded by Father Charles R. Carroll.

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. Mass and will be followed

by a reception and dinner in the All Saints Parish Social Hall. Former students of the schools are invited to share photo memories and are asked to leave them in a labeled envelope in the parish office.

The cost to attend the reunion is \$35 per person. Any additional contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Please register by June 1.

For questions and registration forms, call Joe Deegan at (304) 951-2807 or send e-mail to Susie.Graeber@gmail.com.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Spring 2025 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Monday, April 28: St. John University, Morgantown; 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 4: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, and St. Stephen, Ona, at Our Lady of Fatima; 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6: St. Joseph, Huntington; 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 11: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling; 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 11: St. Mary, Star City; 4:00 p.m.

Monday, May 12: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: St. Michael, Vienna; 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 16: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 17: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 17: St. Leo, Inwood; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville; 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 18: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 22: St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 25: St. Paul, Weirton; 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 28: St. Patrick, Weston; 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31: Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby; 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 1: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake; 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 8: Sacred Heart, Bluefield, 4:30 p.m.

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Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

ONE MISSION
ONE DAY TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

Mensaje de Pascua 2025

Mis amigos en Cristo, cuando escuchan hablar continuamente de guerras, ataques terroristas, accidentes aéreos, terremotos que matan a miles de personas, tormentas tropicales que amenazan con acabar con las pequeñas naciones insulares, sin mencionar de la ruptura de matrimonios, el abandono de niños y sus abusos, todo tipo de escándalos en la sociedad civil y en la iglesia, ideologías humanas que dividen incluso a las personas de fe, ¿se han preguntado alguna vez si las cosas pueden cambiar? El sabio escrito Eclesiastés dijo en el Antiguo Testamento: Lo que ya ha acontecido volverá a acontecer; lo que ya se ha hecho se volverá a hacer. ¡No hay nada nuevo bajo el sol! (Eclesiastés 1:9). Los franceses dicen "Cuando más cambian las cosas, más siguen siendo las mismas". ¿Habrá una esperanza de un cambio real en todos los asuntos humanos o sentimos que estamos viviendo una situación que ya habíamos vivido en el pasado una vez más? ¿Deberíamos resignarnos a una repetición continua de todas las noticias calamitosas del pasado?

Jesucristo cambia todo esto. El es absolutamente nuevo en la historia del mundo como la unión única entre Dios y el hombre. El vivió entre nosotros por treinta y tres años, predicó, obró milagros, sufrió y murió por nosotros. Y entonces, sucedió algo completamente inaudito: resucitó de entre los muertos. No fue una resucitación a una nueva vida, sino un verdadero comienzo de vida después de la muerte con el

poder de su divinidad, una resurrección a una nueva vida donde nunca más podrá sufrir o morir. El Hijo de Dios nos ha mostrado que, en efecto, hay algo nuevo bajo el sol.

El Señor resucitado fue visto por muchas personas antes de que ascendiera de regreso al lado de su Padre (Favor de leer Corintios 15:5-8). El reina ahora en el cielo como la imagen de Dios invisible en la tierra, el es la cabeza del cuerpo, que es la iglesia. Aunque el es invisible ante nuestros ojos, el está con nosotros en su palabra, en sus sacramentos -en el Bautismo y especialmente en la Eucaristía- en nuestras oraciones diarias, en la comunidad de los creyentes, en los necesitados con los que el se identifica personalmente y a quienes enseña a servir. El cumple su palabra.

Si en tu vida aun hay malas noticias, viejas noticias de pecado, traición, dificultad, sufrimiento, decepción, pon tu confianza en nuestro Señor Jesús resucitado. El nos dice: Vengan a mí todos ustedes los que están cansados y agobiados, y yo les daré descanso. Carguen con mi yugo y aprendan de mí. Pues yo soy apacible y humilde de corazón, y encontrarán descanso para sus almas. Porque mi yugo es suave y mi carga es liviana (Mateo 11:28-30). Si él pudo resucitar de entre los muertos, él puede ayudarte. Acepta el yugo del discipulado con gusto y descubre que bueno es el Señor. Nadie que crea en él será decepcionado (Romanos 5:5).

Nosotros, los que creemos que

Jesucristo es nuestro Señor y Salvador, nos regocijamos al celebrar en la Pascua su triunfo sobre el pecado y la muerte. Pero su resurrección a una nueva vida no es simplemente una realidad histórica, si no una promesa continua de recibir misericordia y hallar gracia para el oportuno socorro (Hebreos 4:16). ¡Mis hermanos y hermanas sean alegres de corazón! Tendremos que soportar las viejas costumbres del mundo mientras vivamos en el, pero ya el principio de una vida nueva y gloriosa ha sido introducido en la creación por la venida en carne y la resurrección en esa misma carne de la persona de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y Dios. El nos sostendrá en la fe y en el amor hasta

su segunda venida, cuando nuestro Señor y Dios.

Mientras tanto, deja que tus Aleluyas de Pascua suenen alto y calor. Tenemos buenas noticias que compartir con el mundo: realmente hay algo nuevo bajo el sol: Dios se ha unido a los seres humanos y un hombre a resucitado de entre los muertos, prometiendo compartir su nueva vida con nosotros. En esperanza fuimos salvados, dice Pablo (romanos 5:24). ¡Deja que esta esperanza en Cristo te impulse y te lleve a la gloria!

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Mark E. Brennan

Mark E. Brennan

Obispo de Wheeling-Charleston



Foto: Marina Hart

Las palmas se exhiben en la Basílica de la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón en Charleston el Domingo de Ramos, 13 de abril.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación.

Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911.

Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes.

Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264.

También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656.

Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381.

EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida.

Enlaces e información:

Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>.

'Shadow Passion' Presented by Four Parkersburg Vicariate Churches

By **Bobbie Showalter**

Four churches from the Parkersburg Vicariate—St. Francis Xavier, St. Michael, St. Margaret Mary (Parkersburg) and St. Monica (Lubeck)—shed light to the area on the Passion of Christ.

The Story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection was presented through images and song during the "Shadow Passion" presented at St. Margaret Mary Church on April 6. The Stations of the Cross is a centuries-old Christian tradition. Due to the difficulty of traveling to the Holy Land, Christians who wanted to travel along the path Jesus walked from his sentencing to Mount Calvary could do so in their own towns by viewing pictures of the various events (or stations) along the way and praying as they went. To better appreciate the events, portraying them live has been part of the experience of Christians over the centuries and in many countries, organizers said.

"The "Shadow Passion" is when each Station of the Cross is enacted behind a screen as a strong light is shown, producing a black silhouette depicting each scene," said Catherine Wharton, organizer of presentation, and member of St. Margaret Mary Church. "We have provided a silhouette for each 'station' along with musical rendering and prayers. All scenes take place in a darkened church, so the effect of the light on those doing the scene are shown as shadows on the large white cloth."

Fourteen youth ranging in age from 4 to 18 joined together from area public and Catholic schools to create the scenes and read passages depicting the fourteen Stations of Cross.

"As a reader, I felt deeply moved by the shadow passion. There were points in the music that just hit me with the rawness of what

happened. When I was reading, sometimes I made sure to speak slower because I could feel the emotion in the line," said Caleb McClung, an 11th grader at Parkersburg Catholic High School.

"It was an amazing opportunity that was powerful and humbling to portray Jesus in the Shadow Passion," added Nate Ross, a ninth grader at Parkersburg High School.

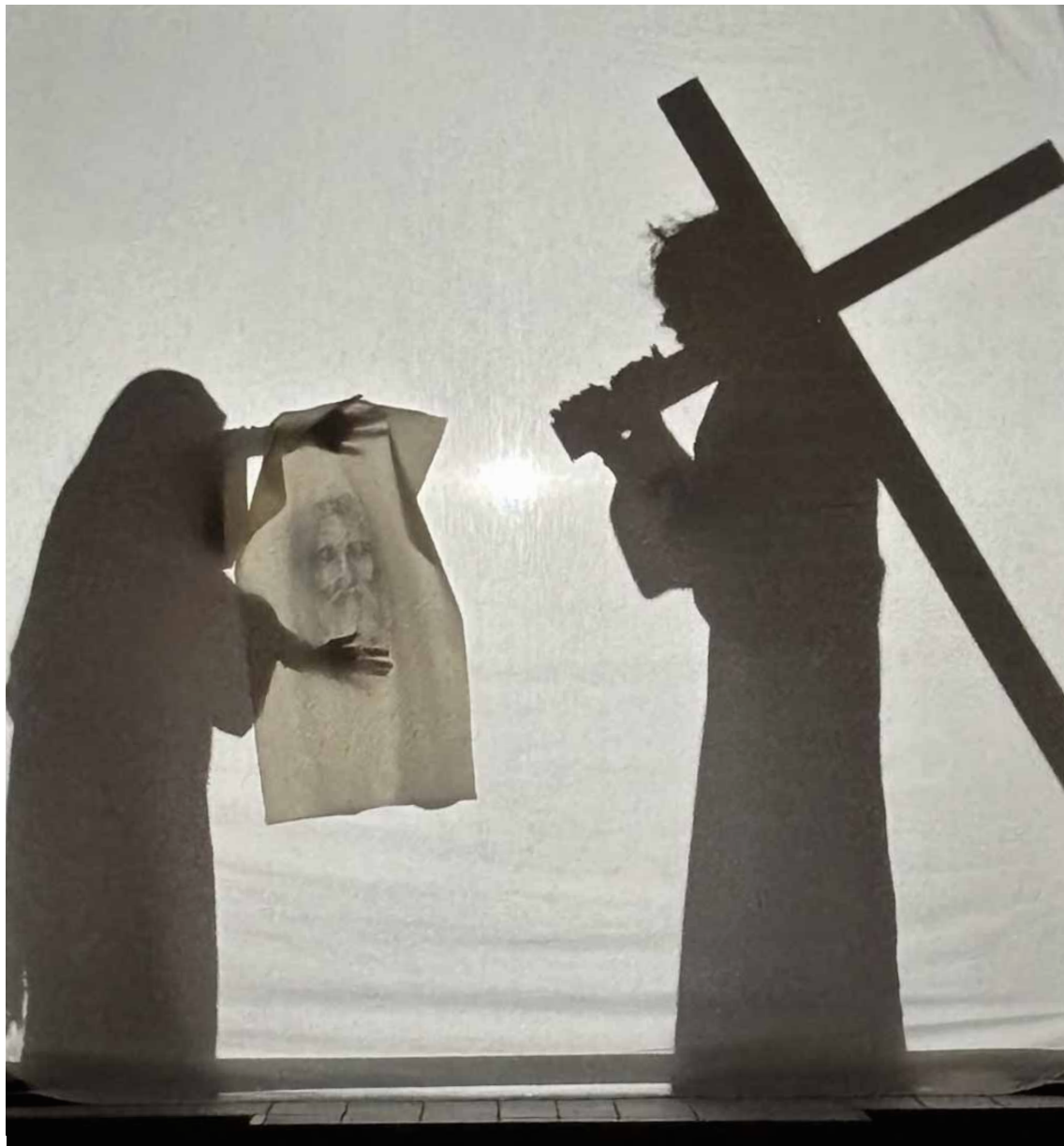
Terry Hardman, a member of St. Margaret Mary's, said the "Shadow Passion" was a powerful presentation made more so by the youthful actors who portrayed Jesus, Simon, Mary, the guards and more.

"The young students who are portraying these roles have worked so hard to pose correctly, hold the cross, and fold their hands in prayer," Hardman said. "It is a somber event and they take it seriously. It is very moving to see the faith of these youth as they portray the message of Good Friday. It is a beautiful sight to see this portrayal."

The choir was composed of 10 adults from the participating churches.

Kimberly Gilmore of St. Michael Parish was honored to have been the pianist accompanying the choir.

"Music, considered a universal language, can speak to hearts in ways that words sometimes cannot," she said. "The combination of song with the visual presentation of various moments of the Lord's way to



Catherine Wharton photo

The "Shadow Passion" is performed at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg.

Calvary, visible only in silhouette, is a powerful reminder that the Easter story is no mere story. The experience of the 'Shadow Passion' is one not soon forgotten."

Tom Linder, a parishioner of St. Monica Parish, added: "The shadow stations presentation can impact not only spiritually but emotionally as well. Words and music can be haunting. It was a rewarding experience for those that attended."

The presentation has evolved from its humble beginnings with the youth at St. Margaret Mary's presenting at their church, said Wharton. Over the years, they have collaborated with

as many as seven churches in the Parkersburg Vicariate and added the beautiful music and lyrics by Dan Kehde, Eric Hall and Mark Scarpelli.

"We have since presented at several Catholic, Protestant and public venues. This is our first presentation following Covid. This year we have a new set built by Mike Pollack, a member of our local chapter of the Knights of Columbus and Nancy Cordonair. Both are

parishioners of St. Margaret Mary Church," said Wharton.

Father Abraham Schariah, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, said the "Shadow Passion" was truly mesmerizing.

"Each moment felt like the soul – both profound and evocative. Totally moved me – it really hit deep," he said. "Thank you for sharing something so beautiful and deeply human."

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New Miracle Confirmed from Lourdes Sanctuary

By **Caroline de Sury, OSV News**

(OSV News) — In a joyful moment after the rosary on St. Bernadette Soubirous' feast day April 16 at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, the shrine's rector, Father Michel Daubanes, announced that a 72nd miracle at the famed pilgrimage site has been recognized.

The sanctuary also confirmed the news on X, saying that Italian woman Antonietta Raco, who suffered from primary lateral sclerosis, "was cured in 2009 during her pilgrimage to Lourdes."

Primary lateral sclerosis, known as PLS, is a type of motor neuron disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain that control movement. The breakdown of nerve cells in PLS causes weakness in the muscles that control the legs, arms and tongue, leaving a patient on a wheelchair.

Raco's Italian diocese rejoiced on April 16, confirming the news.

Bishop Vincenzo Carmine Orofino of Tursi-Lagonegro in southern Italy officially declared the miraculous nature of the healing of Raco April 16.

"Following a pilgrimage to the Grotto of Lourdes in the summer of 2009, after bathing in the pools, on her return home, Mrs. Raco began to move independently and the effects of the unfortunate disease immediately and definitively disappeared," Bishop Orofino said.

He added that "after a long period of careful investigation," the International Medical Committee of Lourdes — an official medical body investigating possible miracles — "declared the healing of the lady to be medically unexplained in the current state of scientific knowledge."

The news arrived merely four months after confirming the 71st miracle at the sanctuary, which had been granted to a British soldier, wounded during World War I.

David Torchala, the sanctuary's director of communications, told OSV News: "We are delighted to receive this news from Italy.

"We always wonder why there are so few recognized miracles, only 72, compared to the millions of people who come to Lourdes," but, he said, "it is important to understand that these miracles are the result of long and arduous medical procedures, research and diagnoses. It's a long and rigorous process. It also presupposes that cured patients come back to Lourdes to report it, and agree to undergo all this research and further examinations."

Torchala told OSV News that "there are currently over 7,000 cases that have been studied and for which declarations of healing have been attested. But then, the final decision to recognize a miracle rests with the bishop of the diocese of the patient who has been cured."

He said that after the scientific work of the doctors, "it's up to the church to recognize that there has indeed been the hand of God in a cure."

Torchala emphasized that in addition to the story of the healed woman, "it is an opportunity to pay tribute to all the organizers and volunteers of this extraordinary pilgrimage, the Italian 'Unitalsi.'"

"Italians are the most numerous visitors to Lourdes after the French," he said, adding that they "have a long history of friendship with Lourdes. They come in great numbers, even though



OSV News photo/courtesy Lourdes Sanctuary
The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes standing by the Gave de Pau River is pictured on an undated photograph at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, France. In a joyful moment after the rosary on April 16, the shrine's rector, Father Michel Daubanes, announced that the 72nd miracle from the famed pilgrimage site had been recognized.

they have thousands of their own magnificent churches and sanctuaries dedicated to the Virgin."

"Unitalsi is a huge organization that brings in pilgrims all year round from all over Italy. Without all the hospitaliers and volunteers who devote themselves all year round to the sick, this woman wouldn't have been able to come to Lourdes," Torchala stressed.

Bernadette witnessed 18 Marian apparitions beginning on Feb. 11, 1858, and people of her time witnessed first physical and spiritual healing miracles after visiting the shrine or drinking or washing in the spring Our Lady pointed Bernadette to in an apparition.

Lourdes' baths have fully reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic in August 2024. The sick, people with disabilities and all other pilgrims can fully immerse in the chilly spring waters in the sanctuary — a powerful spiritual moment of healing and cleansing for many.

The Italian diocese of the healed woman responded to the recognized miracle saying, "Praise be to God, who with this divine sign has once again manifested his presence among his People and has given us his Most Holy Mother, Mary Immaculate, as a powerful mediator of Grace."

(Caroline de Sury writes for OSV News from Paris.)

Employment Opportunities

Principal – PK-8th Grade Fairmont Catholic Grade School

Fairmont Catholic Grade School is seeking a dedicated and dynamic individual for the position of PK-8th Grade Principal. The ideal candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church teachings and serve as a role model and motivator in upholding the Catholic philosophy of the school.

Qualifications:

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts.

The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration (preferred), or be in the process of completing the degree requirements; or the candidate should hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

A minimum of three years of successful educational experience is required, with preference given to those with administrative experience.

Application Instructions:

Please submit your resume, along with three professional references, in PDF format to Julie Link at jlink@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until April 25, 2025.

4th and 5th Grade Teaching Positions

St. Paul School is accepting applications for a 4th grade teaching position and 5th grade teaching position.

We are seeking passionate and committed individuals to join our educational team for the upcoming school year. We are looking for individuals who value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. We are looking for someone who is committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experience for our students.

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- Experience working with children in a classroom setting
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- Willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution.

Interested individuals can apply via email to: jlesho@weirtonstpauls.org or you can mail your resume to Mr. Jamie Lesho, 140 Walnut Street, Weirton, WV 26062.



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Employment Opportunity

Human Resources Generalist

The Human Resources Generalist as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Human Resources Generalist will work as part of the HR team with a focus on supporting the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese and serve to drive the onboarding process within the Diocese.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Performs all onboarding for Diocese, including schools and parishes; Works directly with school administration and staff to ensure accuracy and proper use of entire HRIS system; Supports person for Family Medical Leave and Short Term Disability; Ensures all ACA reporting and maintains file accuracy in the payroll system; Assists with open enrollment for all benefit platforms; Helps maintain organizational guidelines; Maintain employee files and records electronically; Monitors HR Help Desk; Backup for Diocesan Pension Plans.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate. Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources or Business; Five(5) years' experience in human resources; Firm knowledge and understanding of human resources best practices; Knowledge and experience working with payroll and HRIS applications. Labor relations and policy experience a plus; Ability to maintain confidentiality; Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and current resume to: Debbie Turziano, Director of Human Resources at dturziano@dwc.org.

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A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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