

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Bishop Brennan Invites All to Cathedral's 100th Anniversary Mass

Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S. Will be Celebrant and Homilist

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Bishop Mark Brennan invites all to join him at the celebration of Mass for the 100th anniversary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on April 21 at 5 p.m. with Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, as celebrant and homilist. The bishop said he is overjoyed that Cardinal Pierre will be gathering with West Virginia Catholics for this

celebration.

"It's certainly a great honor for our diocese that Cardinal Pierre, the pope's personal representative to the Catholic Church in this country and to our government, would come to be with us on the 100th anniversary of our cathedral," he said.

Cardinal Pierre loves visiting West Virginia, Bishop Brennan added, and has celebrated the Mass for the Boy Scouts of

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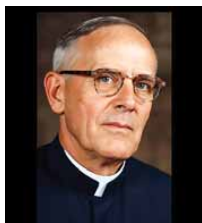
Audience with the Holy Father

Pope Leo XIV greets Bishop Mark Brennan at his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 11. *L'Osservatore Romano* photo

The Power of One Faithful Priest: Fr. Charles Carroll

By Fr. Edward Looney (Courtesy of Crisis Magazine)

During the summer of 2025, I had the idea that I wanted to visit the graves of all the priests who have served in the Diocese of Green Bay. I had visited a considerable number—but in comparison to the total number, not many at all. My quest



Fr. Charles Carroll

See "Priest" on Page 7

Beloved West Union Marian Grotto Moving to Pennsboro

By Colleen Rowan
WEST UNION —

Through the efforts of one woman and her parish community, the Marian grotto that has stood in the Doddridge County town of West Union for roughly 40 years will find a new home in Pennsboro. Built in the 1980s on the grounds of the former St. Patrick Church by the late Art Licot, a parishioner, with creek stones collected by children of the parish, the grotto houses a beautiful statue

of the Blessed Mother.

A fundraising campaign is underway to resettle this sacred place of prayer 13 miles away to the grounds of St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro for future generations.

The effort is being spearheaded by Nettie Glasure of Parkersburg and her current parish of St. John's in St. Marys. Art was her first husband, and they with their daughters were members of St. Patrick's until it was

See "Grotto" on Page 8



Colleen Rowan photo

The Marian grotto in West Union is pictured on a sunny day in March.

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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.reportbishop-abuse.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://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

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

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. 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.

2026 Print Dates:

- Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 15
- Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 12
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
- Triumph of the Cross, September 11
- Month of the Rosary, October 9
- Advent, November 20

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Pope Leo Praises Ceasefire as ‘Genuine Hope,’ Presses for Dialogue, Peace

By Josephine Peterson, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Leo XIV welcomed the newly announced ceasefire in the Middle East as “a sign of genuine hope” after what he described as “hours of extreme tension,” while urging a return to negotiations and calling the faithful to prayer.

“Only by returning to negotiations can the war be brought to an end,” he said in remarks in Italian following his April 8 general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

His comments came just hours after a two-week ceasefire was reached between Iran and the United States, narrowly averting further escalation. The agreement followed a stark warning from U.S. President Donald Trump late April 7, when he threatened to destroy Iran’s critical infrastructure, saying “a whole civilization will die tonight” if Tehran did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz to oil and gas tankers. The ceasefire was announced roughly two hours before the White House’s deadline.

The pope’s appeal for dialogue echoed remarks he made the previous evening at Castel Gandolfo, where he urged leaders to return to the negotiating table even before the ceasefire was announced.

“Today, as we all know, there has also been this threat against the entire people of Iran, and this is truly unacceptable,” he told journalists April 7. “There are certainly issues of international law here, but even more, it is a moral question concerning the good of the people as a whole.”

Expanding on the broader implications of the conflict, he warned of a global economic crisis marked by “great instability,” which he said risks fueling further hatred, and he called on ordinary citizens to contact their political leaders to advocate for peace.

The pope also invited the faithful to join him in a prayer vigil for peace on April 11 in his general audience

address. As flowers lined the steps of St. Peter’s Basilica during the Easter season, he used his main talk to reflect on holiness, emphasizing that it is a calling shared by all believers.

“Every baptized person is called to be holy; to live in God’s grace, to practice virtue and to become like Christ,” he said in his address to English speakers.

Continuing his series on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, he described charity as the foundation of holiness, “the fullness of love towards God and towards one’s neighbor,” and said its highest expression is martyrdom, calling it the “supreme witness of faith and charity.” He added that the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, sustain believers in this call.

He continued his analysis of the Dogmatic Constitution “Lumen Gentium,” specifically, the important role of consecrated life. “Indeed, signs of the Kingdom of God, already present in the mystery of the Church, are those evangelical counsels that shape every experience of consecrated life: poverty, chastity and obedience.

Poverty demonstrates “complete trust” in God — free of self-interest, obedience follows Christ’s “self-giving” offered to God, and chastity is the “gift of a heart that is whole and pure in love, at the service of God and Church.” The pope called these virtues a form of “radical discipleship.”

“These three virtues are not rules that shackle freedom, but liberating gifts of the Holy Spirit, through which some of the faithful are wholly consecrated to God,” he said.

Closing his main address, the pope said that Christ’s sacrifice makes holiness possible even in suffering.

“By contemplating this event, we know that there is no human experience that God does not redeem,” he said. “Even suffering, lived in union with the passion of the Lord, becomes a path of holiness.”

An Easter Message from Bishop Brennan

Dear brothers and sisters in faith,

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the author Qoheleth says: *What has been, that will be; what has been done, that will be done. There is nothing new under the sun* [1:9]. But Qoheleth’s perspective awaited the illumination of Easter.

When a dead man rises to a new kind of life in which he can no longer suffer or die, that is something truly new. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead reveals that eternal life for human beings is not an empty hope but a reality. Just as he rose by the divine power in him, so our dead bodies will rise to new life when Christ returns in glory. Joined once again to our immortal souls, our bodies, too, shall enjoy the blessings God has prepared for us in heaven. Qoheleth’s faith in God was real but imperfect. Now in heaven, he knows the full truth.

Troubles abound in our world and we must endure much suffering, but we should remember that a bright future awaits us. The newness of life God wills for us will finally prevail. Reflect on St. Teresa of Avila’s words: “Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.”

As we celebrate Christ’s victory over sin and death, let’s keep strong our confidence in God. He has done something absolutely new: He gave immortal life to a mortal man. That mortal man, God’s own Son, died and rose to share his new life with us. We can face the struggles of life with the patience of St. Teresa because God will uphold us and, when all is accomplished, He will raise us up to the fullness of life. Christ has risen and so shall we!

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



Courtesy photo
Bishop Mark Brennan administers the sacrament of confirmation at the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 4.

Cathedral ...

Cont'd from Page 1

America National Jamboree near Beckley. And now that he will be in Wheeling “to help us celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful cathedral, just recently renovated ... I'm just overjoyed.”

Pope Leo XIV has named Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, permanent observer of the Holy See, to succeed Cardinal Pierre, who turned 80 in January and will be retiring soon. He has served as apostolic nuncio to the United States since 2016.

Joining Cardinal Pierre will be Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

Marking the beginning of the cathedral's centennial year, the anniversary Mass will gather priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, who will concelebrate, as well as deacons, religious, and faithful from throughout the state.

The cathedral, Bishop Brennan said, is a vibrant parish where he brought 12 people into full communion with the church at the Easter Vigil April 4. Close to 400 attended the bishop's celebration of Easter Sunday morning Mass there. At the same time, the cathedral belongs to all Catholics of the diocese, the bishop said, and he hopes to gather with them for this celebration.

Solemn Vespers will be held at the cathedral on the eve of the anniversary on April 20 at 6 p.m.

In looking to the anniversary, Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, rector of the cathedral, said it is with grateful hearts that the diocese honors 100 blessed years of worship and fellowship within the cathedral's sacred walls.

“This cathedral has been a place where prayers were lifted, lives were transformed, and God's presence felt deeply,” he said. “For 100 years, this cathedral has been more than a building—it has been a home. A place where families grew, friendships formed, and memories were made. As we celebrate this milestone, I want to thank all those who built, served as bishops, priests, deacons, and nuns. All the people who contributed money, time, and talents. All the faithful who sustained this cherished com-

munity.”

Father Manikyalarao noted the recent renovations, repairs, and maintenance that has been completed and thanked Bishop Brennan for his generosity, cathedral parishioners, and the faithful of the diocese.

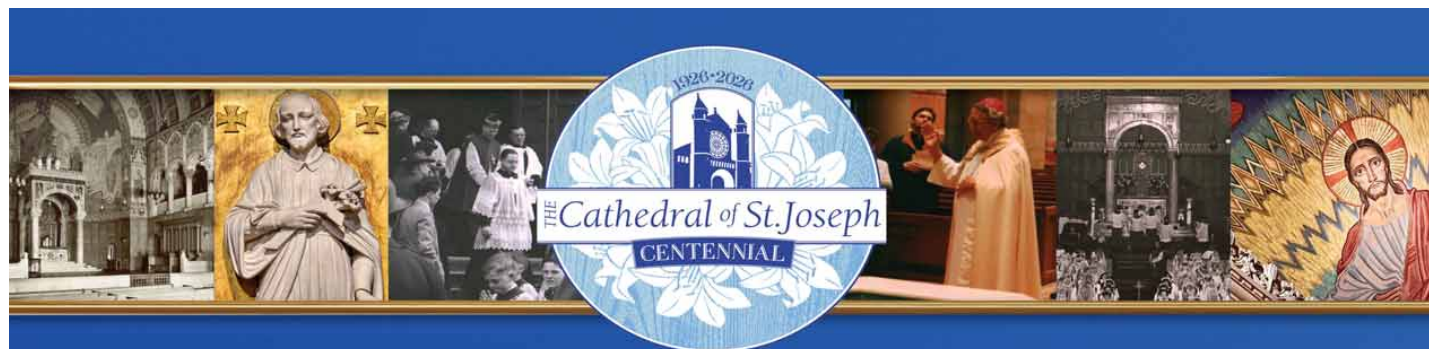
“Today, we celebrate a century of faith, hope, and community,”

he said. “For 100 years, this cathedral has stood as a beacon of light, guiding generations through prayer, service, and love. May its walls continue to echo with devotion, and may its spirit inspire countless more years of grace, faith, compassion, and unity. Please let us continue to remain in faith, love, respect and

support for each other and our church.”

“Thank and praise God for giving us this beautiful Mother Church to our diocese,” he said.

Following the Mass, a reception will be held at the Great Hall of Central Catholic High School in Wheeling.



SOLEMN MASS FOR THE

100th Anniversary of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph

APRIL

TUESDAY

21
2026

AT 5 PM

*Please join us as we celebrate with
great joy the 100th Anniversary
of the Cathedral of St. Joseph
and begin our Centennial Year.*

*A reception will follow in the
Great Hall of Central Catholic High School.*

The celebration begins with
SOLEMN VESPERS ON THE EVE OF THE ANNIVERSARY
Monday, April 20 • 6:00 PM

A Century of Faith: Cathedral of St. Joseph Marks 100 Years as the Heart of the Diocese

By Joyce Bibey, courtesy of FaithInWV

As the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, it marks not just the passing of time, but a century of faith in a sacred space designed to teach, inspire, and reveal the presence of God.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan will celebrate the Anniversary Mass at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 21. He will be joined by visiting bishops, as well as priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful from throughout the Diocese.

Thanks to ongoing renovations to its structure, it stands as it was intended to be — a divine House of God, where stone, light, and sacred art come together to draw every soul who enters a little closer to heaven.

“There are Cathedrals in the country larger and more expensive, but St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Wheeling, according to expert judgement, is the most beautifully proportioned and most artistically executed of all,” stated the souvenir guide of Saint Joseph Cathedral, from the consecration celebrations on April 21, 1926.

The present cathedral is the second to be located on the site. The first was originally called St. James Church, built in 1847 under the direction of Bishop of Richmond, Richard Vincent Whelan. It became a cathedral and Whelan the first bishop of Wheeling, Virginia, when the Diocese of Wheeling was established in 1850 by Blessed Pope Pius IX. Whelan successfully petitioned the Holy See to approve the name of the cathedral be changed. So, in 1872 it and the diocese would be under the patronage of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, the perfect model of Christian living Bishop Whelan would say.

Bishop Patrick Donahue, who before his death in 1922, declared the need for the severely deteriorating St. Joseph Cathedral to be razed and rebuilt. As fate would have it a year later in 1923, a fire devastated the cathedral. This damage and age of the building made it unsalvageable.

The Fourth Bishop of Wheeling, John J. Swint, would now oversee the



The exterior and interior of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling are shown in the undated photos on this page.

construction of a new church for the growing diocese to “stand for hundreds of years, to be a beautiful legacy. A church, to be a real church, must not only conform to the material require-

ments, but it must have a character, a certain spirit or soul.”

Bishop Swint had a vision for the cathedral inspired by his predecessors and pilgrimages to Europe.

Bishop Swint entrusted a young but proven architect from Pittsburgh, Edward J. Weber, to take on the project. Weber was involved with every aspect of the design that went into the building. He had an impressive track record and was no stranger to the diocese. Weber designed Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bluefield. Both have celebrated their 100th anniversaries in 1925, and 1924 respectively.

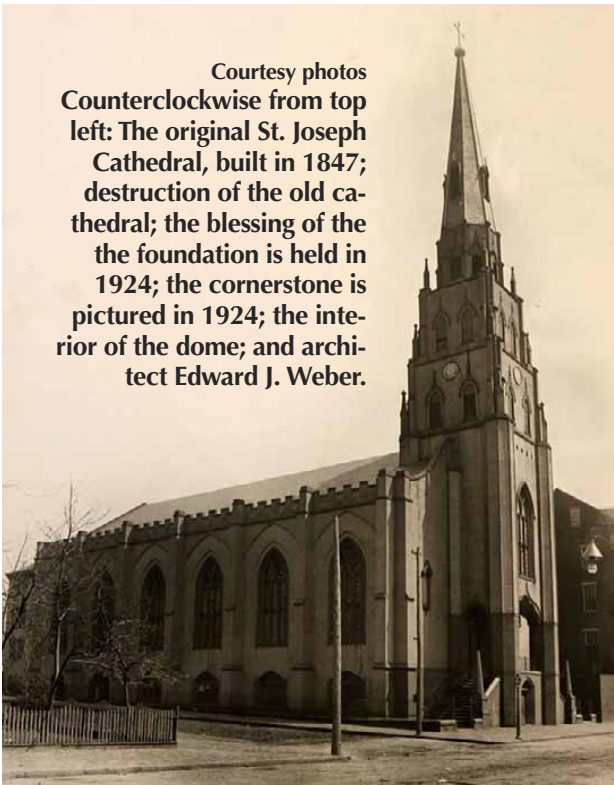
Weber was indeed an artist grounded in his Catholic faith and his projects reflected this.

All are not poets who can sing like David, nor writers like St. Thomas of Aquinas; theirs was one way of glorifying God, but other ways are at hand and every person, no matter how humble, can worship the Lord with artistic churches by cultivating a desire for them and making the effort to obtain them. Let us then — all of us who are really interested — make an effort for better church architecture; let us encourage men of talent to make this a life-work and, like the bishops, kings and builders of Medieval times, let us patronize those who would clothe in beauty of form and color the house of divine worship.—Edward Joseph Weber

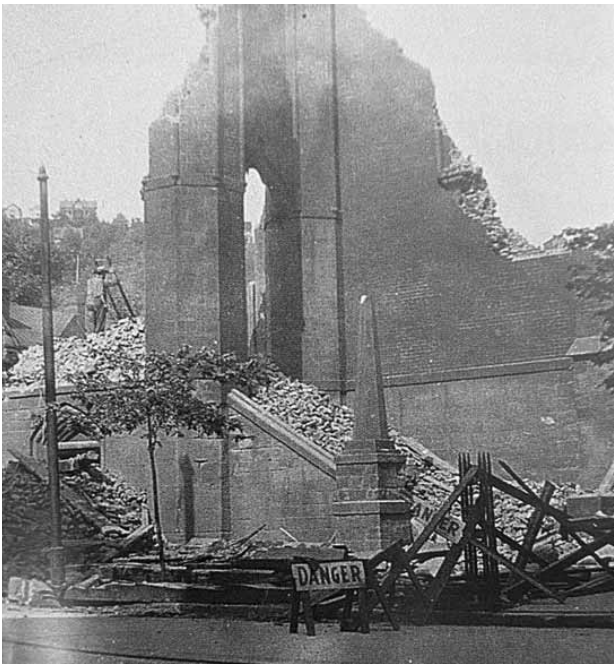
The Diocese of Wheeling’s cathedral was designed in the Lombard-Romanesque style with an easily recognizable round arch dome. This style was guided by Bishop Swint, reminiscent of the grand cathedrals he admired in Italy, particularly the Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence.

As in tradition of the early Church, Bishop Swint and Weber collaborated to bring to life a cathedral to teach, inspire, and symbolize the Catholic faith and the reality of heaven. It is after all the house of God created for His glory. The whole project would cost about \$500,000. The floorplan is in the shape of the Cross. The limestone exterior was quarried in Indiana. The interior marble is from Italy, Greece, Spain, and France, specifically rose tavernelle, botticino, jasper, and Belgian black among others, specifically selected by Weber.

See “Faith” on Page 6



Courtesy photos
Counterclockwise from top
left: The original St. Joseph
Cathedral, built in 1847;
destruction of the old ca-
thedral; the blessing of the
the foundation is held in
1924; the cornerstone is
pictured in 1924; the inter-
ior of the dome; and archi-
tect Edward J. Weber.



Faith ...

Cont'd from Page 5

In 1924, Bishop Swint placed the cornerstone for the present-day cathedral, which is etched with "AMDG" - Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (For the greater glory of God).

The general contractor for the job was R.R. Kitchen Construction of Wheeling; the stone and wood carver, Frank Aretz of Pittsburgh; muralist was Felix. B. Lieftuchter, of Cincinnati; and the stained-glass artist was George W. Sotter of Bucks County, Pa.

Lieftuchter painted powerful visual and spiritual elements inside of the cathedral, focused on symbolism over realism. Walking into the nave (main body of the church) faithful can feel as if they were walking towards Heaven with Christ's arms outstretched, drawing us close, surrounded by nine choirs of angels and saints – visual theology.



Edward Joseph Weber
Architect

"The paintings blend perfectly (centering attention to) the apse mural – a monumental figure of Christ the *Cristus Pancreator* (Creator of all things) and reminds us of Psalm 9:8-9 – 'But the Lord sits enthroned forever,'" wrote Thomas W. Forrest in an April 25, 1983, thesis for Wheeling Jesuit College about the cathedral and medieval architecture.

"He is set up His throne for judgement," Forrest wrote. "He judges the world with justice; He governs the people with equity. He is not portrayed as the Divine Teacher, but rather as the Christ longing for His people, a judge yes, but a compassionate one."

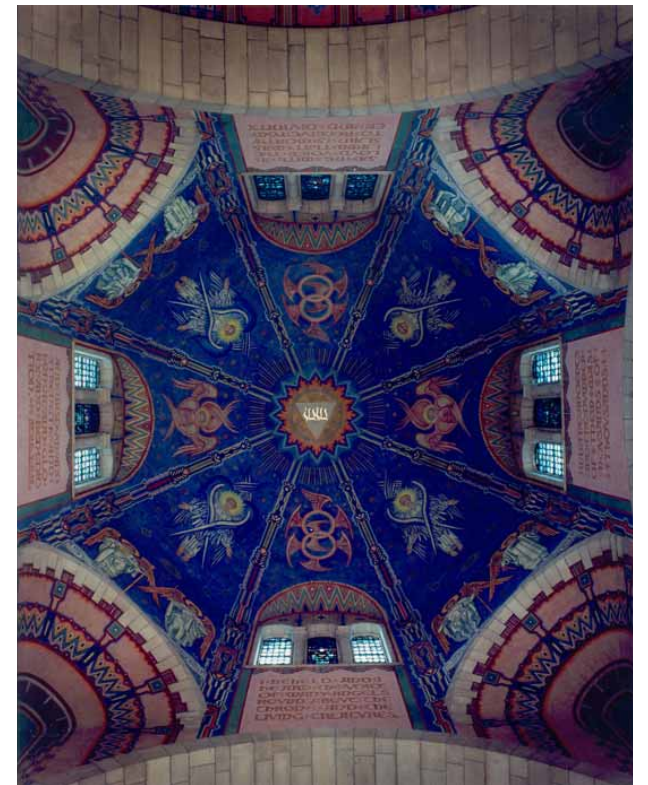
He noted Sotter's stained-glass adds "divine order and glory" to the sacred atmosphere depicting scenes of the life of St. Joseph and the Old Testament foreshadowing Christ's life. When the sunlight shines through these works of art it brings in "a touch of heaven into God's House."

The Holy of Holies, the cathedral's sanctuary, is the most sacred space in the cathedral designed to give grace and beauty where Mass is celebrated and where the priest and faithful meet God in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The tabernacle bears the inscription "*Ecce Panis Angelorum*" (translated to Behold the Bread of Angels), a fitting statement for the "sacred heart of the cathedral," Forrest wrote.

Forrest described Aretz's carving work as a "sermon in stone."

The cathedra, bishop's chair, was carved by Aretz with symbols of Saints Peter, Paul, Christ's Passion, and the symbols of the evangelists: Matthew, a winged man; Mark, a winged lion; Luke, a winged ox; and John, an eagle, emphasizing the bishop's role as teacher of the Gospel. Inscribed

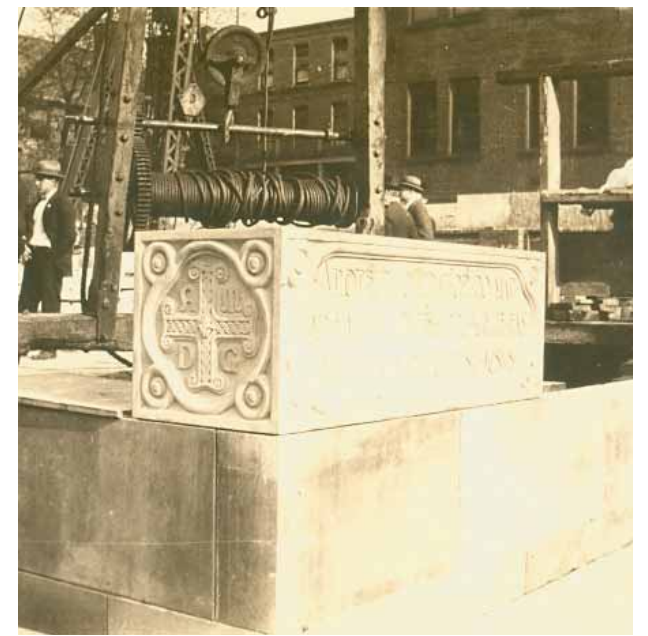


is "*Dominus Petra mea, et Robur meum, et Salvator meus,*" translated is "The Lord is my rock, my strength, and my savior" (Psalm 18:3). The cathedra is what makes a church a cathedral to symbolize the office of bishop and his authority as a successor of the apostles for the local church (diocese).

Every inch is purposeful. Every detail to assure the Presence of God.

On April 21, 1926, the new Cathedral of St. Joseph was consecrated and stood as Bishop Swint would say, "symbolic of all the Catholic Church stands for" in West Virginia.

Today, as it did 100 years ago, the Cathedral of St. Joseph stands as a visible sign of faith that was built and maintained for the glory of God and as enduring as the spiritual heart of the true faithful within the diocese.



Day in and day out, there are the faithful, quiet priests—who pray their breviary and their Rosary, anoint the dying, celebrate Mass, hear confessions, and bury the dead—whose lives we don't know.

Priest ...

Cont'd from Page 1

began with visiting the graves of my pastor predecessors of my current parochial assignment and then morphed into priests about whom I had an anecdote to share. My intention was to post a month-long social media series about deceased priests during November, the month dedicated to praying for the dead.

As I've compiled the list of priests and subsequently researched where they were buried, and then searched the cemetery looking for their gravestones to document, I've come to several realizations. One of them was this: I didn't know many of the priests. Even if they were alive during my time of discernment and studies in the seminary, or my priestly ministry, I simply didn't know them and probably never crossed paths with them.

I imagine that is the same for any parish or geographic area. If Fr. Leroy Smith (fake name, but surely there's a priest with that name somewhere in the world) served in Anytown, USA, he would not be known by many people, just the people he faithfully served. In a more mobile age, surely priests in a certain area are better known, especially when the faithful find Mass times that are convenient for their schedule. But outside of Anytown, USA, and a 10-mile radius, you could live your entire Catholic life never having met or heard of Fr. Leroy Smith.

Today, there are some priests who attain some sort of notoriety because of their facility of preaching the Gospel effectively coupled with

the means of modern communication and social media. For example, we have heard of Bishop Robert Barron, Fr. Michael Schmitz, and Fr. David Michael Moses. They are known by people across the United States and the world, something that would have been relatively uncommon a century ago.

Day in and day out, there are the faithful, quiet priests—who pray their breviary and their Rosary, anoint the dying, celebrate Mass, hear confessions, and bury the dead—whose lives we don't know. Maybe it's their stories that we should know. In very few cases, the Church has put forward some of these heroic priests who are Servants of God, Venerables, Blesseds, or Saints, or their cause may just be beginning. One such example is recently-beatified Blessed Salvador Valera Parra.

On Saturday, February 14, Kevin Wells, a friend of mine, texted me an article he had just published with Catholic World Report about a priest in West Virginia and his heroic faith and priesthood. Kevin has a penchant for identifying and highlighting priests that are hidden and unknown to many. His book *Priest and Beggar*, about Venerable Aloysius Schwartz, rocked my world when I happened to hear an interview about it on the radio. I stayed in my car for 20 minutes after reaching my destination so I could hear the entire interview. His latest book, *The Hermit*, recounts his family's journey with a priest, now turned hermit, who helped to spiritually deliver Kevin's wife from the throes of addiction.



Courtesy photo
Fr. Charles Carroll (1903-1989)
is pictured in this undated photo.

That Saturday morning, I only skimmed the article, concluding that it was interesting and maybe in the future I would read it in its entirety. Due to a series of events that unfolded, I did read it the next evening.

I had just flown into San Francisco for the week to be a student in the inaugural cohort with the Center for Sainthood Studies. I was learning the inner workings of sainthood causes alongside people also working to advance a person to sainthood. It was Sunday night, and two gentlemen sat down at the table with me. In those first encounters, we enthusiastically shared whose cause we are working on. These two fellows began talking about their Fr. Charles Carroll. At some point, they name-dropped Kevin Wells. That's when I made the connection that they are promoting the very priest Kevin just wrote about. (And had I read Kevin's article, I would have

known they were going to be at the certificate course).

Throughout the week, they regaled me with their memories and stories about Fr. Carroll—his devoted service to parishes the bishop sent him to close; his desire to establish a school and how he drove the bus to pick up the students; how Fr. Carroll made himself available to his parishioners. I came to believe the tremendous impact he had on their lives, and I could only imagine how many others had stories about Fr. Carroll's impact. Fr. Carroll was hidden in the Appalachian Mountains, quietly serving His Lord and the people of God, and now a group has spearheaded a potential cause for sainthood for this faithful priest.

In our sainthood classes, we spoke of the two "i's": imitation and intercession; but I'd add a third "i": inspiration. Fr. Carroll inspired the people to whom he ministered, but he can also inspire the Church today. I hope Fr. Charles R. Carroll can inspire people who have given up on priests for any number of reasons. If you are a priest, be inspired by the selfless example of Fr. Carroll. Priests need to know the stories of other priests so that they can be inspired by saintly priests. The people of God need priests who have been inspired who will, in turn, form their parishioners into saints and guide them along the path of holiness.

I hope to learn more about Fr. Charles R. Carroll going forward. But I've already begun asking him to pray for me. I pray that I might love my parish and people in the same way that he devotedly served his parishioners. If you are delighted with your priest, thank God, and pray he

be like the saintly priests whose lives are mostly unknown. If your priest somehow disappoints you, ask Fr. Charles R. Carroll to intercede for him and his ministry.

When the priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Fr. Carroll's diocese, look in their *Ordo*, a book that outlines each liturgical day, and glance at the day's corresponding necrology for December 6, they will see Fr. Charles R. Carroll's name (d. 1993). Younger priests may have never heard of him, and older priests may remember him for his faithful priestly ministry. But now, young and old will know his name—not only praying for his eternal rest but asking for his prayers as his cause for canonization begins. And no matter if you are priest or lay, from West Virginia or anywhere in the United States or the world, you can know his name and ask his prayers, too.

Eternal Father, source of all blessings, you guide us through your Son Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Charles R. Carroll was known by many as a man of faith, virtue, and charity. Through his intercession, grant the grace we now humbly ask: (mention your request here). If it is your will, may his life continue to inspire us to follow Christ faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Fr. Edward Looney holds a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, is a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, a pastor, Marian theologian, author, columnist, and podcaster. This article was published by Crisis Magazine on March 6, 2026, crisismagazine.com.)

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Discover What the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) Has to Offer

By Lucretia M. Burnley, Baltimore Province Director National Council of Catholic Women

Who are we?

We are Catholic women who live across the United States. We have love of our Catholic faith and dedication to help others with spiritual and other needs while on our faith journey. We meet and make friends with ladies we never would have met and have fun while doing so. NCCW consists of thousands of Catholic women and affiliated Catholic women's organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. But there is so much more to being a NCCW member.

Brief History

The NCCW was founded on March 4, 1920 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "By the first decade of the 20th century, a national organization was needed to play a more active role in the U.S. Catholic life." The

purpose of the women's council was to give to the Catholic women of the country a common voice and instrument for unified action in all matters affecting Catholic or national welfare, to ensure proper Catholic representation and proper recognition of Catholic principals in the national committees and national movements affecting the religious, moral and material wellbeing of the country. Also, to stimulate the work of the existing Catholic Women organizations.

Our Mission

The NCCW acts through its members to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world. NCCW is a non-profit and tax-exempt organization.

Available to Members

Spirituality, Leadership and Service opportunities, programs and resources: Annual subscrip-

tion to the quarterly Catholic Women magazine: Monthly NCCW President's Pen e-newsletter: Eligibility to vote in the NCCW elections, and Annual Business meeting at the Annual Convention and much more.

NCCW is represented at the biannual meetings of the USCCB. NCCW is member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization (WUCWO), Catholic Social Ministry Gathering which advocates Catholic views to Congress. NCCW has a representative at the United Nations in New York. We are partners with Catholic Relief Services, Cross Catholic, Catholic Charities USA and many other organizations that share our mission.

Like I said, "There is so much more to NCCW". We have the availability to meet and work with wonderful women from the United States. Find out for yourself! Join us; we'd love to have you. Check out our web site www.nccw.org Blessings to all.

Grotto ...

Cont'd from Page 1

suppressed. Art passed away in 2002, but his and the parish children's legacy continue in Our Lady's grotto.

Their project was a labor of love. As he planned construction of the grotto, Art told the children of the parish to collect the creek stones and bring them to the church a little bit at a time until he had enough to start building.

"He told the children what size stones to get," Nettie recalled. "They brought them in every Sunday for weeks. He told them what size he wanted and that they had to be flat."

Art and Nettie's daughters also joined in the collection, which was a joy for all of them.

"The children loved bringing in the stones," Nettie said. "They brought them in from all over the area"—Richie, Doddridge, and Tyler counties. "We had a mixture of different people from dif-

ferent counties and we were very close," she said. "We were a family."

Art was not well at the time, Nettie said, but he was committed to building the grotto. "My husband loved the Blessed Mother and he built the grotto in her honor," she said.

Once built, the St. Patrick Parish community gathered with their pastor, the late Father Peter Giannamore, who blessed and dedicated the grotto. St. Patrick's was suppressed in 2008 and the church was torn down last year. Nettie later remarried and she and her husband are members of St. John's.

John Reardon, director Buildings and Properties for the diocese, said the relocation is slated for July and the goal is to move the grotto as one piece. JD&E Construction Services in Wheeling will be conducting the move.

"We are planning to move the Marian grotto with care and reverence, so it can continue to be a place of prayer and peace," said Father

Shinto Mathew, pastor of St. John's and St. Joseph's.

Relocating the grotto will require some expense. "We are humbly asking for financial support from friends and benefactors," he said. The parish appreciates all of the prayers, generosity, and support it has received in this endeavor.

"This project," Father Mathew added, "is not only a physical move, but also a way of continuing devotion and honoring the faith it represents."

That is the faith of his parishioners, many of whom came to join his parish after St. Patrick's was suppressed.

Nettie's hope is that the Marian grotto will not only continue to be a sacred place of prayer in a new location but also serve as a connection for the faithful to the generations that came before them.

"I lean on Jesus every day, all day long, and never fail to tell Him how much I love Him and appreciate all that He has done for me and my family," she said. "I flee to the Blessed Mother with my thoughts, loved ones' needs and petitions, and for protection. She comforts me when I am afraid. I Love Her. I never want to be separated from the Good Lord, the Blessed Mother or the

Church, EVER. That grotto represents something we, as Catholics hold dear in our hearts—Mary actually carried our Lord and Savior. Mary is the Arc of God's Covenant to us."

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‘Quo Vadis? Where Are You Going?’

A High School Boys Retreat to Discover God’s Epic Plan for Your Life

By Joyce Bibey, courtesy of FaithInWV

The Quo Vadis Discernment Retreat for high school aged boys is set to help them pause, reflect, and empower.

Seminarian Michael J. Tupta, who is from Charleston’s Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, is the director for the 2026 camp set for June 29-July 2 at Priest Field Retreat Center in Kearneysville.

The story behind the title of the camp, encourages young men to boldly listen and turn towards Christ.

There is a centuries old legend of St. Peter running away from Rome, afraid he

would be killed as a follower of Christ. He’s in a full-on panic, once outside the city he’s startled, suddenly seeing the Risen Lord walking towards him, carrying His cross.

Saint Peter asks, “Quo Vadis (Where are you going)?” Jesus replies, “To Rome... to be crucified again.”

Saint Peter realized he couldn’t deny Christ. Totally ashamed he knew what he had to do. He turned back, faced his persecutors, and refused to deny Christ. That is bold, confident, and unbreakable faith despite the unknowns.

The Quo Vadis isn’t just

a story. It is a narrative to open our hearts.

The young men’s discernment retreat isn’t just a camp. It’s a life-changing adventure where teen boys meet Jesus head-on, discern His will, and step into greatness.

“A five-day retreat like this is an easy opportunity to be open to God’s plan,” Tupta says. “We will have a healthy balance of activity, prayer and directed conversation about how the Lord is acting in our lives. The Lord Jesus will bless your openness to His holy will.”

He said this is time away to discern God’s will for your future.

Assisting Tupta will be other seminarians and priests from across the state. The retreat offers a healthy balance of activities, prayer, and directed conversations about how the Lord is moving in your life. Not sure where God’s calling you? Pray with real seminarians — the guys from those posters you’ve seen — and get real talk about priesthood, vocations, and manly faith.

By the retreat’s end, attendees will have a clearer glimpse of seminary and priestly life, be stronger in their Catholic identity, and fired up for next steps.

Parents and grandparents, Tupta asks, what if

this summer your son or grandson encountered that same call?

Encourage your young men to attend.

“As a seminarian, I often think about what events I wish I’d been pushed toward in high school,” he said. “I can humbly say this retreat is one I would’ve done. God has a plan for your son (or grandson). This week away is to help silence his heart and give him an opportunity to reflect on the great gift of his life and the Lord’s great plan for him.”

Christ is calling. Say “yes” like St. Peter and step into adventure.

See “Retreat” on Page 10

Olive Branch Program Offering Healing, Hope, and a Faithful Welcome for Separated and Divorced Catholics

By Joyce Bibey, courtesy of FaithInWV

CHARLESTON — For those wondering “where do I fit in” in the Catholic Church after separation or divorce – make plans to attend The Olive Branch program, April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, 100 Hodges Road, Charleston.

The Olive Branch is designed to offer information and resources to aid in achieving personal and spiritual growth while navigating the complicated and painful process of separation or divorce.

Director of Social Ministries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Kathy Barton, has been working to kick off the program since she was hired three years ago. She knew from personal experience that there are so many misconceptions out there, misinformation leading people away from their faith, and complications too heavy to handle when the “happily ever after” marriage has crumbled.

She said, Olive Branch is a gentle reminder that you need not go through this journey alone and that peace and new life are promised to those who remain faithful.

This program is created to be the “olive branch” of restored faith and hope in the midst of the storm.

This is the second regional event for Olive Branch with the first held in October in Wheeling.

Olive Branch Ministry is respectfully for Catholic and non-Catholic individuals, and it is not intended to be counseling for couples. Instead, it is a faith-based program for individuals going through the pain of separation or divorce to find the love, mercy, and empathy of the Catholic faith, she said.

Barton reminds us that in “Genesis, Chapter 8, ‘the olive branch’ is a symbol of new life. As the story goes, the olive branch, which was brought to Noah by a dove, was the first real sign that the flood was subsiding and that there was in-

deed new life beyond the storm....This simple tangible sign renewed in Noah the faith that he needed to continue his journey of suffering and hardship with the belief, hope, and confidence that his suffering would one day pass.

“We all go through storms in

our lives,” Barton said. “Sometimes these storms can be very dark, lonely, and frightening. It is at this time that we need our faith to be rock solid. Yet all too often, it is at this time that we are so exhausted and frightened that our faith turns

See “Hope” on Page 10

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Bishops' Pro-Life Chair Backs Longshot Bill to Revoke Mifepristone's FDA Approval

OSV News — Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, offered his support to legislation that would revoke the Food and Drug Administration's approval of mifepristone for abortions. However, the bill faces long odds in Congress.

The Safeguarding Women from Chemical

Abortion Act, introduced in March by Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. and Rep. Diana Harshbarger, R-Tenn., would end the FDA's approval of mifepristone, a drug commonly, but not exclusively, used for first trimester abortion.

Bishop Thomas wrote in an April 1 letter to those lawmakers, "The U.S. bishops have frequently stressed how the abortion pill represents an isolating and harmful response to

women in need, who deserve better in the form of compassionate accompaniment and meaningful support to help them welcome their child," the letter said. However, the path forward for the legislation was not clear, as President Donald Trump indicated as a candidate for president in 2024 he would veto a national abortion ban if one reached his desk.

Retreat...

Cont'd from Page 9

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston offers the weekend free of charge, but spots are limited. You are encouraged to register now and watch God ignite a spark that lasts a lifetime!

For more information or to register go to: <http://wvpriests.org>

Hope ...

Cont'd from Page 9

to confusion and doubt.... However, it is with God's guidance and only with Him that we are able to weather and navigate the storms in our lives with certainty of arriving at our intended destination."

She said, it is the hope of everyone working behind the scenes to create this program that those who are separated or divorced will see it as a reminder that "we are not alone and that our destination is in His hands. We need to merely stay the course and find our way back home—our way back to the Lord."

April 25 will be a day of opportunity to find hope and healing.

Olive Branch is a much-needed moment of compassion, understanding, and practical support, reminding us that no one has to walk through these chapters alone, Barton said.

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, will address "What can I still do in the Church? Am I still welcome."

He encourages anyone who is dealing with the pain of separation/divorce to be a part of this day.

Professional counselor, Donna L. Niggemeyer, M.Ed., LPC, of Christian Counseling Associates, will help attendees take a step back in order to confidently move forward with her, "How did we get here" talk.

"I am honored to participate in a ministry with the vision and purpose of advancing God's kingdom," Niggemeyer said, as she noted she is grateful that this is the second opportunity of what she hopes will be many for the diocese and Barton's office as they reach out to extend much needed support. "I look forward to participation in future planned events

with the Olive Branch Ministry. . . a faith-based approach, providing a structured, supportive, loving, and faith-focused community during a challenging time."

Barton will wrap up the gathering with "What does forgiveness look like?" Additionally, she will encourage all to "Give it to HIM."

Barton said, Olive Branch has been set up to be a diocesan wide initiative.

"Our Catholic brothers and sisters are not on this journey alone," she said. "There are many in these shoes we never planned to be in. By extending the Olive Branch we hope those who accept it find a space of peace, find faith

renewed."

The April event is free, but registration is required in order to prepare for refreshments, lunch, and materials.

For more information and to register go to: <https://dwc.org/the-olive-branch/> and select the Olive Branch Ministry event button.

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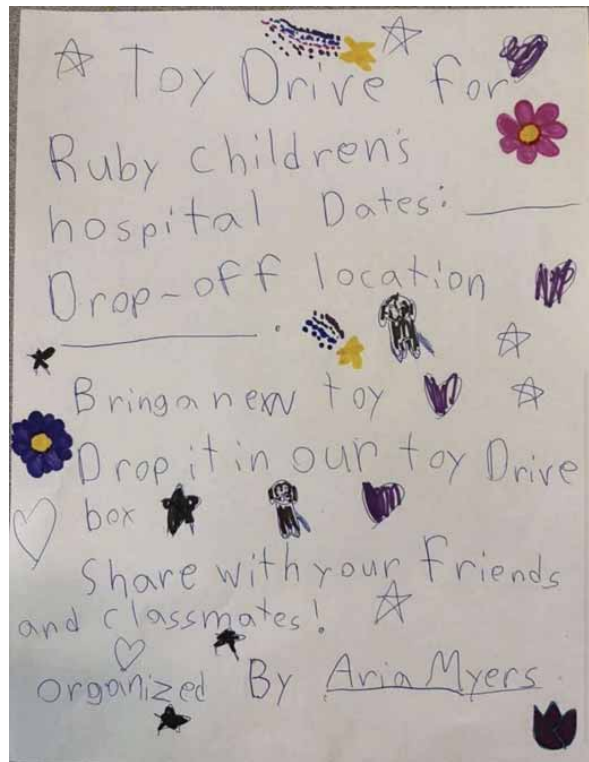
“We are so proud to shine a spotlight on one of our incredible second graders, Aria Myers!” said Recheal Fuscardo, principal of St. Joseph the Worker School in Weirton. “With a heart full of kindness and a desire to give back, Aria took it upon herself to organize a toy drive for children in our community.”

Aria independently created a collection bin and designed a poster to spread the word. “What an amazing act of leadership and compassion,” Fuscardo said.

Donations were collected in the early part of Holy Week and then were delivered to Ruby Children’s Hospital to help bring smiles to children receiving treatment.

Aria’s act of kindness is a great example of evangelization by seeing need and responding with the love of Christ.

Courtesy photos
Clockwise, from top right: Aria Myers holds some of the toys collected for distribution to Ruby Children’s Hospital; a few of the donation boxes, which she designed; and Aria’s poster, which she created, to spread the word.



MICHAEL J. TUPTA, D.D.S.

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'Catholic Saints of America' Event Will Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

By **Katie Yoder**

(OSV News) — Drawing inspiration from St. Carlo Acutis, a national shrine in Wisconsin is inviting Catholics to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States this summer by joining in prayer and learning about the holy men and women of America.

"They founded schools, cared for the sick, served the poor, and witnessed to the Gospel through lives of sacrifice, service and unwavering love for Jesus Christ," said Father of Mercy Anthony Stephens, rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. "Their example shows us what it truly means to be a faithful Catholic and to be American."

Scheduled for July 1-9, "Catholic Saints of America" will feature a special novena, an exhibit honoring Americans who are saints or on the path to sainthood, and an opportunity to venerate their relics. The relics or remains of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Blessed Solanas Casey and Blessed Stanley Rother will be among those on display.

All this is taking place on the site of the only Church-approved Marian apparition site in the United States.

"First, through this novena and exhibit, we hope people will come to learn about the canonization process," Father Stephens told OSV News. "Next, we want to help people discover those who may one day be declared saints. Finally, we can help introduce people to a new devotion that inspires them to grow closer to Christ."

The novena prayer, which Father Stephens is writing, will seek Mary's intercession for unity, holiness and renewal nationwide. Alongside the novena, the exhibit will feature the stories of holy men and women of America. It will

highlight their lives, virtues and legacy, organizers said.

Its format was inspired by a traveling Eucharistic miracles exhibit, which was based on a website created by St. Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager canonized last year.

"There are fewer than 15 American saints, and only a little more than 70 people whose causes (for sainthood) have been opened" in the U.S., Father Stephens said. "Each of these holy men and women has a beautiful story and powerful example, yet so few people know about them."

"We do not have saints from 2,000 years ago; we have saints of today," he added. "This shows that God is still at work, calling people to himself."

Americans who have been canonized are Sts. Elizabeth Ann Seton, John Neumann, Marianne Cope, Katharine Drexel, Damien de Veuster of Molokai, Junípero Serra, Kateri Tekakwitha, Théodore Guérin, Frances Xavier Cabrini and Rose Philippine Duchesne. St. Teresa of Kolkata was given honorary American citizenship in 1996, the year before she died.

Beatified Americans include Blesseds Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, Stanley Rother, Solanus Casey, Michael J. McGivney, Francis Xavier Seelos and Carlos Manuel Cecilio Rodríguez Santiago of Puerto Rico. Five Franciscan

friars known as the Georgia martyrs will join them Oct. 31, and the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen is also expected soon.

The shrine is in the process of inviting promoters of all U.S. causes to participate. So far, the promoters of more than 35 causes have confirmed they will collaborate in some way. Some will help create their respective exhibit displays, and many will attend in person, Father Stephens said.

While the novena and exhibit take place July 1-9, many of the promoters and representatives of these causes will be present July 3-5. For those days, guest speakers will also "engage with pilgrims, share the stories of these holy men and women, and provide opportunities to learn more about the path to sainthood in America," said Kim May, the shrine's event and volunteer coordinator.

Organizers expect that more than 15,000 pilgrims could attend, which would make this the largest event hosted by the shrine.

The exhibit will recognize in a special way the cause of Servant of God Adele Brice, a Belgian immigrant who reported seeing the Blessed Virgin Mary three times in 1859. She is buried at the shrine, which marks the site where they met. The cause for her sainthood opened in January.

Mary, as she appeared to Brice (sometimes also spelled "Brise"), is honored under the title of "Our Lady of Champion" for the nearby town of Champion, 15 miles northeast of Green Bay.

Father Stephens, who as the shrine's rector serves as the actor or promoter of Brice's cause, said the upcoming event will mark the 130th anniversary of the catechist's death July 5.

The shrine plans to celebrate Mass that day at 11:30 a.m. local time to pray for Brice's cause for canonization and for her continued intercession, he said.

"The afternoon will include guest speakers representing sainthood causes and catechetical presentations, continuing the mission Our Lady entrusted to Adele to teach the faith and lead souls to salvation," he said.

The shrine will also host a picnic that day. In addition to Mass and speakers, videos and educational presentations will highlight America's holy women and men.

The shrine, May said, is entrusting the event to the patronage of Mary under her titles of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas; the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States; and Our Lady of Champion.

The all-age event will include interactive activities for families. The shrine will offer history scavenger hunts, children's activity pages and more.

"Our hope," May said, "is that families will come together to celebrate this historic moment, learn about the holy men and women who shaped our nation, and be inspired to grow in faith."

More information about the event is at <https://championshrine.org/americansaints>.

(Katie Yoder is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Maryland.)



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Obituary

Linda Dianne Showalter Oliver

With love and sadness, we share that Linda Dianne (Showalter) Oliver (63) passed peacefully on the morning of Good Friday; April 3, 2026; at Camden Clark Medical Center in Parkersburg. Linda's lifetime was a testament of service to others. As a young waitress at Traveler's Restaurant in downtown Parkersburg, Linda quietly took tips from her apron pocket to cover the bills of customers who could not pay. Later, as a supervising Registered Nurse at Camden Clark Hospital, she tended to the human needs of the patients in her care, and she insisted that her staff do the same. If she found an idle staff member, she would tell them to go make a cup of tea for a patient or hold the hand of someone in pain or fear. Through such simple acts of grace and sympathy, Linda improved the lives of those around her.

From the time she was a girl, Linda demonstrated her tremendous love of family through kind, practical deeds. She would rise early to pack lunches for her family, bake unexpected pies, give surprise gifts, and tidy up rooms. In adulthood, she nurtured, counseled, and supported friends and family and would set aside her own plans to help others at a moment's notice. A devoted mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, Linda would do anything possible to protect her loved ones both physically and spiritually. As a devout Catholic, Linda modeled the power of a life committed in equal parts to faith and good works.

Linda is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Michael Oliver; her son Andrew, and his fiancée, Andrea Horner; her parents, Jerry and Bobbie Showalter; her siblings Lyman, Steven, Catherine (Wharton), Susan (Showalter-Bucher), Patrick, John, and William; and countless nieces and nephews, who adored her.

Services will be held on Friday, April 10, at 11 a.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church in Parkersburg. Visitation was on Thursday, April 9, at the Leavitt Funeral Home in Parkersburg.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.leavittfuneralhome.com.

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Diocese Welcomes a New Priest

WHEELING—Diocese Welcomes Father Rex R. Marfil, S.Th.L. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston welcomes Father Rex R. Marfil, S.Th.L., who has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish, Wheeling. A priest of the Diocese of San Jose de Antique in the Philippines, he completed his theological formation at the St. Joseph Regional Seminary, Iloilo City.

He was ordained to the priesthood on April 7, 1994. Father Marfil served Diocese of San Jose de Antique as pastor, parochial administrator, Chairperson of the Diocesan Commission on Doctrine on the Faith, Chairperson of the Diocesan Commission on Family and Life, and Professor at the Regional Major Seminary in Iloilo City. He took his Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the University of Navarre in Spain.



Father Rex R. Marfil, S.Th.L.

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Rex R. Marfil, S.Th.L., has been appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Michael Parish, Wheeling, with residence at the parish rectory, effective immediately.

Father Frederick J. D'Souza is appointed Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg, with residence at the parish rectory, effective May 1, 2026. He is also appointed Designated Pastor of Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg, and St. Mary Central School, Clarksburg, effective May 1, 2026.

Father Casey B. Mahone is retiring from active ministry.

Father William K. Matheny, Jr. is retiring from active ministry.



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El Papa León elogia el alto el fuego como 'señal de viva esperanza' e insta al diálogo y a la paz

Por Josephine Peterson, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa León XIV acogió con satisfacción el alto el fuego recién anunciado en Oriente Medio como una "señal de viva esperanza" tras lo que describió como "estas últimas horas de gran tensión", al tiempo que instaba a reanudar las negociaciones y llamaba a los fieles a la oración.

"Solo mediante la vuelta a las negociaciones se puede llegar al final de la guerra", afirmó en unas declaraciones en italiano tras su audiencia general del 8 de abril en la Plaza de San Pedro.

Sus comentarios se produjeron apenas unas horas después de que se alcanzara un alto el fuego de dos semanas entre Irán y Estados Unidos, lo que evitó una mayor escalada. El acuerdo se produjo tras una severa advertencia del presidente de Estados Unidos, Donald Trump, a última hora del 7 de abril, cuando amenazó con destruir las infraestructuras críticas de Irán, afirmando que "toda una civilización morirá esta noche" si el Gobierno de Irán no reabría el Estrecho de Ormuz a buques petroleros y gaseros. El alto el fuego se anunció aproximadamente dos horas antes de que venciera el plazo fijado por la Casa Blanca.

El llamamiento del Santo Padre al diálogo se hizo eco de las declaraciones que había realizado la noche anterior en Castel Gandolfo, donde instó a los líderes a volver a la mesa de negociaciones incluso antes de que se anunciara el

alto el fuego.

"Hoy, como todos sabemos, se ha producido también esta amenaza contra todo el pueblo de Irán, y esto es realmente inaceptable", declaró a los periodistas el 7 de abril. "Sin duda, aquí hay cuestiones de derecho internacional, pero, más aún, se trata de una cuestión moral que atañe al bien del pueblo en su conjunto".

Al profundizar en las implicaciones más amplias del conflicto, advirtió sobre una crisis económica mundial caracterizada por una gran inestabilidad, que corre el riesgo de avivar aún más el odio, y pidió a los ciudadanos de a pie que se pusieran en contacto con sus líderes políticos para abogar por la paz.

Durante su discurso en la audiencia general, el Papa invitó nuevamente a los fieles a unirse a él en una vigilia de oración por la paz el 11 de abril. Mientras las flores adornaban las escaleras de la Basílica de San Pedro durante este tiempo de Pascua, el Papa dedicó su catequesis principal a reflexionar sobre la santidad, haciendo hincapié en que es una vocación compartida por todos los creyentes.

"Toda persona bautizada está llamada a ser santa; a vivir en la gracia de Dios, a practicar la virtud y a llegar a ser como Cristo", dijo en su discurso dirigido a los angloparlantes.

Continuando con su serie de catequesis sobre los documentos del Concilio Vaticano II, describió la caridad como el fundamento de la santidad, "la plenitud del amor hacia Dios y hacia el prójimo", y dijo que su máxima

expresión es el martirio, al que calificó de "supremo testimonio de fe y de caridad". Añadió que los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía, sostienen a los creyentes en esta vocación.

Continuó su análisis de la Constitución dogmática "Lumen Gentium", concretamente sobre el importante papel de la vida consagrada. "De hecho, señales del Reino de Dios, ya presente en el misterio de la Iglesia, son aquellos consejos evangélicos que dan forma a toda experiencia de vida consagrada: la pobreza, la castidad y la obediencia", dijo.

La pobreza demuestra una confianza total en Dios --libre de intereses personales-- y una "plena entrega" a su providencia; la obediencia sigue la "entrega" de Cristo a Dios; y la castidad es "la entrega de un corazón íntegro y puro en el amor, al servicio de Dios y de la Iglesia". El Papa calificó estas virtudes como una forma de "seguimiento radical".

"Estas tres virtudes no son prescripciones que encadenan la libertad, sino dones liberadores del Espíritu Santo, a través de los cuales algunos fieles se consagran totalmente a Dios", afirmó.

Al concluir su discurso principal, el Papa dijo que el sacrificio de Cristo hace posible la santidad incluso en el sufrimiento.

"Contemplando este evento, sabemos que no hay experiencia humana que Dios no redima", dijo. "Incluso el sufrimiento, vivido en unión con la pasión del Señor, se convierte en una vía de santidad".

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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 eclesiales 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, Diócesis 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, diácono, 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.wvdhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, April 11: St. Agnes, Charleston, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 12: Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, April 13: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 18: St. James, Charles Town, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 19: Assumption, Keyser, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 23: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 25: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 26: St. Brendan, Elkins, 11 a.m.

Friday, May 1: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2: SS Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 3: St. Catherine of Siena, Ronceverte, 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 9: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 10: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 7 p.m.

Monday, May 11: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 16: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 17: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 9 a.m.

Friday, May 22: Epiphany of the Lord, Moorefield, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 23: St. Leo, Inwood, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 24: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 11 a.m.


Sunday, May 24: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 6: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14: St. Matthew / Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.


Saturday, June 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood, 6 p.m.

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 8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
 6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
 Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

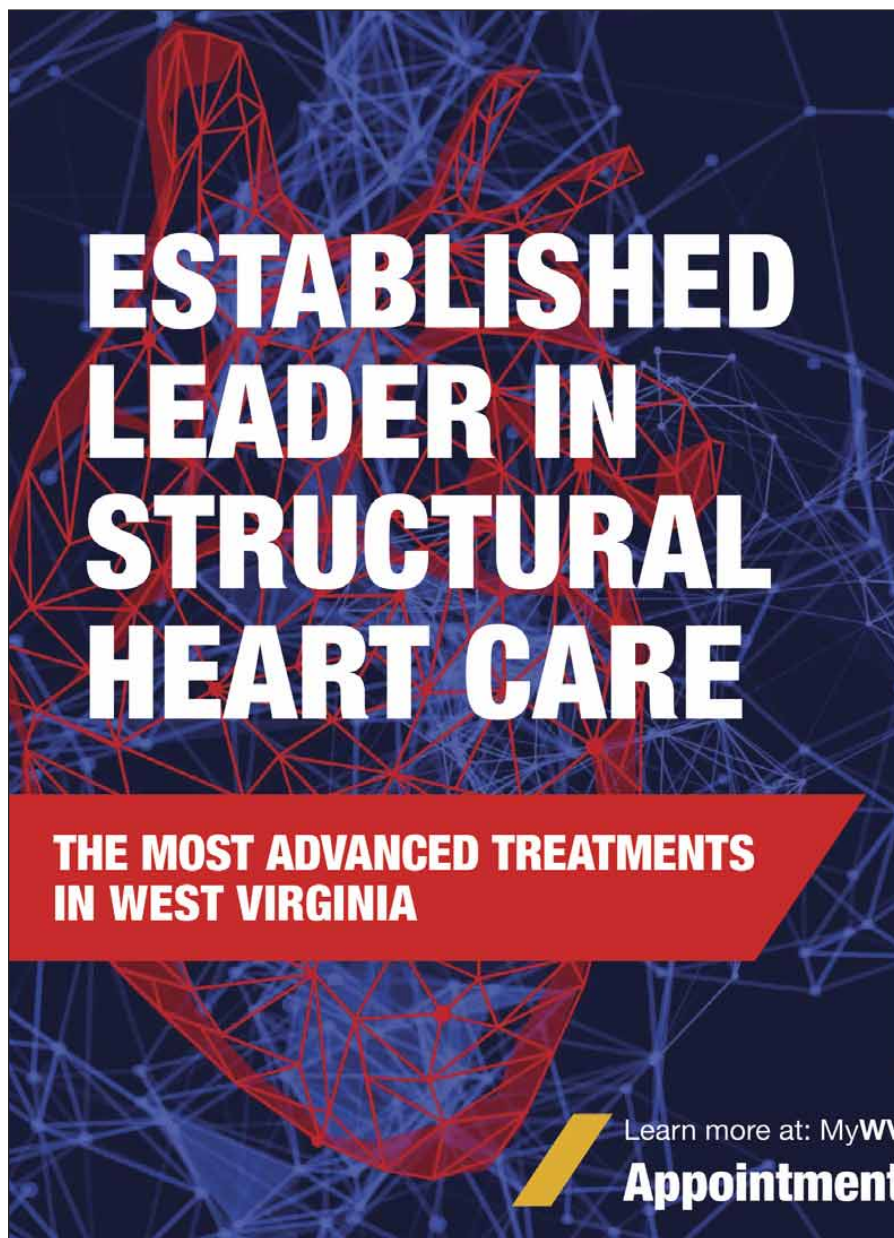
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