THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Faith Carries Catholics Who Lost Family to 9/11 Terror Attacks 25 Years Ago

By Simone Orendain

(OSV News) — Joseph Connor had his back turned to the large window of his 36th floor office when he "suddenly more felt than heard" the massive impact of a commercial jet slamming into the north tower of the World Trade Center a third of a mile away on Sept. 11, 2001.

As Connor watched pages and pages of office paper slowly rain down from the burning skyscraper against the clear sunny sky, the realization hit that his cousin Steven Schlag, a bond trader at the brokerage firm Cantor Fitzgerald, worked high up in one of the towers.

The banker suspected the number of lives lost was quickly rising as he frantically tried to call his cousin, a very close relative. Then, the middle of the second tower burst into a

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A woman grieves at the inscription of her late husband's name at the national 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City Sept. 11, 2014.
OSV News photo/Chang Lee, Reuters

Bishop Menjívar Attends Tridentine Mass in Charles Town after Appointing Priests to Assist Liturgy's Expansion in the Diocese

By Andrea Acosta

CHARLES TOWN — Wherever he goes, Bishop Evelio Menjívar asks his diocese to "welcome others without distinction," to welcome others no matter what, and his diocese responds to him with a warm and genuine welcome everywhere he goes.

"I feel right at home," says Bishop Menjívar as he marks two months as bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

"I've traveled quite a bit; I've participated in Masses and activities throughout my new diocese. I've been able to confirm that sense of belonging because I feel right at home," he told The Catholic Spirit on Aug. 30 following a Tridentine Mass at the Priory of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the heart of Charles Town, which he attended in choir.

Before the Mass in Latin began, he thanked everyone for their prayers for his episcopal ministry.

"In His mercy and providence, the Lord has sent me to serve as your shepherd. I want to reiterate to you my sincere desire to serve the Lord faithfully and to care for the salvation of every soul entrusted to my pastoral care. I am here to assure each of you personally of my deep affection. Each of you is part of our diocesan family," the prelate told approximately one hundred members of the faithful.

There were families with many children; the women parishioners wore veils on their heads, smiling, friendly.

"I'm excited, it's great to meet the new bishop. We're honored that he's visiting us," said Morgan Garry at the priory entrance. This parishioner, who is expecting a baby, attended Mass with her husband and their three children. The family began attending this church last summer; they go to the Latin Mass every Sunday and say it's always packed.

Bishop Menjívar came away with a wonderful

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Andrea Acosta photo
At left: Bishop Evelio Menjívar greets the faithful at the Tridentine Mass at the Priory of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Charles Town Aug. 30.

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A Letter from Bishop Menjívar on Safe Environment

August 6, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to affirm and reassure you that the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston complies with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, since its inception in 2002, as set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has a robust Safe Environment program, with the following requirements in place for all employees, clergy, and seminarians, and for all volunteers who work directly with or have substantial contact with minors, in accordance with the Charter:

- A zero-tolerance policy for sex abuse
- Completion of VIRTUS® Protecting Gods Children awareness training every three years
- Completion of a background check every three years
- Acknowledgement of the Diocese's Sex Abuse Policy, Code of Conduct, and Mandatory Reporting Statute for the state of West Virginia

For minors, the Diocese offers yearly age-appropriate VIRTUS® Teaching Safety awareness lessons for students in grades Kindergarten through 12 in our Catholic schools and parish schools of religion.

The Diocese maintains a Victims Assistance Program and participates in data collection and onsite audit processes by the USCCB 's designated audit agency. An Independent Review Board, comprised of primarily lay members, serves as an advisory body to me relative to Safe Environment and other similarly related concerns throughout the Diocese.

Above and beyond the Charter requirements, the Diocese fingerprints clergy and Catholic school personnel every three years, and VIRTUS® monthly awareness training bulletins are made available to all clergy, employees, and volunteers.

In addition to this protocol, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston helps to promote a culture of safety by utilizing EthicsPoint, a third-party reporting system; by maintaining and publishing a list of credibly accused; and by designating a section of our web site, www.dwc.org. to Safe

Environment reporting, concerns, and information. Although not specifically related to Safe Environment, yet in the interest of further transparency, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston also publishes the results of its yearly financial audits.

As your Bishop, I approve and promulgate the Diocese's Safe Environment program and the best practices referenced herein. Please know that I also am compliant with this protocol and these best practices.

Deepest thanks to all whose cooperation in this process helps to spread the Gospel in environments that are safe, welcoming, and productive throughout this beautiful mountain state we all call home.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Evelio Menjivar

Most Reverend Evelio Menjívar
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org 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."

The Catholic Spirit

Exaltation of the Holy Cross 2026
Vol. 56, No. 38

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thecatholicspiritwv.org
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Member: Catholic Press Association

Published every Friday by e-mail & printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to each registered Catholics free of charge. Donations to help offset production costs are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are $25 annually. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit.

Submission Guidelines: news releases are articles (limited to 12,000 words) and photos are welcome. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. At right are the names of the remaining issues and the publishing dates for the year. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday and delivered by e-mail free to subscribers. View issues and subscribe at thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2026 Print Dates:
Month of the Rosary, Oct. 9
Advent, Nov. 20
Christmas, Dec. 18

Faith ...

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fiery ball, struck by a second jet. For Connor, this confirmed a terrorist attack.

"How could this happen again?" he remembers asking himself. "(Steven) had a wife — a foreign-born wife, like my mom was — and three kids. My mom had two. But why, God? What? How did you let this happen?"

He knew well the anguish of a young widow left with young children. It was the story of his mother on the day she lost her husband to a terrorist bombing 26 years earlier, at a historic tavern near his Wall Street office.

Connor, 60, recently described to OSV News the devastation that unfolded before his eyes in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, as the United States prepared to mark the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The al-Qaida-led attacks in New York and Washington, with a thwarted attempt failing in Pennsylvania, left close to 3,000 people dead.

Connor said he questioned God after seeing "specks jumping" from the blazing towers to their deaths on 9/11.

"How are people left to make a choice: whether to burn or drop 1,000 feet?" Connor asked. "So, that's something I had struggled with. But I think over time, my faith has gotten much stronger, and certainly in the last decade or so, I think it has even gotten more so."

Connor, a regular Massgoer, credits his stronger faith after the losses in part to his son, an Augustinian friar studying for the priesthood. He said his son's faith has helped him to "become more introspective … and understand what it means to be Catholic … to really embrace God and embrace Jesus."

Now a New Jersey-based anti-terrorism advocate, Connor lost his father days after his ninth birthday. On Jan. 24, 1975, 33-year-old Frank Connor was at lunch at Fraunces Tavern in the heart of Manhattan's financial district when he and three other men were killed, and nearly 60 were injured in a bombing. The Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), a Puerto Rican separatist group, claimed responsibility.

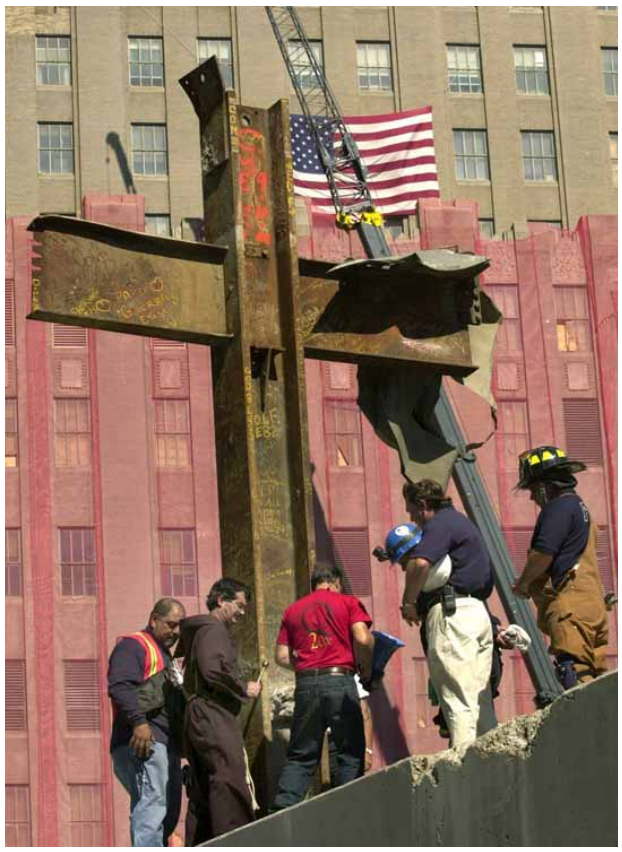
Connor said he has had no inclination to walk away from God, unlike some others he knew who lost loved ones on 9/11. The experience, he said, of losing his father and being raised by a mother and grandmother who were devout, Irish women kept him grounded and better able to handle the loss of his close cousin, whom he described as tough and funny.

"We went to church and all those things, but Grandma Connor always instilled in us never to be raised with hate," said Connor.

His cousin Jean Schlag Nebbia of Naples, Florida, also clung to her faith shortly after her older brother Steven, who was 41, died in the attack.

"I never blamed God for 9/11. I felt that you're given the gift of life, and then you're given the gift of choice. And sometimes there's bad people and they make bad choices, and other people are hurt through bad choices," Nebbia, a former special needs teacher's aide, told OSV News.

Three months after the attacks, she came to a realization.



OSV News photo/Kathy Willens, Reuters

Franciscan Father Brian Jordan, standing with laborers and emergency workers Oct. 5, 2001, blesses a 17-foot-tall cross formed by steel beams and recovered from the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York brought down nearly a month earlier in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Nebbia, 63, described watching news footage of the burning towers obsessively, trying to find her brother among those jumping out of the buildings. On the third month of non-stop viewing, her husband gave her some advice a Christian coworker had given him: "to say 'I'm going to put this in God's hands.'"

"The moment he said that to me is the moment I started to live … giving up my worries and giving up the unknown," Nebbia told OSV News. "You know, 'God, I need a good night's sleep. I'm going to put this in your hands.' That, to me, was a turning point. And I don't know if I could have done that if I didn't have my Catholic base."

Nebbia said her 12 years of Catholic education and growing up as a regular Massgoer gave her a solid grounding in faith in God's providence. She said she goes to God in prayer for almost every aspect of her life because "he has my back" just like her older brother, whom she was very close to, "always did."

Vera Murphy Trayner also leaned heavily on her faith after losing her husband, Patrick Murphy.

On the morning of the attack, Trayner prayed the rosary fervently as she rushed home from her son's nursery school while pushing him in his stroller. Murphy, 36 and the vice president for technology at the resource and management consulting firm Marsh McLennan, was on the 97th floor of the first tower that was hit three floors below. His department had moved there just months prior.

Trayner's go-to devotion "always" came through for her with prayers answered.

"I prayed and prayed and prayed that Patrick would find a way out. He was so smart … and athletic and young … and it was the first prayer that I made that was not answered," Trayner told OSV News.

She said she "was disappointed" but also held firm to the belief that her husband's death "happened for a reason" and she "had to accept it."

"Well, it's free will. The terrorists, obviously they're guided by evil and they were able to do such an evil act," Trayner said. "I don't want to feel sorry for myself because all through history, there have been traumas, wars. There's death. There's fires."

Now 60, Trayner said her studies at Jesuit-run Boston College opened her up further to the faith during difficulties.

"I was able to ask questions and being a woman in the Catholic faith, being a widow in the Catholic faith, being a mother, I read quite a bit of different books … answering my own questions and talking with people," she said.

Trayner, a Tampa-based college counselor who remarried in 2006, has relied on the Holy Spirit "to give me the right words," the Blessed Mother to intercede in raising her children, and the saints, especially Joan of Arc, to guide her through every major challenge.

Still, she said, as she described breaking into a sweat while speaking to OSV News, she remains haunted by the thought of how her first husband must have suffered as the north tower became engulfed in an inferno and collapsed.

Nebbia admitted that as a Catholic, in recent weeks she has begun to struggle with forgiving the terrorists.

"I just feel like I don't need to forgive them. That's not my job. So now I'm questioning myself, like, 'Alright, how do I go about forgiving these people, how?' That was their goal. They achieved their goal. Now, I question that part of me," she said.

Connor said he has come to accept his family's tragic losses.

"Maybe I didn't understand the reason, and maybe I don't understand the reason why Steve was killed and the other 3,000 people, but I do feel that God does have a reason for it," he said.

(Simone Orendain is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Chicago.)

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Screen shot/Andrea Acosta video

Bishop Evelio Menjívar, left, attends the Tridentine Mass in choir at the Priory of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Charles Town Aug. 30.

Andrea Acosta photo

The faithful receive Communion at the Tridentine Mass at the Priory of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 30.

Mass ...

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impression. "It's a community full of faith and deep devotion; it has a bright future. We see so many young people and families with small children, and that speaks volumes about the hope that exists throughout the Church," he said.

The bishop greeted those present one by one at the church door, and it was a genuine exchange of joy, smiles, and warmth.

"This community brings a new fervor to people who may have drifted away from the Church, and it is an opportunity for many to rediscover their faith and live it out, with a sense of communion with the Universal Church," he said.

Their deep faith, their conviction, and the enthusiasm with which they live it are contagious; they tend to spread, especially among newcomers.

The priory is located at 219 S. George St. It is home of the Canons Regular of New Jerusalem (C.R.N.J.), an Augustinian order of priests who live according to the traditional laws of the Church.

"I believe the Tridentine Mass places great emphasis on reverence, and to understand it—for those of us who are not accustomed to it—one must immerse oneself solely in the mystery in order to experience it," Bishop Menjívar said.

It is also called the Traditional Mass and is the form that was celebrated for centuries until the Second Vatican Council. Pope Francis imposed restrictions on the Tridentine Mass, but two years later, Pope Leo XIV authorized the celebration according to this rite in St. Peter's Basilica during a pilgrimage in October 2025.

On August 28, Bishop Menjívar announced that he had appointed Very Timothy J. Grassi, V.F., pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, as Episcopal Delegate for matters related to the "Usus Antiquior" (Tridentine Mass) with the intention of promoting unity among the faithful and responding to their spiritual needs.

The Aug. 24 announcement from the diocese stated that in his role, Father Grassi will ensure such celebrations are lawfully permitted according to the universal law of the Church and the dispositions of the Apostolic See.

As Episcopal Delegate, he will assist the bishop in the coordinated implementation throughout the Diocese of the applicable provisions of universal and particular law concerning the *Usus Antiquior*. Father Grassi will also assist in coordinating authorized celebrations, locations, calendars, and pastoral provisions; to maintain appropriate communication with the local Episcopal Delegates and other priests appointed for the pastoral care of the faithful.

Three other Episcopal Delegates were also named in different regions of the Diocese. Very Rev. Justin M. Golna, J.C.L., J.V., pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg, was named as Wheeling area delegate. Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission in Triadelphia is designated as the location in the Wheeling area at which the faithful may gather for these celebrations. Celebration of the *Usus Antiquior* is authorized there on Sundays at 1:30 p.m., beginning September 20.

Father Brian Crenwelge, pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown, will continue to serve as the Morgantown area delegate. St. John University Parish is designated as the location at which the faithful may gather for these celebrations. Celebration of the *Usus Antiquior* is authorized there on Saturday at 9 a.m and on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Father Phillip R. Szabo, pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Charleston, will continue to serve as the Charleston area delegate. The location at which the faithful may gather for these celebrations is to be determined.

Andrea Acosta photo

Bishop Menjívar speaks to the faithful before the Tridentine Mass at the Priory of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 30.

This is an effort on the part of Bishop Menjívar to ensure that the spiritual needs of every portion of his flock are attended to by priests of our diocese.

Diocese Celebrating Another Year of Growth in Catholic Schools

WEST VIRGINIA — As hallways filled with bright smiles and backpacks across West Virginia on the first days of school, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is celebrating another year of growth.

Catholic school enrollment across the state has climbed from around 4,900 students last year to over 5,100 according to opening day numbers for the 2026-2027 academic year. This increase marks five consecutive years of steady enrollment growth across West Virginia's Catholic schools with 17 of the 25 schools seeing an increase for this current year.

"Year after year, more families across the state are seeking a learning environment rooted in traditional values, academic rigor, and vibrant faith formation," said Jennifer Hornyak, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese. "We are so proud of the strong tradition of Catholic education in West Virginia, where high academic standards go hand-in-hand with our faith. As we welcome new families into our schools, we remain committed to working alongside parents to help every child recognize, develop, and share their God-given talents while growing closer to Christ and serving others in our state. We feel honored by the trust that our parents place in us."

Centered on the theme of Growing in Grace for the 2026-2027 school year, this ongoing expansion reflects a combination of dedicated administrators, devoted teachers and staff, and strong parish communities that help reinforce the schools' strong foundation rooted in faith, excellence, and service.

By welcoming more students into these school classrooms, educators throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are nurturing the hearts and minds of the next generation. This growth demonstrates that families across our great state continue to recognize the lasting value of a Catholic education. As the new school year unfolds, every new student represents another opportunity to cultivate the growth of the children as a whole person—ensuring that West Virginia's Catholic schools continue to grow in grace for years to come.

Happy for the first day of school at St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans Aug. 19 are second grader Finlee Bryan and his sister, Charley Bryan, who is in kindergarten. Courtesy photo

Catholic Schools Participating in West Virginia's School Safety Protocol

WEST VIRGINIA — Starting this fall, all 25 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are participating in the state of West Virginia's school safety protocol, according to Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak.

Principals and their designated school staff attended an initial, day-long training in early August at the Diocese's St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston as the first step toward joining West Virginia's public schools and other private and religious schools in strengthening and unifying emergency response to adverse events.

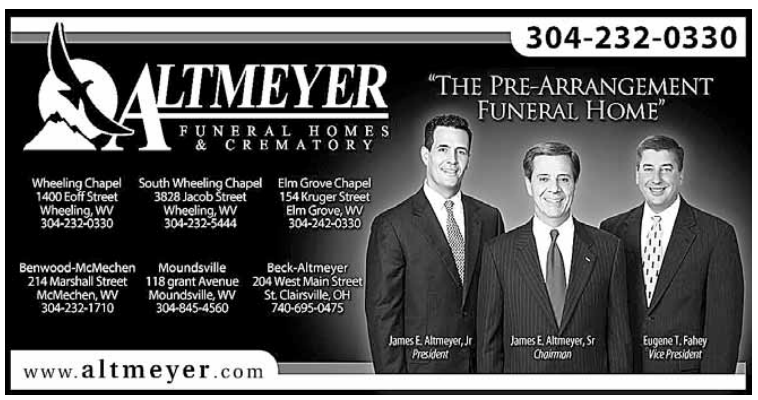
"This is something we have been discussing for many months," Hornyak said. "We are pleased to be able to participate in this program with the state of West Virginia. Our schools do an amazing job and have a lot of safety plans and protocols already in place, and this will make them unified. This unity also will help our first responders throughout West Virginia."

West Virginia's School Safety Unit falls under the auspices of the Division of Protective Services, Capitol Police, whose mission is to provide services and safety inspections for schools and to make recommendations to principals and superintendents regarding school safety. According to the Protective Services web site, officers in the School Safety Unit are authorized to respond and investigate safety matters in consultation with school leadership. They are granted state-wide jurisdiction and general law enforcement powers. The School Safety Unit protocol is mandated for all public schools in West Virginia. Non-public schools may participate upon request. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has requested to participate.

"The Diocesan Attorneys Association is an organization comprised of legal counsel for dioceses all across the country," Hornyak explained regarding how participation came about for Catholic schools. "They offer sound guidance on reducing risk and keeping people and property safe. This past year, they recommended that dioceses all across America take steps to enhance Catholic school safety and emergency response by adopting and implementing a verified protocol. We're very blessed that in West Virginia we already have an established and verified protocol - the School Safety Unit. It's just natural and logical that we would participate in this program. Our schools have a lot of the same processes in place already, but now they will be unified and validated. It is the ideal way to fulfill the Association's recommendation."

According to Officer Donald Brown, who conducted training for the principals, the School Safety Unit protocol primarily entails emergency planning and response for what public safety officials call "all hazards." These hazards may include, but are not limited to, severe weather events and natural disasters; medical emergencies; fires; chemical spills; bomb threats; and active shooters. Response plans are uniform in nature; yet, they allow for tailoring to each individual school. Each participating school in West Virginia is provided with a Crisis Prevention and Response Plan Template that contains emergency and staff points of contact, resources, and actual plans developed by principals and their

See "Schools" on Page 6



Schools ...

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planning teams for various hazards. Principals must submit their plans to the School Safety Unit every year no later than August 1. According to Officer Brown, the template is considered a "living" document and can be updated at any time throughout the year by a principal if needed.

The school safety protocol also requires principals to designate teams for planning and response should an adverse event occur.

"Write the plan and then practice the plan," Officer Brown told the principals and their teams during the training. "The plan is a living document. You can make changes to it. Do after action following drills. See what you did well or where there was a weakness in the plan. Review the plan every year before you submit it (to the School Safety Unit). Make changes in accordance. Review these plans with your local law enforcement as they will be your first responders."

Officer Brown explained that the program is designed to make principals and their planning teams think, prepare, and be preventive. "Look at all the safety factors in the school. What could potentially hit our school? What are the probabilities of something happening? What are the priorities to focus on?" He said the principals and their teams should be meeting and communicating regularly throughout the year regarding safety.

Another important benefit of the program entails officers from the School Safety Unit actually assessing each school building/campus and making recommendations on how to reasonably improve physical safety. Each school will have an assigned officer who checks in periodically and performs safety assessments.

Officer Brown explained that participation in the School Safety Unit protocol will bring opportunities for training and resources, mostly at no cost, for Catholic schools throughout West Virginia.

Participation of Catholic schools in the program also will benefit local first-responders, according to both Brown and Hornyak. "This program is mandated for public schools," Hornyak said. "Our voluntary participation in this program will bring uniformity in prevention and response for our local police, firefighters, and EMS. That's going to make their jobs easier during challenging times. Our school safety plans and processes will now mirror each other throughout the entire state of West Virginia. Our first responders will not be guessing or trying to figure out our plans. They will help us build our plans. They will regularly evaluate our plans with us. They will have our plans on file, and our plans will be formulated in ways that complement how our first-responders train. This will help save precious time and precious lives in the event of an emergency," she said.

Brown agreed. "I highly recommend this program to every school," he said.

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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Department of Faith Formation

Knights of Columbus Present Funds for Wheeling's Growing Pro-Life Group, the St. Gianna Ministry

By Colleen Rowan

"We are enormously humbled and grateful for the generosity of the Knights of Columbus," said Amy Miesel as she accepted an $8,200 check from Council 504 in support the St. Gianna Ministry, a growing pro-life group in Wheeling.

Named for St. Gianna Beretta Molla—patron saint of mothers, physicians, and unborn children—the ministry is a joint effort of the Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling.

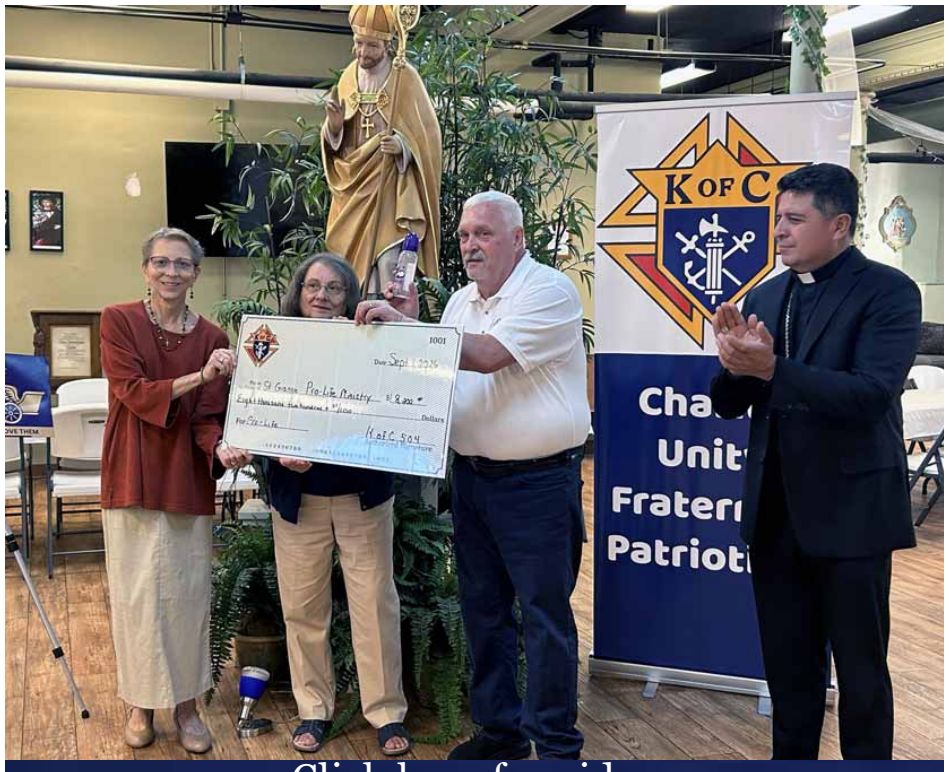
"A worthy group," said Carroll Council 504 Deputy Grand Knight Jerry Kupla, after he presented the check consisting of funds received through the Baby Bottle Collection at six Wheeling-area parishes during Lent.

A special guest at the Aug. 25 gathering at St. Alphonsus Church was Bishop Evelio Menjívar, who said he was happy to be there with "two great Catholic organizations."

He especially liked the motto of the St. Gianna Ministry — "Caring for those with no voice nor choice."

"That is pro-life ministry," he said, "defending the dignity of every human person from the womb to the tomb."

The ministry is built on a foundation of prayer, Miesel said at the gathering. She offered an overview of the group's efforts and highlighted its four pillars, the first of which is Direct Care.



Click here for video

Colleen Rowan photo

From left, Amy Miesel and Jennie Adams of the St. Gianna Ministry in Wheeling accept an $8,200 check from Knights of Columbus Carroll Council 504 Deputy Grand Knight Jerry Kupla as Bishop Evelio Menjívar joins in applause.

"That is where we try to get out, face to face, with people who need our ministry," she said. This is most visible in the community through the group's Mobile Baby Pantry. "Which we call 'Goods on the Go,'" Miesel said, where volunteers deliver baby and toddler items as well as maternity supplies to parents in need.

The Mobile Baby Pantry has been operating for more than a year, but has really gained momentum recently, Miesel said, to the point where they need more volunteers.

The group also works with the ecumenical group Young Lives of the Ohio Valley, an organization that supports teen parents including fathers.

This is very important, Miesel said, because the St. Gianna Ministry is not just for mothers.

"We are a parent and child ministry," she said. "We want to make sure dads aren't anymore marginalized than they already are."

The second pillar is Education and Witness. Miesel spoke of the conference the group held in June at Wheeling University to help people get involved and be informed and equipped to build a culture of life amidst the current landscapes of abortion practices and legal changes. The conference also provided education about the dangers of the abortion pill.

The third pillar is Fundraising and Resource-raising. This is especially for the operation of the Mobile Baby Pantry.

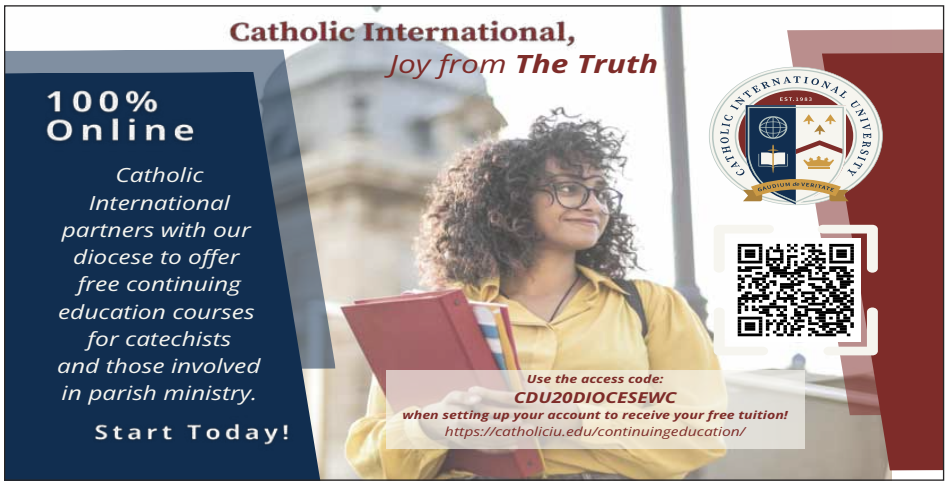
For the fourth pillar — Healing and Forgiveness — Miesel announced that the group will have a pro-life rosary and a special Mass celebrated on the second Friday of each month, beginning Oct. 9, at the cathedral. The pro-life rosary will be prayed at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a Mass for repentance, healing, and forgiveness.

There are many ways to support or get involved with the St. Gianna Ministry, Miesel noted.

"We welcome anyway that you can support us," she said, "whether it's prayer or being out there with the Mobile Baby Pantry or any of those other things."

She noted that the ministry has a prayer corps and thanked the

See "Ministry" on Page 9



Renowned Author, Catholic Convert will be Keynote Speaker at West Virginians for Life Convention

FAIRMONT — West Virginians for Life invites young and old alike to attend its Annual State Pro-Life Convention on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Trinity Assembly of God in Fairmont. Doors open at 9 a.m. The theme is "We the People."

The keynote speaker is Steven W. Mosher, an internationally recognized authority on China and population issues, as well as an acclaimed author, speaker. He has worked tirelessly since 1979 to fight coercive population control programs and has helped hundreds of thousands of women and families worldwide over the years.

In 1979, Mosher was the first American social scientist to visit mainland China. He was invited there by the Chinese government, where he had access to government documents and actually witnessed women being forced to have abortions under the new "one-child policy." Mosher was a pro-choice atheist at the time, but witnessing these traumatic abortions led him to reconsider his convictions and to eventually become a practicing, pro-life Roman Catholic.

Mosher has appeared numerous times before Congress as an expert in world population, China, and human rights abuses. He has also made TV appearances on Good Morning America, 60 Minutes, The Today Show, 20/20, FOX and CNN news, as well as being a regular guest on talk radio shows across the nation.

He is also the author of the best-selling "A Mother's Ordeal: One Woman's Fight Against China's One-Child Policy" and other books.

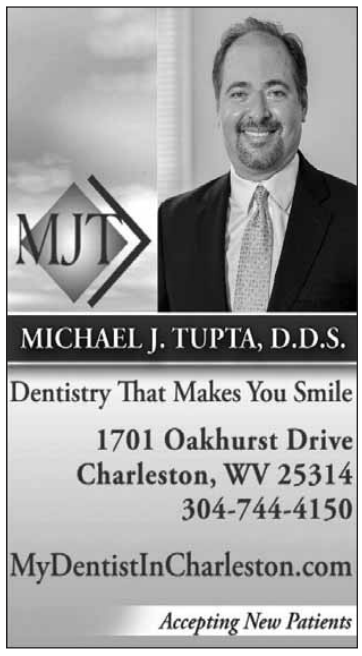
Articles by Mosher have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Reader's Digest, The New Republic, The Washington Post, National Review, Reason, The Asian Wall Street Journal, Freedom Review, Linacre Quarterly, Catholic World Report, Human Life Review, First Things, and numerous other publications.

Mosher lives in Virginia with his wife, Vera, and their nine children.

Also speaking are Mary H. Tillman, J.D., legislative coordinator for the WV Alliance for Ethical Health Care, a subcommittee of WVFL, which seeks to change laws and policies to protect the lives of elderly and disabled persons; and Karen Cross, at-large member on the board of National Right to Life and WVFL's Board.

The cost to attend the convention is $35 per person, a buffet lunch is included. College students and teens pay $15. Groups of 10 or more pay only $25 per person (adults) or $10 per person (college students/teens).

For information, visit https://www.wvforlife.org/event/state-annual-convention-2026/



U.S. Bishops Launch Initiative to Inform Communities on the Danger of Abortion Pills

WASHINGTON — The U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills. The initiative began Aug. 18 and ends Oct. 31, which includes the month-long commemoration of Respect Life Month observed each October by the Catholic Church in the United States.

"Every abortion involves the death of a child and harm to the mother," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the USCCB, and Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a joint invitation announcing the initiative. "Now with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks."

In addition to invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life, participants can learn about the danger of abortion pills which have become accessible through telehealth appointments and at pharmacies, leading to increased risks to women, and the abortion rate tragically climbing.

Participants of the initiative are encouraged to share information about the dangers of abortion pills, and sign up to send messages to pharmacies, distributors, and pharmaceutical companies at https://www.respectlife.org. Resources and more information are available there as well.

Ministry ...

Cont'd from Page 7

members for their continuing prayers.

Bishop Menjívar encouraged all to help people who are going through difficulties in their lives to know that God is among them.

"And may we be instruments of God in making sure that they experience the support that they need in those difficult times," the bishop said.

Before bestowing a blessing on all and praying with them the Hail Mary and Glory be, the bishop entrusted the ministry of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Gianna Ministry to the loving care of Mary and St. Joseph, praying for their intercession and that of St. Alphonsus and St. Gianna.

For more information about the St. Gianna Ministry and how to help, send e-mail to Miesel at abcmiesel@comcast.net.

Kimberly Hahn to Lead Women's Retreat at Clarksburg Parish

Courtesy photo

Kimberly Hahn speaks at an event.

CLARKSBURG — A Women's Retreat with Kimberly Hahn will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The gathering is being sponsored by the parish's Women's Ministry.

"Are you wanting to grow deeper in your faith and role as a woman of God? Then join us for a morning with Kimberly Hahn, Catholic author and speaker! Kimberly has six children and over 20 grandchildren with her husband Scott Hahn and together they run the St. Paul Center in Steubenville, Ohio," ministry leaders said. "She will be giving an inspirational talk about how we can model our life after Mary, the Blessed Mother."

Registration fee is $30 and includes catered breakfast. Schedule of the morning: 8 a.m. Mass in the church, 8:45-10 a.m. breakfast in parish center, 10-11 a.m. is keynote talk by Kimberly, 11-11:30 a.m. is Q & A, and 11:45 a.m.-noon is rosary.

Scan the QR code to register.

Spaghetti Dinner Marks 30 Delicious Years at Catholic Charities West Virginia

WHEELING — Catholic Charities West Virginia hosts its 30th annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (CCNC) in Wheeling.

Tickets are $12 each. Dine-in and carry-out options are available. Tickets are on sale at the Neighborhood Center (125 18th Street, Wheeling) or online at ccwva.org. The event also includes a 50/50 and basket raffle.

For three decades, CCNC's Spaghetti Dinner has gathered community members for good food, good conversation, and a good cause. All funds raised support the vital work of the Neighborhood Center.

"The Spaghetti Dinner is a time of fellowship, friendship, and shared purpose," said David Beazel, CCNC Food Program manager. "We come together not only to support the mission of the Neighborhood Center, but also to celebrate being a part of it."

At the event, CCNC will present Street Moms with a Charity in Action Award to recognize their deep commitment to their neighbors and community.

"Every day, the Neighborhood Center welcomes people who need a warm, home-cooked meal, support, and a sense of belonging," said CCNC Director Beth Workman. "We look forward to welcoming the community as we celebrate the spirit of Neighbors Serving Neighbors."

Founded in 1969, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center is a place of welcome, hope, and support for individuals and families in Ohio, Marshall, and Belmont counties. Through food programs and comprehensive social services, the center offers both immediate aid and long-term support that honors each person's dignity and potential.

"I have been a part of the Neighborhood Center since the 1980s. While a lot has changed over the years, one thing has remained the same: our commitment to serving people in need," said volunteer Pam Campbell.

Don't miss the best spaghetti in town! Ticket information, event details, and more can be found online at https://www.ccwva.org/event/ccnc-spaghetti-dinner-2026/.

September Feasts

Commemorating the Holy Cross and Our Lady of Sorrows

By Stephanie Mann, OSV News

Each September the Church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14, and the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows follows on Sept. 15.

The pairing of these celebrations, even in their different levels on the liturgical and sanctoral calendars, properly guides us in our levels of devotion and love of our Savior and Our Lady. He is our Divine Redeemer, to be worshiped and adored. She is his first disciple and our example.

Both of these celebrations have a long history and are worthy of meditation.

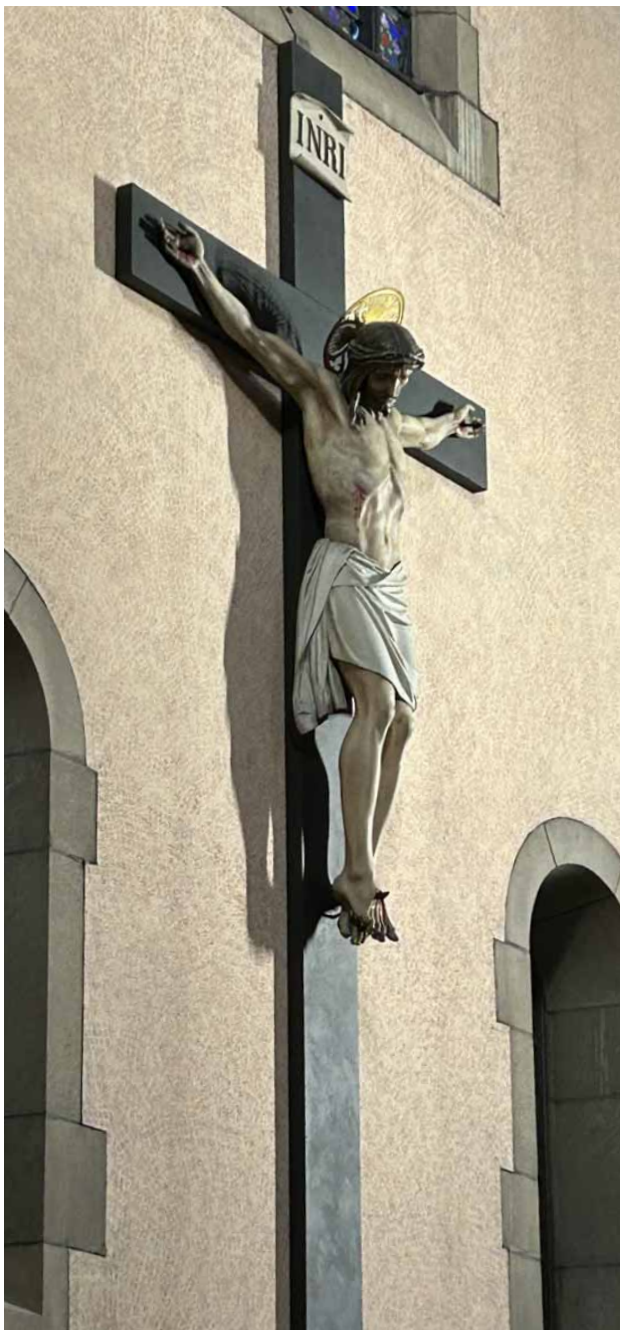
The feast of the Triumph of the Cross was observed in Rome in the late seventh century to commemorate the recovery of the Holy Cross by Byzantine Emperor Heraclius in 629. St. Helena, Emperor Constantine's mother, had found the true cross in Jerusalem in the fourth century, but the Persians had captured it and only returned it after Heraclius defeated the Persian king Khosrau II. The emperor returned it to Jerusalem, and this feast recalls that event.

As he approached the holy city, dressed in fine robes and festooned with jewels, the emperor found himself unable to process further until Zacharias, patriarch of Jerusalem, told Heraclius to humble himself by removing his imperial regalia and proceeding as a barefoot pilgrim.

But on a deeper level, of course, the feast recalls Jesus' triumph over death and the fulfillment of his great statement, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (Jn 12:32, which serves as the communion antiphon on this feast). The liturgy of the Mass for this feast includes both triumph and sorrow in the readings and prayers, since Jesus both suffers his passion and defeats sin and death.

From the Book of Numbers (21:4b-9), the first reading recalls the story of Moses and the bronze Seraph, raised on a pole — when the people of Israel, who had been grumbling against God for their sufferings, looked up to the serpent, they were healed of the serpent bites God had sent to afflict them.

The responsorial psalm is a poetic reminder of how God has forgiven his people for their betrayal: "But they flattered him with their mouths, and lied to him with their tongues ... Yet he, being merciful, forgave their sin and destroyed them not."



Colleen Rowan photo

The crucifix at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling is shown above. The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is Sept. 14.

The second reading is the great hymn of Jesus' humility and exaltation from St. Paul's Letter to Philippians (2:6-11): "Though he was in the form of God ... he emptied himself ... he humbled himself ... becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." After this falling movement in the reading, Jesus rises: "Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend..."

And, finally, in the Gospel from St. John (3:13-17), Jesus makes the connection between Moses and the Seraph and himself, as he tells Nicodemus that he must be lifted up so that those who believe in him will have eternal life. From that passage comes the great John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Like the commemoration of Good Friday during Holy Week, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross reminds us of the wondrous contradiction at the heart of our faith: that we are redeemed by the suffering and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, offered to God the Father.

Sept. 15 then recalls the sorrow of Our Lady at the foot of the Cross as the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy at the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: "(and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk 2:35). The Gospel for Mass that day may be either the description of "his mother and the disciple ... whom he loved" standing by the cross of Jesus (Jn 19:25-27), or the Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:33-35).

> "Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend..."
>
> ***—St. Paul's Letter to Philippians (2:9-10)***

The sequence "Stabat Mater" — often sung while praying the Stations of the Cross — may be chanted after the Psalm. According to "Lumen Gentium" (the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), "the Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross, where she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, grieving exceedingly with her only begotten Son, uniting herself with a maternal heart with His sacrifice, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth" (No. 58).

The readings and prayers of the Mass focus on Mary's special sorrows, but also on her glory, as the Alleluia verse proclaims: "Blessed are you, O Blessed Virgin Mary; without dying you won the martyr's crown beside the cross of the Lord."

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows became very popular in the monastic Cistercian and mendicant Servite orders in the 13th century. The memorial was first celebrated by the Servites; then Pope Pius VII added it to the Roman

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Feasts..

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Calendar in 1814. Pope St. Pius X moved the memorial to Sept. 15 in 1913.

The Servites gave us the Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows encouraging meditation on seven events in the life of Mary: the prophecy of Simeon (see Lk 2:34-35); the flight into Egypt (Mt 2:13-15); The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple (Lk 2:43-45); Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary (from the Stations of the Cross); Jesus dies on the cross (Jn 19:25-30); Mary receives the body of Jesus in her arms (Mt 27:57-59); and the body of Jesus is placed in the tomb (Jn 19:40-42).

> "(and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."
>
> **— (Lk 2:35)**

In religious art, Our Lady of Sorrows is depicted in three ways: as the Stabat Mater, standing by the cross; in the pietà as an object of pity (most famously in Michelangelo's sculpture, but also very movingly in Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ"); and as the Mater Dolorosa, Mother of Sorrows, often with seven swords (the seven sorrows) piercing her Immaculate Heart.

OSV News photo/courtesy Confraternity of the Macarena

The statue of María Santísima de la Esperanza Macarena (Mary Most Holy of Hope Macarena), an image of Our Lady of Sorrows, is seen on an undated photograph in Seville, Spain. The memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows is Sept. 15.

The "Stabat Mater" sequence has been set to music by composers from Antonin Dvorak to Domenico Scarlatti, from Joseph Haydn to Arvo Pärt, and others, in styles ranging from Renaissance polyphony to almost operatic oratorio.

As the entrance antiphon for the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross proclaims, "We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered" (based on Galatians 6:14), even as we mourn with Our Lady: "At the Cross her station keeping / Stood the mournful Mother weeping / Close to Jesus to the last."

(Stephanie A. Mann writes from Kansas.)

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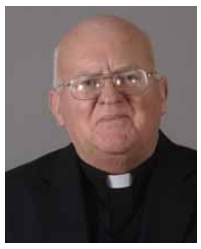
Father Larry Wrenn



Father Larry Wrenn died Aug. 31 in Ireland. He is formerly of Irishtown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, West Virginia, and Monastery Close, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. He is pre-deceased by his parents Con and Ellen Wrenn, his brother Father John Wrenn and his sister Breda (Corbett). Father Wrenn passed away peacefully, while in the care of staff at the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles.

He was ordained to the priesthood in June 1977. His first pastoral assignment was to West Virginia as assistant pastor of St. Paul Parish in Weirton. In 1979, Bishop Joseph H. Hodges commandeered Father Wrenn's assistance with establishing a mission in Hurricane, where he served from 1979-93. In 1993, he went to Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton and later to a temporary assignment at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont.

In June of 2000, Father Larry became the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Monongah. Over the years, he served in many other parishes in West Virginia, including Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling.

His passing is most deeply regretted, sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his sorrowing family; nephew Larry, niece Helen, niece-in-law Elaine, nephew-in-law Joe, grandnephews and grandnieces Faye, Quinn, Nell, Ada, Kate, Mai, JJ and Lawrence, cousins, extended relatives, colleagues in the religious community, neighbors and friends.

Requiescat in Pace.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles, followed by interment in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moyne Road, Lognafulla, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

The extended Wrenn family wish to express their appreciation for your understanding at this difficult time.

Donations, if desired, may be made to Unit B, Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Dr. Wayne Matthews

Dr. Wayne Matthews, a devoted husband and father; grandfather; son; brother; friend; public servant; scholar; scientist; educator; and ordained permanent deacon of the Roman Catholic Church, passed away peacefully on August 28, 2026, at the age of 81. He was surrounded by his family – and thru God's grace, also by others who supported him spiritually.

Born on November 26, 1944, Wayne was the son of the late Georges Matthews, Jr. and the late Melba Baranco Matthews. He is also preceded in death by his sister, Dollie Matthews.

Wayne is survived by his beloved and devoted wife, Dr. Ingrid Matthews; and by his children, Melba Natasha Sanchez-Dixon (Donnell); Wayne Matthews II (Ana); Tad Matthews (Faith); and Rachel Matthews Nwabuisi (David). He also leaves behind seven grandchildren. They are Second Lieutenant C. Jared Sanchez; Mia, Wayne III and Ian Matthews; Reed and Adeline Matthews; and Meadow Nwabuisi.

Wayne is also survived by his brother, Ronald Matthews and brother-in-law, Randall Walker. Besides immediate family, Wayne will be missed by many others to whom he was also close. These include friends, cousins, nieces, nephews, other extended family and former esteemed colleagues.

Wayne earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology after attending the Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska and the University of Southwestern Louisiana -now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL). Later, Wayne earned both his master's degree and his doctoral degree from the University of Southern California (USC), an achievement that reflected his lifelong respect for education, scholarship, and intellectual growth. While at USC's branch in Washington DC, the USC Washington Public Affairs Center (in the 1970's and 1980's), he served as the president of the doctoral association. There, he studied public administration and the applied behavioral sciences.

Wayne's professional life encompassed significant work in government, science and academia.

As a permanent deacon, he served twice in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He also served the Archdiocese of San Juan, Puerto Rico at Stella Maris Catholic Church in Condado. There, he was assigned by Archbishop Roberto Octavio Gonzalas Nieves to take responsibility for diaconal services to the English-speaking Church. He served as deacon at St. Joseph's Parish in Martinsburg. He simultaneously served as director of planning for the diocese. He was ordained in the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1992 at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, Maryland.

The family is grateful to Saint Leo Catholic Church's pastor, Father Alfred Obiudu, for his ministry, and to Sister Judith Rojas of the Daughters of Charity for her presence, spiritual support, and guidance, especially during Wayne's final hours. Others who profoundly shaped Wayne's life and spiritual growth included his grandparents, Dr. Raymond Baranco, M.D., and Mrs. Blanche Daigre Baranco, as well as two Sisters of the Holy Family from New Orleans, Louisiana: the late Sister Audrey Marie Detiege, Wayne's longtime spiritual director and author of the first book-length history of Henriette Delille, and the late Sister Bonaventure Jackson, who also served as his spiritual director after Sister Audrey Marie's death. Ingrid and the family will always be grateful to these servants of God for the immeasurable spiritual support they gave Wayne.

A funeral Mass was to be celebrated at Saint Leo Catholic Church in Inwood September 10, 2026. Interment will take place at a later date.

Read the full obituary at https://www.eackles-spencerfuneralhome.com/

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Una carta del obispo Menjívar sobre "Entorno Seguro"

Agosto 6 de 2026

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Les escribo para confirmarles y asegurarles que la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston cumple con la Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, desde su creación en 2002, tal y como lo establece la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB).

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston cuenta con un sólido programa de "Entorno Seguro", con los siguientes requisitos vigentes para todos los empleados, clérigos y seminaristas, así como para todos los voluntarios que trabajen directamente con menores o tengan un contacto significativo con ellos, de conformidad con la Carta:

- Una política de tolerancia cero ante los abusos sexuales
- Realización del curso de concientización VIRTUS® "Protegiendo a los hijos de Dios" cada tres años
- Realización de una verificación de antecedentes cada tres años
- Aceptación de la Política sobre abuso sexual de la Diócesis, el Código de Conducta y el Estatuto de notificación obligatoria del estado de Virginia Occidental

Para los menores, la Diócesis ofrece anualmente sesiones de concientización "VIRTUS® Teaching Safety", adaptadas a cada edad, para alumnos desde preescolar hasta el 12.º grado en nuestras escuelas católicas y en las escuelas parroquiales de religión.

La Diócesis cuenta con un Programa de Asistencia a las Víctimas y participa en los procesos de recopilación de datos y de auditoría in situ que lleva a cabo la agencia auditora designada por la USCCB. Una Junta de Revisión Independiente, compuesta principalmente por miembros laicos, actúa como organismo consultivo para mí en lo relativo al programa "Entorno Seguro" y otros asuntos similares en toda la Diócesis.

Más allá de los requisitos de la Carta, la Diócesis toma las huellas dactilares del clero y del personal de las escuelas católicas cada tres años, y se ponen a disposición de todo el clero, los empleados y los voluntarios, los boletines mensuales de VIRTUS® sobre la formación en la concientización.

Además de este protocolo, la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston contribuye a promover una cultura de seguridad mediante el uso de "EthicsPoint", un sistema de denuncia gestionado por terceros; mediante el mantenimiento y la publicación de una lista de personas acusadas de forma creíble; y mediante la designación de una sección de nuestro sitio web, www.dwc.org, dedicada a las denuncias, inquietudes e información sobre el programa "Entorno Seguro". Aunque no esté específicamente relacionado con el programa "Entorno Seguro", pero en aras de una mayor transparencia, la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston también publica los resultados de sus auditorías financieras anuales.

Como su obispo, apruebo y promulgo el programa de "Entorno Seguro" de la Diócesis y las mejores prácticas a las que se hace referencia en el presente documento. Tengan por seguro que yo también cumplo con este protocolo y estas mejores prácticas.

Mi más sincero agradecimiento a todos aquellos cuya colaboración en este proceso contribuye a difundir el Evangelio en entornos que son seguros, acogedores y productivos a lo largo y ancho de este hermoso estado montañoso al que todos consideramos nuestro hogar.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+Evelio Menjivar

Monseñor Evelio Menjívar
Obispo de Wheeling-Charleston

Misa en Español

Acompáñenos en la Catedral de San José (Wheeling) para una Misa en Español especial el domingo 13 de septiembre a las 2:30 p.m.

Nos alegra especialmente contar con la presencia del Obispo Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, quien será el celebrante y predicará la homilía.

Después de la Misa, todos están invitados a una recepción. ¡Les invitamos a traer su plato favorito para compartir!

Todos son bienvenidos. Invite a sus familiares y amigos y acompáñenos en esta hermosa celebración de nuestra fe y comunidad.

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 Estado 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, Diocesis 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 ofrecer 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. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

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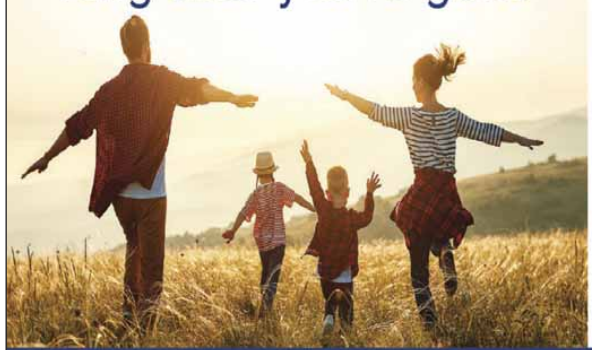

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