

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Pope Francis Calls for Solidarity with Turkey, Syria after Earthquakes



OSV News Photo/Yamam al Shaar, Reuters

Rescuers search for survivors under the rubble following an earthquake in Hama, Syria, Feb. 6. The powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked areas of Syria and Turkey early that morning, toppling hundreds of buildings. The death toll has climbed to over 20,000.

By Justin McLellan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis urged all people to be in solidarity with the regions of Turkey and Syria struck by two powerful earthquakes early Feb. 6 and that are “in part already martyred by a long war.”

The two earthquakes, which both measured above 7.0 magnitude according to the United States Geological Survey, struck southern Turkey and impacted large swaths of neighboring Syria. The death toll has climbed to over 20,000.

Pope Francis prayed for the thousands of dead and wounded at his general audience Feb. 8 and expressed his closeness to the victims, their families “and all who suffer from this devastating calamity.” The pope also thanked aid workers responding to the crisis.

Hundreds of foreign engineers, medical personnel and rescue workers have been sent to Turkey and Syria to search for people trapped under wreckage and aid the thousands without shelter in freezing winter conditions.

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Diocesan Official Appointments:

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

Father Paul Mundumoozhikkarani, C.S.T., is appointed chaplain of Council #12830 of the Knights of Columbus for the current Fraternal Year, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling.

Father Nye Joseph Wiley is appointed chaplain of the Serra Club of Wheeling for the year 2023, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as parochial vicar of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling.

In consultation with Archbishop Dominic Lumon of Imphal, India, **Father Dominic Athishu** is appointed administrator of St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood, St. Zita Mission in Ma-sontown, and St. Edward the Confessor Mission in Terra Alta with residence at the parish rectory in Kingwood, effective February 8, 2023.

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 Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

2023 Lenten Liturgical Guidelines Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Lent is a special season within the Church year that focuses on the two-fold theme of repentance and Baptism. We prepare ourselves to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Lent begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 ends with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR ALL CATHOLICS

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone 18 years and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices, is allowed. Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work is affected, the law does not apply. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.



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Special Collection on Ash Wednesday to Support Earthquake Relief Efforts

On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of southern Turkey and northwest Syria. The death toll has surpassed 20,000 and continues to climb. Thousands of people have been injured and many are trapped beneath the rubble. The earthquake is the worst to strike Turkey this century. Within the subsequent 24 hours, the region experienced multiple aftershocks and a second 7.5 magnitude quake.

Across affected areas, apartment buildings and schools have been leveled. Telecommunications are disrupted, preventing families from identifying and accounting for missing loved ones. In Syria, displaced people are seeking shelter in schools and community centers in areas already devastated by years of war. Across southern Turkey, schools are closed, airport transportation is impaired and hospitals have been declared unusable.

Catholic Relief Services is supporting local partners in their efforts to provide urgent relief and assistance for long-term recovery. CRS has partnerships with Caritas Turkey and Caritas Syria, as well as other local partners. To support the efforts of these organizations, Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a

special collection to be held on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, and for collection baskets to remain available for the collection through the first Sunday of Lent. Bishop Brennan appreciates your generosity this past summer to those affected by the severe storms and flooding in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. But he feels impelled once again to ask you to do what you can to help those affected by this most recent disaster.

All funds collected in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be given to Catholic Relief Services with the special designation for use in the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Recovery Effort.

Checks can be made out to your respective parish with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.



OSV News Photo/Istanbul Municipality handout via Reuters Rescuers give a young earthquake survivor water in a bottle cap as they rescue him from the rubble in Hatay, Turkey Feb. 7 in this still image taken from video. The powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked areas of Turkey and Syria early Feb. 6, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing thousands.

Earthquakes...

Cont'd from Page 1

"Let us pray together so that these our brothers and sisters can go forth in the face of this tragedy, and let us ask Our Lady to protect them," Pope Francis said. He then led the recitation of the Hail Mary with the thousands of visitors and pilgrims gathered for his general audience.

Hours after the earthquake Feb. 6, Pope Francis sent two telegrams to Turkey and Syria to express his spiritual closeness to those affected.

A variety of Catholic charitable and aid organizations are part of the relief efforts. Caritas Internationalis, the umbrella organization of national Catholic charities, immediately launched a fundraising campaign and a request for donations of winter clothing especially for infants and young children. The charity has been active in Turkey since 1991 and in Syria since 2011, primarily providing aid to refugees.

Speaking to the L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, Bishop Paolo Bizzeti, apostolic vicar of Anatolia, said that the earthquakes were "a tragedy within a tragedy," since the region is already "full of refugees from various countries who have fled terrible situations."

While aid is being sent through Caritas Turkey, he said, "it is difficult to receive the aid necessary given the state of the roads." Bishop Bizzeti added that the aid must be properly "spaced out" to ensure it lasts the duration of the relief efforts.

Aid to the Church in Need, a pon-

tifical foundation that provides aid to Catholic communities worldwide, is supporting reparation projects in Aleppo, Syria, to allow people to return to their homes. The charity said an estimated 7,500 people slept in Aleppo's churches, convents and other locations the night of Feb. 7. The Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States has also created a fund to support Catholic dioceses and partner organizations in Turkey and Syria.

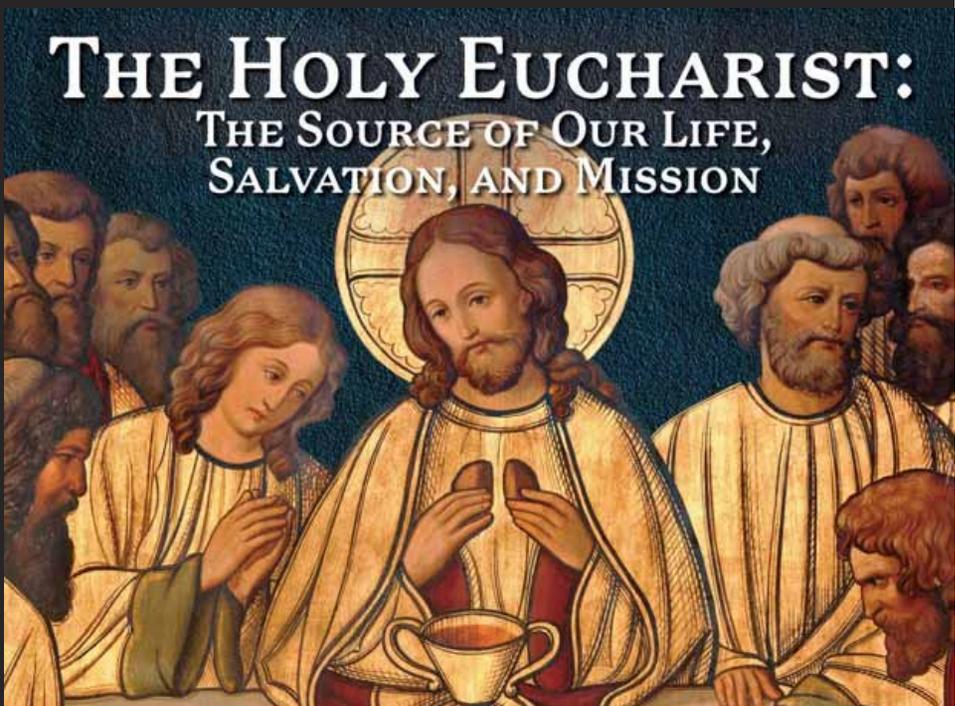
Jesuit Father Tony O'Riordan arrived in Aleppo Feb. 7 to lead Jesuit Refugee Service's response to the crisis. In a statement, he said JRS' priority is to reopen its health clinic in Aleppo and help protect people against the cold. The Jesuits have also opened their building in Aziziyé to host people without shelter.

The Middle East Council of Churches is calling for aid to be sent to the region, and for sanctions to be lifted on Syria to allow for access of relief materials.

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association launched an emergency campaign to shelter survivors and provide bedding, food, medicines, nursing formula, diapers and clothing to more than 2,000 families for three months in the Aleppo and Hama areas of northern Syria.

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas aid agency of the Catholic Church in the United States, was collecting funds to assist its local partners, Caritas Turkey and Caritas Syria, particularly in Aleppo and Lattakia, Syria, where extensive damage has been reported.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: THE SOURCE OF OUR LIFE, SALVATION, AND MISSION



— LENTEN MISSION — WITH BISHOP WILLIAM WALTERSHEID

MARCH 5 - 7 AT 6:00 PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH, WHEELING



Bishop William J. Waltersheid, an Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will lead a three-night Lenten Mission intended to deepen and reawaken our faith with special talks, prayer, music, and reflection. All are welcome to attend!

Biden Reiterates Call to Codify Roe v. Wade in State of the Union Address

By **Kate Scanlon**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — President Joe Biden called the state of the union “strong,” in his second such address Feb. 7, calling for national unity even as he argued for some Democratic priorities including reiterating his call to codify Roe v. Wade.

Biden’s 2023 State of the Union was his first to a divided Congress, as Republicans began their slim House majority in January, and his first to a full chamber, as the event had reduced seating capacity for several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden called on Congress to codify Roe v. Wade “to protect every woman’s constitutional right to choose.” The Supreme Court’s ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* in June 2022 overturned the high court’s previous abortion-related precedents in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

The president also said he would veto any effort to restrict the procedure at a federal level, as some states have done since the *Dobbs* decision.

“Make no mistake; if Congress passes a national abortion ban, I will veto it,” Biden said.

At times conciliatory and at others boisterous, Biden, a Catholic Democrat, touted job growth and a bipartisan infrastructure package passed during the first part of his term, while outlining his remaining agenda items including banning assault rifles, restoring the expired child tax credit and passing immigration reform.

Celebrating the infrastructure law, Biden joked that Republicans who voted against it could still attend groundbreaking ceremonies on new bridges in their districts, prompting laughter from those who supported the bill. In his address to a joint session of Congress at the Capitol, Biden recognized congressional leadership, quipping to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., “I don’t want to ruin your reputation, but I look forward to working with you.”

But the address was marked by tense moments, as Biden took swipes at some Republicans he said wanted to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits, and as Republican members heckled the president during portions of his speech. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., was heard in the chamber calling Biden a liar. At another time, Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn., yelled “your fault” while Biden discussed drug overdose deaths.

Biden struck a populist tone at times, calling for legislation to ban so-called junk fees, “those hidden surcharges too many businesses use to make you pay more,” or lowering the price of prescription drugs.

The U.S. Constitution requires the president to “from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.” First dubbed the “Annual Message,” the practice has taken various forms throughout American history, per the House Historian’s office, at times taking

the form of a written message to Congress, while at others delivered in person by the president, and broadcast on radio or television.

Biden acknowledged that requirement in his address, saying, “I have come here to fulfill my constitutional duty to report on the state of the union.”

“And here is my report,” he said. “Because the soul of this nation is strong, because the backbone of this nation is strong, because the people of this nation are strong, the state of the union is strong.”

Biden has not yet formally declared his next presidential campaign, but he is widely expected to seek a second term. Biden used the term “finish the job” multiple times during his speech, which some pundits described as setting the stage for his next campaign.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, R-Ark., who delivered the GOP rebuttal to the speech, signaled how the party will respond to Biden’s anticipated campaign, dismissing his agenda items as “woke fantasies.”

Sanders hit Biden on inflation, crime, and what she characterized as lax responses to a surge of migrants at the southern border and threats from China, as well as culture war items like gender policy.

“Most Americans simply want to live their lives in freedom and peace, but we are under attack in a left-wing culture war we didn’t start and never wanted to fight,” said Sanders, who was previously White House press secretary

for former President Donald Trump.

Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R-Ariz., delivered a GOP rebuttal in Spanish.

Ciscomani, whose family immigrated from Mexico to the United States when he was a child and whose father worked as a bus driver, said his father taught the family the value of hard work and respect for their new nation; and how his mother taught them that “all is possible with faith.”

Ciscomani claimed there is a lack of leadership from the Biden administration and offered the Republican Party as an alternative he said could tackle economic issues facing families. Ciscomani shared his family history and attempted to link Republican beliefs to the American dream.

“If you speak with my father today, he would say, ‘In what other part of the world could you have our history?’” Ciscomani said. “We arrived in this country with nothing, we learned English and became immersed in the culture, obtained our citizenship. I drove a bus for most of my life and my son is now a member of the United States’ Congress. Where else can we have our story? The answer is simple, nowhere else in the world. This happens in the United States, the country of opportunity.” Ciscomani said there are many such stories making up the American dream, “a dream that is worth defending.”

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington. Maria-Pia Chin contributed to this report.)

U.S. Bishops’ Religious Liberty Chairman: Proposed New Rules on Contraceptive Mandate ‘Disheartening’

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The U.S. bishops’ religious liberty chairman called it “disheartening” that proposed new rules on the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate eliminate “protections for moral convictions” of employers who object to being forced to cover contraceptives in their employee health plans.

The proposal was issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of the Treasury, and aims to end Trump-era rules giving employers more ability to opt out of providing contraceptive coverage in their health plans.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, who heads the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, said the proposal appears “to retain the bulk of the existing religious exemption” but noted that if the proposed rules become permanent, allowing an exemption on moral grounds will end.

“It has been over a decade since the federal government first announced the HHS contraceptive mandate,” Cardinal Dolan said in a recent statement. “The version of regulations that was issued in 2018 provided appropriately clear and robust protections for the exercise of religious beliefs and moral convictions, free from government punishment, and has been

upheld by the Supreme Court.”

But now HHS is “proposing to amend them yet again. It is past time for HHS to leave well enough alone in this regard,” the cardinal said in a statement released by the USCCB Jan. 30. On Feb. 2, HHS and the Labor and Treasury departments published their proposed rule in the Federal Register, <https://www.federalregister.gov>. Publication of the proposal opened a 60-day comment period for the public to weigh in. (The direct link for submitting a comment is: <https://bit.ly/3x4DtYE>.)

“These proposed rules would amend regulations regarding coverage of certain preventive services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” which in general requires group or individual health insurance plans “to cover certain contraceptive services without cost sharing,” HHS said in its summary on the proposed changes.

“Current regulations include exemptions and optional accommodations for entities and individuals with religious or moral objections to coverage of contraceptive services,” it said, adding that under the proposed rules, “the moral exemption” is rescinded.

The Biden administration said the new rules are necessary to make sure women have access to “contraceptive services” in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 2022 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s*

Health Organization. The ruling overturned the court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide. With *Dobbs*, the abortion issue returns to the states.

“We regret that it is necessary to revisit this matter and will file more thorough comments with HHS at the appropriate time,” Cardinal Dolan said.

The Obama administration first implemented the contraceptive mandate as part of the Affordable Care Act in 2012 to force employers to provide their employees with contraceptive coverage through their health care plans or face fines.

One of the most celebrated court challenges to this mandate was the litigation brought against the mandate by the Little Sisters of the Poor on the grounds that it violated the religious freedom rights of any Catholic entity that upholds church teaching against birth control, abortion and sterilization.

Some contraceptives covered by the mandate, they argued, are abortifacients, or abortion-inducing drugs, and some facilitate sterilizations.

The religious order, which cares for the elderly poor in facilities all over the country, ultimately prevailed at the U.S. Supreme Court in July 2020, though the case could come back to the Supreme Court again, according to the Washington-based *Becket* law firm that has represented the Little Sisters in court.

Cardinal Gregory: World Needs African Americans' 'Strength of Character'

It 'Resides within the Souls of Our People'

By Richard Szczepanowski

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Celebrating a Feb. 5 Mass in honor of Black History Month, Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory urged “ordinary people of color” to “vastly improve our world with an understanding of the strength of character that resides within the souls of our people.”

Referring to the day’s Gospel reading from Matthew (5:13-16) in which Jesus refers to his disciples as the salt of the earth and the light of the world, Cardinal Gregory said, “We are chosen by none other than the Lord, the light of the world himself; we have no choice but to be an example to the world.”

“Many have suffered martyrdom as the price of their witness and those who do become salt and light may become the subject of ridicule,” the cardinal said. “But we need ordinary faith-filled people like yourselves to allow your lights to shine — however small ... to illuminate the darkness of this world.”

He reminded those at the Mass that “you are exactly the ones Christ called to be light in the world — not because of the great things you have done, but the generous things that you do.”

“Our task — not just not just in African American Month, but every day — is to respond in generous and loving ways to the needs of this world,” Cardinal Gregory said. “That’s your job. It comes from none other than Christ himself. You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world. There is no getting around it.”

Cardinal Gregory was the principal celebrant of the annual Mass, which he called a “rousing and wonderful celebration.” It was offered at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church in Washington and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington’s Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach.

Several hundred people attended the Mass, which Cardinal Gregory said was “our largest gathering for Black History Month in a couple of years.”

Concelebrants included Washington Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell Jr.; Msgr. Charles Pope, pastor of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Parish; Father Michael Bryant, the longtime Catholic chaplain at the D.C. Detention Center; Franciscan Father Lalo Jara, program director of the archdiocese’s Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach; Father Robert Boxie, Catholic chaplain at Howard University; and Father Patrick Aboagye, who is in residence at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Parish.

“They are here out of affection and great devotion to the African American community,” Cardinal Gregory said of the bishop and priests concelebrating the Mass.

Black History Month traces its roots to 1926 when noted historian Carter G. Woodson and the Rev. Jesse E. Moorland established Negro History Week to highlight the achievements of African Americans and others of African descent. The second week of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and author Freder-



OSV News Photo/Mihoko Owada, Catholic Standard
A woman prays during the Feb. 5 Mass for Black History Month at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church in Washington. During the Mass, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory called on Black Catholics and all people of color to “vastly improve our world with an understanding of the strength of character that resides within the souls of our people.”

ick Douglass.

By the 1960s, Negro History Week had expanded to Black History Month on college campuses across the country. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized February as Black History Month to “honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

“African American History Month is not just about the past. It’s not just about the great things that were done 50 years ago, 100 years ago, 200 years ago,” Cardinal Gregory said. “It’s about the future and what light will we shed to a world that is too gloomy and too covered with shadows.”

Cardinal Gregory pointed out that there is a movement in the U.S. Congress to remove an exemption to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that still exists that says if any former slaves are caught and convicted of a crime, they could be put back into slavery.

Urging the faithful to work for the removal of that exemption, Cardinal Gregory said, “None of us should ever be forced, no matter what we have done, back into slavery — not just slavery with chains, but slavery of sin, slavery of fear, slavery of hatred.”

“We are called to be free men and women,” he stressed.

During the Mass, prayers also were offered for six African American Catholics who are candidates for sainthood candidates.

Three of the six have the title of “Venerable”:

Father Augustus Tolton, the first publicly known Black Catholic priest in the United States; Sister Henriette Delille, who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family; and Pierre Toussaint, a formerly enslaved philanthropist who supported many Catholic charitable works. And three have the title “Servant of God”: Mother Mary Lange, the foundress and first superior general of the Oblate Sisters of Providence; Julia Greeley, who after her emancipation from enslavement joined the Secular Franciscan Order and promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; and Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, who was a noted educator and evangelist. Raised in a Methodist home, she became a Catholic at age 9 with her Methodist parents’ permission.

The “Servant of God” title is given to a sainthood candidate when a canonization cause is officially opened. “Venerable” is the declaration of the person’s heroic virtues. In general, one miracle attributed to the intercession of a sainthood candidate is needed for beatification and a second such miracle is needed for canonization.

“May their extraordinary lives of faith, hope and love soon be recognized by the universal church so that this, and subsequent generations may be inspired to imitate their heroic virtue,” the congregation prayed.

(Richard Szczepanowski is managing editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.)

Catholic Men of West Virginia, Married or Single, Consider the Vocation of a Deacon



Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service, assisting the bishop and his priests in many areas, especially in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opened a new Diaconate Formation Program for all Catholic men who will be 35 by June of 2027. Bishop Mark Brennan has made the 2023-2028 Diaconate Formation Program free to the men who apply, and the cost will be covered by the diocese.

Permanent deacons may be married. They must be faithful Catholics. Most work at secular jobs and must be willing to be open to an assignment outside of their parish.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

To apply and for more information, click the link below:

<https://dwc.org/directory-listing/permanent-diaconate-formation-office-of/2275/>

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is accepting applications for the next class of permanent deacons. The deadline is April 15.

Applications may also be obtained by contacting Tina High in the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (888) 434-6237 or for the Wheeling area at (304) 233-0880, ext. 271. Completed applications must be sent to the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Kindness Grows at St. Joseph the Worker

A lot of positive changes took place this year at St. Joseph the Worker Grade School in Weirton. One of the biggest changes was the decision to incorporate a Jr. High setting in which the 7th and 8th graders would now be part of Madonna High School. The reason this change was so important to Sophia was this would be her last year at St. Joseph the Worker. This also meant that her 6th grade class would now be the oldest grade within the school, and with that Sophia felt that it was very important she work to be a positive role model for the younger kids.

One thing Sophia felt there would always be a need for is more kindness—not only in the 6th grade classroom but throughout the school. Sophia recognized through her own personal experience and experiences shared by others that sometimes people go through things in their life that we know nothing about. Also, through experience Sophia learned that a little kindness will go a long way in helping to brighten the darkest of days.

In September Sophia began working with the 6th grade teacher at St. Joseph the Worker and some other students to design posters focusing on the topic of bullying. Sophia worked with the other students that were interested in posting these posters in the hall to hopefully spread the message to other students. One day while researching resources on bullying and kindness with the help of her family, Sophia came across a social media post which held information on a kindness contest. This contest was focused around exactly what Sophia's heart was working to do—spread kindness. This contest was sponsored by a 100% volunteer run organization called Kindness Grows Here. This is an organization that believes we must foster kindness in the next generation to make our world a better place. This contest hit home for Sophia and she worked to send in her goal of a Kindness Club at St. Joseph the Worker. If Sophia would be lucky enough to win the contest she would receive a grant to work to meet her goal—kindness in the school that would spill over into the community.

In December Sophia was chosen as the only student in the State of West Virginia to win the contest and a grant was awarded to start the Kindness Club at St. Joseph the Worker. Sophia quickly went to work implementing her club ideas. The focus of the Kindness Club is to teach kindness in the younger grades (Pre 3-through 3rd grade) with that message being carried through the members in the Kindness Club (4th through 6th grade). The goal of this club is to spread kindness in the school setting while also performing acts of kindness that will spill over into the community, thus touching so many lives.

In January some fun things began to take place at St. Joseph the Worker. The 5th grade classroom bulletin board was donated to the Kindness Club for Sophia's goal of creating a kindness message there every month. January was decorated in the theme Sprinkle Kindness Everywhere. Sophia began sharing a kindness devotional every day during morning announcements. Sophia also worked to design the January Random Acts of Kindness Calendar



Courtesy Photo

Sophia, a sixth grader at St. Joseph the Worker Grade School in Weirton, was the only student in West Virginia to win the Kindness Grows Here Contest. A grant was awarded to start a Kindness Club at her school.

that would be a goal of the Kindness Club (grades 4th-6th) to complete as many daily acts of kindness as they could. In the months to follow it will be the Kindness Club that will work to complete the acts placed on the upcoming monthly calendars.

In addition to these changes, Sophia began a really fun activity for the younger grades. She purchased Care Bears that fit the kindness theme (Cheer Bear, Togetherness Bear, Share Bear, I Care Bear, Tenderheart Bear, and Sunshine Bear). These kindness care bears came with a kindness themed bag (Be Human-Be Kind, Be Both) and a journal. Each week a student in grades Pre -3 through 3rd grade would be chosen to take the kindness care bear to engage in a kindness journey with their family. The journal would be used to share what random acts of kindness their family chose to engage in during their special weekend.

The first Kindness Club Meeting took place on January 16, 2023 and Sophia was so happy with a turnout of over 25 4th through 6th grade

students. The goal of the Kindness Club is to meet two times a month after school. Every month there will also be books chosen based around the kindness theme that will be spread throughout St. Joseph the Worker that month. In January the Kindness Club will share two books, by Author Benjamin Lee, "It's The Dough Inside That Matters" and "Sprinkled With Kindness" with the younger grades. The whole school will work to complete Kindness Donuts to cover the halls around the Kindness Club Bulletin Board.

Finally, the school based Parent Board Committee worked very hard to incorporate the Kindness Theme into each day of Catholic Schools Week. This was a great end to the first month of spreading kindness within the school and community. Two days are designated to collecting donations for the community. One day students will be encouraged under Father Dennis Schuelkens' words of encouragement "Read a book change the world." To donate a used book

See "Kindness" on Page 8

Kindness...

Cont'd from Page 7

to the Little Library located on Colliers Way. Another day the children will be encouraged to donate an item to the Animal Blessing Box downtown by Weirton Fire Department. During the January 16 Kindness Club meeting the members worked to design boxes that were to be placed in the school to collect the donations.

The vision Sophia has for the Kindness Club is that she will continue to run this club throughout her Jr. High and High School career at Madonna High School. This will enable her the ability to continue to work hand in hand with St. Joseph the Worker staff and future students in ways that will enable kindness to spill over into the children's family and the surrounding community. The possibilities are endless in ways to keep spreading kindness and Sophia is blessed to be part of a supportive administration and teaching staff at St. Joseph the Worker who have been on board since day one ensuring the Kindness Club will become a rewarding experience for everyone who experiences the kindness it will touch their lives with.

Thanks to teaching staff families can tune into the St. Joseph the Worker School Social Media site to experience what the Kindness Club is working to make happen.

Some future goals Sophia has is a Kindness Newsletter spotlighting all the kind things the Kindness Club has worked to do each month and a Kindness Spotlight, where individuals who the staff have felt went above and beyond spreading kindness in some way can be recognized. Sophia also has a goal of connecting the Kindness Club to other providers in the area as outreach to work with them to assist in needs the community has.

Sophia's favorite kindness quote is "In a world where you can be anything, be kind." — Jennifer Dukes Lee



Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, pastoral effort led by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to encourage increased outreach to pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

For more information and assistance on starting Walking with Moms in need in your parish:

Kathy Barton
Director of Social Ministry
304-233-0880 Ext. 289
kbarton@dwc.org



Eucharistic Retreat Weekend

March 10-12

Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center
100 Hodges Road, Charleston

As part of the Diocesan Year of the Eucharistic Revival in the US, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will host a Eucharistic Retreat. Faithful around the state are invited to attend a weekend to bring our hearts closer to Christ in the Eucharist.

Agenda

- Friday** 8:00 pm - **Social** *Participants are encouraged to attend*
Those needing accommodations may also check-in at the retreat center prior to the social.
- Saturday** 8:00 am - **Breakfast** *Registration and Mass will follow*
The weekend will consist of inspiring talks, facilitated discussions, Liturgy, Reconciliation, music, and private prayer.
Keynote Speaker and Celebrant: Father John Finnell
- Sunday** *Breakfast, concluding reflections, and Mass at 11 am*

Cost

\$100/per person Price includes meals and accommodations at the retreat center.

For more information email the retreat center director
Gerri Wright at gwright@dwc.org or call her at 304-342-0507.

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Vienna Parishioner Achieves Rank of Eagle Scout



Courtesy Photo

Isaac Algin, left, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at St. Michael Parish in Vienna on Nov. 19, 2022.

VIENNA—Isaac Algin recently celebrated the achievement of Eagle Scout at St. Michael Parish in Vienna on Nov. 19, 2022. Isaac had been a boy scout in Troop 12 for seven years before he reached the rank of Eagle Scout.

To reach the rank of Eagle, Isaac had to be active in his Troop for six months as a life scout, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout

Oath and Scout Law, earn a total of 21 merit badges, serve his troop in a position of responsibility for six months, create and execute an Eagle Scout Service Project, and participate in a Scoutmaster Conference and Eagle Board of Review.

Isaac's Eagle Service Project was to create 500 hygiene bags for the House to Home homeless

shelter in Parkersburg. He is the only member of his family to have earned the Eagle Scout award so far. Isaac plans to use the skills he's learned from scouting to become a police officer and help his community. He is currently pursuing an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice at WVUP (West Virginia University at Parkersburg).



A Date for the 14th St. George Camporee

(Formerly Known as the Catholic Camporee)

April 21st to 23rd, 2023



Who: Scouts BSA

Location: Camp Mountaineer (Morgantown WV)

Hosted by: Catholic Committee on Scouting & the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Contact: Chris Gorski at catholiccamporee@aol.com for further information

Additional information: <https://scoutingevent.com/615-59082>

Cost: \$10 Early bird : \$20 after March 29, 2023



All Are Welcome!



WVICU Estimates Wheeling University's Economic Impact in the Region at More Than \$38 Million Annually

WHEELING—Wheeling University not only makes a difference in the lives of the students it educates, the institution is estimated have a financial impact of nearly \$38.4 million on West Virginia's regional economy.

A study conducted by the West Virginia Independent Colleges and Universities (WVICU) shows the extensive contributions Wheeling and other independent institutions have on the regional economies across the Mountain State. The organization looked at institutional and financial data from the 2021-22 fiscal year and used the IMPLAN® economic impact modeling system to assess and quantify the economic effect Wheeling makes on the local economy.

"Wheeling University's faculty and staff are committed to our mission and the success of our students, but it is important to remember that this institution also plays a vital role in both the state and regional economies," said University President Ginny R. Favede. "Wheeling University's operations and the economic activity generated by our faculty, staff and students touch nearly every aspect of our local economy, including education, hospitality, childcare, healthcare, construction, maintenance and retail. We have always known that this university was important to the Wheeling economy and this study demonstrates the powerful impact our students, employees and the institution make as a whole."

According to the WVICU report, Wheeling's total payroll compensation is \$6,236,527, with the direct impact calculated for the University totaling \$21.6 million. The study estimates that another \$11.7 million will also be created through the region as a result of indirect industry - specific spending. Additionally, the WVICU estimates that another \$5 million is in-

fused into the economy from induced income from students, household labor income and related spending in the supply chain for goods and services.

"Economic impact measures the significance of an organization in the regional economy and Wheeling is clearly a major contributor. The long-term impact of our continued dedication to our local community is impossible to put into simple numbers. Hometown pride may not be a traditional economic indicator, but it certainly translates into positive economic results," Favede added.

Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott agrees the University is a key contributor to the local economy.

"When you think of all the benefits that having a higher education institution like Wheeling University brings to a community, it is easy to overlook the raw economic impact in its own right. But \$38 million is a very significant number for our local economy that should not be underestimated," said Elliott.

The report, Favede explained, reveals the University supports and sustains more than 250 jobs locally - through direct employment at the University and through indirect jobs created by vendors, contractors and local labor which perform construction and renovations on the campus. Additionally, she noted, the campus community and visitors impact job creation at area restaurants, hotels and retail establishments, through their support of these local businesses.

What this report does not calculate is 'human capital' Wheeling educates each year - well-educated students grounded in Catholic, Ignatian values.

Favede said, "Wheeling University prides itself on outstanding academics, strong athletic programs and an exceptional sense of community and belonging. This University has a mis-

sion to educate men and women to be intelligent, moral leaders who will champion the Catholic values of faith, peace and justice. Many of these young men and women stay in the region once they graduate - becoming important contributors at our hospitals, banks, schools and communities. Their impact is immeasurable," Favede added.

The head of Regional Economic Development Partnership agrees the Uni-

versity makes a big impact in the local area.

"As a regional economic development organization, the importance of our higher education institutions in both retaining and attracting business and industry is critical to our collective success. Wheeling University, in addition to our other private college, state university and community college, play a major factor in demonstrating the current and potential level of professional workforce

we can provide throughout northern West Virginia," said Josh Jefferson, president of the Regional Economic Development Partnership.

Wheeling University remains the only campus-based, Catholic institution of higher education in West Virginia. According to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), Wheeling is one of 12 diocesan-sponsored universities in the United States.



RETREAT CENTER

20/20 Vision Series

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

The Vision 20/20 series for 2023 will focus on the Eucharist. Pope Francis has called for a worldwide Eucharistic Revival. Journey with us this year from Jan. 23-Dec. 11, as we journey with the Holy Father and his invitation to focus our vision on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist - the Source and Summit of the Church.

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

Jan 23	The Transformative Power of the Eucharist - Bishop Mark Brennan
Feb 27	Let us be Bread - Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27	The Eucharist as a noun - Bernadette McMasters Kime
April 24	Eucharist in the early church - Fr. John Di Bacco
May 22	Lord I am not worthy - Alex Nagem
June 26	The Eucharist as a verb - Deacon Paul Lim
July 31	Eucharist IS thanksgiving - Kate Marshall
August 28	Bread broken and shared - Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ
Sept. 25	Eucharistic Reflections through song - Chad Carter
Oct 30	The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? - Fr. Walt Jagela
Nov 27	Bread for the journey - Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.
Dec 11	Do this in remembrance of Me - Deacon Doug Breiding

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

COST FOR COMPLETE SERIES: \$120.00 OR \$15.00 PER SESSION.
FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFO CONTACT: ATROIANI@CSJOSEPH.ORG
OR CALL THE RETREAT CENTER AT: 304-232-8160 X112



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule Spring 2023 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 19: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 26: St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, April 16: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 18: St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 24: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25: St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30: St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 13: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 14: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 14: St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 19: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 22: Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 28: St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 1: St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 11: Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 18: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 10: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Installed in Williamson



Courtesy Photo
 Father Biju Parampil, left, was installed as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Logan, and St. Edmund Mission in Man Jan. 22. Very Rev. Donald Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, right, installed Father Parampil. They are pictured at Sacred Heart following Mass that day.

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-ROMANS 5:5



Msgr. Frederick P. Annie



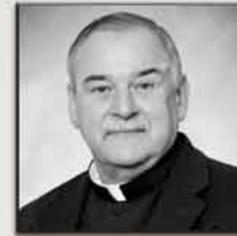
Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer



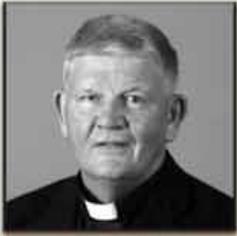
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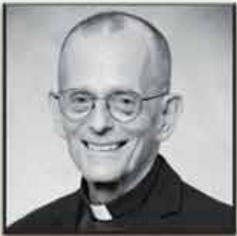
Msgr. P. Edward Sadie, P.A., S.T.L.



Rev. William A. Anderson



Rev. Mario R. Claro



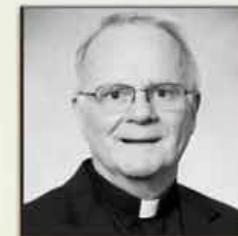
Rev. Harry N. Cramer



Rev. Thomas W. Dagle



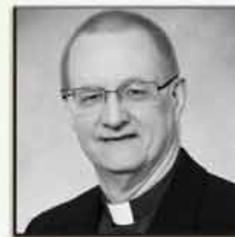
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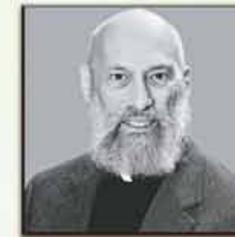
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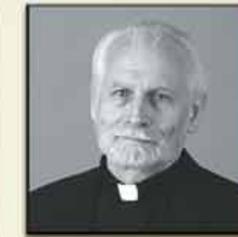
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Rev. John H. Finnell



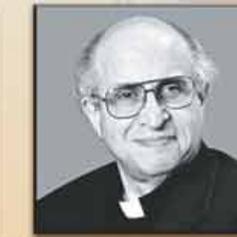
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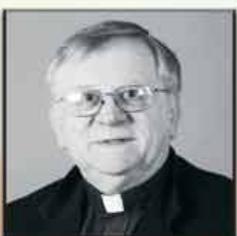
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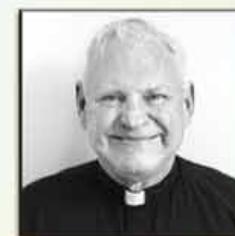
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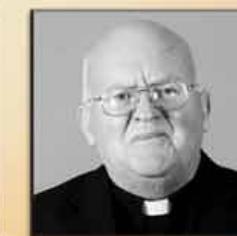
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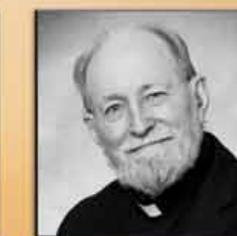
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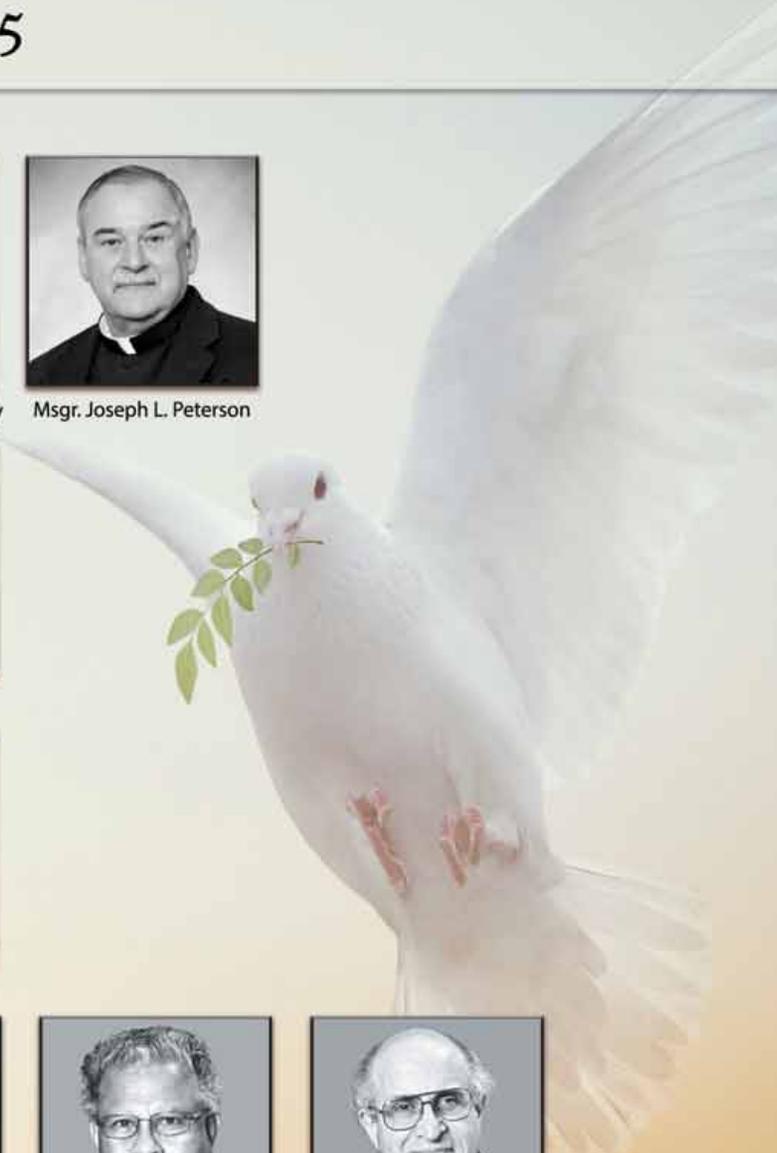
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RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: March 12, 2023

El Papa Francisco pide solidaridad con Turquía y Siria tras terremotos

Por Justin McLellan, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — El Papa Francisco instó a todas las personas a ser solidarias con las regiones de Turquía y Siria golpeadas por dos terremotos el 6 de febrero y que "en parte ya están martirizadas por una larga guerra".

Los dos terremotos, los cuales midieron más de 7.0 de magnitud según el Servicio Geológico de los Estados Unidos, golpearon el sur de Turquía e impactaron grandes franjas de la vecina Siria. Hasta el mediodía del 8 de febrero, hora local, el número de muertos había superado los 20,000 y se esperaba que el número de muertos aumentara aún más a medida que los equipos de rescate continuaban buscando entre los escombros de los edificios derrumbados.

El Papa Francisco oró por los miles de muertos y heridos en su audiencia general del 8 de febrero y expresó su cercanía con las víctimas, sus familias "y todos los que sufren por esta calamidad devastadora". El papa también agradeció a los trabajadores humanitarios que respondieron a la crisis.

Cientos de ingenieros, personal médico y rescatistas extranjeros han sido enviados a Turquía y Siria para buscar personas atrapadas bajo los escombros y ayudar a los miles de personas sin refugio en las gélidas condiciones invernales.

"Oremos juntos para que estos hermanos y hermanas nuestros puedan salir adelante frente a esta tragedia, y pidamos a Nuestra Señora que los proteja", dijo el Papa Francisco. Luego dirigió el rezo del Ave María con los miles de visitantes

y peregrinos reunidos para su audiencia general.

Horas después del terremoto del 6 de febrero, el Papa Francisco envió dos telegramas a Turquía y Siria para expresar su cercanía espiritual a los afectados.

Una variedad de organizaciones caritativas y de ayuda católicas son parte de los esfuerzos de socorro. Caritas Internationalis, la organización coordinadora de las organizaciones benéficas católicas nacionales, lanzó de inmediato una campaña de recaudación de fondos y una solicitud de donaciones de ropa de invierno, especialmente para bebés y niños pequeños. La organización benéfica ha estado activa en Turquía desde 1991 y en Siria desde 2011, brindando principalmente ayuda a los refugiados.

En declaraciones al diario vaticano L'Osservatore Romano, el Obispo Paolo Bizzeti, vicario apostólico de Anatolia, dijo que los terremotos fueron "una tragedia dentro de una tragedia", ya que la región ya está "llena de refugiados de varios países que han huido terriblemente situaciones".

Si bien se envía ayuda a través de Caritas Turquía, dijo, "es difícil recibir la ayuda necesaria dado el estado de las carreteras". El Obispo Bizzeti agregó que la ayuda debe "espaciarse" adecuadamente para garantizar que dure la duración de los esfuerzos de socorro.

Ayuda a la Iglesia Necesitada, una fundación pontificia que brinda ayuda a las comunidades católicas de todo el mundo, está apoyando proyectos de reparación en Alepo, Siria, para permi-

tir que las personas regresen a sus hogares. La organización benéfica dijo que aproximadamente 7,500 personas durmieron en iglesias, conventos y otros lugares de Alepo la noche del 7 de febrero. Las Obras Misionales Pontificias en los Estados Unidos también crearon un fondo para apoyar a las diócesis católicas y organizaciones asociadas en Turquía y Siria.

El Padre jesuita Tony O'Riordan llegó a Alepo, Siria, el 7 de febrero para dirigir la respuesta del Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados a la crisis. En un comunicado, dijo que la prioridad del JRS es reabrir su clínica de salud en Alepo y ayudar a proteger a la gente del frío. Los jesuitas también han abierto su edificio en Aziziyé para acoger a personas sin hogar.

El Consejo de Iglesias de Oriente Medio está pidiendo que se envíe ayuda a la región y que se levanten las sanciones contra Siria para permitir el acceso a los materiales de socorro.

La organización Bienestar para el Cercano Oriente Católico lanzó una campaña de emergencia para albergar a los sobrevivientes y proporcionar ropa de cama, alimentos, medicamentos, fórmula para bebés, pañales y ropa a más de 2,000 familias durante tres meses en las áreas de Alepo y Hama en el norte de Siria.

Catholic Relief Services, la agencia de ayuda en el extranjero de la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos, está recaudando fondos para ayudar a sus socios locales, Caritas Turquía y Caritas Siria, particularmente en Alepo y Lattakia, Siria, donde se han reportado daños extensos.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. Tam-

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

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

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



Promoting the Dignity of Ukrainian Newcomers with Affordable Legal Expertise

By Renee Corbett, CCWVa Refugee Outreach Worker

The Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Immigration Services program has a long history of providing high quality, affordable immigration legal services to West Virginia residents.

The majority of our state's newest residents are arriving from Ukraine via the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program. The U4U program was established in April 2022 by the Department of Homeland Security in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This program allows individuals in the United States to sponsor Ukrainians to stay in the United States for a two-year temporary period.

The CCWVa Refugee Resettlement program has been working closely with many West Virginia-based sponsors and the new Ukrainian arrivals to support their resettlement in West Virginia. To date we have provided resettlement support to 42 Ukrainians in West Virginia.

Due to the nature of their temporary immigration status, many Ukrainian newcomers have ex-

pressed concerned about: "What next?"

To support the Ukrainian newcomers in West Virginia with answering this question, CCWVa hosted a webinar to introduce Ukrainians to the various next-step immigration options. The webinar was presented by four immigration attorneys: Kellie Rogers and Nicole Annan from CCWVa, Katy Lewis from Mountain State Justice, and Paul Saluja from Saluja Law.

The 90-minute webinar was presented in English and interpreted in Ukrain-

ian, and covered topics related to asylum, family-based immigration applications, employment-based immigration applications, and other humanitarian options, such as victim of trafficking and victim of crime applications.

These four attorneys also offered free individualized consultations to each Ukrainian family to discuss their family's specific options.

CCWVa is proud to be able to embrace the Gospel's teaching of welcoming the stranger by provid-

ing resettlement support and legal expertise to many of West Virginia's newest arrivals.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



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Through the Intercession of St. Blaise...

Courtesy Photo
 Father Asantha Jude Perera, TOR, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee, blesses throats on the Feast of St. Blaise, Feb. 3. As priests blessed the faithful's throats around the world, they prayed: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may you be healed from every disease and illness of the throat."

Daily Living
 with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

6:30 WOWK 13	Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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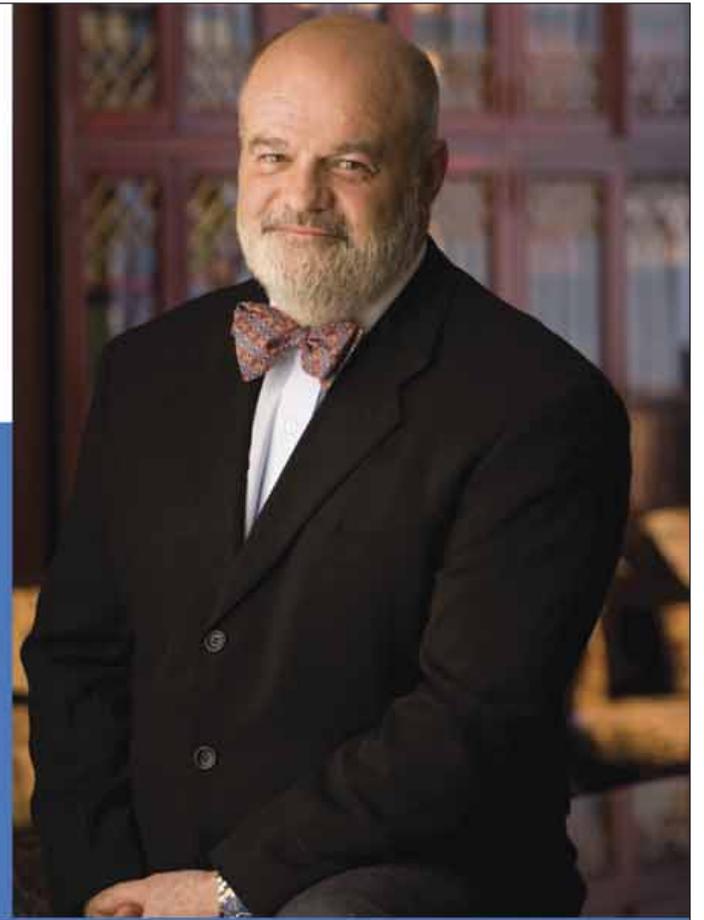


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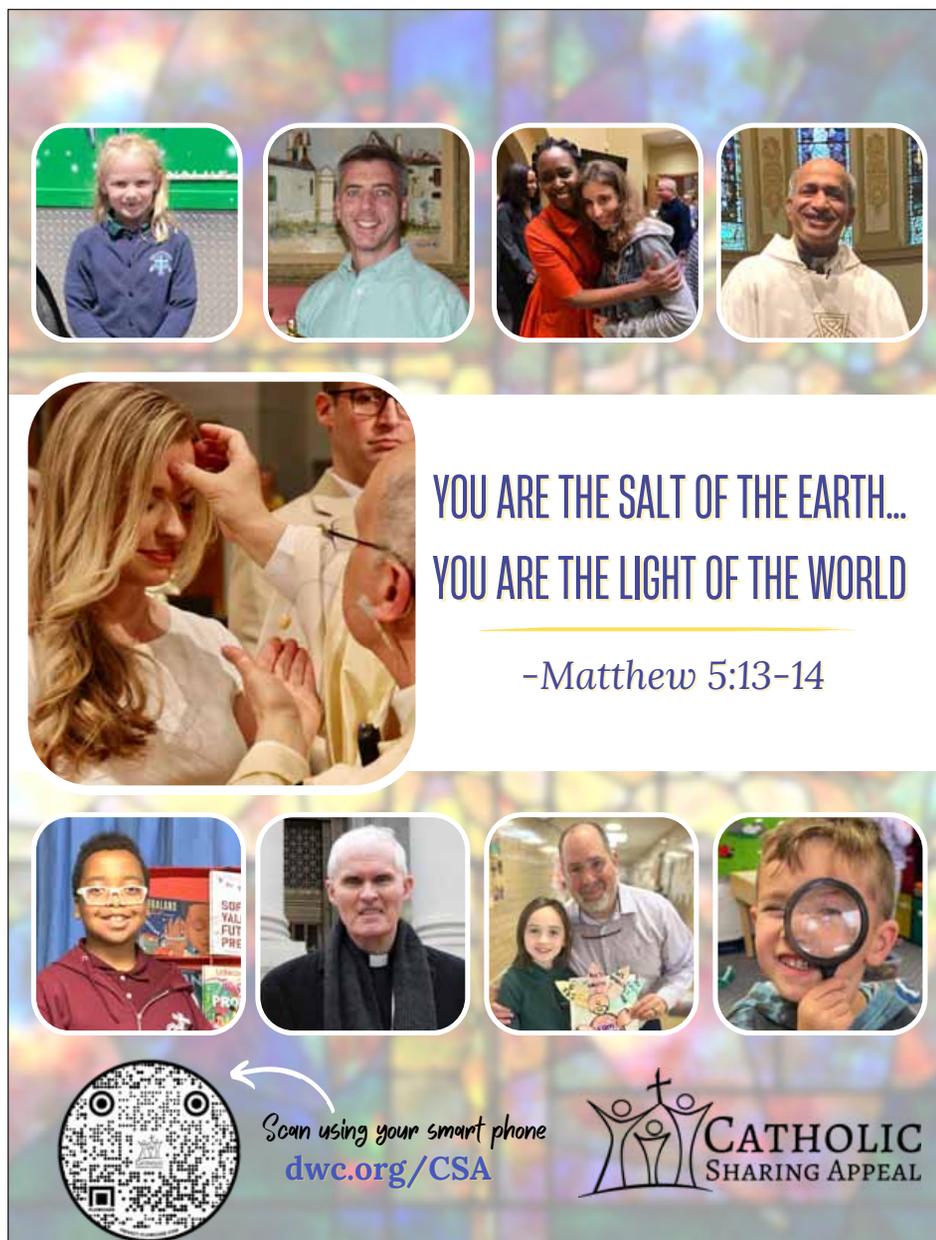
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Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Catholic Education

As the capstone to Catholic Schools Week, the very first girls basketball team at Parkersburg Catholic High School (1972-73) came together on their 50th anniversary to cheer the current Crusaderettes on to victory at a home game Feb. 4, then joined them and the Parkersburg Catholic Elementary teams at St. Francis Xavier Parish for Mass on Sunday morning to give thanks to God for the gift of a Catholic education. The teams are pictured at right.

Courtesy Photo

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-Matthew 5:13-14

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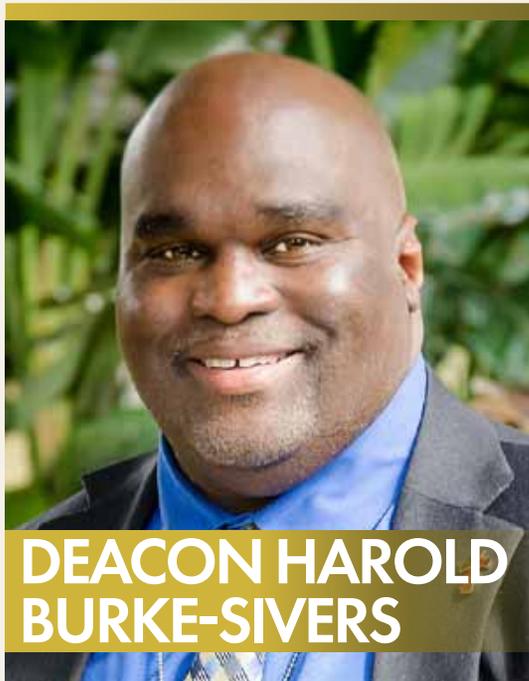


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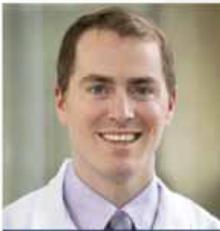


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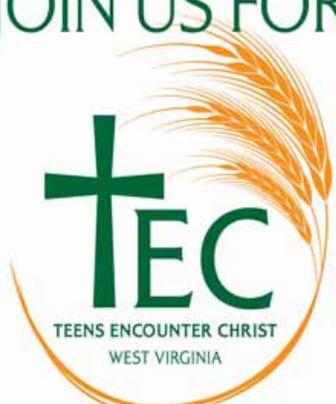
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