Retired Pope Asks Forgiveness in Response to Munich Abuse Report

By Carol Glatz, Junno Arocho Estevés, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the age of 94, retired Pope Benedict XVI said he knows he will soon stand before God’s judgment and he prayed that he would be forgiven for his shortcomings, including in handling allegations of clerical sexual abuse.

“Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings, and is thus also my advocate,” he said.

In response Feb. 8 to a recent report on sexual abuse cases in the German Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, Pope Benedict also confirmed that an error in the testimony written on his behalf had been an oversight and “was not intentionally willed and I hope may be excused.”

“To me it proved deeply hurtful that this oversight was used to cast doubt on my truthfulness, and even to label me a liar,” he said in a letter released Feb. 8 by the Vatican.

However, the retired pope, who headed the Munich Archdiocese from 1977 to 1982, emphasized his feelings of great shame and sorrow for the abuse of minors and made a request for forgiveness to all victims of sexual abuse.

“I have had great responsibilities in the Catholic Church. All the greater is my pain for the abuses and the errors.”

See “Report” on Page 2

Kurt and Chloe Kondrich Join Pro-Life Voices in Charleston

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—“We can’t think of any other place we’d like to be today than here in West Virginia,” Kurt Kondrich told the crowd at the West Virginia State Capitol Feb. 7. People from across the state were joined together that day for the annual Pro-Life Rally Day at the Capitol, sponsored by West Virginians for Life (WVFL).

Kurt was the keynote speaker of the event, rallying support of the state’s Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act (SB 468/HB 4337), and sharing his family’s story. Kurt and his wife Margie’s daughter Chloe, who also attended the rally in Charleston, was born in 2003 with Down syndrome. From the time on, Kurt said, “We began focusing on her ability, not her disability.”

Kurt and Margie learned that with prenatal testing, 90 percent of Down syndrome children “are identified, targeted, and terminated before they’re allowed to come on to this earth. So, we changed our life, and became advocates.”

Kurt, a former Pittsburgh police officer and Chloe, who Kurt said is a gift from God, have

See “Pro-Life” on Page 3

Kurt Kondrich and his daughter Chloe attend the annual Pro-Life Rally Day at the West Virginia Capitol in Charleston, sponsored by West Virginians for Life. Chloe was born in 2003 with Down syndrome, and since then the family have been advocates for children with Down syndrome. The father-daughter team have spoken all over the country and twice at the United Nations.
February 11, Vol. 53, No. 6

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected 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 by children of personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0800: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuenkens, 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 811.352.6513. Compliant forms are also 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.

Information 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 employee of the Diocese, or other misconduct. 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. The Diocese is responsible and accountable and the identity of the person reporting is protected.


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 offers a Safe Environment Program that 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 Regarding Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshops. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click “Diocese,” then “Offices,” then “Office of Safe Environment.”
Consecration to St. Joseph Will Be Held in Wheeling

WHEELING—A 33-day spiritual journey, a Consecration to St. Joseph will begin Feb. 15 in Wheeling. Weekly group meetings will be Tuesdays from Feb. 15 through March 15 at 10 a.m. at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall and at 6 p.m. in the diocesan chancery. The consecration day will be Saturday, March 19.

“What does it mean to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph?” Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy. Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. St. Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance,” organizers said.

Register by calling (304) 233-4121. Consecration books will be provided free of charge.

Pro-Life...

Cont’d from Page 1

spoke across the country and twice at the United Nations. They also visited the White House as advocates.

“My daughter shows us what we need in this country—unconditional love, purity, innocence,” Kurt said. “She doesn’t have any malice.”

“The reason the devil is so intent on destroying these beautiful children is because he can’t corrupt them,” Kurt said.

In his talk, Kurt posed a grim thought of the future: “If today we have a test for Down syndrome, what if next week we have one for autism? For heart disease? Or depression? The list is endless for where prenatal testing could lead us. It’s called a silent genocide.”

Kurt went on to say, “Identifying, targeting, and terminating a human being who receives a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis because they don’t meet a cultural mandate for unattainable perfection represents the ultimate extreme form of discrimination, prejudice, profiling, bigotry, racism, intolerance, exclusion, and hatred. It’s something that none of us will ever tolerate.”

He ended his talk by saying that he and Chloe look forward to coming back to West Virginia when Gov. Jim Justice signs the Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act into law.

Petitions in support of the act were presented to the House and Senate during the rally.

Joining in the rally was Bishop Mark E. Brennan, who said in his talk, every life is a gift from God. “Every life, that of a mother and that of her child, is precious and deserves our respect and help,” the bishop said. “We are grateful for our West Virginia legislators who want to strengthen our laws to reduce abortions in this state. Let us also show that we are committed to helping mothers deal with the challenges that a pregnancy can present. Mother and child should not be pitted against one another. They are not natural enemies. We can support both. I urge you to pray, fast and serve in whatever ways you can so that mothers and children in the Mountain State may live with dignity and thrive.”

Bishop Brennan’s full statement for the rally titled “Every Life, that of a Mother and that of Her Child, is Precious and Deserves our Respect and Help: A Statement on Pro-Life Issues by Bishop Brennan,” can be found on Page 5 of the Feb. 4 issue of The Catholic Spirit in print or at The Catholic Spirit’s website: thecatholicspirit.org.

Bishop Brennan also gave the invocation at the rally, which was held at noon inside the lower rotunda. Also speaking were National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross and WVFL President Wanda Franz.

Attendees also heard from pro-life legislators and participated in the annual prayer procession throughout the Capitol holding small, white crosses that represented aborted babies. According to the latest figures from National Right to Life, roughly 2,400 unborn babies in the U.S. are lost to abortion each day.

Rally goers also had the opportunity to meet with their legislators and were introduced in the House/Senate Galleries when session began.

For more information about WVFL or the Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act (SB 468/HB 4337), visit www.wvforlife.org.

MEET YOUR SPIRITUAL FATHER: Saint Joseph the Worker

A talk by Dr. Mark Miravalle, S.T.D.
Teology professor, Franciscan University of Steubenville
Author of over 20 books in Morality and Spiritual Theology

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16
7:30 P.M.
Rosary begins at 7:00 p.m.

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From Weirton’s Catholic Community:
Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, St. Joseph the Worker Day School, Madonna High School, & Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor; & St. Paul Parish, St. Paul School, & Father Babu Joseph Elamthuruthil, pastor
By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church worldwide is showing good progress and “much joy” after the opening of the synodal process, but there also have been some “uncertainties” and challenges, said the ordinary council of the Synod of Bishops.

“There is growing awareness that the synodal conversion to which all the baptized are called is a lengthy process that will prolong itself well beyond 2023,” the council said in a press release Feb. 7.

“The desire all over the world is to bring about a synodal journey, which has begun at the local level,” continues “so that tangible signs of synodality might increasingly be manifest as constitutive of the church,” it said. The ordinary council met in person and online Jan. 26 to discuss the progress being made on the synodal process around the world and to elaborate the criteria for the “reports” to be prepared by dioceses and bishops’ conferences and submitted to the general secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, it said in a statement published Feb. 7 at synod.va.

“It seems that the novelty of the synodal process has given rise to much joy and dynamism,” it said. Nearly 98% of all bishops’ conferences and synods of Eastern Catholic churches would have appointed a person or an entire team to implement the synodal process and a large number of initiatives have been set up to promote consultation and discernment.

“Many of the faithful perceive the synodal process as a crucial moment in the church’s life, as a learning process as well as an opportunity for conversion and renewal of ecclesial life. At the same time, various difficulties have also emerged,” it said.

“Fears and reticence are reported among some groups of the faithful and among the clergy. There is also a certain mistrust among the laity who doubt that their contribution will really be taken into consideration,” it said.

Among the challenges it noted were: a “reluctance” by some clergy; a need for formation, “especially in listening and discernment” so that the synod is authentically a spiritual process and not reduced to a “parliamentary” debate; and a need for mutual listening based on prayer and Scripture; a need to improve the participation of young people; and the need to involve those distanced from the church.

The pandemic has also limited opportunities to meet in person, which is important for “mutual listening and communal discernment,” it said. “The consultation of the people of God cannot be reduced to a mere questionnaire.”

Last October, Pope Francis formally opened the process leading up to the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023 and bishops around the world were to open the process in their dioceses soon after. The diocesan phase, which runs until August, will focus on listening to and consulting the people of God.

Documents and resources are available in a number of languages at www.synod.va and www.synod.resources.org/.
Reject Racism to ‘Live the Way’ Creator Intended us to Live, Cardinal Says

By Richard Szczepanowski, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — People must “reject all forms of racism, bigotry and injustice” and recognize “we are each made by God and are deserving of respect and dignity because of just that,” Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory said Feb. 3.

Only then will mankind “live the way we were intended to live by the Creator,” he said in a Black History Month address.

“We each are called to reach beyond ourselves — that which is comfortable and familiar. As a human family, we are to be a good neighbor to one another,” Cardinal Gregory said. “This is the only way to bring about true justice for all American and global citizens.”

He spoke on “Race and the Catholic Church” for an event sponsored by the St. Thomas More Catholic Community at Yale University. The address was delivered via Zoom because of the ongoing pandemic.

“I wish we were together in-person,” he said, because “I believe conversations about race are best had in-person so we can encounter one another as sisters and brothers created in the image and likeness of the Lord, the Creator of the human family.”

Lamenting that “racism, intolerance and discrimination come in a variety of forms — both overt and covert,” Cardinal Gregory noted that when the faithful are open to racial diversity, “they see the inherent beauty of God’s creation in the mosaic of skin tones, facial expressions, cultures and ethnicities.”

He pointed out that “some of the very first Catholics in this country included free Black Catholics, who arrived from Protestant England on the Eastern shores of Maryland in 1634,” but yet “in the Catholic Church, we do not have a story of unity or history of mutual respect.”

“We are a church and a nation of immigrants who willingly or unwillingly fled to or were brought to these shores — some in chains and in bondage,” Cardinal Gregory said.

“Racism is sometimes seen as America’s original sin,” he continued, “and the reality of America’s original sin has denied or limited many African Americans from living out their calling to become full members of the Catholic Church as priests or religious and certainly, to fully attend or teach in higher education.”

Acknowledging “polarization both inside the Catholic Church and in our wider society,” Cardinal Gregory said society is “experiencing a generally accepted, pervasive negative briskness.”

“There is often acceptance of openly, unapologetic racist language, hostility and consistently uncivil behavior,” he said. “Civility is no longer a treasured American virtue we agree to live by. Civility does not come naturally to any of us, but it is a quality that can be cultivated. Civility, charity and service are needed in order for us to successfully work toward common ground that benefits all.”

During Black History Month, observed in February and every month, he said, “we must work hard to practice civility in our challenging discussions about race and every other issue that touches our families and our communities.”

“The mission of the Catholic Church is to serve all of God’s children regardless of their ethnicity, culture, immigration status, race or religion,” he added.

Responding to questions from Yale’s St. Thomas More Catholic group and its African American ministry, Cardinal Gregory spoke of how the church can reconcile its past of racism, colonialism and slave ownership.

“We must admit our involvement and admit the sins we have shared in, maybe not personally, but we inherit the legacies that that sin has left in its wake,” he said.

“I am very, very proud of the Jesuits in the United States as they are coming to an acceptance and an understanding of their awful selling of slaves to keep Georgetown University and perhaps other Jesuit institutions afloat,” the cardinal said. “They are expressing a contrition and a desire to do what is right. Reconciliation and retribution are very difficult, but they (the Jesuits) are willing to walk that path.”

He also referred to the U.S. bishops’ 2018 pastoral letter on racism, “Open Wide Our Hearts,” and other documents the bishops have issued that address racism.

“We have to make known all the statements and the good work the bishops have done,” Cardinal Gregory said. “We haven’t done enough, but what we have done is often unknown.”


It includes a wide range of pastoral activities and outreach for individuals and parishes, such as prayer, listening sessions, faith formation opportunities and social justice work.

When Pope Francis appointed him as Washington’s new archbishop in April 2019 and he was installed the next month, he became the archdiocese’s first African American archbishop. When he was made a cardinal Nov. 28, 2020, he became the nation’s first Black cardinal.

In his address to the Yale group, Cardinal Gregory said parishes must welcome, acknowledge and embrace people of different ethnic backgrounds or races, otherwise it is more than “a lack of welcome” — it is “outright hostility.”

“When we are teaching about the nature of sin, we talk about sin as an action, but sometimes sin is an inaction. We tolerate by our inaction the sin of racism,” he said. “What we as Catholics need to do better is to learn how to welcome people.”

With the church currently hosting listening sessions on synodality in preparation for the October 2023 world Synod of bishops, the cardinal said now is the time “for us to talk to one another and to listen to one another.”

“We have to listen to our people and invite them to speak from our hearts. Listening does not mean agreeing, it means opening our hearts to hear and listen to those we disagree with,” Cardinal Gregory said.

“In the Catholic Church there have always been disagreements — theological disagreements, cultural disagreements. It is not new,” he said. “But we have to open our hearts and our eyes to reconcile and unify the church in all of its fullness.”

He said welcoming persons of varied ethnicities or cultures or colors into a parish “is more than simply tolerating people.”

“Our welcome must be an aggressive and straightforward desire to say, ‘We want you here, not to become as we are, but to come as you are,’” Cardinal Gregory said. “We have to say, ‘You have a place at the Lord’s table, and we are enriched to welcome and accept you as you are.’”

He said Catholic young people can help combat racism and discrimination and work to build a better society.

Black History Month is a time to “promote peace, racial harmony, and social justice instead of fear, harm and violence,” Cardinal Gregory said.

He said his wish is that as young people learn of “the injustices and indignities suffered and overcome in our American history,” it would inspire “real hope for us all to do the necessary and sometimes challenging work of our time.”

Szczepanowski is managing editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.
Wheeling’s St. Vincent de Paul Parish School Taps Charleston Catholic Grad’s Book to Inspire Community

“His dedication and commitment were inspiring. We thought, what a perfect way for our students to connect with someone so young who took on such a major task.”

— SVS officials

Catholic Identity is the essence, the core of existence for any school that is rooted in the foundation of our Catholic Faith. Building a stronger relationship among the school, parish, community and state continues to be one of the ongoing goals at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling.

“This summer we searched for something inspirational yet material that could be shared with students, faculty, staff, school and parish families as well as the community,” SVS officials said.

SVS found this in Harvey Sutton, a 5-year-old boy, who hiked the Appalachian Trail. He was known on the trail as “Little Man.” Harvey is one of the youngest people known to have completed the roughly 2,100-mile hike.

“His dedication and commitment were inspiring,” SVS officials said. “We thought, what a perfect way for our students to connect with someone so young who took on such a major task. And...to think he did it out in the beautiful world created by our amazing God.

The search led SVS to a book that was written by an author who graduated Charleston Catholic High School. It was recently released and intended for students. “All About the Appalachian Trail” by Leonard M. Adkins was recently named a Finalist in the 33rd annual Independent Book Publishers Association Benjamin Franklin Award category of Young Reader Nonfiction.

“All About the Appalachian Trail” is the very first book written for grades four through eight that provides a complete overview of the world famous hiking trail and is designed for children and their parents, teachers, and classmates to enjoy together. The book covers it all: the route, history, geology, and animals of the trail, along with chapters about hiking equipment and local history.

There’s even a profile of the trail’s most famous users, thru-hikers, and quotes designed to not only inspire everyone to take a hike, but to also volunteer to help maintain and protect the trail. In addition, there is a free downloadable Teacher’s Guide with Common Core Standards, sample questions, and activities to stimulate further discussion and knowledge of the trail.

“Our plan was coming together nicely... pieces were falling into place,” SVS officials said.

Being a finalist for the award indicates that judges recognized the book was successful in achieving its purpose and meeting its intended reader’s needs.

“Our plan was to purchase the book for all students at SVS and distribute a copy to each family. Classroom copies would be used to implement the teacher's guide and focus on the Catholic faith traditions that we hoped our students would point out as the book was shared together at home,” SVS officials said.

“Creating connections at home and at school gives hope that our students will discover a world outside of their own.”

As an added bonus, SVS Social Media Manager Jay Yelenic was able to connect with Adkins and ask that he sign each of the books purchased for the St. Vincent de Paul Parish School community.

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St. Joseph, Martinsburg, Students Take Top Spots in Knights of Columbus State Poster Contest

MARTINSBURG—Posters created by three St. Joseph School students recently won a state contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

The 11-by-17-inch artworks won first place in the local “Keep Christ in Christmas” competition offered by Monsignor Lackey Council 1169 of the Knights of Columbus in Martinsburg. From there, they were judged through the Knights of Columbus West Virginia State Council, where all three again were victorious.

The winner among the 5- to 7-year-olds was second-grader Adelayna Wilson; among those ages 8 to 10, fourth-grader Naomi Oshiyoye took first place; and eighth-grader Angela Aparicio’s poster was deemed the best of those submitted by students ages 11 to 14.

All three earned a $50 prize from the state council.

The posters are now going to be put in a pool of contestants from across the nation to vie for top honors from the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. National winners are expected to be announced in March.
Office of Evangelization and Catechesis Partnering with NET Ministries

WEST VIRGINIA—The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is partnering with NET Ministries to provide retreat ministry. NET Catalyst is an opportunity for the same team of missionaries to come back to a parish or vicariate to serve on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Parishes interested in being a part of this diocesan initiative and would like NET Ministries to provide retreat ministry at the parish or vicariate, please let the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis know.

This initiative is being paid for by the funds that the Office receives from the Catholic Sharing Appeal.

According to the organization: “What makes NET ministries so successful is our peer to peer approach to evangelization. The witness of young, zealous missionaries, filled with the joy of the gospel, invite young people to participate in the ‘abundant life’ (John 10:10) that Jesus offers.”

Retreats are effective at providing an opportunity for young people to encounter Jesus and offer their lives to him; however, discipleship requires regular formation, accountability, and witness by other disciples. Having a monthly net team on site can begin to help strengthen and enliven the work of all in forming students as disciples of Jesus.

A monthly NET team can: begin to disciple youth through regular interaction with the same NET team members; function as a spiritual catalyst in the youth culture of a community; be a regular witness to youth that a life lived for Jesus is not mundane or oppressive; reinforce what youth learn in religion class by their living witness of discipleship; begin to help students bridge the gap between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus; reach parents and other family members through witness in host homes; walk with youth as they grow through continual conversion; and foster an openness to prayer.

For more information about NET, the partnership with the diocese, and opportunities for parishes, contact Daniel Maul, director of the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (304) 233-0880, ext. 376, or by e-mail to dmaul@dwc.org

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Novena of Hour for Life with Eucharistic Adoration in Parkersburg

PARKERSBURG—A Novena of Hour for Life with Eucharistic Adoration will be held on Wednesdays, Feb. 16; March 9, 16, 23; and April 6, 13, from 6-7 p.m. with a Mass following at 7 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church in Parkersburg.

“We pray for respect for the dignity of human life, forgiveness, and healing of those wounded by abortion, and the gift of life,” parish officials said.

All are welcome.

Wellness Events Announced by IC Parish Nurses in Clarksburg

CLARKSBURG—The IC Parish Nurses of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg invite those having difficulty with sadness and/or anxiety now that the holidays have ended to an Emotional Wellness Support Group, AKA Grace Group, on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. Contact Veronica Gallo at (304) 762-930 for more information.

The group also announced the Lung Cancer Screening Mobile Van will be at the church April 1. Watch the Immaculate Conception Parish bulletin for information for registration. Unfortunately, Bonnie’s Bus will not be coming on the same day. Watch the Immaculate Conception Parish bulletin for the new date.

The Parish Nurse Ministry will meet Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Center. Members invite all health care professionals who would like to help with this ministry to attend. The February monthly meeting for the bereavement group will be held Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Parish Center. Call Theresa White at (304)-669-6063 with questions.

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"I chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last," says the Lord. -John 15:16

Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests

Collection Date: March 20, 2022
Members of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town gather outside of their church to celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F., pastor of the parish, blessed candles for liturgical use. Families brought candles from home to ward off the dangers of the year. Father Grassi challenged the community to spread the Light of Christ throughout the world.
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Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

March 23: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
April 2: Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby, 4:30 p.m.
April 23: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
April 26: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
April 27: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg, 5:30 p.m.
April 28: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
April 30: St. Alphonsus, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
May 1: Combined Confirmation: Sacred Heart, Chester, and Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland, 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart, Chester.
May 3: St. Michael, Vienna, 6 p.m.
May 7: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
May 9: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
May 12: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 6:30 p.m.
May 18: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
May 19: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 6 p.m.
May 20: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
May 21: St. James, Charles Town, 10 a.m.
May 22: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 3 p.m.
May 28: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.
May 29: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg, 2 p.m.
May 31: St. Anthony, Follansbee, 6 p.m.
June 4: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5 p.m.
June 25: St. Brendan, Elkins, 5 p.m.

Blessing of Throats

At Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg, Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJI, blesses a parishioner’s throat for the feast of St. Blaise.

Global Catholic Tours of VA

9 Days Holy Land. Sep 12-20, 2022
$3199. 1 night Tel Aviv, 2 nights Galilee, 5 nights Jerusalem. With Fr Dan Pisano from Peters burg, WV.

10 Days Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest
Sep 19-28, 2022 $3999. Includes 3 nights Vienna, 3 nights Salzburg, 4 nights Budapest. With Fr Bjorn Lundberg from Winchester, VA.

13 Days Istanbul and Greece
Nov 7-19, 2022 $4999. Includes 2 nights-Istanbul, 1 night each in Kavala, Thessaloniki, Kalamback & Delphi, & 3-nights in Athens. Plus a 3 day cruise to Islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, & Santorini. With visit to Ephesus. With Fr Shafer from Colonial Beach, VA.

11 Days Catholic Ireland.
Sep 12-22, 2022 $3950 Includes 1 night Limerick, 2 nights Kilkenny, 3 nights each in Galway and Dublin. With Fr Art Bufogle from Marlington, WV.

6 Day Mexico OLP of Guadalupe Anniversary
Dec 8-13, 2022, Price TBD Includes Insurance. With Priest TBD.

For brochures or more information, contact John Tagnesi by calling 1-888-544-4461 or by e-mail to jtag1964@verizon.net

The Emmaus Ministry

A retreat for parents whose child has died
JULY 16, 2022
ST. MARY PARISH
MORGANTOWN, WV

Serving the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago.

More details can be found at www.emfgp.org/events
To register visit www.emfgp.org/07-16-22-wv-registration-form-2/
When It Comes to Child Care, It Takes a Village

“Everyone has made everything easy to understand, with zero stress added to an already stressful day-to-day life! I am super thankful this program exists.”

“This service is a blessing.”

These anonymous quotes come from parents and guardians who rely on Catholic Charities West Virginia Child Care Resource Center (CCRC). This program, funded by the state, helps people break the cycle of poverty by easing the financial burden of child care while they work or go to school.

“We are so grateful for people around the state who support Catholic Charities and who ultimately make this work possible,” said Brittany Lucci, director of the CCRC. “You don’t realize how much stress parents are under until you see their shoulders sag in relief when you tell them you can help them afford child care.”

But CCRC services touch lives beyond the parents. Child care providers can also receive training and support to meet the needs of children in their care.

“Brooke” turned to CCRC for extra support when she was asked to care for “Logan” in her at-home child care. Logan is 14 months old and suffers from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

“After discussing his NAS diagnosis, they [CCRC] helped me find training for NAS babies so I could learn how to better care for him,” said Brooke. “They also provided some age-appropriate infant toys and a much-needed sturdy Sit-Up support to help him to sit upright.”

Logan is getting stronger and thriving both in his foster home and in Brooke’s care, due in large part to the help they received from CCRC. Brooke says, “It brings tears to my eyes when I think about how many people have collaborated for this one little baby boy.”

While the state funds this program through the Child Development Block Grant, Catholic Charities West Virginia administers the program. To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and the Child Care Resource Center, please 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.
Part-Time Music Director Needed

St. Leo Parish in Inwood, West Virginia, is seeking a part-time Music Director for our parish. Candidate must be available for regular parish weekend Masses (Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m.), solemnities, and other special liturgical celebrations, which include but are not limited to Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Weddings, Funerals, Christmas, Triduum, Easter, etc. Weekday hours are flexible. Responsibilities: serving as principal organist; selecting music repertoire for liturgies and collaborating with the Pastor, the Deacon and the Liturgy Committee in selecting music for the liturgical seasons; leading regular practice sessions with the choir and cantors; and working with the choir and cantors to promote a singing assembly.

Requirements: Applicant must be a proficient piano and organ player; playing the organ is not technically required but would be a plus. Applicant expected to be able to lead the choir in choral conducting as well as sing solo (when needed); possess knowledge of a variety of Catholic liturgical music (classical, traditional and contemporary) and be willing to incorporate all these musical genres in liturgy.

Resume submissions with references should be directed to Lisa Feeley, Secretary, St. Leo Catholic Church, P.O. Box 93, Inwood, WV 25428. You may also email your resume to secretary@stleo.com.

Any questions, please call the parish office at (304) 229-8945.
Por Carol Glatz, Junno Arocho Esteve, Catholic News Service

En Español

Papa jubilado pide perdón tras informe de abuso de Munich

Por Carol Glatz, Junno Arocho Esteve, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) – A la edad de 94 años, el papa retirado Benedicto XVI dijo que sabe que pronto enfrentará el juicio de Dios y oró para que no le obliguen a soportar sus defectos, incluso en el manejo de las denuncias de abuso sexual clerical.

“Aunque, cuando miro hacia atrás en mi vida, puedo ver muchas razones para temer y temblar, no obstante, estoy de buen ánimo, porque confío firmemente en que el Señor no es solo el juez justo, sino también el amigo y el hermano quien ya ha sufrido por mis defectos, y por lo tanto también es mi abogado”, dijo.

En respuesta al 8 de febrero a un informe reciente sobre casos de abuso sexual en la diócesis de Munich-Freying, el papa Benedicto también confirmó que un error en el testimonio escrito en su nombre había sido un descuido y “no fue intencional y explica todo el incidente”, de acuerdo con una carta publicada el 8 de febrero por el Vaticano.

Sin embargo, el papa jubilado, que estuvo al frente de la arquidiócesis de Munich desde 1951 a 1982, escribió que, en ese tiempo, había experimentado “sentimientos de gran vergüenza y dolor por el abuso de menores y pidió perdón a todas las víctimas de abuso sexual. Los abusos siempre son pecados graves, especialmente en las instituciones de las que dependen las actividades de las que dependen.”

Junto con la carta del papa, el Vaticano publicó un “análisis” de la evaluación del informe de Munich de que el entonces cardenal Ratzinger supuestamente manejó mal las acusaciones de abuso en cuatro ocasiones cuando dirigió la arquidiócesis alemana.

El análisis fue colocado por el equipo de abogados canónicos y otros expertos que habían ayudado a elaborar la respuesta original de 82 páginas durante la fase de investigación.

La respuesta de este equipo se enfocó principalmente en el caso del “sacerdote X”, el abusador repetitivo también conocido como Peter H. Dijo que la evaluación del informe de Munich “no correspondía a la verdad” porque el pontífice había dicho que las víctimas “tuvieron suerte con el sacerdote X”.


Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, así como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia en West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar nuestro sitio web reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene información sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene información sobre cualquier obispo para etiquetarlo como abusivo, puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Larmann, diocesano, o llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Lung Cancer Screening Program Receives ACR Designation

WHEELING—WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital has been designated an ACR (American College of Radiology) Lung Cancer Screening Center. The accreditation was made by the ACR’s Committee on CT Accreditation.

The new lung cancer screening program was started in 2021 by the WVU Cancer Institute at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. The program is based on annual chest CT scans and identifies lung cancer at an earlier stage, which has proven to improve patient outcomes. The WVU Cancer Institute also is accredited by the ACR as a designated Lung Cancer Screening Center.

Chief Radiologist Mark Benson, M.D., said, “The accreditation is the result of a dedicated and skilled CT scan team placing patient quality, safety, and care as the highest priorities. We are proud to offer low-dose CT exams to patients identified as high-risk for lung cancer.”

Robert Herron, III, D.O., thoracic surgeon at the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute at Wheeling Hospital, and Jondavid Pollock, M.D., Ph.D., chair of Radiation Oncology at the WVU Cancer Institute at Wheeling Hospital, lead the program.

To be eligible for the lung cancer screening, participants must meet all of the following criteria:
- Between 50-80 years old
- 20 pack/year smoking history (1 pack per day for 20 years)
- Current smoker or have quit smoking in the past 15 years
- No symptoms of lung cancer
- Patients who currently smoke will be offered smoking cessation options.

A multidisciplinary team at the WVU Cancer Institute at Wheeling Hospital is available to offer the testing to appropriate individuals with a comprehensive discussion of all aspects of screening for lung cancer and treatment, should that be necessary. Members of the team include radiologists, nurse navigators, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pulmonologists, and chest surgeons. Those interested in the screening should consult with their healthcare provider.

“Lung cancer remains a common disease in our area and typically presents at an advanced stage with less-than-adequate outcomes,” Pollock said. “Screening for lung cancer with a low-dose CT scan before symptom development has been proven to reduce the likelihood of advanced disease and, as a result, improve patient outcomes.”

The clinic is held in Herron’s office, Tower 1 Suite 104. Appointments are required. Call (304) 243-8669.