West Virginia Organizations Discuss Potential for a Clean Energy Economy

By Martina Hart

CHARLESTON—Catholics for a Sustainable Economy (a West Virginia-based group promoting Catholic teaching on care for God's creation) and the West Virginia Council of Churches organized a roundtable discussion on a just transition to a clean energy economy in West Virginia.

The event took place at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston Feb. 10 and was attended by leaders in the faith, labor, business, and environmental sectors. Bishop Mark E. Brennan was one of eight dialogue participants. He described the conversation as engaging and dynamic, with insights from individuals representing Catholic Charities West Virginia, the Blue Green Alliance, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Charleston NAACP, and a West Virginia University student and member of the Laudato Si Advocates Program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"As Pope Francis reminds us (in his 2015encyclical Laudato Si’), we must care for the earth, our common home," Bishop Brennan said. "We know we need to move toward a cleaner and healthier environment."

Bishop Brennan opened the session indicating that while climate change has been an ongoing phenomenon, the challenge remains to determine how humans are contributing to it and finding ways to stop or possibly reverse climate change.

“What does a just transition mean for your organization?” asked Mark Phillips, chief operating officer of Catholic Charities West Virginia, who moderated the conversation. As each of the panelists, in a brief statement, delineated their organizations particular goals and interests, they soon found common ground in that the focus cannot be on solely one factor but needs to take into equal consideration other parts, in particular the people involved. An emphasis was also put on community participation, meaning residents need to be part of the decision-making process, and any development needs to be See “Energy” on Page 3
Vatican, Environmental Institute Release Action Guide for Sustainability

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To help local parishes, schools, other groups and individuals reflect on the practical and concrete action they can take to help tackle today’s environmental challenges, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Stockholm Environment Institute have released a guidebook.


The guide “aims to empower” local churches and local community efforts “with inspiration, with introspection, with careful consideration of what has to change,” Cardinal Michael Czerny, the dicastery prefect, said during an online news conference Feb. 14.

The guide “calls for urgent and immediate climate action” and provides clear information, “information and tools essential for community-based responses,” he added.

It represents “an important and hopeful collaboration between two great sectors: that of science and that of faith,” he said. “The call to protect, care and regenerate creation must be a priority for everyone, regardless of one’s belonging to this or that religion or none at all.”

The booklet is available online or in print in five languages. It covers problems such as food waste, air pollution, water insecurity and biodiversity loss, offers spiritual reflection and suggestions practical action to build a more sustainable future.

The joint initiative also encouraged people to join the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, which helps Catholic institutions, communities and families implement the encyclical’s teaching.

The platform’s director, John Mundell, is a Catholic and an earth scientist and environmental engineer. Launched in November 2021, the platform now has nearly 7,000 participants, he said during the Feb. 14 news conference.

Participants represent more than 3,000 families and individuals, 150 dioceses and 385 parishes, 540 religious congregations and 700 religious communities, 1,050 educational institutions, 500 hospitals, healthcare agencies, businesses and organizations,” he said.

The platform’s “ground-up approach inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical” has one clear goal, he said: “to inspire and empower everyone to take practical and concrete decisive action, here and now as we journey toward a better future together.”

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, please present 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 used by 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 checks, training, and 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.”
Catholic Community Expresses Sorrow, Prayers after ‘Horrific’ Michigan State Shooting

By Michael Stechschulte

DETOUR (OSV News) — Catholic leaders in the state of Michigan reacted Feb. 14 to the news of a mass shooting on the campus of Michigan State University with a mixture of shock, sorrow and a pledge to pray for and accompany victims.

Police reported a 43-year-old male suspect killed three people and injured at least five others on the East Lansing campus when he opened fire late Feb. 13. The suspect was later discovered dead off campus with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

As news of the incident spread early the next morning, Lansing bishop Earl A. Boyea expressed solidarity with the community and with first responders.

“A dreadfully dark day in East Lansing. May the love of Almighty God restore health to the injured; sustain those caring for them; bestow solace on those who mourn and eternal rest to those who were killed,” Bishop Boyea tweeted early Feb. 14. “The Catholic community is praying that they rest in peace.”

According to news reports, the shootings took place at Michigan State’s Berkey Hall and nearby Student Union, two blocks south of St. John Catholic Church and Student Center, which serves university students, faculty and staff. No violence was reported at the parish itself.

According to a Facebook post, staff and priests from the parish have been on scene ministering to those affected since the shooting took place.

The parish celebrated two morning Masses Feb. 14 at St. Thomas Aquinas, the parish’s other worship site, with Eucharistic adoration available at St. John. A Mass for the entire Michigan State community is scheduled for 8:45 p.m. today at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School had canceled classes Feb. 14.

“Staff and clergy have been active since the news broke last night of the tragic events on and near campus,” a post from the parish said. “How can you help? For now, prayers are welcome and we hope to dedicate our time and space to students in need.”

Michigan State University officials canceled classes for Feb. 14 and 15 as police continued to investigate. Law enforcement said the morning after the shooting they were still working to determine a motive, and the suspect was not affiliated with the university as a student or employee.

Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron joined his prayers to those of the East Lansing community, which is about 90 miles northwest of Detroit.

“It is with profound sadness that we learn more about the horrific violence in East Lansing yesterday evening. We join in mourning the young lives cut short, praying that the injured are restored to good health, and lifting up all those impacted by these terrible actions. Let us also offer prayers of gratitude for the heroic service of first responders and health care professionals,” Archbishop Vigneron said in a statement.

“May Almighty God grant the Michigan State community peace and healing in the difficult days ahead,” he added.

Several Detroit-area parishes also expressed solidarity with the victims and their families, with some parishes planning virtual rosaries and other events to pray for those impacted.

Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools in Warren posted a prayer on Facebook begging God for mercy on the community and for peace.

“Almighty and most merciful God, we come to you with heavy hearts and troubled minds after the events at Michigan State University,” it said. “We pray for the victims, teachers, students, and families. May the souls of the innocent victims find eternal safety and rest. We pray for all who are hospitalized. We give thanks for all the first responders including law enforcement and medical personnel for their intervention. God, grant strength and peace to all those impacted. In Your name we pray. Amen.”

(Michael Stechschulte is the editor-in-chief of Detroit Catholic, the news outlet for the Archdiocese of Detroit.)

Energy... Cont’d from Page 1

planned with them and not just for them. IIsrael Hannah, chief conservation coordinator at WV Rivers Coalition, said that her organization was faced with the need to protect West Virginia born from the desire to promote environmental justice, to come together and discuss what a just transition looks like in West Virginia. “It is with profound sadness that we learn more about the horrific violence in East Lansing yesterday evening. We join in mourning the young lives cut short, praying that the injured are restored to good health, and lifting up all those impacted by these terrible actions. Let us also offer prayers of gratitude for the heroic service of first responders and health care professionals,” Archbishop Vigneron said in a statement.

Today’s roundtable was a summary of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). One goal is to invest in domestic energy production while promoting clean energy. She explained how tax credits for various programs and projects help promote environmental justice. Funding will be available by this summer and will go where it is needed the most. Based on certain parameters such as pollution and average income most of West Virginia is qualified to receive funding from the IRA.

There are more that also nonprofit organizations can benefit from the IRA, explaining that instead of receiving tax credits they can work through grants.

“It is daunting to navigate, but possible,” he said.

“I’m not saying that we’re more possibilities than ever.”

The Rev. Jeff Allen, executive director of the West Virginia Council of Churches and an organizer of the event, noted, “Today’s roundtable was a unique opportunity for persons representing a wide variety of sectors, including faith, labor, and the environment, to come together and discuss what a just transition looks like in West Virginia.” He further said, “We need more discussions like this to recognize our connection with one another in all of this and to remember that a just transition is also a transition between this generation and the next, who will bear the benefits and consequences of our actions today.”

The participants agreed to draft a joint statement summarizing their insights and proposals that also could benefit other organizations, in particular various faith communities.

The Catholic Spirit 3
West Virginia House Passes Bill to Support Mothers and Babies

By Colleen Rowan
CHARLESTON—The West Virginia House of Delegates passed HB 2002, which would provide funding for pregnancy centers to help mothers and babies, in an 88-8 vote Feb. 9. The bill now heads to the state Senate.

The bill requires the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resource’s Bureau for Public Health to establish the West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program, which will provide funding for pregnancy centers. An abortion industry organization may not receive funding from the program, the bill states.

The DHHR would select a managing agency to oversee the program. “The management agency may not perform, prescribe, refer for, advocate for, or encourage abortion; nor may they affiliate or hold any relationship with any abortion industry organization or any entity that controls, is or is under common control with an abortion industry organization,” the bill states.

The Support for Mothers and Babies Act (HB 2002) is one of the two priority bills on the West Virginians for Life (WVFL) 2023 legislative agenda.

“Our team is advocating for this because the pro-life movement has always understood the importance of providing care to mothers not just while they are pregnant, but for months and even years after she gives birth. Now that the vast majority of mothers and babies are protected from the cold hands of the abortion industry, we can focus on providing support to families,” said WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Keaton.

“We appreciate the overwhelming support for pregnant mothers and their babies as we work together to pass laws that reflect West Virginia’s pro-life values,” said Wanda Franz, president of West Virginians for Life.

Rally Gathers Pro-Life Community at State Capitol

By Colleen Rowan
CHARLESTON—Once again, the annual Pro-Life Rally at the capitol in Charleston brought people from all walks of life from around the state together in defense of the unborn. The rally, sponsored by West Virginians for Life (WVFL), was held Feb. 13.

Father Doug Ondeck, pastor of St. Patrick Parish and School in Weston, gave the invocation. He was joined by Pastor Tom Price of Roxelana Gospel Tabernacle in Dunbar, who gave the benediction. Joining Father Ondeck at the rally was a group of students from St. Patrick’s Pro-Life Club, who hosted a sign-making station. The students’ table held a sign that proudly proclaimed: “St. Patrick’s School is Pro-Life.”

The students were commended for their efforts by their school with a post on Facebook. “They collected donations for West Virginians for Life and distributed materials,” the school posted. “They also had the opportunity to meet local representatives and make their voices heard for the babies that were silenced before they had a voice.”

Fairmont Deacon Invites All to Join in Spring Mission Trip to Kentucky

The Ecumenical Mission Team formed in association with the Greater Fairmont Council of Churches in 2005 is planning a disaster relief mission trip to Southeastern Kentucky the week of March 12-17.

The team will be led again this year by Deacon David Lester of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont. This trip is in response to the devastating “1,000-year flood event” of July 2022 that hit the area that completely destroyed over 100 homes and left thousands in the six-county area unlivable. The group plans to travel to Letcher County with a focus of the work in and around Whitesburg.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age and these dates were chosen to coincide with Spring Break at WVU in hopes that up to four students might be able participate. The size of the group is being limited to 12 persons. All people of faith are welcome.

Housing and accommodations will be provided by a local group “Save His Sheep” working out of the former high school in Jenkins, Ky., which was renovated for community purposes. Letcher County has a Long Term Recovery Committee that will be helping with oversight and funding of the majority of building materials. The fee to participate in the trip is $100 per person and we encourage those who cannot afford this to petition their congregation to help with it. Those who would like to learn more about the trip may contact Deacon David Lester at (304) 592-2693 or e-mail davidplester@aol.com. Texting is not available. Those wishing to make the trip may request an application.

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the expenses of the trip may make donations to “St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church” 407 Jackson St., Fairmont, WV 26554 with “Disaster Mission” in the notation line on the check.

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Catholic Charities to Host Shining a Light on Hope Gala in Wheeling

WHEELING—Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) will host its Shining a Light on Hope Gala on Saturday, March 4 at Oglebay’s Glessner Auditorium in Wheeling.

“After two years of hosting our gala virtually, we are excited to celebrate with our friends in person this year,” said Beth Zarate, CCWVa president and CEO. “We’re also continuing our tradition of recognizing leaders in the community who demonstrate true Charity in Action.”

CCWVa offers a network of services supporting people from the beginning of life to the end of life. The agency collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide comprehensive social services to those in need.

This year CCWVa will honor three Charity in Action Award honorees at the gala. The award honors individuals or groups who share their gifts through charitable works.

The recipients of the 2023 Charity in Action Award are Vickie Joseph, Crystal Bauer, and Our Lady of Peace Parish and School.

Vickie Joseph

In her career as a social worker, Vickie spent her days helping others. But Vickie’s altruism went beyond her job requirements. She has always been actively involved in many projects that help others in our community, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center and the Winter Shelter.

“Vickie is humble and self-effacing,” said Janet Boyle, CCWVa Board member. “The only reason she agreed to let me nominate her was the possibility that her nomination would highlight the many needs in our community and encourage others to get involved.”

In addition to the ministries already mentioned, Vickie has worked on three different Habitat for Humanity houses in Wheeling, has been a Girl Scout leader, and is the secretary of the Fort Steuben Daughters of the American Revolution.

Crystal Bauer

Crystal Bauer is a member of Project HOPE, a collaboration of medical, nursing, social work, pastoral care and other professionals who serve together on the street and in shelters in Wheeling. Crystal works tirelessly to help those without housing. In her work and through Project HOPE, she also supports Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center, Northwood Health Systems, and the Homeless Coalition.

“Crystal is a hard-working, compassionate member of the Wheeling community,” said Nadeine Wilson, CCWVa Homeless Outreach Case Manager. “She advocates for those without housing, understands their needs, and is persistent in making those services available.”

Our Lady of Peace Parish and School (OLP)

Our lady of Peace (OLP) is a Catholic parish and grade school (K-8) that is committed to being a people of P.E.A.C.E.: Prayer, Encouragement and example, Academic excellence, Community, commitment, covenant, Esteem for self and others.

OLP’s commitment to serving vulnerable West Virginians in partnership with Catholic Charities is evident through their annual canned food drive, their numerous volunteers who help in the community, and their fundraising campaigns, and more.

See “Gala” on Page 6
Bishop Waltersheid to Lead Lenten Mission at Cathedral


The mission will be held on March 5, 6, and 7 beginning each evening at 6 p.m. in the cathedral.

“In observance of the National Eucharistic Revival, our theme will be 'The Holy Eucharist: The Source of Our Life, Salvation, and Mission,’” parish officials said. “Bishop Waltersheid is a wonderful speaker and devout bishop who has a deep love for Christ and His Church. This will be an event that you don’t want to miss!”

Bishop Waltersheid will lead the three-night Lenten Mission.

“A mission is a wonderful way to encounter Jesus and deepen or reawaken our faith with special talks, prayer, music, and reflection,” parish officials said.

There will also be the opportunity for confessions. Everyone is invited.

Our Lady of Peace Church, Wheeling

Gala...

Cont’d from Page 5

“OLP is committed to helping our neighbors in need in so many ways,” said Latrisha Whitelatch, CCWVa Grant specialist and OLP parent. “They live their values every day, and they are true examples of Charity in Action.”

“We are grateful for and inspired by many partners who walk this journey with us, and we’re honored to recognize these dedicated individuals,” said Zarate.

Proceeds from the gala support CCWVa’s programs and services in 17 counties in northern West Virginia. As part of the gala, CCWVa will host a virtual auction. The auction will be available at bidpal.net/CCWVa from March 2 -5.

The Gala is presented through the generosity of major sponsors: WVU Medicine and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

More details and tickets for the event are available on CCWVa’s website at: www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/Gala.
Legion of Mary Offers Morning of Reflection on Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

By Maria Byrd, Our Lady of Good Help Legion of Mary in Charles Town

The Legion of Mary at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town was re-established May 5, 2022, and since then, it has expanded to three praesidia: Our Lady of Good Help praesidium, Our Lady of Grace Praesidium, and Hispanic Estrella de la Manana (Morning Star) Praesidium. The Legion of Mary organized a morning of Reflection on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saturday, February 11.

The purpose of this event was to provide the attendees an opportunity to grow spiritually, to be called to pray the rosary, and to prepare for the season of Lent. Guests from the surrounding parishes joined the parishioners of St. James in Mass, adoration and confessions, recitation of the rosary, breakfast/fellowship, and three conferences. The morning ended at noon with the prayers of the Angelus.

The Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem priests, Father Bill Kuchinsky, and Father Tom Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, joined Very Rev. Timothy Grassi, V.F., pastor of St. James, to hear confessions, as 90 faithful attended the event.

Inspired by the apparition of Our Blessed Mother in Lourdes, each of the three speakers (Father Gallagher, Deacon William Bronzi and Father Grassi) provided a different talk, from the miracles of Lourdes, spiritual healing and the works of mercy, the importance of attending Mass and praying the rosary, and the rosary as a powerful weapon of our times.

The Legion of Mary is an apostolate. The purpose of the Legion of Mary is the sanctification of its members and to be arms and legs of the parish priest in the parish. The altar displayed at the event, features a statue of Our Lady of Grace, candles, flowers and the vexillum (symbol of the legion), is the same altar arranged by the Legion of Mary's founder, Frank Duff, in Dublin, Ireland, over 100 years ago on Sept. 7, 1921.

The banner of St. James's first praesidium, Our Lady of Good Help, displays the image of Our Lady of Good Help, in honor of Our Lady’s apparition in Champion, Wisconsin, to the seer, Adele Brise (Brice). The banner was prepared for this event, and will join all the others in the upcoming most important function of the Legion of Mary, the annual ACIES, which will be celebrated on March 25. This event is celebrated throughout the world. In this celebration, legionnaires renew their consecration to Mary.

For more information about the Legion of Mary, contact legionofmary@stjameswv.org.

(Byrd is also principal of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.)
Dr. John Bergsma to Lead Lenten Mission in Weirton

WEIRTON — St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton will have a Parish Lenten Mission March 13-15 led by renowned author Dr. John Bergsma. He is the author of "Bible Basics for Catholics," "Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls," "Jesus and the Old Testament Roots of the Priesthood," "New Testament Basics for Catholics," and "Psalm Basics for Catholics." An inimitable bible scholar, nationally renowned speaker, Franciscan University professor of theology, and a close collaborator of Dr. Scott Hahn and Dr. Brant Pitre, Bergsma is a former Protestant pastor. He is vice president of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, a husband, father, and so much more.

During his visit, Bergsma, of illustrious repute, will be giving talks on Spiritual Warfare and the Eucharist. After each of his presentations, a meet and greet with book signing will run concurrently with confession.

"Learn how to protect your family from the present darkness and go on the charitable offensive with the Sword of the Spirit, the Helmet of Salvation, and the full Armor of God to win souls for Christ (Ephesians 6:10-18)!" parish officials said of the parish mission.

This event is open to anyone in the diocese.

As a bonus, check out a clip from the recent interview that popular Catholic YouTuber Matt Fradd (Pints with Aquinas) did with Bergsma on the Dead Sea Scrolls. To watch, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1X0yqQusul

Dr. John Bergsma, speaker
Nationally renowned speaker and author, Bible Scholar and former Protestant Pastor, Vice-President of the St. Paul Center of Biblical Theology, full-time professor of Theology at Franciscan University.

Mon, Tues, Wed.
March 13 - 15
7-8 PM
Mission Talk
8-9 PM
Confession/Meet & Greet
Talk #1 (Monday) Confession as Spiritual Warfare
Talk #2 (Tuesday) Eucharistic Testimony
Talk #3 (Weds.) Spiritual Discipline in Spiritual Warfare
Book sales and signing, meet and greet and refreshments.
All Are Welcome!
By Kate Scanlon
WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The FBI is facing scrutiny after a leaked memo suggested some “radical traditionalist” Catholics pose threats of racial or ethnically motivated violence. The memo has since been retracted by the bureau, a spokesperson told OSV News.

In a leaked memo dated Jan. 23, an analyst at the FBI’s Richmond Division said “radical Traditionalist Catholics” are “typically characterized by the rejection of the Second Vatican Council.” The memo said the ideology can amount to an “adherence to anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ and white supremacist ideology.” The memo also names far-right personality Nick Fuentes, who publicly self-identifies as Catholic and whom the memo says has ties to “white Christian nationalism.”

However, the memo distinguishes “radical traditionalist” Catholics as “separate and distinct” from “traditionalist Catholics,” Catholics who “simply prefer the Traditional Latin Mass and pre-Vatican II teachings.”

Nevertheless, the leaked FBI memo generated everything from unease over its contents to outrage from some quarters alleging the FBI was labeling all Catholics a threat.

Rick Garnett, a professor of law at the University of Notre Dame, told OSV News that although the FBI retracted the memo, “that it was ever composed is troubling.”

“While it probably does not violate America’s religious freedom laws for a law enforcement agency to discuss threats in particular communities, the memo echoes an ugly, and long-standing, tendency in the United States of seeing Catholics as somehow disloyal or particularly problematic,” Garnett said.

Robert A. Destro, a professor of law at The Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law in Washington, told OSV News the FBI’s memo overstepped the agency’s realm of authority.

If the FBI had evidence of criminal conduct by a member of one of the groups, Destro said, “then it seems to me they should do exactly what they would do in a criminal case, which is they would get a warrant to wiretap them, maybe search their house.”

Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, expressed alarm at the memo’s contents.

“People of all faith groups have long found refuge in the constitutional protections of our great nation,” Bishop Knestout said in a statement. “We all seek to share in God’s gift of life, enjoy the fruits of liberty that our nation offers and assist one another in ensuring the common good.”

Bishop Knestout noted in his statement that some of the groups named in the memo are not in full communion with the church, adding, “If evidence of extremism exists, it should be rooted out, but not at the expense of religious freedom.”

“A preference for traditional forms of worship and holding closely to the Church’s teachings on marriage, family, human sexuality, and the dignity of the human person does not equate with extremism,” he said.

Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, alongside attorneys general from 19 other states, sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland condemning the memo as “anti-Catholic.”

Miyares said in a statement that “Virginia is the birthplace of religious freedom and has a long history of protecting the inalienable right to live your faith free from government interference or intimidation.”

“The leaked memo from our state capital’s FBI office is unacceptable, unconstitutional, and un-American. Frankly, it’s what I would expect from Communist Cuba,” Miyares said. “As attorney general, I’m responsible for defending Virginians’ rights, and religious freedom is the bedrock of the constitutional protections of the United States and of Virginia. Virginians should not and will never conduct a review of the basis for the document,” the statement said.

“The FBI is committed to sound analytical tradecraft and to investigating and preventing acts of violence and other crimes while upholding the constitutional rights of all Americans and will never conduct investigative activities or open an investigation based solely on First Amendment protected activity.”

Here is a link to a copy of the leaked, now withdrawn, FBI memo:

Here is a link to the Feb. 10 attorneys general letter to the FBI: https://files.constantcontact.com/d3e83e11901/77c1d6d8c-d1f3-4b2a-925b-8596c6f1b8b.pdf?hrd=true.

Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington. Follow her on Twitter @kgscanlon.
LAKEVILLE, Minn. (OSV News) — When Flora Whitfield was 14, a man she’d met in Minneapolis took her out of state without her family’s knowledge.

For the next two weeks, the boyfriend/trafficker sold her for sex. When he brought her back to Minnesota, he beat her, giving her a black eye and several concussions, said Whitfield, now 32, who told her story at an event at All Saints Church in Lakeville titled “Human Trafficking: From Darkness into the Light.”

Until his arrest several years later, the trafficker continued to control Whitfield and forced her into sex work. She didn’t feel leaving was an option. Not until her 20s — when she attended an education program at Breaking Free, a nonprofit in St. Paul, Minnesota — did Whitfield fully understand what had happened to her. “I didn’t even know that I was a victim,” she said. “I didn’t know that it was not my choice.”

Now associate program director at the organization, which provides housing and social services to victims of sex trafficking and prostitution, Whitfield said she’s learned who she is as a person and about boundaries.

Sharing personal and law enforcement perspectives at the event — which drew nearly 200 parishioners and members of other Catholic parishes and Christian denominations — Whitfield said she’s learned who she is as a person about boundaries.

Sharing personal and law enforcement perspectives at the event — which drew nearly 200 parishioners and members of other Catholic parishes and Christian denominations — Whitfield said she’s learned who she is as a person and about boundaries.

Dronen’s department no longer has officers dedicated to sex trafficking cases, but other area law enforcement agencies do, he said.

Prostitutes often are victims of their “pimps,” or those controlling them, Dronen said. While law enforcement targets pimps and customers, Minnesota’s Safe Harbor program for youths caught up in prostitution provides victim-centered, trauma-informed services and safe housing, he said.

One third of teenagers on the street are approached by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home, Dronen said. Even more concerning are traffickers on social media who encourage children to run away, he said. Dronen suggested that parents purchasing phones for their children set up parental monitoring of the devices. Also important, he said, is to obtain names and telephone numbers of their children’s friends and keep track of their activities.

Valerie Beck, 51, a member of evangelical Trinity Church in Lakeville, said she wanted to connect with others working on trafficking issues. In the next two years, she plans to open a transitional home for women who have experienced sexual exploitation. They need to know there is hope, she said. “I want them to know that life can be transformed, that Jesus loves them, regardless of what has happened to them, and that they can have a new, different life than what they’ve experienced,” Beck said.

(Susan Klemond writes for The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.)
Registration Opens for 2024 National Eucharistic Congress

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Registration for the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024, opened Feb. 15.

The Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary Sending 2024-25 is the third and final year of the U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival.

The congress is expected to draw more than 80,000 people, and organizers have compared the event to World Youth Day, with prayer and liturgies, catechesis for individuals and families, and a festival-like atmosphere. Registration is expected to fill quickly, said Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress, told OSV News in a recent interview.

Those who want to attend can sign up at the National Eucharistic Congress's website, www.eucharisticcongress.org.

Launched last year, the National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year campaign by the U.S. bishops to increase the Catholic understanding of and devotion to Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Part of the impetus for the campaign was a Pew Research Center study in the fall of 2019 that showed just 30% to 40% of Catholics understand and believe in the Real Presence.

A more recent study conducted by the Center For Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University found that 50% of Catholics know the teaching on the Real Presence in the Eucharist and only 40% believe this teaching. The study also showed that only 15% of Catholics attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis.

The revival opened June 19, 2022, on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, a feast that celebrates the Body and Blood of Christ. Many dioceses marked the day last year with Eucharistic processions.

Speaking to the media in November about the revival, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, said the beauty and diversity expressed in those processions “capture what is at the heart of this movement, which is a movement that we seek to invite people to a transformative encounter with Christ in the Eucharist that they might be healed, unified and sent on mission.”

The diocesan year has included the launch of Heart of the Revival weekly e-newsletter (available in English and Spanish), expanded content on the National Eucharistic Revival’s website (eucharisticrevival.org) and the training of more than 50 priests from around the U.S. to be Eucharistic preachers. Those priests have been primarily preaching at events for priests and diocesan leaders, Bishop Cozzens told OSV News Dec. 30.

The Washington-based National Eucharistic Congress nonprofit was formed in 2022 to plan the national event. Bishop Cozzens serves as chairman of its board of directors.

In an April 2022 interview with Catholic News Service, Glemkowski noted that “the original vision” for the revival began to be discussed when then-Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles was chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis shortly after the Pew study results on Catholics’ understanding of the Real Presence.

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We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!
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National Black Catholic Congress XIII to be Held in Washington area in July

By Mark Zimmermann
WASHINGTON (OSV News) —

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The early congresses and now the modern gatherings have had a goal of showing that “Black Catholics have an equal place in the church with any other Catholics,” he said. The gathering, he said, can help Black Catholics persevere in their faith and show the gifts from God that they have to share.

Discussing the impact that the National Black Catholic Congress can have on individuals, parishes and dioceses, Bishop Campbell said, “We start with a change of our hearts and move to change the hearts of others, so we’re all walking together. That’s what we do in our parishes. Just like a family is the building block of society, the parishes are the building blocks of the church.”

A promotional flier for the upcoming National Black Catholic Congress XIII invited people to “join with other Black Catholics and those who minister to Black Catholics in the United States for a celebration of our faith and culture.”

Early registration for the National Black Catholic Congress XIII ends Feb. 28 and regular registration ends July 15. For more information, including a schedule of events, and to register, go online to nbccgathering 2023.org.

(Mark Zimmermann is editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.)

During Black History Month in February, Catholics are being invited to register to attend this summer’s National Black Catholic Congress, which over the years has made history of its own.

The National Black Catholic Congress XIII will be held July 20-23 at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland, just outside the District of Columbia. It marks the third time the Washington area has hosted the gathering, and each of those times, key participants include noted figures in U.S. Catholic history.

St. Augustine Church in Washington — the mother church for Black Catholics in the nation’s capital, founded this summer by men and women of color in 1858 — hosted the inaugural congress gathering, which opened on New Year’s Day 1889 and included a Mass celebrated by Father Augustus Tolton, the first U.S. Catholic priest publicly known to be Black and whose cause for sainthood is now being considered. He was declared “Venerable” by Pope Francis in 2019.

First three congresses were held before the turn of that century, and then that movement was revived with National Black Catholic Congress VI held in 1987 on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, where the speakers included Sister Thea Bowman, a Francis- can Sister of Perpetual Adoration and dynamic evangelist who died of cancer in 1990. Her sainthood cause opened in 2020, becoming the first African American cardinal in history — will give the opening keynote speech and celebrate the opening Mass.

On Feb. 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (EST), the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach of the Archdiocese of Washington hosted an online information session on the 2023 congress, which had as its theme, “Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive.”

The virtual meeting provided background, details and registration information about the congress, the largest national gathering in support of Black Catholic ministry that brings together lay people, clergy and religious for prayer, dialogue and discernment.

Wendi Williams, the executive director of that office, noted that the National Black Catholic Congress “coming to the Archdiocese of Washington is a coming home at an important time for Black Catholics, coming out of COVID, really sensing the needs and interests as they exist today, and how we plan to move the priorities forward.”

She explained that “the congress movement is a mechanism to involve the lay faithful with the Black Catholic ministry. By attending, the lay faithful are involved with decisions and priorities that will become the pastoral plan (of the National Black Catholic Congress) for the next five years.”

That national pastoral plan is integral to diocesan plans and parish outreach for Black Catholics, Williams said, noting that it exemplifies the synodality that Pope Francis has encouraged in preparation for the world Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October.

“The congress is an important lay movement that helps ensure that the voices of the lay faithful are heard and acted upon,” Williams told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese. “It’s about listening, dialogue, discernment and journeying together.”

Williams said that at the information session Feb. 16, the history of the congress movement would be shared, and people will learn “how each of us has an opportunity to be a part of it.”

In preparation for the National Black Catholic Congress XIII, parish representatives from throughout the Archdiocese of Washington in November 2022 participated in a day of reflection at St. Joseph Parish in Largo, Maryland, to shape local recommendations for the national gathering.

Washington Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell Jr., who also is St. Joseph’s pastor and president of the National Black Catholic Congress, welcomed those participants, saying, “We look at what we can do as a prophetic people for our communities, families and church.”

The National Black Catholic Congress, which meets every five years, was held in Orlando, Florida, in 2017; in Indianapolis in 2012; in Buffalo, New York, in 2007; in Chicago in 2002; in Baltimore in 1997; in New Orleans in 1992; and in Washington, in 1987. At each gathering, the congress renews its mission with a new pastoral plan.

Several key recommendations in the Pastoral Plan of Action from the most recent National Black Congress gathering in Orlando included: enabling Black Catholics to enhance their Africentric spirituality; increasing awareness of Black saints; creating opportunities for lay leadership in the church; identifying and eradicating racism; increasing prison ministry and outreach; providing support for those experiencing domestic violence; and increasing awareness of and working to eliminate human trafficking.

Other recommendations were: developing Africentric religious education programs; providing outreach to unchurched members of the community; creating more sustainable Catholic schools; promoting and supporting Black Catholic vocation; and having parishes and dioceses “address the urgent issue of disengaged Black Catholic youth.”

Bishop Campbell said the pastoral plan devised in the upcoming congress will help Black Catholic parishes and churches with Black Catholic members “address the vision of what we’re called to do.”

The early congresses and now the modern gatherings have had a goal of showing that “Black Catholics have an equal place in the church with any other Catholics,” he said. The gathering, he said, can help Black Catholics persevere in their faith and show the gifts from God that they have to share.

Discussing the impact that the National Black Catholic Congress can have on individuals, parishes and dioceses, Bishop Campbell said, “We start with a change of our hearts and move to change the hearts of others, so we’re all walking together. That’s what we do in our parishes. Just like a family is the building block of society, the parishes are the building blocks of the church.”

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(Mark Zimmermann is editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.)
The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives of the University of Dayton and is an internet-based distance-learning program that supports both catechists and adult faith formation. The courses offered are grounded in the theology of Vatican II and cover a diversity of offerings, often providing opportunities for learning not available to parishioners or catechists in their local settings. Facilitators (experts in their field) guide students through the material whether that be online, face to face in a parish setting, or through a hybrid model using a mix of web-based materials combined with Zoom lectures.

In the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston participants have a choice of class formats to choose from: face to face classes in parish or pastoral center settings, hybrid classes (online materials with a once a week discussion via zoom with a facilitator) and community parish gatherings with a facilitator zooming in to lead the discussion.

Our next cycle of classes will run Feb 27th to April 2nd and the following classes and formats will be offered:

Hybrid courses (online and via Zoom) classes facilitated by Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, to register please email her at rodicastoiociu@gmail.com

**Introduction to Paul and Paul’s Letters**

The course is an in-depth look at Paul, including his autobiography according to his letters, then moving on to discuss the authentic letters of Paul as both history and theology. We will cover topics such as Paul and Politics, Paul and Women, Paul and the Second Coming, Paul and Slavery, Paul and Judaism, and Paul on Salvation and Suffering throughout the five weeks of this course. Students will read a variety of materials including some of the most important articles written about Paul in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. At the completion of this course students will be able to situate Paul in his first-century environment and talk intelligently about how Paul’s theology is relevant for today’s church.

Successful completion of this course earns 2.5 CEU’s, meets on Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

**Introduction to Prayer**

"Prayer is our means of taking a sighting, of reorienting ourselves – by re-establishing contact with our goal. In the presence of God many components of our life fall into perspective and our journey makes more sense. Prayer is inseparable from living" (Casey, p.5). This course explores prayer as essential to our lives as Christian people, as individuals and within our community of faith. Through this course, students will explore the qualities, forms and expressions of prayer that help to form and sustain our lives as Catholic Christians.

Successful completion of this course earns 2.5 CEU’s. This course is part of the VLCFF Certificate for Certification sequence, meets on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

In person: facilitated by Gerri Wright.

**Job Opening: Principal**

St. Patrick Church of Weston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Patrick Catholic School, pre-school through eighth grades. The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. The ideal candidate must have an earned Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification. The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience. A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF form to Julie Link, jlink@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until April 1, 2023.

**20/20 Vision Series**

**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.**

**FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFO CONTACT: ATROIANI@CSJOSEPH.ORG**

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

**March 3-5**

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**The Spirit of Christ in the Eucharist – the Source and Summit of the Church.**

**FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFO CONTACT: ATROIANI@CSJOSEPH.ORG OR CALL THE RETREAT CENTER AT: 304-232-8160 X112**

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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 Buckhannon

Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, was installed as pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon on Jan. 30. His installation Mass and dinner was celebrated by parishioners and guests. From left are, Deacon Rue Thompson; Father Tetteh; Very Rev. Casey Mahone, V.F.; Father Jim O’Conner; and Father John Tran, SVD.
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.

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.
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Transitioning from Hospital to Home

When patients are ready to be discharged from the hospital, they often realize that they are going home to a difficult situation. They may lack the social support of friends and family that many of us enjoy.

Our Hospital Transition Program is an innovative initiative, working in collaboration with hospitals to serve patients transitioning from hospital to home. Our case managers connect patients to community resources, evaluate home safety, arrange transportation to medical appointments, and can arrange for nutrition and living assistance.

We recently worked with a man with late-stage cancer. He recognized that he was unable to catch up on the bills that had piled up while he was in the hospital. Our case manager worked with him to maintain safe housing and provide home-delivered food pantry assistance, helping to ensure that he could continue living independently and with dignity.

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.

Still Need a Summer Job?

The Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp is dedicated to leading young people to Christ and His Church. If you’re committed to growing in faith, modeling faithful Catholic community life to young people, and living the adventure of His Creation, we want YOU at Camp Carlo for Summer 2023! If you are interested in serving the youth of West Virginia as a camp counselor for Summer 2023, please reach out to Deacon Raymond Godwin (rgodwin@frontiernet.net) or Maggie Moran (mmoran@dwc.org) for an application.

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 follows.
The weekend will consist of inspiring talks, facilitated discussions, Liturgy, Reconciliation, music, and private prayer.
Keynote Speaker and Celebrant: Father John Fennell

**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.
Joe Jordan Presents

Purpose Driven Retirement Strategies

Join us for an informative online presentation by award-winning author, financial thought leader, and brother Knight Joe Jordan.

Joe will show you the keys to a prosperous retirement without losing sight of your faith and values. His message has helped boomers & seniors with successful retirement strategies that go beyond just ROI (Return on Investment) and deal with ROL (Return on Life).

In “Purpose Driven Retirement Strategies” Joe will discuss the two fundamental questions you will face when planning for retirement: 1) How will you spend your time? 2) How are you going to pay for it?

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Inscripción para el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en 2024 abre el 15 de febrero

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—La inscripción para el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indianápolis del 17 al 21 de julio de 2024 se abrió el 15 de febrero.

El Año del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional y Evento Missionero 2024-25 es el tercer y último año del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional de los obispos de EE.UU.

Se espera que el congreso atraiga a más de 80,000 personas, y los organizadores han comparado el evento con la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, con oraciones y liturgias, catequesis para individuos y familias, y una atmósfera similar a la de un festival. Se espera que la inscripción se llene rápidamente, dijo Tim Glemkowski, director ejecutivo del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, a OSV News en una entrevista reciente.


Lanzado el año pasado, el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional es una campaña de tres años de los obispos de EE.UU. para aumentar la comprensión católica y la devoción a la presencia real de Cristo en la Eucaristía. Parte del impulso de la campaña fue un estudio del Pew Research Center en el otoño de 2019 que mostró que el 50% de los católicos americanos conocen la enseñanza sobre la Presencia Real de Jesucristo en el pan y vino de la Eucaristía y solo el 40% cree en esta enseñanza. El estudio también mostró que solo el 15% de los católicos asisten a la Misa dominical cada semana.

El avivamiento se inauguró el 19 de junio de 2022, en la solemnidad del Corpus Christi, fiesta que celebra el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo. Muchas diócesis marcaron el día el año pasado con procesiones eucarísticas.

Hablado a los medios en noviembre sobre el avivamiento, el Obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota, dijo que la belleza y la diversidad expresada en esas procesiones "capitan lo que está en el corazón de este movimiento, que es un movimiento al que buscamos invitar a la gente a un encuentro transformador con Cristo en la Eucaristía para que puedan ser sanados, unificados y enviados en misión".

El año diocesano ha incluido el lanzamiento del boletín electrónico semanal Corazón del avivamiento (disponible en inglés y español), contenido ampliado en el sitio web del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional (es.eucharisticre-vival.org) y la capacitación de más de 50 sacerdotes de todo el país para ser predicadores de la Eucaristía. Esos sacerdotes han estado predicando principalmente en eventos para sacerdotes y líderes diocesanos, dijo el Obispo Cozzens a OSV News el 30 de diciembre.

La organización sin fines de lucro del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional con sede en Washington se formó en 2022 para planificar el evento nacional. El Obispo Cozzens se desempeña como presidente de su junta directiva.

En una entrevista de abril de 2022 con Catholic News Service, Glemkowski señaló que "la visión original" para el avivamiento comenzó a discutirse cuando el entonces Obispo Auxiliar Robert E. Barron de Los Ángeles era presidente del Comité de Evangelización y Catequesis de la Conferencia Nacional de los Obispos de EE.UU., poco después del los resultados del estudio Pew sobre la comprensión de los católicos de la Presencia Real.

El Obispo Barron, ahora jefe de la Diócesis de Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, fue sucedido como presidente de evangelización en noviembre de 2020 por el Obispo Cozzens, quien siguió adelante con los planes para el avivamiento, y en 2021, los obispos católicos de EE.UU. votaron para aprobar la iniciativa.

Para informar a la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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 alientan 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 diocesanas: 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 Infantoil de Ninos y Familias de 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 los colegas: comuníquese con el obispo de su diócesis, sus auxiliares y su consejo de administración. Si cree que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con la diócesis. Para informar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a las autoridades diocesanas y líderes diocesanos, dijo el Obispo Cozzens a OSV News el 30 de diciembre.

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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 "Informe mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que permite denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

-Romans 5:5

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