

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

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 2015 encyclical *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 transi-



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan speaks at the roundtable discussion on a just transition to a clean energy economy in West Virginia organized by Catholics for a Sustainable Economy and the West Virginia Council of Churches. Also participating are, from left, Mark Phillips, chief operating officer of Catholic Charities West Virginia; George Capel, government relations director at WV State Building & Construction Trades Council; Jacob Israel Hannah, chief conservation officer at Coalfield Development; and Morgan King, climate campaign coordinator at WV Rivers Coalition.

tion 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 com-

munity participation, meaning residents need to be part of the decision-making process, and any development needs to be

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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.

Titled, "Our Common Home: A Guide to Caring for our Living Planet," the 20-page, full-color guide connects scientific facts and figures on key environmental issues with reflections and teachings from Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

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, "inspiration 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 suggests 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 and 800 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 by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment," then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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Catholic Community Expresses Sorrow, Prayers after 'Horrific' Michigan State Shooting

By Michael Stechsulte

DETROIT (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. The parish added that 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 Stechsulte 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. Jacob Israel Hannah, chief conservation officer at Coalfield Development, compared it to a three-legged table where each leg ("people, planet, profit") needs to be of equal length in order to keep the table in balance. He explained that in some European countries, government led efforts helped to phase out coal plants in 10-15 years. The U.S., however, is facing different scenarios and structures to make that possible. His organization currently offers workforce development training in 21 West Virginia counties for jobs related to clean energy and technologies as well as other diversified fields of employment. Hannah added that coal industry jobs cannot be replaced 1:1 by clean energy jobs, which makes diversification a necessity.

Bishop Brennan mentioned that the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston receives revenue from oil and gas wells in Texas which poses a "practical problem" since these funds are used in particular to sustain small

parishes. He also listed parishes installing solar panels and establishing recycling programs as ways to move forward.

"We need to be hopeful and follow God's wisdom," he said.

George Capel, government relations director at the West Virginia State Building & Construction Trades Council, appreciated that federal funds and state tax incentives provide great opportunities to attract new businesses to the state. He cautioned, however, that it is necessary to provide "local jobs for local workers" who get paid living wage rates, and to offer apprenticeship programs. Companies creating jobs but then building work camps and hiring out of state workers would be a step backwards, reminiscent of West Virginia coal company towns of the past, he said.

Rev. Ron English, president of the Charleston NAACP, spoke about the particular effects of environmental issues on African American communities and proposed "healing forward" as a strategy to pursue.

Morgan King, Climate Campaign coordinator at

WV Rivers Coalition, said that her organization was born from the desire to protect West Virginia waterways. It now strives to protect all fundamental needs of humankind, including water and air as well as dignified jobs in safe communities.

In the second part of the two-hour roundtable discussion, King presented 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.

Hannah added 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. "There are 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.



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Accepting New Patients

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 Resources' 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 controlled by, 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 Roxalana 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 oppor-



Courtesy Photo
Father Doug Ondeck, pastor of St. Patrick Parish and School in Weston, and students in St. Patrick's Pro-Life Club attend the Pro-Life Rally at the capitol in Charleston Feb. 13.

tunity to meet local representatives and make their voices heard for the

babies that were silenced before they had a voice."

St. Patrick students were one of many groups of Catholics who attended.

Rally goers also had the chance to hear from speakers: Secretary of State Mac Warner; State Treasurer Riley Moore; National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross; and WVFL President Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

Music was provided by Pastor Joey McCutcheon and Frank Tetenburn.

West Virginians for Life officials said the organization is celebrating the successful passage of the Unborn Child Protection Act last fall, which now protects the vast majority of women and babies from abortion.

WVFL also celebrated the West Virginia House passing the Support for Mothers and Babies Act (HB 2002), which would provide funding for pregnancy centers. The bill now heads to the state Senate. WVFL is also advocating support for The Women's Right

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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 for 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.

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 Nadine 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.

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Courtesy Photo
Members of the St. Patrick’s Pro-Life Club from Weston host a sign-making station at the Pro-Life Rally at the capitol in Charleston Feb. 13.

Life...

Cont’d from Page 4
to Know Act (SB 552) that requires women who qualify for abortion exceptions be informed about the risks of and alternatives to abor-

tion.
Those who attended the rally also participated in the annual Prayer Processional in which they carried small, white crosses in remembrance of unborn babies lost to abortion.




A Date for the
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Who: Scouts BSA
Location: Camp Mountaineer (Morgantown WV)
Hosted by: Catholic Committee on Scouting & the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
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Additional information: <https://scoutingevent.com/615-59082>
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Bishop Waltersheid to Lead Lenten Mission at Cathedral

WHEELING—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling invites all to its Lenten Mission led by Bishop William Waltersheid, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

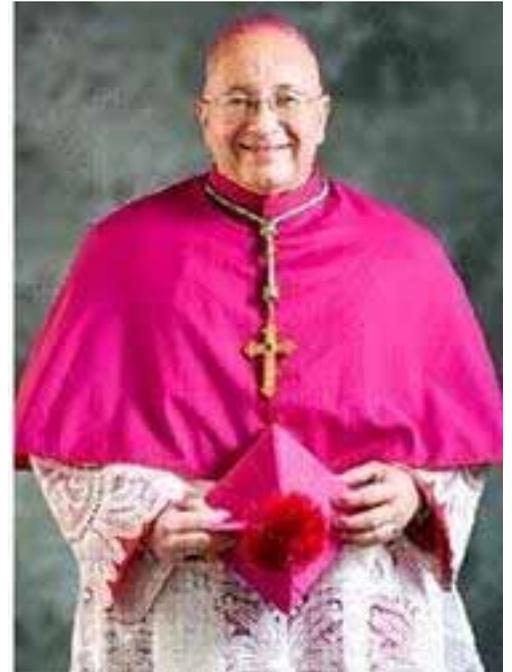
The mission will be held on March 5, 6, and 7 beginning each evening at 6 p.m. in the cathedral.

“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.



Courtesy Photo
Bishop William Waltersheid, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, is pictured at right.



Our Lady of Peace Church, Wheeling

Courtesy Photo

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.

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SALVATION, AND MISSION**

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WITH BISHOP WILLIAM WALTERSHEID**

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CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH, WHEELING

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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



John Sherwood Photo

Maria Byrd of Our Lady of Good Help Legion of Mary at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town is pictured at the morning of reflection on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11. Byrd is also principal of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.

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.)



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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 offen-

sive 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>

Madonna Senior a Finalist in National Merit Scholarship Program



Courtesy Photo
Jillian "Rylie" Cottrill, a senior at Madonna High School, has advanced to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship program of 2023. Rylie is one of over 15,000 finalists that will be considered for 7,250 National Merit Scholarships. Winners will be notified beginning in March.

St. Joe's Parish Lenten Mission

229 California Ave., Weirton, WV.



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

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FBI Faces Scrutiny about Memo on ‘Radical Traditionalist Catholics’

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 from 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 war-

rant 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 constitutions of the United States and of Virginia. Virginians should not and will not be labeled ‘violent extremists’ by their government because of how they worship, or because of their beliefs.”

The same FBI memo noted that “conversely, deep-seated anti-Catholicism remains a characteristic of many far-right white nationalists.”

A cited source in the FBI memo

is the the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), an organization that monitors “hate groups” but has faced criticism from some who say the group too widely applies that label.

Cassie Miller, senior research analyst with center’s Intelligence Project, told OSV News in an email, “There is a stark difference between traditionalist Catholics — who celebrate the Latin Mass and rebuff many of the liberalizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council — and the radical traditionalist Catholics tracked by the Southern Poverty Law Center.”

“The latter group is made up of a handful of organizations that not only reject many of the modern Catholic Church’s teachings and practices, but openly embrace anti-semitism,” Miller said. “The radical traditionalist Catholics groups we identify as hate groups promote Holocaust denial and argue that the reforms of Vatican II were part of a sinister Jewish plot, in addition to other racist, bigoted, and conspiratorial beliefs. These are groups that teach hatred of people based on their religious beliefs, and for that reason we consider them hate groups.”

SPLC in 2021 identified nine organizations as “radical traditional Catholicism hate groups,” including the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary located in Richmond, New Hampshire, which is not canonically recognized by the Catholic Church.

On its website, SPLC says “(r)adical traditionalist” Catholics “subscribe to an ideology that is rejected by the Vatican and some 70

million mainstream American Catholics” and “may make up the largest single group of serious anti-semites in America.”

A spokesperson for the FBI said in a statement provided to OSV News, “While our standard practice is to not comment on specific intelligence products, this particular field office product — disseminated only within the FBI — regarding racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism does not meet the exacting standards of the FBI.”

“Upon learning of the document, FBI Headquarters quickly began taking action to remove the document from FBI systems and conduct a review of the basis for the document,” the statement said. “The FBI is committed to sound analytic 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:

<https://www.uncoverdc.com/2023/02/08/the-fbi-doubles-down-on-christians-and-white-supremacy-in-2023>.

Here is a link to the Feb. 10 attorneys general letter to the FBI: <https://files.constantcontact.com/d3e83e11901/7bc1d68c-d1f3-4b2a-925b-8596fe1f1fb5.pdf?rdr=true>.

Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington. Follow her on Twitter @kgscanlon.

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Survivor, Police Officer Discuss Role Internet Plays in Human Trafficking

How Parents Can Protect Their Children

By Susan Klemond

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 and Lakeville Police Detective Jim Dronen talked about several as-

pects of human trafficking, including the internet's role in sex trafficking and ways parents can protect their children.

Minnesota also is a hub for drug trafficking, "so it would kind of make sense along the same lines that human trafficking would follow that path," he said.

The parish event during National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, observed every January, came about a month before the Feb. 12 Super Bowl being played in Glendale, Arizona — which as a large, public event provides numerous opportunities for commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, said Chris Kuhn, All Saints adult faith formation director.

Organizers of the All Saints event — and a follow-up planned for March — hope the meeting might lead to faith communities and others in the area forming relationships to help mitigate human trafficking, Kuhn said.

All Saints Parish has a human trafficking committee, which assists community partners through education, prayer services and speakers.

Minnesota law defines human trafficking as the sale of a person for the purpose of sexual acts or forced labor. Dronen said that when he began handling one or two sex trafficking cases a month in 2018, he worked with federal agents posing as minors on social media who encountered people seeking sex. When the customers came to Lakeville to meet a minor — "contact," Dronen and another officer arrested them.

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.)



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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, 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.

Bishop Barron, now head of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, was succeeded as evangelization chairman in November 2020 by Bishop Cozzens, who continued to move ahead with plans for the revival, and in 2021, the U.S. Catholic bishops voted to approve the initiative. In November 2022, the bishops elected Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis, in whose archdiocese the National Eucharistic Congress will take place, to succeed Bishop Cozzens as chairman of the evangelization and catechesis committee in November 2023.

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National Black Catholic Congress XIII to be Held in Washington area in July

By Mark Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — 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 included noted figures in U.S. Catholic history.

St. Augustine Church in Washington — the mother church for Black Catholics in the nation's capital, founded by free 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.

Five of those 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 Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and dynamic evangelist who died of cancer in 1990. Her sainthood cause also is underway. She has the title "Servant of God."

At the National Black Catholic Congress this summer, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory — the archbishop of Washington who was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis 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 parishes 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."

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 nbccgathering2023.org.

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



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Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation Announces Upcoming Courses

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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 dis-

ussion 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 rodicastoicoiuphd@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 ar-

ticles 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.

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

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

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NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule Spring 2023

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 19: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 26: St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15: St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 15: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 16: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 18: St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 24: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25: St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 30: St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6: St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 6: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 11: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 13: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 14: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 14: St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 19: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 20: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 20: St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 21: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 21: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, May 22: Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 28: St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 1: St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 11: Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 18: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 10: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.



Pastor Installed in 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.

Courtesy Photo

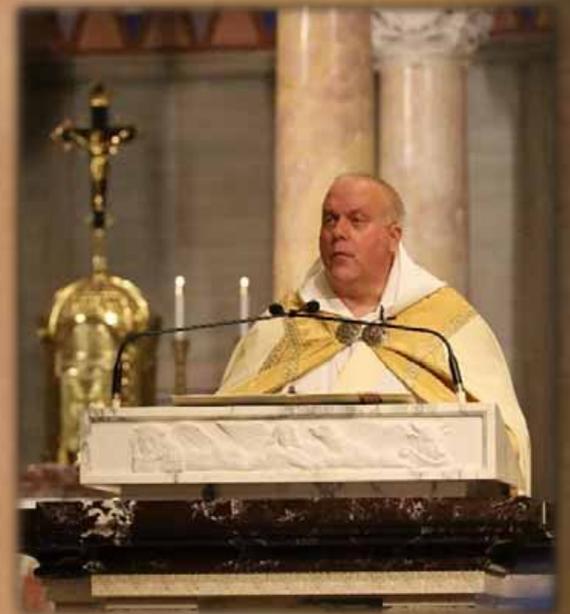
Catholic Men of West Virginia, Married or Single, Consider the Vocation of a Deacon



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

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

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



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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

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



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

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



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6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
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8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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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.



Catholic Charities' Hospital Transition Program provides wraparound services and supports for people transitioning from hospital to home. Courtesy Photo

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 will follow*
The weekend will consist of inspiring talks, facilitated discussions, Liturgy, Reconciliation, music, and private prayer.
Keynote Speaker and Celebrant: Father John Finnell
- Sunday** *Breakfast, concluding reflections, and Mass at 11 am*

Cost

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

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



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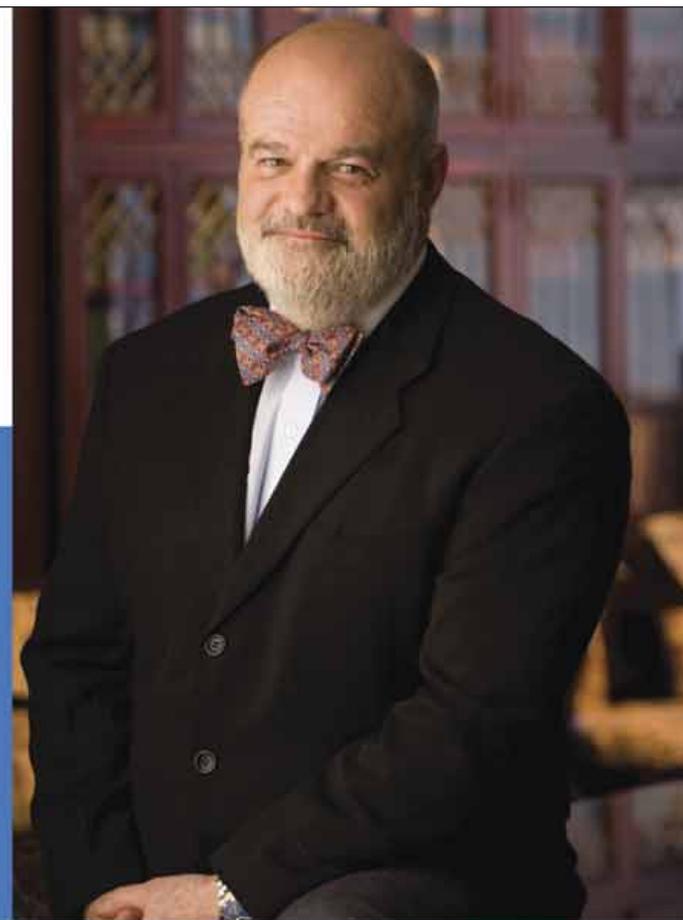
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Joe will show you the keys to a prosperous retirement without losing sight of your faith and values. His message has helped boomers & seniors with successful retirement strategies that go beyond just ROI (Return on Investment) and deal with ROL (Return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

You're cordially invited to join our new webinar where Joe will be your guide to devising a meaningful and secure retirement strategy!

Register today to reserve your spot.

Date: February 23, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Registration link: purpose.abbatekofc.com

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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 Envío Misionero 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.

Aquellos que quieran asistir pueden registrarse en el sitio web del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, www.eucharisticcongress.org.

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 ímpetu de la campaña fue un estudio del Pew Research Center en el otoño de 2019 que mostró que solo entre el 30% y el 40% de católicos en Estados Unidos entienden y creen en la Presencia Real.

Un estudio más reciente realizado por el Centro de Investigación Aplicada en el Apostolado de la Universidad de Georgetown (CARA por sus siglas en inglés) encontró que el 50% de los católicos 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.

Hablando 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 "captan 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.eucharisticrenewal.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 de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU. poco después de 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. En noviembre de 2022, los obispos eligieron al Arzobispo Charles C. Thompson de Indianápolis, en cuya arquidiócesis se llevará a cabo el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, para suceder al Obispo Cozzens como presidente del comité de evangelización y catequesis en noviembre de 2023.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:

llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988. Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

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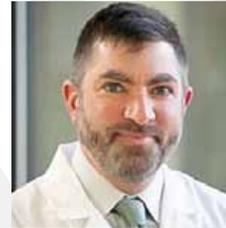
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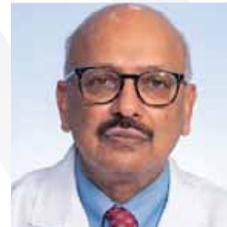
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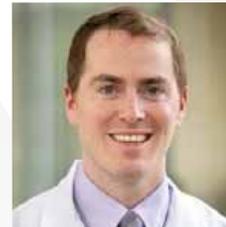
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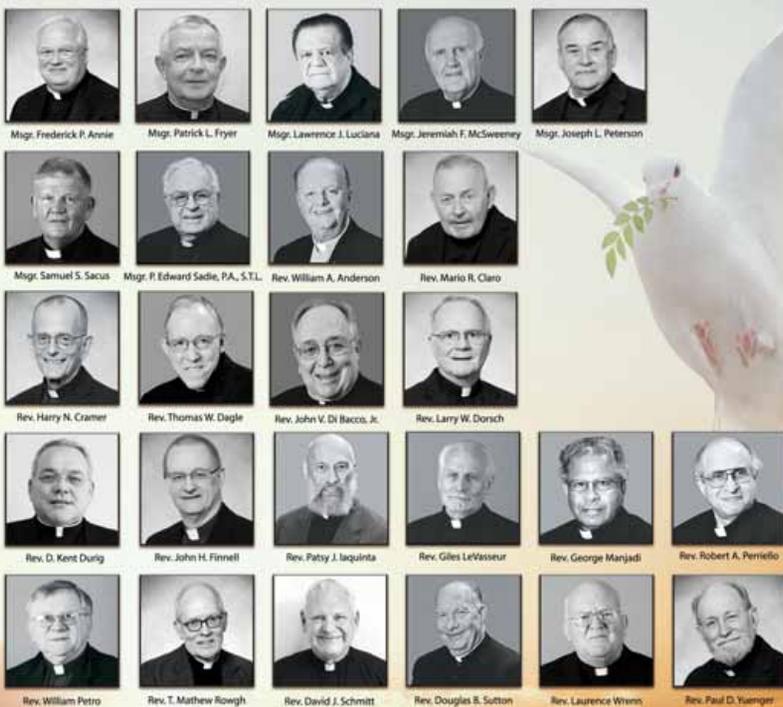


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