

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

# Pro-Life Cause is a Fight for ‘the Soul of Our Nation and Church,’ Bishop Brennan Says at National Holy Hour

By Colleen Rowan

“In fighting for the restoration of the right of unborn children to be born, we are fighting for the soul of our nation and indeed the soul of our church,” Bishop Mark Brennan said in his homily for a national Holy Hour for Life at the Cathedral of St. Jo-

seph in Wheeling Jan. 18.

“We must never give up, no matter how long we must fight,” Bishop Brennan said. “We have to continue to speak about the unborn child’s right to be born and the need to provide adequately for that child once born. If we lose friends over it, we have lost them

for the right reason. We stood up for the truth and for the lives of those who cannot stand up for themselves.”

Bishop Brennan was among seven bishops and five priests across the country who each led a livestreamed Holy Hour for Life for the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops’ National Holy Hour for Life. The holy hours began in the evening and continued through the overnight hours, ending the morning of Jan. 19—the day of the 51st annual March for Life in Washington. From Chicago to Kansas City to Tulsa, Okla., and to

**See “Life” on Page 3**

## Catholic Sharing Appeal Hits \$3.1 Million

By Colleen Rowan

**WEST VIRGINIA** — The faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have taken the 2023 Catholic Sharing Appeal way past its \$2 million goal. One hundred and fifty-nine percent past the goal to be exact with more than \$3.1 million raised.

A total of 4,192 donors pledged to the appeal supporting parishes and many diocesan programs and ministries. The appeal helps support the 24 diocesan Catholic schools, funding

**See “Appeal” on Page 8**

## Follow-up Synod Sessions Planned through Lent

By Joyce Bibey

**WEST VIRGINIA** — Faithful throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will have the opportunity to continue on the path of synodality this Lent as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has requested all dioceses conduct follow-up listening

**See “Synod” on Page 6**

## Central Catholic Thanks Veterans and First Responders for Their Service



Colleen Rowan Photo

For Catholic Schools Week, Central Catholic High School in Wheeling thanked veterans and first responders for their service. At left is Ohio County Sheriff Tom Howard and his daughter Layken, a junior. At right is U.S. Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) Ty Miller, with his son Luke, a junior (right), and his son Brandon, a senior (center).

By Colleen Rowan

**WHEELING** — Central Catholic High School in Wheeling took time during Catholic Schools Week to thank veterans and first responders for their service and

alumni serving and seniors who have committed to serving our country and communities.

The honored guests included veterans and active military personnel as well as members of the

Wheeling Fire Department, Ohio County Sheriff’s Office, Ohio County Emergency Management, Ohio County Emergency 911 Call Center, Glen Dale Police

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# Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Spring 2024

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Sunday, March 17:** St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg; 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 6:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 10:** Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 11:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 14:** SS Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 15:** Corpus Christi, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 20:** St. Sebastian, Kingwood; 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 21:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood; 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, April 28:** St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 5:** St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 11:** St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 11:** St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 12:** Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, May 13:** St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 19:** St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 22:** Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 25:** St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 25:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 26:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 1:** St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 8:** Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 9:** Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 15:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 16:** St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

**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.reportbishop-abuse.org](http://www.reportbishop-abuse.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.reportbishop-abuse.org](http://www.reportbishop-abuse.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; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. 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. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. 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](http://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.

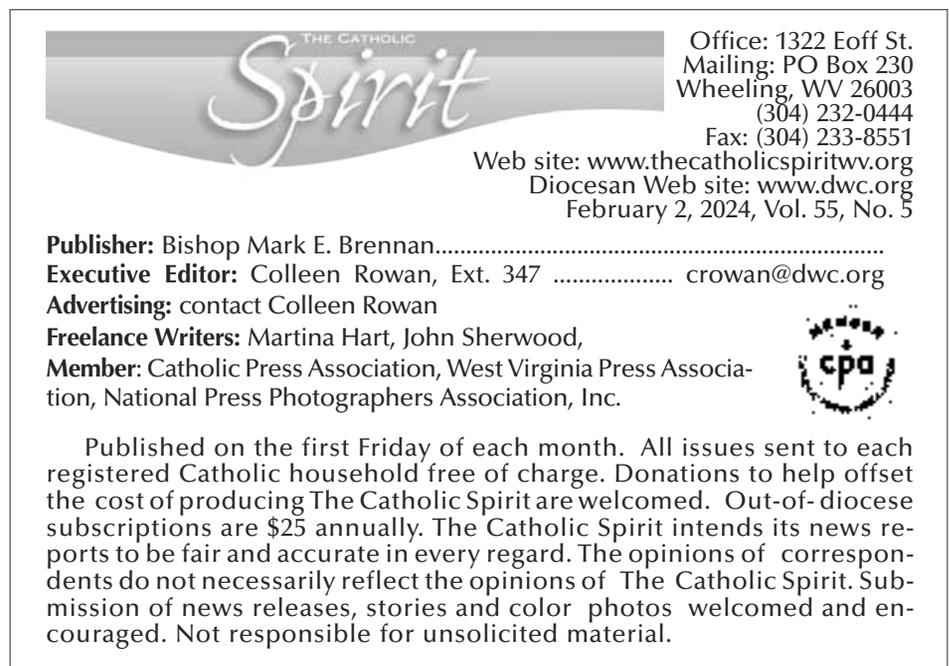


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- 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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## Life...

### Cont'd from Page 1

West Virginia, Texas and Oregon, these bishops and priests led the faithful of their dioceses in prayer for the protection of the unborn. Links to each livestream were available on the USCCB's website.

The Holy Hour in Wheeling began at 10 p.m. Bishop Brennan began his homily by recalling how abortion was promoted in the U.S. leading to the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*. Now, in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the bishop said the Catholic faithful must continue to fight for the unborn.

### Persistent Effort Can Overcome Injustice

"The *Dobbs* decision that overthrew *Roe* poked the pro-abortion bear and the bear is angry," Bishop Brennan said.

Nearly 50 years of a very permissive abortion regime, he said, let millions of American women obtain abortions. Schools, opinion makers, and many religious groups taught girls and young women that abortion was their right. Insurance programs, he said, routinely added elective abortions to their coverage and abortion advocates continue to shout, "You can't take away our right to an abortion."

Bishop Brennan pointed out that most of the voters and lawmakers who rejected liberal abortion laws in the 1960s and early 1970s, grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II. This was a generation that valued human life, he said.

"Catholics in our nation were strongly united against abortion, but the times have changed. The Greatest Generation has mostly passed away and, sadly, Catholics are divided on abortion. So, do we give up?" the bishop asked. "No. We cannot surrender. Not if we want to honor God's gift of life and love our neighbor."

History shows that persistent effort to overcome an injustice can succeed, the bishop said, noting that slavery, segregation, and apartheid were finally overthrown. After *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, the pro-life movement regrouped. Through many efforts, pregnancy resource centers were founded and laws and court decisions chipped away at *Roe* over the years.

"Elections that mattered were held and eventually the goal of the pro-life movement was achieved—*Roe* was overturned," Bishop Brennan said.

Although there have been pro-abortion victories in state referendums, "This is not a time to give in to discouragement," the bishop said. He reminded the faithful of



Screen shot Photo/The Catholic Spirit  
Bishop Mark Brennan kneels before the Most Blessed Sacrament during the National Holy Hour for Life at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Jan. 18.

what St. Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians: "God is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). Pointing to the first reading for the holy hour that evening, he reminded the faithful that God made us in his image and likeness. And in the gospel (Lk 1: 51-52), the bishop noted Elizabeth and Mary, both pregnant, are blessed with sons — one who had prepared the way of redemption to be won by the other. Mary said confidently about God: "He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly."

"This is the God who still stands with us," Bishop Brennan said. "We must stand firm and continue the struggle until final victory is won."

### Standing up for the Truth

Continuing his homily, Bishop Brennan recalled the words of President John F. Kennedy in his 1961 inaugural address in which he called on Americans "to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, rejoicing in hope, patience, and tribulation." Kennedy said this in the midst of a Cold War in which the threat of nuclear annihilation hung over man-

kind as it still does today, Bishop Brennan said.

"But he captured the spirit that we need now to bear the burden of a long struggle against the forces of darkness that legitimize the taking of unborn lives," Bishop Brennan stressed. "So, we must never give up, no matter how long we must fight. We have to continue to speak about the unborn child's right to be born and the need to provide adequately for that child once born. If we lose friends over it, we have lost them for the right reason. We stood up for the truth and for the lives of those who cannot stand up for themselves."

Imperative to this struggle is teaching young people about the value of human life, Bishop Brennan said. He expressed his gratitude that Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body is taught to children and young people in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

"It will give them respect for their own bodies and for the bodies of others, including those of the unborn," he said of the curriculum.

Also crucial is that the support for unborn babies extends well beyond their birth, the bishop said, stressing the need to help pregnant

women and mothers in need in concrete ways. He spoke of the great work of Mary's Refuge Maternity home for pregnant women in Martinsburg and commended the parishes that support this ministry.

"I just learned today, it's at capacity," he said of Mary's Refuge, which can provide a home for up to nine women, giving them safety and support through pregnancy and after their babies are born.

"Nine women there," the bishop emphasized, "all expecting to give birth or having already given birth and able to live there for a year afterwards."

The bishop also commended parishes in the diocese taking part in *Walking with Moms in Need* and urged other parishes to join them. The program is a nationwide, parish-based initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. The program also provides support to pregnancy resource centers.

"And how proud I am of my fellow Knights of Columbus who provide great support to those pregnancy resource centers," Bishop Brennan added.

Support must also be given to women who have had abortions and men who have helped them, the bishop said, offering them a path to forgiveness, healing, and peace.

"Jesus loves them," the bishop said, "and so must we."

### 'The Long Twilight Ahead'

In all these ways, the faithful can do much good by the power of God's spirit that works in and through us, Bishop Brennan said. The Catholic faithful must show, "that we are just as solidly pro-woman as we are pro-child, each of them made in God's image and likeness," the bishop said.

"We have gathered in this beautiful cathedral this evening to implore God to hear our prayers that our people may restore to unborn children the right to live and flourish," Bishop Brennan said. "We pray also that Catholics might be fully united in that effort and help the mothers and families of the children we hope to see born. And on the basis of that respect for their physical body of the human being, we must also—like the early pro-life advocates—embrace persons with disabilities, the frail elderly and the dying, immigrants who often flee horrors that we cannot imagine, and groups that are still suffering from the effects of discrimination because of racism, religious faith, or sexual orientation. God has made them all and loves them all. Let us love them too, and trust God to strengthen our inner self through his spirit for the long twilight ahead."

# Catholic Schools Week Celebrated with Prayer, Service, and Fun

Students, teachers, administration, and staff in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's 24 Catholic schools around West Virginia took part in the celebration of National Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3. School Masses, prayer services, outreach to those in need, and fun celebrations marked the annual week. At right: St. Patrick School in Weston begins the special week with a school Mass and Eucharistic procession at St. Patrick Church. At top, far right: Students from St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling enjoy a trip to the Highlands Sports Complex for indoor rock climbing. At bottom, far right: Students at St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg fill boxes of food for those in need. This year's Catholic Schools Week theme was Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community. (Courtesy Photos)



## Service...

Cont'd from Page 1

Department, Moundsville Police Department, Marshall County 911 Center, among other emergency response units, and volunteer fire departments.

In welcoming them, CCHS Principal Becky Sancomb, said, "It's an honor to have all of you here and it's an honor to show large gratitude in this very small way. I know from experience of being a family member to both first responders and service men and women the sacrifice that you make in our community and in our country and the sacrifices that your families make."

The program began with prayer followed by the CCHS Choir singing the National Anthem. All present then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Several of many CCHS alumni who are serving our country and in military academies expressed greetings in a video that was shown during the program. Featured were Jack Stryker, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He is a 2018 CCHS graduate.

Second in the video was Second Lieutenant Owen Gainer of the U.S. Air Force, who is in initial

flight training. He is a CCHS 2018 graduate and a 2023 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Owen's mother Dawn Gainer, was present for the program. His father, Ken, was unable to attend.

The next message of the video came from First Lieutenant Joseph Minor of the U.S. Navy, who is a 2015 Central graduate and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He is currently stationed in Florida. The third message was from Thomas Minor, CCHS class of 2020 who is currently at the U.S. Naval Academy. He will graduate this year and then move on to the Naval Academy Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., for his master's degree. He plans to be a Navy submarine officer.

Joseph and Thomas' parents, Bryan and Maria Minor, were present at the program. They attended with their youngest son, Luke, a CCHS senior who is also considering going to the U.S. Naval Academy.

The final message was from Derek Dearth, CCHS class of 2018, a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, class of 2022.

Central Catholic is proud of its graduates who have gone on to, are currently enrolled in, or plan to at-

tend U.S. military academies. At one point in the last several years, Central Catholic had graduates at all three military academies at the same time.

"I get emotional thinking about that because that is so impressive, and it speaks to what we do here," said Rob Magruder, director of Enrollment and Retention at CCHS, who remembered each of the young men in the video when they were students at Central.

Magruder also proudly announced that CCHS senior Aiden Scott has committed to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

As the program continued, CCHS students introduced their family members who were among the honored guests. Ohio County Sheriff Tom Howard was introduced by his daughter Layken, a junior. National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) Ty Miller, a helicopter pilot, was with his sons Luke, a junior, and Brandon, a senior. Freshman Lilly Whitelatch introduced her father, Bill Whitelatch of the Moundsville Police Department. Richard Milbert, also with the Moundsville Police Department, attended the program with his granddaughters Aleaha, a freshman, and Layla, a senior. Freshman Brady Ernest recognized

his father, Lt. Doug Ernest of the Ohio County Sheriff's Office Detective Division. Freshman Jake Brown introduced his father, Geoff Brown, a graduate of West Point and a veteran. Nick Barack, a freshman, and Nathaniel Barack, a junior, introduced their father, Corey Barack, a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate who served two tours in Iraq. Sophomore Vinny Rodak recognized his cousin Zack Rodak of the Roberts Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. Jessica Dobbs, an EMT and firefighter, also with Roberts Ridge VFD, was introduced by her neice, Avery Booth, a junior.

Magruder recognized CCHS alumna Alyssa Kalo of the Ohio County Emergency 911 Call Center. She started volunteering at age 16 for the Triadelphia Volunteer Fire Department, and she plans to pursue a career as a firefighter. Magruder also recognized former CCHS teacher David Hanes, who now works for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and served in the U.S. Air Force, and CCHS music teacher Matthew White who served in the U.S. Army.

Central Catholic thanks all of its alumni who are serving or have served our country and our communities.

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# This June, Two Bishops will Lead a Eucharistic Procession on Ohio River

**This story is courtesy of The Steubenville Register**  
**By Matthew A. DiCenzo, Staff writer for The Steubenville Register**

**STEUBENVILLE, Ohio**—The Diocese of Steubenville and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will sponsor a joint diocesan National Eucharistic Pilgrimage event on the Ohio River, June 23.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley, apostolic administrator of Steubenville, and Bishop Mark Brennan will lead a Eucharistic procession on a sternwheeler and move south on the Ohio River.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which began in June 2022. According to the timeline on the National Eucharistic Revival's website – [www.eucharistic-revival.org](http://www.eucharistic-revival.org): "This will be one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history. Just as crowds followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord over 6,500 miles – through cities, along highways, and past rural towns – on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress."

The National Eucharistic Congress will take place at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, and in nearby downtown venues within walking distance, July 17-21, according to the National Eucharistic Congress' website: [www.eucharisticcongress.org](http://www.eucharisticcongress.org).

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage has four trails: the Marian Route (North), the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route (East), the St. Juan Diego Route (South) and the St. Junipero Serra Route (West). Details are available on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's website: [www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org).

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route will be making a stop in Steubenville June 21- 23.

Deacon Randall Redington, clergy

co-chairperson of the Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Core Committee, and his wife, Mary Ellen, lay co-chairperson, announced a "Sing-spiration" event, scheduled from 6-7 p.m., June 21, at Historic Fort Steuben's Berkman Amphitheater, Steubenville. The core committee expects the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route to arrive around 7 p.m. in Steubenville, and this event will serve as a way to prepare and welcome the pilgrims.

On June 23, Bishop Bradley will celebrate a 10 a.m. Mass at Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville. After Mass, a procession from the church to a float will take place, followed by a motorcade to the Steubenville marina, the Redingtons said. Once the Blessed Sacrament arrives at the marina, Bishop Bradley, Bishop Brennan and the national pilgrims will board a sternwheeler (seats are by invitation only) with the Eucharist. Parishioners who own boats are encouraged to follow the stern-wheeler in an escorted boater-cade down the river.

Both states have locations along the banks of the Ohio River for parishioners to gather and receive Eucharistic blessings (see the map and scan the QR code for more details). The locations include the Steubenville Marina (at noon for both the Ohio and West Virginia sides); Wellsburg Wharf; Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge (Ohio and West Virginia); Mazeroski Park, Tiltonsville (Ohio); Pike Island Locks and Dam at the fishing access point, Yorkville (Ohio); and Wheeling Heritage Port. The Redingtons emphasized that people should "listen for the bell" on the sternwheeler as it approaches them for the blessing. The bell will be rung by the sternwheeler benefactor, President and Captain Bob Harrison of Bellaire Harbor Services, LLC, in memory of Julia Harrison.

Then, the procession will head to the Bellaire Marina. Once everyone arrives, there will be a walking Eucharistic

**2024 National Eucharistic Sternwheeler and Boater-cade Procession with the Bishops**  
**Sunday, June 23**

[Google Map here](#)  
 For driving/parking details

**Ohio Sites for Blessings**

- A. Steubenville Marina (Noon)
- C. Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge
- D. Mazeroski Park
- E. Pike Island Lock & Dam

[diosteub.org](http://diosteub.org)

**West Virginia Sites for Blessings**

- A. Steubenville Marina (Noon)
- B. Wellsburg Wharf
- C. Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge
- F. Heritage Port—Wheeling

[dwc.org](http://dwc.org)

Courtesy of The Steubenville Register

procession to St. John Church, Bellaire. A prayer service will be held, followed by a gathering and meal, according to the Redingtons.

The event will be broadcast from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Our Lady's Radio, WWGL-FM 97.9; as well as on WDWC- FM 90.7. In addition, it will

stream online at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL) (Light of Life Radio Ministry).

For additional information, visit the Diocese of Steubenville's website at [www.diosteub.org/national-eucharistic-revival](http://www.diosteub.org/national-eucharistic-revival) and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's website at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org).

## Take Charge, Deepen Your Faith, Attend the Congress

**By Joyce Bibey**

When it comes to the task to "share Jesus in the Eucharist with others," do you know what to do?

This summer the Church will address that and inspire more than 80,000 Catholics from across the country to deepen their own faith and love for Jesus, and also learn how to share the Good News and the Light of Christ for others.

Attend the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 in Indianapolis.

Bishop Mark Brennan wants it to be a priority of all vicariates, all parishes, and all priests to have a WV delegation present to represent them at the national congress and take home with them the witness of how to be fully alive in our parishes, families, and communities.

Pope Francis said the Eucharist is "a summons to go forth, as missionaries, to bring the message of the Father's tenderness, forgiveness and mercy to every

man, woman and child."

We are all called to go to the ends of the earth to share and be the Body of Christ. This summer will strengthen us to do so.

The first 250 registered parishioners from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to secure the Catholic pilgrimage travel package will receive a free FIVE-DAY pass as a gift from Bishop Brennan and the Catholic Sharing Appeal. Those who want to be part of the WV delegation need to get registered as soon as possible so they can also sign up for their sessions at the congress.

Bishop Mark encourages pastors, parishes, and parish organizations to work together to find ways to help finance the travel package for their local participants "such as having a fish fry or spaghetti dinner or some other fundraiser." Act now before the passes and travel packages are all taken. Get more info and register now through the diocesan travel package at: <https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>

### The National Eucharistic Congress What to Expect

A glimpse of the five-day national congress from the National Eucharistic Revival committee:

**DAY ONE:** July 17th, the 10th National Eucharistic will commence! Our Catholic family will gather to experience profound, personal renewal through the power of Christ's love. That evening the Congress opens with a major procession as we welcome all four branches of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to their final destination and prepare for the arrival of Our King. The national procession will culminate when Jesus enters the stadium, carried by Bishop Cozzens in a massive monstrosity created specifically for the Congress. The Eucharist will take center stage, and the stadium will fall silent as we adore Our King on his throne.

Dynamic emcees will guide us through the program for the evening, fostering an atmosphere

**See "Congress" on Page 6**

## Synod...

### Cont'd from Page 1

sessions to address two specific questions as a local Church:

- Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?

- How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston there will be six sessions—one in each vicariate. The sessions will be held Feb. 21 at the Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, Feb. 22 at St. Leo Church in Inwood, Feb. 27 at St. Francis de Sales Church in Beckley, Feb. 28 at Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg, Feb. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Parkersburg, and March 7 at St. Michael Church in Wheeling. All sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend.

More information on the second phase of the Synod on Synodality will soon be released on the diocesan website,

the FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, diocesan social media, and your parish bulletins.

Pope Francis initiated the Synod in 2021. The initial Diocesan Phase was held in the local Church from October 2021 to June 2022, as an opportunity for the faithful in West Virginia to invite the Spirit of God to work in us, through us, and even despite us.

On June 29, 2022, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston submitted the Final Synthesis Report to the USCCB.

As a recap, the diocese's final report was reflective of the session summaries from 92 parishes. (You can read the report at: <https://dwc.org/synod/>)

Seven key themes emerged from the collective response of the faithful:

1. Prioritizing Catechesis, Catholic Education Opportunities and Faith-Based Bible Study

2. Continuing the Transparency, Listening, Dialogue and Synodality within the Church

3. Stimulate more Participation and Growth in the Parish, especially among Minorities, the Young, and Special

Needs Persons

4. Divorce, Remarriage and Annulment Barriers to Participation

5. Inclusion of Traditional/Conservative Catholic Views

6. Better Inclusion of Women in the Church

7. Better Inclusion of LGBTQ Persons in the Church

During Lent 2024, we will unite with Pope Francis and pray for Holy Spirit to enlighten all, as we are called together again to discern, listen, and discuss how the Church can grow more fruitful in unity as the two new questions are addressed.

As the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops reminded the faithful at the conclusion of their October session: "Today, in a culture where people struggle against one another for dominance and become obsessed with what is visible, the Church is called to echo the words of Jesus, to bring them to life again in all their potency. 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use it for?' Our Lord's question throws light on the work that now lies ahead of us. It isn't a matter of

dispersing ourselves over several fronts, reducing everything to logic of efficiency and proceduralism. Rather it is a matter of grasping, among the many words and proposals of this Report, what appears as a small seed, yet one that bears the future, and of imagining how to bring it to the soil that will enable it to grow

and mature for the benefit of many. 'How will this happen?' Mary asked herself in Nazareth.... There is only one answer: remain in the shadow of the Spirit and allow yourself to be enveloped by His Power.

"Let our journey continue. Like a choir—many voices as though expressing one soul."



**For a synodal Church**  
communion | participation | mission

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**LENTE LISTENING SESSIONS 2024**

Feb. 21 at the Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston  
Feb. 22 at St. Leo Church, Inwood  
Feb. 27 at St. Francis de Sales Church, Beckley  
Feb. 28 at Immaculate Conception Church, Clarksburg  
Feb. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Church, Parkersburg  
March 7 at St. Michael Church, Wheeling.  
All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

## Congress...

### Cont'd from Page 5

of worship and helping us to prepare our hearts for a powerful encounter with Jesus. Our keynote speakers will spark hope with how God is moving throughout our world at this pivotal moment. They will invite us to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus, allowing him to move our hearts in new ways.

**DAY TWO:** July 18th, the first full day of events will unfold designed to facilitate a life-changing encounter with Jesus, regardless of where you are on your faith journey. Throughout the Congress, attendees will select their preferred impact sessions for the morning and then their preferred breakout sessions for the afternoon. Then gathered together as one, the whole assembly will experience the powerful revival sessions in Lucas Oil Stadium each evening.

That morning we will first gather for Mass. This will be followed by morning impact sessions with Bishop Robert Barron, Bishop Daniel Flores, Fr. John Burns, Fr. Leo Patalinghug, Sister Mary Grace Langrell, Chika Anyanwu, and more! Afternoon breakout sessions will follow, led by faithful Catholics such as Sr. Alicia Torres, Tim Glemkowski, Dr. Edward Sri, Trent Horn, Anna Carter, Esther Garcia, Marilyn Santos, and Matthew Petrussek. You could also participate in one of our special experiences such as a musical triptych, or a session specifically for deacons.

That Thursday evening, we will all gather for a powerful general session where we will experience the revival Our Lord desires to accomplish. We will be joined by Fr. Michael Schmitz and our amazing emcees: Montse Alvarado, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, and Fr. Josh Johnson!

**DAY THREE:** July 19th will be another amazing day. Mass in the morning and then be invited to participate in morning impact sessions. These sessions to renew our minds in the foundations of our Eucharistic faith. They will be led by passionate Catholic disciples such as Dr. Mary Healy, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Bishop Joseph Espaillat, Meg Hunter-Kilmer,

Sarah Kaczmarek, Damon Owens, and more!

That afternoon, breakout sessions will be with Deacon Charlie Echeverry, Dr. Andrew & Sarah Swafford, Jason Evert, Dr. Hosffman Ospino, Fr. Leo Patalinghug, and others! You will also have the opportunity throughout the Congress to visit the National Shroud of Turin exhibit, which includes a replica of the world's most studied and controversial artifact.

Friday evening, we will all gather in Lucas Oil Stadium, where we will have the opportunity to participate in praying the Family Rosary Across America live with Fr. Rocky, followed by the highly anticipated Revival Session with Sr. Josephine Garrett, Fr. Josh Johnson, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, Montse Alvarado, and Dave Moore.

**DAY FOUR:** July 20th the day begins with Mass. Morning impact sessions will be led by Dr. Edward Sri, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Paul Albert, Bishop Joseph Espaillat, Julianne Stanz, Curtis Martin, and more! Afternoon breakout sessions and special experiences on Saturday will be offered by Catholic disciples such as Sr. Josephine Garrett, Dr. Tim Gray, Fr. Mathias Thelen, Monsignor James Shea, and more!

Then we take to the streets of Indianapolis for a historic Eucharistic procession. Tens of thousands of Catholics will follow Our Lord through downtown Indianapolis—publicly professing faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. This will be an incredible moment to be together!

Saturday evening, we will gather once again in Lucas Oil Stadium for an inspiring Revival Session led by Bishop Robert Barron, Mother Adela Galindo, and Gloria Purvis. We will also be joined in the evening by Grammy-nominated Catholic artist Matt Maher for an experience that will surely help us draw closer to the Lord.

**DAY FIVE:** July 21st is the day we will be commissioned to go out into the world as missionary disciples as we enter the third year of the National Eucharistic Revival—the Year of Mission.

Sunday morning, we will gather in Lucas Oil Stadium for our concluding session, where we will ex-

perience an outpouring of grace that will launch us into the Year of Mission ahead. This session will be led by Chris Stefanick, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, Montse Alvarado, Fr. Josh Johnson, and Dave Moore. The Congress will end with a beautiful Mass celebrated by a papal delegate with music by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Be a part of this moment to experience profound personal renewal and be set ablaze to share Christ's love with your community. Like a new Pentecost, this transformation will flow out from Indianapolis to bring revival in our communities as the Church returns to her first love—the source and summit of our faith.



**Join Bishop Mark**  
*this summer!*

**National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024**

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REGISTER NOW

# Dr. Carol Templeton Nominated to Leadership West Virginia Class of 2024

By Colleen Rowan

**HUNTINGTON** — Dr. Carol Templeton is proud to be representing her schools, community, and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in the Leadership West Virginia (LWV) program. Templeton is the principal of St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington and is one of 56 individuals from around the state nominated and accepted into the LWV class of 2024.

"I think this is going to be a very unique experience to be in a cohort amongst other leaders throughout West Virginia from different backgrounds, different industries, and I think that's going to bring so many different perspectives," Templeton said.

LWV is a statewide education and leadership development, not-for-profit, seven-month program cultivating leaders from a variety of industries and regions across West Virginia with the goal of enhancing their knowledge not only of the challenges facing the state, but also its unique attributes



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Carol Templeton stands with her sons Lucas (left) and Liam.

and diversity, LWV officials said. Templeton was nominated for the program by LWV alumni Robert Sellards.

The class will come together to use their talents and experience to lead West Virginia into the future. The group will meet once a month, beginning in May. The program, Templeton said, presents a unique opportunity to problem solve and address issues facing the state. Templeton carries experience as a lifelong educator serving in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of

Wheeling-Charleston for more than 21 years.

"My hope is to bring that Catholic school perspective to the table," she said, "to represent the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as well as the community of St. Joseph in Huntington."

Through the program, she hopes to build positive connections from all parts of the state, learning about different parts of West Virginia's tourism industry, businesses, and more.

"I'm very excited," Templeton said. "I'm looking

forward to meeting the other 55 members and I'm excited to learn from them, learn more about our beautiful state, and enjoy the journey."

Templeton has been principal of St. Joseph Catholic School for 21 years and principal of St. Joseph Central for the last four and a half years. Before coming to West Virginia, she was a teacher at F.L. Stanton Elementary School in Atlanta. Prior to that, she taught in The King's School in her hometown of Macclesfield, Cheshire, England. She also taught at Gunter Infant & Junior School in Birmingham and Birmingham Public Schools in Birmingham, England.

Templeton earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership: P-12 Administration from Morehead State University, a Master of Arts (Educational Leadership, Principal, Superintendency and Curriculum Specialist) from Marshall University, and her Bachelor of Education, Major Religions of the World, from Birmingham University, England.

Templeton resides in Mil-

ton with her two sons: Liam, a sophomore at St. Joseph Central, and Lucas, a seventh grader at St. Joseph's.

"Both of my boys started their academic careers at St. Joseph in the nursery when they were both six weeks old," Templeton said. "...and they'll go all the way through and become alumni."

Templeton does get back to England once or twice a year to visit family—her sister Fiona Duff and her older brother David Duff, who both live in London, and her younger brother Gavin, who lives in Macclesfield.

In reflection, she shared, "It's been a wonderful experience, a wonderful journey. West Virginia ... it's my home."

## World Marriage Day Celebration to be Held at St. Vincent's in Wheeling

**WHEELING**—World Marriage Day will be celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church and Marist Center in Wheeling on Sunday, Feb. 18. The event is open to members of St. Vincent de Paul's and other area Catholic parishes for an afternoon of celebrating your love for your spouse and thankfulness for the blessings received in the Sacrament of Marriage.

The program will begin at Mass with the congregation at 11:30 a.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church on Marshall Avenue in Elm Grove. Following Mass, a wine/coffee/tea and cheese social for participating couples and an opportunity to renew their marriage vows as a group will precede a catered meal and a brief witness by a couple as to their experience in the Sacrament of Marriage. The afternoon will conclude with coffee and wedding cake. Couples unable to participate in the Mass can meet directly in the adjacent Marist Center at 12:30 p.m. Special recognition will be made to the most recently married couple and the couple who has been married the longest. Couples are encouraged to bring and display their wedding pictures and albums for all to enjoy. Babysitting services will be provided for couples with young children. The babysitting is free; donations will be accepted.

Reservations will be accepted until Feb. 9. The cost is \$60 per couple. For reservations or additional information, please call Dennis or Brenda Beiter at (304) 238-4904 or John or Dorothy Dudzik at (304) 243-1104.

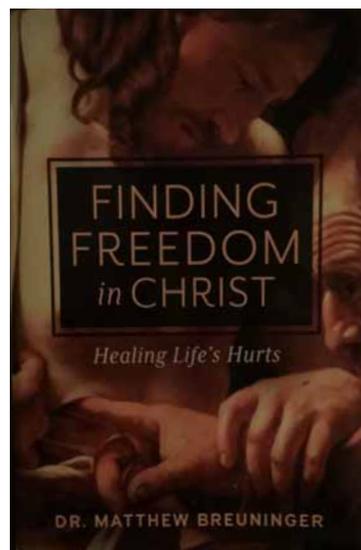
## Franciscan University's Dr. Matthew Breuninger to Lead One-Day Retreat in Wheeling

**WHEELING** — "Finding Freedom in Christ, Healing Life's Hurts" with Dr. Matthew Breuninger will be a one-day retreat held at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling on Saturday Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning with Mass at 8 a.m. Cost for the retreat is \$25 per person.

Seating is limited, reserve early by calling St Vincent's at (304) 242-0406 to reserve a spot.

Breuninger is an associate professor of psychology at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. He is a research fellow with the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture as well as a member of the Catholic Psychotherapy Association.

Breuninger is a husband



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the cover of "Finding Freedom in Christ, Healing Life's Hurts," by Dr. Matthew Breuninger.

and father of six children and brings humor to the topic of healing.

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time to  
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# 2023 Catholic Sharing Appeal Parish/Mission Goal Report

Parish/Mission	Parish Goal	Total Raised	Percent of Goal
All Saints Parish, Bridgeport	\$49,120.00	\$26,155.00	53%
Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, Fort Ashby	\$10,485.00	\$10,070.00	96%
Ascension Parish, Hurricane	\$24,375.00	\$24,250.00	99%
Assumption Parish, Keyser	\$18,280.00	\$19,769.00	108%
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston	\$68,660.00	\$34,330.00	50%
Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston	\$41,390.00	\$14,285.12	35%
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling	\$18,730.00	\$69,955.00	373%
Christ Our Hope Mission, Harrisville	\$1,845.00	\$1,390.00	75%
Christ the King Parish, Dunbar	\$6,725.00	\$3,715.00	55%
Corpus Christi Parish, Wheeling	\$27,315.00	\$21,446.20	79%
Epiphany of the Lord Parish, Moorefield	\$5,890.00	\$10,425.00	177%
Good Shepherd Parish, Glenville	\$2,210.00	\$5,100.00	231%
Holy Family Parish, Richwood	\$3,495.00	\$3,770.00	108%
Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer	\$5,655.00	\$5,600.00	99%
Holy Rosary Mission, Sistersville	\$4,730.00	\$5,203.00	110%
Holy Rosary Parish, Buckhannon	\$13,350.00	\$15,915.00	119%
Holy Spirit Parish, Monongah	\$12,775.00	\$14,748.57	115%
Holy Trinity Parish, Nitro	\$8,080.00	\$11,810.00	146%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg	\$73,450.00	\$17,885.00	24%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont	\$23,970.00	\$84,821.47	354%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery	\$4,180.00	\$1,725.00	41%
Immaculate Conception Parish, New Cumberland	\$8,225.00	\$15,975.00	194%
Mater Dolorosa Parish, Paden City	\$5,670.00	\$1,980.00	35%
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Huntington	\$40,585.00	\$60,354.82	149%
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Romney	\$8,890.00	\$8,044.40	90%
Our Lady of Mercy Mission, Parsons	\$5,520.00	\$2,699.99	49%
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Wheeling	\$24,920.00	\$13,111.50	53%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Stonewood	\$33,805.00	\$52,958.60	157%
Our Lady of Seven Dolours Mission, Triadelphia	\$5,145.00	\$375.00	7%
Our Lady of the Hills Parish, Elkview	\$6,100.00	\$7,265.00	119%
Risen Lord Mission, Clay	\$1,755.00	\$1,955.00	111%
Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant	\$3,475.00	\$375.00	11%
Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan	\$2,420.00	\$2,950.00	122%
Sacred Heart Mission, Rainelle	\$2,405.00	\$625.00	26%
Sacred Heart Mission, Salem	\$3,080.00	\$3,130.00	102%
Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton	\$15,595.00	\$6,980.00	45%
Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield	\$25,340.00	\$77,330.49	305%
Sacred Heart Parish, Chester	\$14,825.00	\$69,672.76	470%
Sacred Heart Parish, Huntington	\$11,665.00	\$16,795.00	144%
Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton	\$19,510.00	\$42,715.00	219%
Sacred Heart Parish, Williamson	\$7,830.00	\$7,980.00	102%
St. Agnes Parish, Charleston	\$18,775.00	\$3,425.00	18%
St. Agnes Parish, Shepherdstown	\$48,785.00	\$14,405.00	30%
St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling	\$9,985.00	\$4,821.00	48%
St. Ann Parish, Shinnston	\$13,620.00	\$4,635.00	34%
St. Anne Parish, Webster Springs	\$2,175.00	\$1,290.00	59%
St. Anthony Parish, Charleston	\$10,470.00	\$12,375.00	118%
St. Anthony Parish, Fairmont	\$16,800.00	\$13,815.00	82%
St. Anthony Parish, Follansbee	\$23,295.00	\$12,792.00	55%
St. Anthony Parish, Ridgely	\$4,095.00	\$4,710.00	115%
St. Anthony's Shrine Mission, Boomer	\$5,820.00	\$50.00	1%
St. Augustine Parish, Grafton	\$8,210.00	\$7,955.00	97%
St. Barbara Mission, Chapmanville	\$1,420.00	\$0.00	0%
St. Bernadette Mission, Hedgesville	\$20,370.00	\$25,662.00	126%
St. Boniface Parish, Camden	\$5,580.00	\$7,730.00	139%
St. Brendan Parish, Elkins	\$20,695.00	\$3,400.00	16%

List continued on Page 9

## Appeal ...

Cont'd from Page 1

School-Based Health programs; religious sisters in schools; the Tuition Assistance Program; and professional formation for teachers, administration, and staff. The appeal also supports the ministries of Walking with Moms, Blessed Camp Carlo Accutis, Net Ministry Youth Retreats, Year of the Eucharist programs, PACE Conference, and Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Bishop Mark Brennan

thanked donors in a letter published in the CSA Gratitude Report.

"Your generosity fills my heart with hope!" the bishop said in the letter. "Here in our diocese, we receive with great gratitude, each gift in support of the CSA, and understand that we are responsible for the stewardship of each and every dollar donated to the CSA."

"Thank you for answering the Lord's call this past year and for your unwavering devotion to your local church," the bishop wrote.

St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town took the top spots this year for raising the most funds with a total of \$853,397 and surpassing its goal by 1,178 percent.

"I am extremely grateful to our Parish of St. James," said Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F., pastor of the parish. "The people were incredibly generous and responded to our campaign to help pay down our mortgage debt. We were also blessed that an individual paid our assessment to the diocese which allowed all the dona-

tions received to go directly to the principal on our mortgage. Thanks to the hard work of our Finance Council as well as our entire staff, we

have been able to grow spiritually and been able to cut our mortgage in half."

Also surpassing its goal by  
**See "Appeal" on Page 9**



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Parish/Mission	Parish Goal	Total Raised	Percent of Goal
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ronceverte	\$8,280.00	\$1,195.00	14%
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, White Sulphur Springs	\$7,800.00	\$4,780.00	61%
St. Edward the Confessor Mission, Terra Alta	\$2,930.00	\$1,907.00	65%
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Franklin	\$2,840.00	\$2,600.00	92%
St. Elizabeth Mission, Elizabeth	\$2,570.00	\$3,135.81	122%
St. Elizabeth Parish, Philippi	\$5,820.00	\$2,720.00	47%
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley	\$44,145.00	\$30,814.00	70%
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown	\$77,710.00	\$307,943.99	396%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Logan	\$6,810.00	\$5,745.00	84%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Albans	\$24,370.00	\$7,331.99	30%
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Moundsville	\$21,385.00	\$22,407.67	105%
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg	\$32,990.00	\$46,040.00	140%
St. James Parish, McMechen	\$4,285.00	\$2,090.00	49%
St. James the Apostle Parish, Clarksburg	\$10,685.00	\$10,540.00	99%
St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town	\$72,430.00	\$853,397.17	1178%
St. John Neumann Parish, Marlinton	\$4,065.00	\$5,810.00	143%
St. John Parish, Benwood	\$5,240.00	\$20,044.41	383%
St. John Parish, St. Marys	\$8,070.00	\$6,875.58	85%
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Summersville	\$14,600.00	\$19,415.00	133%
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Wellsburg	\$16,335.00	\$13,945.00	85%
St. John University Parish, Morgantown	\$40,575.00	\$11,249.00	28%
St. Joseph Mission, Proctor	\$4,830.00	\$4,050.00	84%
St. Joseph Parish, Huntington	\$65,375.00	\$30,139.00	46%
St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg	\$56,530.00	\$75,628.60	134%
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Weirton	\$47,525.00	\$23,379.52	49%
St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale	\$10,460.00	\$20,465.00	196%
St. Leo Parish, Inwood	\$28,950.00	\$33,058.00	114%
St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake	\$25,485.00	\$31,855.00	125%
St. Margaret Mary Parish, Parkersburg	\$49,435.00	\$44,827.50	91%
St. Mark the Evangelist Mission, Bartow	\$1,545.00	\$2,120.00	137%
St. Mary Parish, Petersburg	\$4,820.00	\$6,425.00	133%
St. Mary Parish, Star City	\$48,530.00	\$19,795.00	41%
St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Madison	\$2,450.00	\$3,535.00	144%
St. Matthew Parish, Ravenswood	\$10,790.00	\$4,403.00	41%
St. Michael Parish, Vienna	\$29,915.00	\$47,508.00	159%
St. Michael Parish, Wheeling	\$67,630.00	\$187,754.41	278%
St. Monica Mission, Lubeck	\$3,595.00	\$13,730.80	382%
St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft	\$3,450.00	\$8,700.00	252%
St. Patrick Parish, Coalton	\$5,280.00	\$1,140.00	22%
St. Patrick Parish, Hinton	\$6,060.00	\$6,950.00	115%
St. Patrick Parish, Mannington	\$7,730.00	\$9,476.00	123%
St. Patrick Parish, Weston	\$22,490.00	\$37,534.97	167%
St. Paul Parish, Weirton	\$30,325.00	\$9,568.00	32%
St. Peter Claver Parish, Huntington	\$5,540.00	\$10,025.00	181%
St. Peter Parish, Farmington	\$6,715.00	\$2,435.00	36%
St. Peter Parish, Welch	\$2,070.00	\$1,675.00	81%
St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont	\$24,195.00	\$78,196.64	323%
St. Sebastian Parish, Kingwood	\$12,200.00	\$4,540.00	37%
St. Stephen Parish, Ona	\$7,580.00	\$800.00	11%
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Thomas	\$14,720.00	\$15,945.00	108%
St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway	\$5,250.00	\$6,065.00	116%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkeley Springs	\$14,455.00	\$8,179.25	57%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, New Martinsville	\$16,765.00	\$8,915.00	53%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling	\$38,655.00	\$82,251.14	213%
St. Zita Mission, Masontown	\$5,885.00	\$1255.00	21%
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Oak Hil	\$17,270.00	\$19,345.06	112%

## Appeal...

Cont'd from Page 8

a large margin was St. Monica Mission in Lubeck by 382 percent, coming in fifth on the list of parishes/missions to surpass goal by the highest percentage. "St. Monica Mission may be small, but its parishioners are dedicated and love their church," said Father John Rice, pastor. "Several parishioners have invested wisely over the years and use the Catholic Sharing Appeal as a vehicle to make their annual gift to ensure the financial viability of the mission."

St. Monica's was the only mission church in the diocese to make the list.

Both Krissie Benson, director of Stewardship & Development for the diocese, and Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the diocese, are grateful to donors for their generosity

See "Appeal" on Page 10

### Top 10 Parishes/Missions That Raised the Most Funds

- 1) St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town
- 2) St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
- 3) St. Michael Parish, Wheeling
- 4) Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont
- 5) St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling
- 6) St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont
- 7) Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield
- 8) St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg
- 9) Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling
- 10) Sacred Heart Parish, Chester

### Top 10 Parishes/Missions to Surpass Goal by Percentage

- 1) St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town
- 2) Sacred Heart Parish, Chester
- 3) St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
- 4) St. John Parish, Benwood
- 5) St. Monica Mission, Lubeck
- 6) Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling
- 7) Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont,
- 8) St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont
- 9) Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield
- 10) St. Michael Parish, Wheeling

# Appeal...

**Cont'd from Page 9**  
to the appeal. After 15 years of working with the CSA, Sforza feels more excited than ever before to see parishes reach their individual goals.

"Over the years I have had the chance to travel the state and get to know our priests, our parishes, and our donors and learn about what inspires them to give and what ministries are most important to them," she shared. "Each year we truly try our best to build the diocesan case around their needs and what will benefit them the most."

Sforza is happy that for 2023, the diocese expanded the CSA Grant Program and awarded more than \$245,000 to 17 parishes, 21 Catholic schools and nine food pantries.

"This is one of my favorite areas of the case because we are able to provide additional

funding for outreach, ministry, and projects for parishes, food pantries, and schools for their direct needs," she said. "I only wish we had enough funding to grant everyone's requests in full!"

"Thank you to the pastors, parish administrators and CSA volunteers who make this a successful appeal year after year!" Sforza said. "It is only because of them, that we are able to do the work that we do."

Bishop Brennan would like the opportunity to thank donors in person for their support and share the impact their gift has made on the shared ministries and outreach efforts of the diocese. Three gatherings will be held across the state for donors. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The dates and locations are as follows: Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m., St. John XXIII Pastoral Center at 100 Hodges Rd., Charleston; Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m. at

St. Michael Angelus Center, 1225 National Rd., Wheeling; and Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m. at St. Michael Parish Hall, 213 55th St., Vienna.

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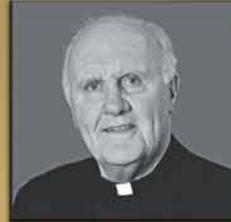
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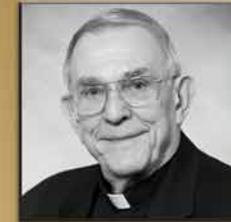
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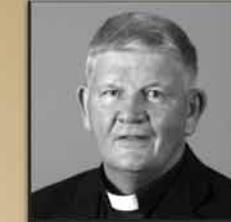
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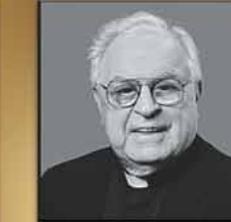
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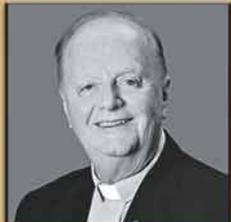
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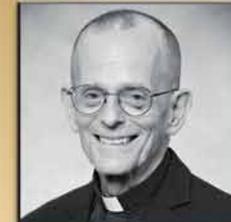
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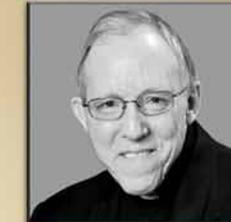
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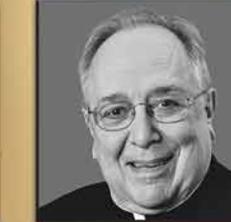
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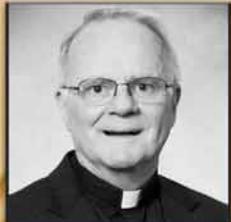
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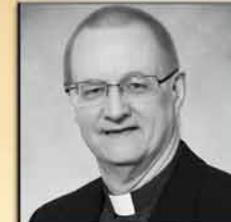
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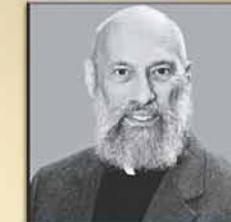
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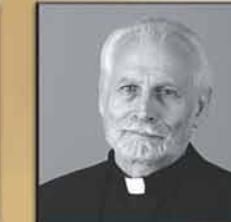
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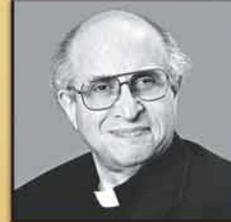
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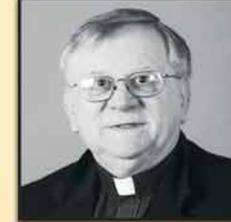
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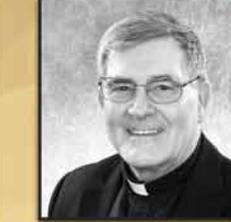
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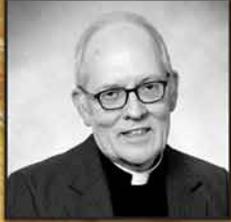
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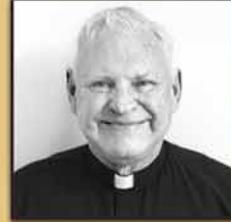
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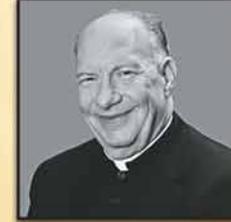
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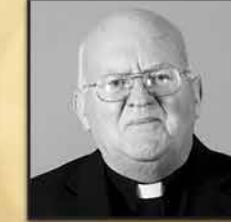
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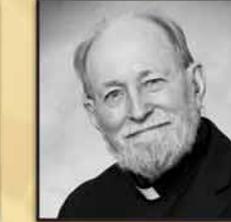
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# Knights of Columbus Council #12036 Supports Special Olympics

Saint Mother Theresa Knights of Columbus Council, located in Jefferson County, continued its support of West Virginia Special Olympics over the past months.

The council's support of Special Olympics is part of a national program. The Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities supports a variety of activities "to bring greater community awareness, provide wider support, and encourage independence and responsibility to those with intellectual disabilities."

The council provided a donation of \$200 to Jefferson County Special Olympics to support its athletes. Under the guidance of Sports Director Me-

linda McDonald, athletes compete locally and at the state level in various sports including basketball, bowling, bocce ball, and track and field.

A contribution of \$300 was also made to Special Olympics West Virginia to support athletes across the state.

Recently, the West Virginia Winter Special Olympics were held at various venues in Canaan Valley. Athletes from West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania competed in alpine skiing, snowboarding, snow shoe, and cross-country skiing. Members of the council and their affiliated parish, St. James the Greater in Charles Town, again volunteered for these competitions.



Courtesy Photo Athletes compete in cross-country skiing in the West Virginia Winter Special Olympics in Canann Valley.

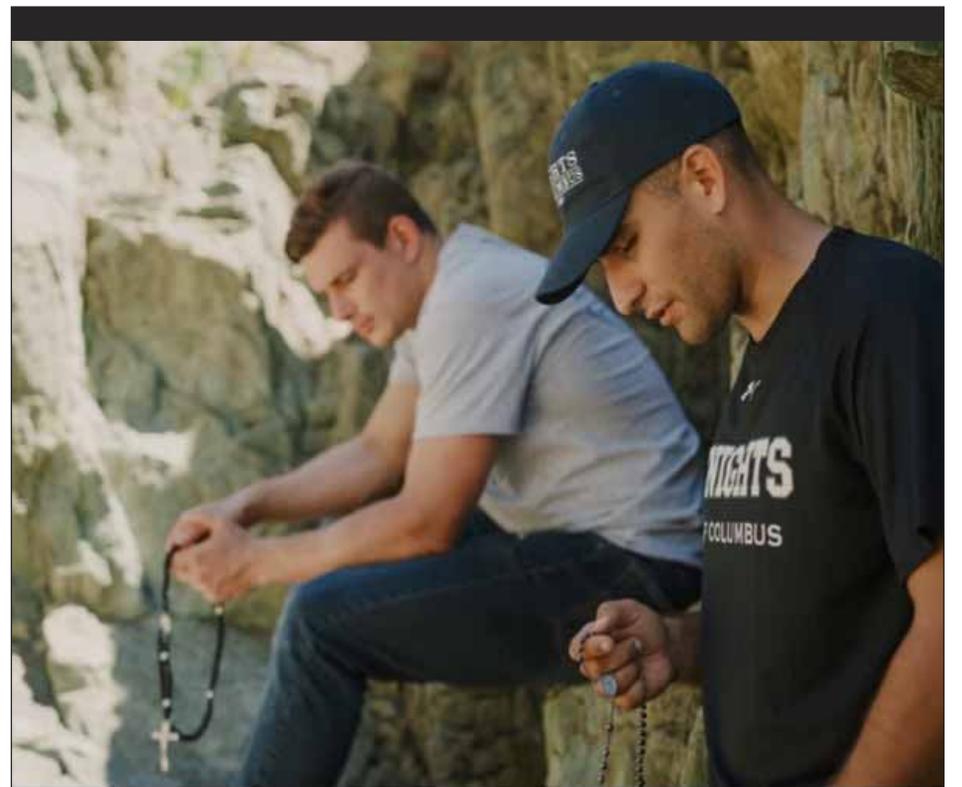


Courtesy Photo Ed Brosh, deputy grand knight of the Saint Theresa of Calcutta Council #12036 of the Knights of Columbus, presents a donation of \$300 to Wendy Miller, West Virginia Special Olympics director of Sports and Training.

## Students Thank Veterans for Their Service



Courtesy Photo Students in the 4-H Club at St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley thank veterans for serving our country.



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# La ira destruye las relaciones y le echa la culpa a los demás, dice el Papa

**Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service**

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — La ira es un "vicio particularmente tenebroso" que destruye las relaciones, echa toda la culpa en los demás y sólo empeora con el tiempo, dijo el Papa Francisco.

"Es capaz de quitarnos el sueño y de hacernos maquinariar continuamente en nuestra mente, sin que logremos encontrar una barrera para los razonamientos y pensamientos" porque la ira nubla completamente el pensamiento claro y se acumula incesantemente sin piedad, dijo el Papa el 31 de enero en su audiencia general semanal en el Aula de Audiencias Pablo VI.

Continuando con una serie de catequesis sobre los vicios y las virtudes, el Papa reflexionó sobre el vicio de la ira.

"Si nace de una injusticia padecida (o considerada como tal), a menudo no se desata contra el culpable, sino contra el primer desafortunado con el que uno se encuentra", dijo, poniendo como ejemplo a personas que "contienen su ira en el lugar de trabajo", pero luego la

desatan en casa contra su cónyuge y sus hijos.

La ira "destruye las relaciones humanas. Expresa la incapacidad de aceptar la diversidad del otro, especialmente cuando sus opciones vitales difieren de las nuestras", afirmó.

Cuando alguien está dominado por la ira, dijo el Papa, "siempre, siempre dice que el problema está en la otra persona; nunca es capaz de reconocer sus propios defectos, sus propias faltas".

San Pablo recomienda a los cristianos afrontar el problema de inmediato e intentar la reconciliación antes de que acabe el día, dijo el Papa, citando la Carta del apóstol a los Efesios (4, 26) "No permitan que la noche los sorprenda enojado".

"No hay que entregar la noche al diablo", dijo el Papa, repitiendo que es importante que cualquier malentendido se gestione antes de que acabe el día, ya que este vicio nos puede mantener "despiertos en la oscuridad, rumiando nuestras razones y los errores incalificables que nunca son nuestros y siempre del otro".

"En el Padre nuestro, Jesús

nos hace orar por nuestras relaciones humanas, que son un terreno minado: un plano que nunca está en equilibrio perfecto", dijo.

"Todos somos pecadores, todos", con deudas pendientes o "delitos" cometidos y experimentados a lo largo de la vida, dijo.

"Por lo tanto, todos tenemos que aprender a perdonar" en la medida de lo humanamente posible, dijo. "Lo que contrarresta la ira es la benevolencia, la amplitud de corazón, la mansedumbre, la paciencia".

Sin embargo, dijo el Papa, "no todo lo que nace de la ira es malo".

"No somos responsables de la ira en su surgimiento, pero sí siempre en su desarrollo", afirmó.

A veces "es bueno que la ira se desahogue de la manera adecuada", dijo. "Existe una santa indignación", especialmente ante una injusticia, pero no es ira.

Jesús la sintió varias veces en su vida, pero "nunca respondió al mal con el mal", dijo el Papa.

Cuando entró en el templo y expulsó a los mercaderes y volcó

las mesas de los cambistas, Jesús "realizó una acción fuerte y profética, dictada no por la ira, sino por el celo por la casa del Señor", dijo.

"Debemos distinguir bien" que es la santa indignación, dijo, de lo malo, que es la ira, y rezar para gobernar correctamente las propias pasiones, "educarlas bien para que se dirijan hacia el bien, y no hacia el mal".

El Papa recordó también que el 31 de enero es la fiesta de San Juan Bosco.

En sus saludos a los visitantes en otros idiomas, el Papa destacó la obra del santo italiano del siglo XIX, diciendo que ayudó a muchos jóvenes en sus dificultades y, con su celo apostólico, los llevó a Cristo. "Seamos también nosotros testigos ante los jóvenes de que Cristo quiere entrar en nuestras vidas para llenarlas de la alegría que sólo Él puede dar".

Invitó a imitar al santo, "educando a los jóvenes en la fe y formándolos en las distintas ciencias y profesiones, para un futuro mejor en el que la humanidad pueda gozar de paz, fraternidad y tranquilidad".

**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](http://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](http://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; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

304.230.1504. También 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](http://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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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](http://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.

# Good Shepherd Nursing Home Honors Sister Marie James Cody, RGS, for Decades of Service

**WHEELING** — Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Wheeling has renamed a meditation room in honor of Sister Marie James Cody, a member of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (RGS), for many years of dedicated service. “The Sister Marie James Cody, RGS, Meditation Room” is adjacent to the Good Shepherd chapel.



**Sister Marie James Cody, RGS**

As part of the dedication, Father Paul Cabrita, SM, retired Good Shepherd chaplain, celebrated Mass. Sister Marie James and 11 of her sisters traveled from their Motherhouse in Carrollton, Ohio for the Mass. Also in attendance were the Good Shepherd administrative staff and sister’s personal friends.

Good Shepherd CEO Donald R. Kirsch, who named the meditation room in her honor, noted that Sister Marie James began her service at Good Shepherd in 1950, when the facility served as a monastery for young women. When the monastery closed, she was a member of the Sisters’ leadership that decided to donate the land, building, and furnishings to the Diocese

of Wheeling to serve the needs of area residents.

“Sister Marie James not only spent her life in service to young women who were in need of her love and care, but she also served the aged of our area in numerous capacities through Good Shepherd Nursing Home,” Kirsch said.

Sister also worked in the Good Shepherd Social Services Department, providing comfort and prayer to residents and their families. She served many years as a Eucharistic Minister, distributing Holy Communion to residents, and spent much of her time providing comfort to them and praying for them in the final hours of their lives to ensure that they did not die alone, Kirsch said.

Good Shepherd Nursing Home is part of a continuum of senior living options offered by the non-profit Welty Corporation, which also operates the assisted living program at Welty Home and independent living at the Clara & Bertha Welty Apartments, Braddock Apartments and Welty TownHomes. For information, call (304) 242-1093 or visit [www.weltyhome.org](http://www.weltyhome.org).



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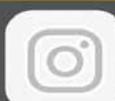
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