

# Pope Says Lent is Time to Let Go of the Frivolous, to Choose Truth, Love

**By Carol Glatz** 

**ROME (CNS)** — What matters is the truth and the love that God sees, not what is superficial, showy and self-centered, Pope Francis said during a Mass to mark the beginning of Lent.

Lent is the time, he said, "to proclaim that God alone is Lord, to drop the pretense of being self-sufficient and the need to put ourselves at the center of things, to be the top of the class, to think that by our own abilities we can succeed in life and transform the world around us."

"How many distractions and trifles distract us from the things that really count! How often do we get caught up in our own wants and needs, lose sight of the heart of the matter, and fail to embrace the true meaning of our lives in this world!" he said.

"Lent is a time of truth, a time to drop the masks we put on each day to appear perfect in the eyes of the world," he said, and to "reject lies and hypocrisy. Not the lies and hypocrisies of others, but our own."

Pope Francis, dressed in the purple vestments of the Lenten season, celebrated an Ash Wednesday Mass Feb. 22 at Rome's Basilica of Santa Sabina. The liturgy began with a procession from the nearby Church of St. Anselm on the Aventine Hill. However, Pope Francis did not do the traditional walk because a painful knee has limited his mobility.

At the Basilica of Santa Sabina, the pope received ashes on the top of his head from Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, who also was the main celebrant at the altar. Cardinal Piacenza, who is head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, distributed ashes to a number of cardinals, bishops and others attending the Mass.

In his homily, the pope said the Lenten period is "the favorable time" for returning to what is essential and true, and to be reconciled with God and each other.

The rite of the imposition of ashes reminds people to "return to the truth about ourselves," which is that "the Lord alone is God and we are the work of his hands."

God, a tender and merciful father, always waits for his children to reconcile with him and he "constantly urges us not to despair, even when we lie fallen in the dust of our weakness and sin."

See "Lent" on Page 3



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis, dressed in the purple vestments of the Lenten season, bows his head in prayer during an Ash Wednesday Mass Feb. 22 at Rome's Basilica of Santa Sabina.

Inside:

U.S. Bishops Call for Prayer, Fasting and Aid to End Ukraine War, Page 3

'A Catholic Perspective on Gender Identity' to be Presented at Morgantown Parish, Page 4

**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.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. 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 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.

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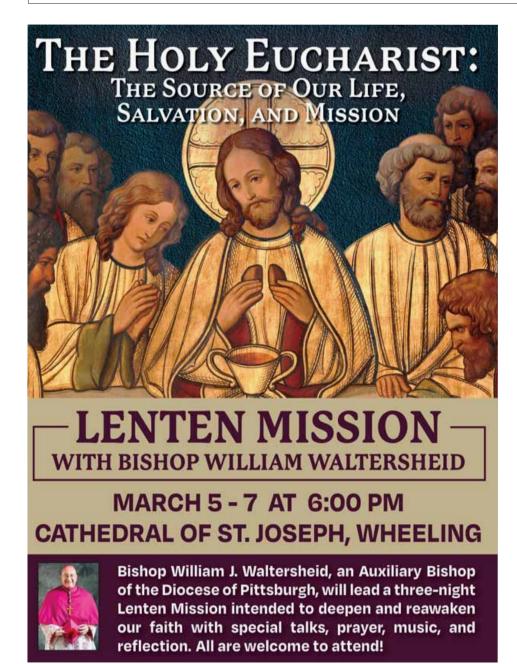


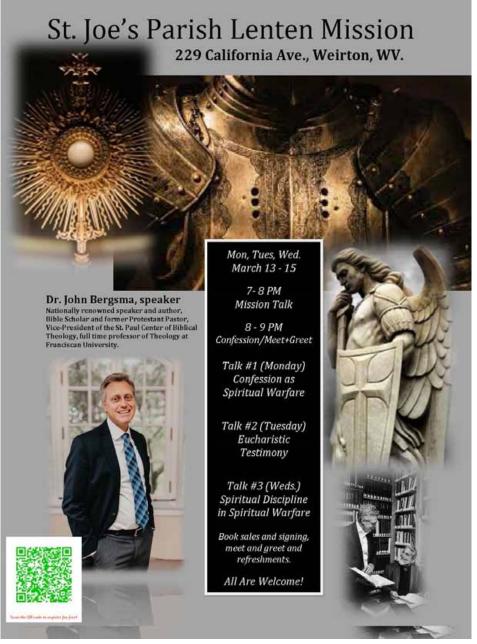
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#### Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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."





February 24, 2023 The Catholic Spirit 3

# U.S. Bishops Call for Prayer, Fasting and Aid to End Ukraine War

By Gina Christian

**(OSV News)** — As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine marks its first anniversary, the U.S. bishops' international policy chairman pleaded for peace amid a war that has left "no corner of the globe untouched."

"We renew our call for an end to all hostilities and appeal to the global community to create frameworks for justice and a lasting peace to be realized," said Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. He made the comments in a Feb. 22 statement released in Washington.

The declaration took on new urgency as Russia announced Feb. 21 it would suspend its participation in the New START treaty, the last remaining nuclear weapons agreement between the U.S. and Russia.

Signed in 2010, New START limits both parties to 1,550 nuclear warheads, and allows for on-site inspections and information exchanges. Although Russia's foreign ministry later said Moscow would continue to follow the terms of the treaty, which expire Feb. 4, 2026, Bishop Malloy said the suspension "further demonstrates the demise of the commitment to advancing responsible nuclear arms control measure," dimming "prospects for the resolu-

tion of this conflict."

In the USCCB statement, Bishop Malloy urged faithful and people of good will to set aside Feb. 24 — the day in 2022 on which Russian forces poured into Ukraine after a monthslong buildup at the border — "as a solemn day of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, beseeching the Lord to bring an end to the fighting and a return to justice and peace in Ukraine."

The commemoration was in solidarity with that announced by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, on behalf of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) Synod of Bishops.

Russia's war on Ukraine continues attacks it launched in 2014 with the attempted annexation of Crimea and the backing of separatist factions in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions. From 2014 to 2021, some 14,400 Ukrainians were killed and 39,000 injured in Russian attacks, according to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since the Feb. 24, 2022, invasion, more than 8,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed and more than 13,200 injured. Officially 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed, according to Ukraine's government, although the actual death toll is likely much higher. More than 8 million refugees have been recorded across Eu-

rope, with 4.85 million registered for some form of temporary protection, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

More than 16,200 Ukrainian children have been abducted by Russia, according to Ukraine's government. With some 66,000 war crimes reported, Ukraine has filed charges of genocide by Russia with the International Court of Justice.

The "expanding war" has also caused "energy and food production disruptions, environmental degradation and high inflation," said Bishop Malloy, "with the poor bearing (the) heaviest tolls."

The USCCB committee chairman commended "U.S. Catholic faithful and American people at large" for their efforts to aid Ukraine over the past year by giving sacrificially, and providing critical aid to those whose lives and homes have been uprooted in the scourge of war."

With Russian President Vladimir Putin vowing in a Feb. 21 speech to redouble the battle, such aid will remain crucial.

"We call on the faithful to continue to pray for peace," Bishop Mallow said, "and to continue to give generously to Catholic and other humanitarian organizations that are providing continued and much needed assistance."

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News.)

### Lent...

#### Cont'd from Page 1

The ashes also invite the faithful to rebuild their relationships with others, he said.

Lent, the pope said, is a time to "break the chains of our individualism" and to rediscover "our companions along the journey of each day" through encounter and listening, and "to learn once more to love them as brothers and sisters."

The three great paths to take on this journey of truth and reconciliation, he said, are the paths of almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

However, they must be done with a heart that is truly renewed and sincere, he said.



"All too often, our gestures and rites have no impact on our lives; they remain superficial. Perhaps we perform them only to gain the admiration or esteem of others," the pope said.

However, the pope warned, "outward displays, human judgments and the world's approval count for nothing; the only thing that truly matters is the truth and love that God himself sees."

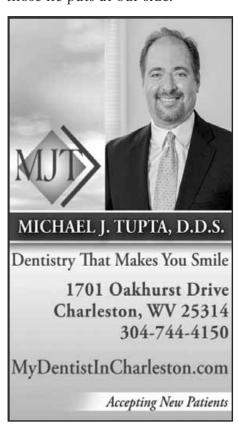
He asked that the faithful use

the 40 days of Lent to: "rediscover the joy, not of accumulating material goods, but of caring for those who are poor and afflicted"; to put God at the center of one's life and pray and dialogue with him from the heart; and to become free "from the dictatorship of full schedules, crowded agendas and superficial needs, and choose the things that truly matter."

"The ashes we receive this evening tell us that every presumption

of self-sufficiency is false and that self-idolatry is destructive, imprisoning us in isolation and loneliness," Pope Francis said. "Life is instead a relationship: we receive it from God and from our parents, and we can always revive and renew it thanks to the Lord and to those he puts at our side."





# 'A Catholic Perspective on Gender Identity' to be Presented at Morgantown Parish

By Colleen Rowan

MORGANTOWN—"A Catholic Perspective on Gender Identity" will be presented by Theresa Farnan, Ph.D., on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. John University Parish Hall in Morgantown. Farnan served as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth. Her talk is free, and the parish invited all Catholics to attend.

Farnan is also a member of the Catholic Women's Forum Advisory Council. She is currently a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) focusing on the challenges of gender ideology as part of EPPC's Person and Identity Project.

Farnan has lectured widely on the gender ideology, Catholic education, theology of the body, the personalism of Pope John Paul II, the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the vocation and dignity of women. She also hosted St. Thomas Aquinas in "Today's World" on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

Father Brian Crenwelge, pastor of St. John's, said Farnan's upcoming talk at his parish is important for Catholics to attend.

"As a college chaplain at a secular university, my students will often come to me and tell me about the agenda-driven material their professors are presenting to them in their classes about gender theory, transgenderism, homosexuality, etc.," Father Crenwelge said. "Thankfully, most of my students who are informed Catholics can see through the false information, but I worry about many uninformed Catholics who might be misled by the culture's strong push..."

This, he said, can simply be because of a lack of knowledge on the topics.

"I believe the culture means well, but unfortunately is misguided in its understanding of healing and help and identity," he added.

Father Crenwelge stressed that Catholics today need to under-

stand what the church teaches on these topics so they can lovingly speak the truth when called upon.

"We have nothing to be embarrassed about in the teachings of our faith," he said. "Sadly, there is much damage, both mentally and physically, being caused on so many people who are being misled by the culture's arguments. People who are struggling with their identity need to be shown authentic love and compassion. I believe the church needs to respond better publicly to the culture's arguments on gender identity. Otherwise, the culture will teach our people its misguided understanding, which will only hurt us and society in the end. People deserve the truth. People deserve authentic love. Only the church can offer that."

Farnan's upcoming talk will

cover all of this.

Farnan is the co-author of two books, "Get Out Now: Why You Should Pull Your Child from Public School Before It's Too Late" and "Where Did I Come From? Where Am I Going? How Do I Get There?" She has taught at St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh; Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio; and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. She has worked with the diaconate formation program for the Dioceses of Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. She received her master's degree and her doctorate in Medieval Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She and her husband, Michael, have 10 children.

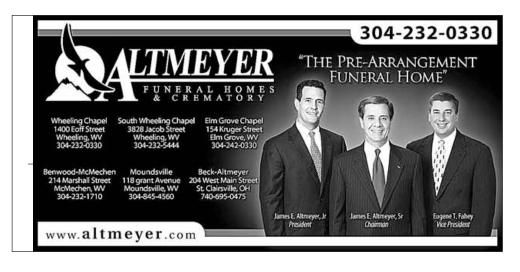
Farnan's talk is free and open to all. For more information, call the parish office at (304) 296-8231.

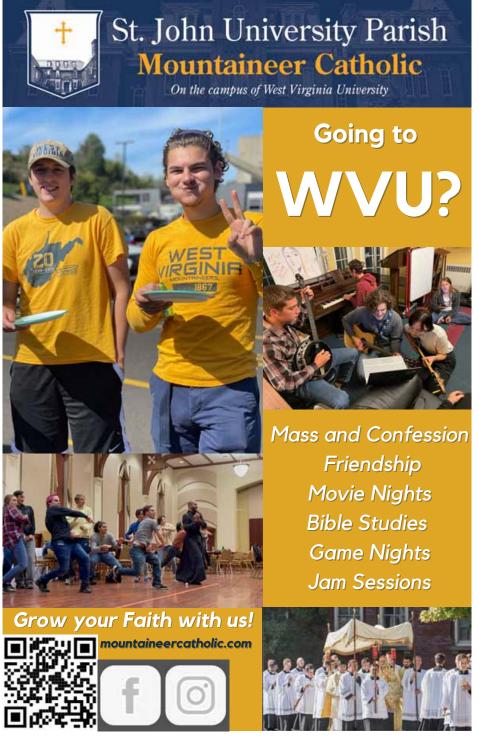
# Charleston's St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Joins Facebook

**CHARLESTON**—"Welcome to our official Facebook page!" St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston posted. The center announced its new Facebook page Feb. 21.

The center is operated by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and shared in its post that the lived purpose for this center is captured in the pastoral letters, "At Home in the Web of Life", and "This Land is Home to Me", both promulgated by the Catholic Bishops of Appalachia. These documents herald: "Because of God's image within us, every human person has the right to all that is needed to guarantee human dignity." "... hopefully the Church might once again be known as a center of the Spirit, where humble people and humble needs come first."

Experience genuine Christian hospitality at this modern facility nestled in a picturesque natural setting just minutes from downtown Charleston, West Virginia, the center posted. "Whether you are looking for a place of solitude, spiritual renewal, or an ideal place for retreats, workshops, or conferences, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center is prepared to meet your needs," the center posted. "The staff humbly and graciously welcomes individuals, along with religious and other non-profit groups involved in spiritual, pastoral, or educational growth and development."





February 24, 2023 The Catholic Spirit 5

# Clara Welty's Generosity has Created Homes for Thousands of West Virginia Seniors

lara Welty's gift of her family's residence and bequest of **✓** \$3 million to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have provided homes for thousands of West Virginians over the past 73 years. Donald R. Kirsch, CEO of the Welty Corporation, recently told the Wheeling Serra Club about the good that Welty's generosity has brought about in Wheeling.

The first Welty Home for the Aged on Main Street in Wheeling was demolished during the construction of the Ft. Henry Bridge, but thanks to the Clara Welty Trust the home was rebuilt on Washington Avenue. "The earnings from the investments held in the Clara Welty Trust paid for the construction of the current Welty Home in 1967 and the conversion of the Monastery of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity on Edgington Lane to Good Shepherd Nursing Home in 1970," he said.

The Welty Trust has benefited from wise, dedicated, and gifted stewards, Kirsch said, including the bishops of Wheeling-Charleston, beginning with Archbishop John J. Swint up to and including Bishop Mark E. Brennan, and lay trustees. Their careful stewardship and financial acumen have also enabled the construction of the Clara and Bertha Welty Retirement Apartments and Welty Village Townhomes, which provide independent living units for nearly 150 senior citizens; and the renovation of a wing of Good Shepherd Nursing Home for use as 15 apartments for seniors with a loved one living at Good Shepherd.

Kirsch, who has worked at the Welty Corporation for nearly 45 years, said it has been his honor to oversee the construction of the apartments and townhomes. "The total cost of these projects was \$43 million," he said. "They represent a wonderful success story and a tremendous gift to the citizens of Wheeling and Ohio County."

Good Shepherd Nursing Home serves 192 residents, providing both long-term care and shortterm skilled care for those residents returning to the community. Because of the hard work and dedication of its staff, the home enjoys an excellent reputation. "Our reputation is supported by the fact that our Medicare rating is 5 stars, the highest rating that Medicare awards. Good Shepherd is the only West Virginia nursing home to achieve a five-star rating for all or part of every year since Medicare

initiated the star rating program 15 years ago in 2008,"

The Welty Home is an assisted living facility providing housing care and services to 52 residents. It is unique in the fact that it offers the highest level of services that an assisted living facility can offer under West Virginia regulations. Furthermore, it is the only assisted living facility

in the area to offer this high level of care and services.

In addition to this higher level of medical service, Welty Home also cares for individuals who are in the mild to moderate stages of cognitive decline, Kirsch explained. Because of this service (and with the assistance of technology,) the Welty Home is a secure facility, mitigating the chance of resident elopement. "Our subgroup of residents who may have the potential to wander wear a device that will lock any exit door if that resident comes within three feet of the door. In addition, the system will sound an audible alarm if a visitor unknowingly holds an exit door open for any resident identified as an elopement risk," he

Coupled with the alarm, staff also receive a notice on their pagers listing the name of the resident and the door that has been breached. Other than this subgroup of residents, all others, including visitors, can enter and exit Welty Home without impedi-

The Braddock Apartments located at Good Shepherd offer 15 one- and two-bedroom apartments for independent living seniors with priority given to spouses of Good Shepherd residents. The Braddock, Clara, and Bertha Welty Apartments and The Welty TownHomes comprise 130 units for independent living.

Good Shepherd Nursing Home also provides physical, speech and occupational therapy for its residents. Recently, to enhance the continued progress of its skilledcare residents post-discharge, Good Shepherd began offering outpatient therapy. "This way, our short-term therapy residents can



**Welty Corporation CEO Donald R. Kirsch** 

return to us following discharge and receive therapy (if continued therapy is required) from the same therapist who treated them as an in-patient," he said.

This outpatient therapy is now available to the entire community. It has become a popular option, in part because of its patient-centered approach. "What's unique about our program is that the

same therapist will treat you each visit, unless it is the scheduled day off for that therapist," he said. "Inconsistency in terms of the therapist treating you can diminish the overall outcome and benefit of your treatments. Therefore, if you need outpatient therapy services, please consider informing your prescribing physician that you would like to receive your therapy

Kirsch considers it a blessing that the Good Shepherd chaplain offers daily Mass at Good Shepherd, and priests in residence at Clara and Bertha Welty Apartments celebrate Sunday Mass in the buildings' chapels and at the Welty Home. Masses at Good Shepherd and the Welty Home are open to the public.

Today, Welty Home for the Aged, Inc. is the largest eldercare corporation registered solely in West Virginia. The corporation provides housing, care, and services daily to 400 individuals. "I am certain that Clara Welty is watching us with tremendous pride at what has become of what she established in 1950, including providing employment for our staff of 380, with an annual operating budget of \$32 million," he said.

To learn more about any Welty program, call (304) 242-1093 or visit www.weltyhome.org.





- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy



GOOD SHEPHERD

304.242.1093 NURSING HOME www.weltyhome.org



Is God Calling YOU to be a Priest of Jesus Christ?

# Come join Us for a weekend of prayer and discernment

# March 3-5

Priest Field Pastoral Center 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430

To complete an application visit WVPriests.org



## **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.

#### **Registration**

Deadline is March 6th To register please visit dwc.org/eucharistic-retreat-2023/.

For more information contact director Gerri Wright at gwright@dwc.org or call her at 304-342-0507.



So you want to be a Camp Carlo Counselor?





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!



Contact Assistant Director, Maggie Moran, for more information: mmoran@dwc.org or 1 (757) 995-4486



# A Date for the 14<sup>th</sup> St. George Camporee

(Formerly Known as the Catholic Camporee)

April 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Who: Scouts BSA

Location: Camp Mountaineer (Morgantown WV)

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

Charleston

Contact: Chris Gorski at catholiccamporee@aol.com for

further Information

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

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



# All Are Welcome!



February 24, 2023 The Catholic Spirit 7

# 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.

# Concert Series to Feature Acclaimed Vocal Ensemble Apollo 5 at St. James in Charles Town

Courtesy Photo CHARLES TOWN—The Arts Academy of St. James 2022-23 Concert series will feature the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble Apollo 5 (pictured above) performing at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at St. James the Greater Church, 49 Crosswinds Drive in Charles Town. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$10 for students, and are available at St. Zita's Cupboard at the church or through Eventbrite. For more information, call (304) 725-5558 or email liturgy@stjameswv.org.



# Synod Initiative of Small Faith Groups Launched in Shepherdstown

**SHEPHERDSTOWN**—Responding to requests made during synod meetings for small faith groups, St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown plans to begin the gatherings this month. The pastoral council chose a scripture-based resource as a guide from Renew International.

Small Christian communities are groups of eight to 12 people who gather to pray, reflect on the Scripture or church teaching, support each other, and engage in action flowing from their sharing, parish officials said.

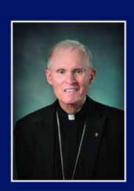
"The main purpose of being together is to grow in the understanding and practice of what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus," they added.

Groups will begin the week of Feb. 19 and meet weekly for six weeks initially. There will be a variety of days, times, and locations for you to choose from.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about our faith in the company of each other," parish officials said. "As Christ said, 'Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there'"

# St. Leo Parishioners Will Visit Shrines and Diocesan Seminarian on Pilgrimage

**INWOOD**—Members of St. Leo Parish in Inwood are joining together for a Parish Pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, Md. Pilgrims will meet at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine and join a Living History Tour April 29. There will be time to visit the gift shop and Basilica following the tour. Pilgrims will have lunch with our diocesan seminarian Dominic Re, who is attending Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Following lunch, Re will take pilgrims on a tour of the seminary, the grounds, and a visit to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. The day will conclude with Mass at the Glass Chapel.







Join Us For An Evening With Bishop Brennan!

May 23, 2023

Mass - 5:30pm St. James the Greater Parish Dinner to Follow Mass

Get to know Bishop Brennan while you celebrate Mass and enjoy dinner.

ALL YOUNG ADULTS WELCOME!

49 Crosswinds Drive . Charles Town, WV 25414

February 24, 2023 The Catholic Spirit 9

# "Hope does not disappoint, because THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY Spirit who has been given to us."

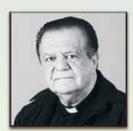
-ROMANS 5:5



Msgr. Frederick P. Annie



Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer





Msgr. Lawrence J. Luciana Msgr. Jeremiah F. McSweeney



Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson



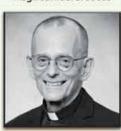


Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus Msgr. P. Edward Sadie, P.A., S.T.L. Rev. William A. Anderson





Rev. Mario R. Claro



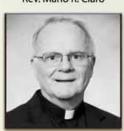
Rev. Harry N. Cramer



Rev. Thomas W. Dagle



Rev. John V. Di Bacco, Jr.



Rev. Larry W. Dorsch



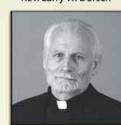
Rev. D. Kent Durig



Rev. John H. Finnell



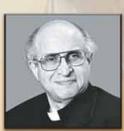
Rev. Patsy J. laquinta



Rev. Giles LeVasseur



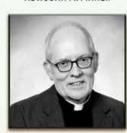
Rev. George Manjadi



Rev. Robert A. Perriello



Rev. William Petro



Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh



Rev. David J. Schmitt



Rev. Douglas B. Sutton



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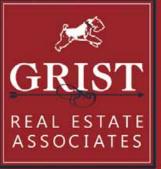
Collection Date: March 12, 2023

# Celebrating Marriage



Courtesy Photo

Parishioners at Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon celebrated World Marriage Day recently with a blessing of all married couples, followed by a wedding cake reception in the parish hall. Parishioners shared their wedding photos for this special event. The photo display is pictured above.



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## CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA MISSION MOMENT

# Lenten Reflection

This Lenten Season gives us an extra opportunity to demonstrate our love for God through our care and concern for our brothers and sisters. During this time of fasting, praying, and almsgiving, we invite you to deepen your relationship with God through our ministry. Here are a few ways to get involved:

#### Pray with Us

Every week we assist individuals in crisis — the family evicted from their home, a gentleman without housing struggling with chronic health issues, or the pregnant mom needing shelter. We invite you to join us in prayer for those we serve.

#### Volunteer at an Outreach Center

People come to our outreach centers for a variety of reasons. They might need help to pay a utility bill or make rent one month. Some need support to feed their family, so they turn to one of our food pantries. And others want to set and achieve longer-term goals through case manage-

Volunteers provide a safe space and a listening ear for people searching for compassion. If you want to be inspired by the resilience of your neighbors, consider spending some time helping out at one of our outreach centers.

#### Give Generously to Help Your Community **Thrive**

Each one of our successful clients has a Catholic Charities West Virginia community of supporters behind him or her. Without the open hearts of donors, we could not

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meet the most urgent needs of our neighbors.

Your monetary support makes a true and lasting difference in our community. And we appreciate your generosity. Visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org to make a dona-

These next 40 days will take us through the desert and into the proverbial land of milk and honey. And by working together as we fast, pray, and give, we will create a world where everyone has what they need to be happy, healthy, and reach their full potential.

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

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



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

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

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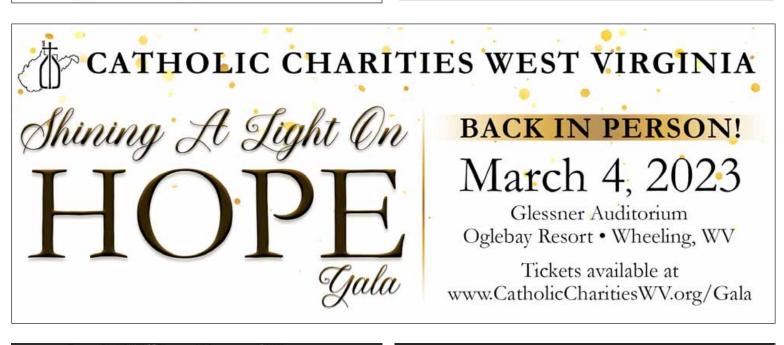
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February 24, 2023 The Catholic Spirit 13

## Obituary—Father Victor Seidel, S.T.

Father Victor Seidel, S.T., (né Patrick Leo) of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity died peacefully on February 17, 2023. Father Victor was born on February 7, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Young Patrick enjoyed playing priest, distributing candy wafers as Communion to a congregation consisting of his brother Chuck and sisters Marilyn and Carol. He was an altar boy at St. Catherine Church in Milwaukee and attended the parish school.

After receiving literature from various religious communities, he was particularly impressed with the Missionary Servants and at age 14 entered the minor seminary in Holy Trinity, Alabama. A little over a decade later, he was ordained a priest in 1961.

Father was known for his joyful, hope-filled, optimistic presence, and contagious laughter. The enthusiastic love and gratitude that people have for the gift of his presence in their lives is reflected consistently in the thousands of people touched by his ministry through the years.

He has served as parish priest, school chaplain, vocations director, and communications specialist in such varied places as Washington D.C.; Rome, Italy; Wheeling, West Virginia; Walterboro, South Carolina; Kiln, Mississippi; Holy Trinity, Alabama; and Thomasville, Georgia. He served as the Director of the Catholic Information Center for the Diocese of Wheeling, one of the first diocese in the country to have a communications office (1969). He created and edited a radio series called "Get It? Got it! Good!" He considered them God Commercials, "God in 30 Seconds." Described as "short provocative statements."

For the above he won national Catholic Media Awards.

He holds the honor of being the first director of our Communications Office. Although Father Victor's broadcasting efforts earned him many accolades, including three national Gabriel Awards, the Catholic media equivalent of the "Emmy Awards," his favorite priestly duty was celebrating Mass

Father Victor is predeceased by his parents and his sister Marilyn. He is survived by members of his Congregation as well his sister Carol and brother Chuck and nieces and nephews. A wake service of remembrance was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, followed by a Funeral Mass at Father Judge Missionary Cenacle in Adelphi, Maryland. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Joseph Church, Holy Trinity, Alabama, March 2, 2023. Burial will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Holy Trinity, Alabama



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

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

Jan 23 The Transformative Power of the Eucharist - Bishop Mark Brennan
Feb 27 Let us be Bread - Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27 The Eucharist as a noun - Bernadette McMasters Kime

April 24 Eucharist in the early church - Fr. John Di Bacco

May 22 Lord I am not worthy - Alex Nagem

June 26 The Eucharist as a verb - Deacon Paul Lim

July 31 Eucharist IS thanksgiving - Kate Marshall

August 28 Bread broken and shared - Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ

Sept. 25 Eucharistic Reflections through song - Chad Carter

Oct 30 The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? - Fr. Walt Jagela

Nov 27 Bread for the journey - Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.

Dec 11 Do this in remembrance of Me – Deacon Doug Breiding (Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

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



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

# Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule

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.

# **Job Opening: Principal**

St. Patrick Church of Weston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Patrick Catholic School, preschool through eighth grades.

The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification

The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF form to Julie Link, jlink@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until April 1, 2023.

# El Papa dice que la Cuaresma es el momento de dejar de lado lo frívolo, de elegir la verdad, el amor

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**ROMA (CNS)** — Lo que importa es la verdad y el amor que Dios ve, no lo que es superficial, ostentoso y egocéntrico, dijo el Papa Francisco durante una Misa para marcar el comienzo de la Cuaresma.

La Cuaresma es el tiempo, dijo, "para proclamar que sólo Dios es el Señor; para desnudarnos de la pretensión de bastarnos a nosotros mismos y del afán de ponernos en el centro, de ser los primeros de la clase, de pensar que sólo con nuestras capacidades podemos ser protagonistas de la vida y trasformar el mundo que nos rodea".

"Cuántas distracciones y superficialidades nos apartan de lo que es importante. Cuántas veces nos centramos en nuestros deseos o en lo que nos falta, alejándonos del centro del corazón, olvidándonos de abrazar el sentido de nuestro ser en el mundo", dijo el Papa Francisco.

"La Cuaresma es un tiempo de verdad, un tiempo para quitarnos las máscaras que llevamos cada día aparentando ser perfectos a los ojos del mundo", dijo, y para "luchar, como nos ha dicho Jesús en el Evangelio, contra la falsedad y la hipocresía. No las de los demás, sino las nuestras".

El Papa Francisco, vestido con las vestiduras moradas de la temporada de Cuaresma, celebró una Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza el 22 de febrero en la Basílica de Santa Sabina en Roma. La liturgia comenzó con una procesión desde la cercana Iglesia de San Anselmo en el monte Aventino. Sin embargo, el Papa Francisco no hizo la caminata tradicional porque una rodilla adolorida ha limitado su movilidad.

En la Basílica de Santa Sabina, el Papa recibió las cenizas en la cabeza de manos del Cardenal Mauro Piacenza, quien también fue el celebrante principal en el altar. El Cardenal Piacenza, quien es el jefe de la Penitenciaría Apostólica, distribuyó cenizas a varios cardenales, obispos y otros asistentes a la Misa.

En su homilía, el Papa dijo que el período de Cuaresma es "el tiempo favorable" para volver a lo esencial y verdadero, y reconciliarnos con Dios y entre nosotros.

El rito de la imposición de las cenizas recuerda a las personas a "volver a lo que realmente somos ", que es que "sólo el Señor es Dios y nosotros somos obra de sus manos".

Dios, padre tierno y misericordioso, espera siempre que sus hijos se reconcilien con él y "siempre nos anima a no desesperar, incluso cuando caemos en el polvo de nuestra fragilidad y de nuestro pecado"

Las cenizas también invitan a los fieles a reconstruir sus relaciones con los demás, dijo.

La Cuaresma, dijo el Papa, es un tiempo para "romper las cadenas de nuestro individualismo" y redescubrir "quién es el que camina a nuestro lado cada día" a través del encuentro y la escucha, y "volver a aprender a amarlo como hermano o hermana".

Los tres grandes caminos para emprender este camino de verdad y reconciliación, dijo, son los caminos de la limosna, la oración y el avuno.

Sin embargo, deben hacerse con un corazón verdaderamente renovado y sincero, dijo.

"Muchas veces, sin embargo, nuestros gestos y ritos no tocan la vida, no son auténticos, quizás los hacemos sólo para que los demás nos admiren, para recibir el aplauso, para atribuirnos el crédito", dijo el Papa.

Sin embargo, advirtió el Papa, "lo que cuenta no es lo exterior, los juicios humanos y el aprecio del mundo; sino sólo la mirada de Dios, que lee el amor y la verdad".

Pidió a los fieles que aprovechen los 40 días de Cuaresma para: "no en las cosas que se acumulan, sino en el cuidado de aquellos que se encuentran en la necesidad y en la aflicción"; para poner a Dios en el centro de la propia vida y rezar y dialogar con Él desde el corazón; y para liberarse "frenar la dictadura de las agendas siempre llenas de cosas por hacer; de las pretensiones de un ego cada vez más superficial y engorroso; y de elegir lo que de verdad importa".

"Así, la ceniza que hoy recibimos en la cabeza nos dice que cada presunción de autosuficiencia es falsa y que idolatrar el yo es destructivo y nos encierra en la jaula de la soledad", dijo el Papa Francisco. "Nuestra vida, sin embargo, es sobre todo una relación; la hemos recibido de Dios y de nuestros padres, y siempre podemos renovarla y regenerarla gracias al Señor y a aquellos que El ha puesto junto a nosotros".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de ninos: La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. Tambien alentamos a utilizar www.report bishopabuse.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, comuniquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdiccion correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuniquese con la policia local; los numeros variaran segun su ubicacion. Si cree que alguien esta en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuniquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Proteccion Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la linea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta linea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diocesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha come- tido un delito. La diocesis tambien alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiasticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de ninos por parte del personal de la Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diocesis, comuniquese 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. Tambien puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diocesis al 304.230.1504. Tam-

bien puede llamar a la linea directa de abuso sexual de la Diocesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja estan disponibles en linea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diocesis" en la barra de menu, 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, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

# Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Victimas de la Diocesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Ademas de los metodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis tambien 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, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a traves de www.dwc.org, en "Rendicion 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 informacion: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policia Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crimenes contra Ninos: 304-293-6400.





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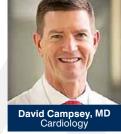


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