

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

U.S. Church Offers Prayers, Solidarity after Russia Attacks Ukraine



CNS Photo/Valentyn Ogirenko, Reuters

Smoke rises from the territory of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's unit in Kyiv Feb. 24 after Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized a military operation in Ukraine.

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As war broke out in Europe Feb. 24, with Russia's early morning attacks on various parts of Ukraine, Catholics in the U.S. joined Pope Francis in prayers for the people of the East European nation and for peace.

"We join @Pontifex in calling on all people of goodwill to pray for the people of #Ukraine and for an end to war," said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a tweet, hours after Russia launched rocket attacks into Ukraine and followed the aggression with a mobilization of troops and tanks into Ukrainian territory.

News reports showed bombarded apartment buildings and towns and abandoned cities.

Some reported at least 40 casualties, others said they numbered in the hundreds early Feb. 24. The only

thing for certain, said NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, is that "peace our continent has been shattered."

U.S. bishops, like much of the world, focused on the East European nation Feb. 24. Some condemned the actions of Russia, others expressed worry about the consequences on civilians and what the future brings. Though messages differed, they seemed to be largely united behind Ukraine.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a Feb. 24 statement on behalf of the country's bishops, encouraged Catholics to join Pope Francis' call to prayer and fasting to bring an end to the conflict.

"In times of trouble, we call on the tender mercy of

See "Ukraine" on Page 2

Bishop Brennan Updates Masking Protocols at Churches in the Diocese

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has implemented a number of protocols designed to keep members of the faithful, volunteers, and clergy members safe and healthy.

These protective measures have worked well as to this date there have been no traceable outbreaks due to Catholic Masses throughout the state. This is a testament to the hard work you have done to protect yourself and others. I thank you.

We have worked closely with health officials in our state and nation. As their guidance has changed, so too can our protocols. In adherence to those updated guidelines from health officials, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston advises parishioners that masking is now optional at all of our churches throughout the Diocese.

We must remember to be respectful of others' choices and be sensitive to those who continue to make use of facial coverings.

The following masking protocols remain in place for priests, deacons, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

1. Priests, deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must both sanitize their hands before distributing the Body of Christ and wear masks while distributing the Sacrament. They must also sanitize their hands after giving Holy Communion to a person on the tongue before moving to the next communicant. Masking must also be used when administering other Sacraments in which close contact is required as well. Ministers must wear masks during the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday.

See "Protocols" on Page 2

Inside: Bishop Brennan's Pastoral Letter for Lent, 2022, Page 3

Pope Calls for Day of Prayer, Fasting for Peace in Ukraine

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the threat of war loomed over the world, Pope Francis called on people to pray and fast for peace in Ukraine on Ash Wednesday.

Before concluding his general audience Feb. 23, the pope called on believers and nonbelievers to combat the “diabolical insistence, the diabolical senselessness of violence” with prayer and fasting. “I invite everyone to make March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace,” he said. “I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace protect the world from the folly of war.”

Russia attacked various parts of Ukraine Feb. 24.

In his appeal, the pope said he, like many around the world, felt “anguish and concern” after Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized the independence of the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. The pope said that due to the “alarming” developments in the region, “once again, the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests.”

“I would like to appeal to those with political responsibilities to do a serious examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the father of all and not only of some, who wants us to be brothers and sisters and not enemies,” he said.

He also urged world leaders to “refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing the coexistence between nations and discrediting international law.”

Ukraine...

Cont'd from Page 1

God ... to guide our feet to the way of peace,” he said, recalling words from the Gospel of Luke. “May our prayers, joined with those of people around the world, help guide those waging war to end the meaningless suffering and restore peace. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.”

On March 2, Ash Wednesday, most dioceses will take up the USCCB’s the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, which includes Ukraine.

By and large, prelates took to Twitter to express themselves. Almost all directed their dioceses to the Catholic Church’s teachings on peace.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, said that “we must always reject war as a political solution and propose honest and respectful dia-

logue among nations as the only way forward.”

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago tweeted that he had requested prayers for peace in Ukraine be added to all Masses in the Illinois archdiocese.

“Most of us know war in Europe from the stories of our parents and grandparents, from history portrayed in films and books,” he said. “This attack on a peaceful, sovereign nation is a sad reminder that the work of peace is never over.”

“Please pray with me for the safety of all now under fire and for those in other nations fearful the war in Ukraine may overspread their borders.”

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, in a Feb. 24 statement recalled a 2019 visit to Lviv, Ukraine, to present an award to Archbishop Borys Gudziak, now head of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia,

for his “leadership of the first Catholic university established in the territory of the former Soviet Union.”

Father Jenkins said that during the presentation of the award, he “spoke of the innumerable challenges in a society traumatized by war, genocide and political oppression and of the efforts of Archbishop Gudziak and his colleagues to bring to Ukraine healing and hope.”

Ukraine, once part of the Soviet Union, under whose rule it suffered a famine that led to millions of deaths, voted for independence in 1991. In a Feb. 23 interview with Relevant Radio, Archbishop Gudziak explained how Russia’s Vladimir Putin sees Ukraine as part of its territory, fomenting separatist movements in the country as he sought to absorb it. But the archbishop called it a “ridiculous distortion of history and a negation of the human dignity of Ukrainians. Basically saying ‘you don’t exist, you didn’t exist ... we’re going to use

force and subdue you.” He also spoke of what he sees as the consequences for people of faith.

“The sad story for Ukrainian Catholics is that every time Russia takes over some part of Ukraine where the Ukrainian Catholic Church exists, sooner or later, whether it’s within a month or a year or 10 years or 20, the Ukrainian Catholic Church is simply obliterated,” he told Relevant Radio.

“And this will be the case for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which also endured great persecution, and for other people of goodwill who want to express their spiritual lives, their culture, use their language,” Archbishop Gudziak said. “It’s really devastating.”

The Catholic organization Pax Christi USA in a statement condemned the invasion and urged “influential voices within the U.S. Catholic community to refuse to beat the drums of war.”

Protocols...

Cont'd from Page 1

2. Priests and deacons should wear masks if altar servers are close to them (e.g., holding the missal for the opening and closing prayers).

All other protocols put in place by the Diocese on June 11, 2021, (online at dwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Updated-directives-6-10-21.pdf) remain in effect.

We will continue to monitor this situation and discern future direction that we may safely celebrate the Eucharist together. Let us continue to offer our prayers for an end to this pandemic—that God will spare the loss of more lives and the serious illness of others.

Sincerely In Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families’ Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under “Accountability,” then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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February 25, Vol. 53, No. 8

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....

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Member
Catholic Press Association
West Virginia Press Association



National Press Photographers Association, Inc.

Published 24 times per year. All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

Pastoral Letter for Lent, 2022

From Bishop Mark E. Brennan

It is good that Lent comes every year. Most if not all of us let some rust accumulate on our soul during the year and it is good to scrape it off. Our cars need a check-up from time to time and so do we. Lent gives us a focused opportunity to examine ourselves in the light of God's love and to see where we fail to respond to His love.

Jesus proclaims at the beginning of His public ministry: The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel [Mark 1: 15]. In Jesus Christ, who said as He prepared to return to the Father, I am with you always, until the end of the age [Matthew 28: 20], the kingdom of God is mysteriously present. By repenting of our sins – the principal work of Lent – and believing Jesus' Good News of forgiveness and new life, we will let the Lord reign in our lives more fully, manifesting God's power and goodness to us and to others.

We tend to focus on ourselves in Lent because spiritual renewal must begin with each one of us. So, it is appropriate that we prepare ourselves for a devout reception of the Sacrament of Penance – the "Sacrament of God's mercy," as Pope Francis likes to refer to it – and give ourselves to prayer more often and with greater receptivity. We should observe the days of fasting prescribed by the Church on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (one full meal and other food not to equal in total a full meal for those between 21 and 59) and the days of abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent (for those 14 and older). But other forms of fasting, foregoing a good thing to honor God, are also helpful. So is almsgiving, doing good especially to the poor, the sick and the marginalized.

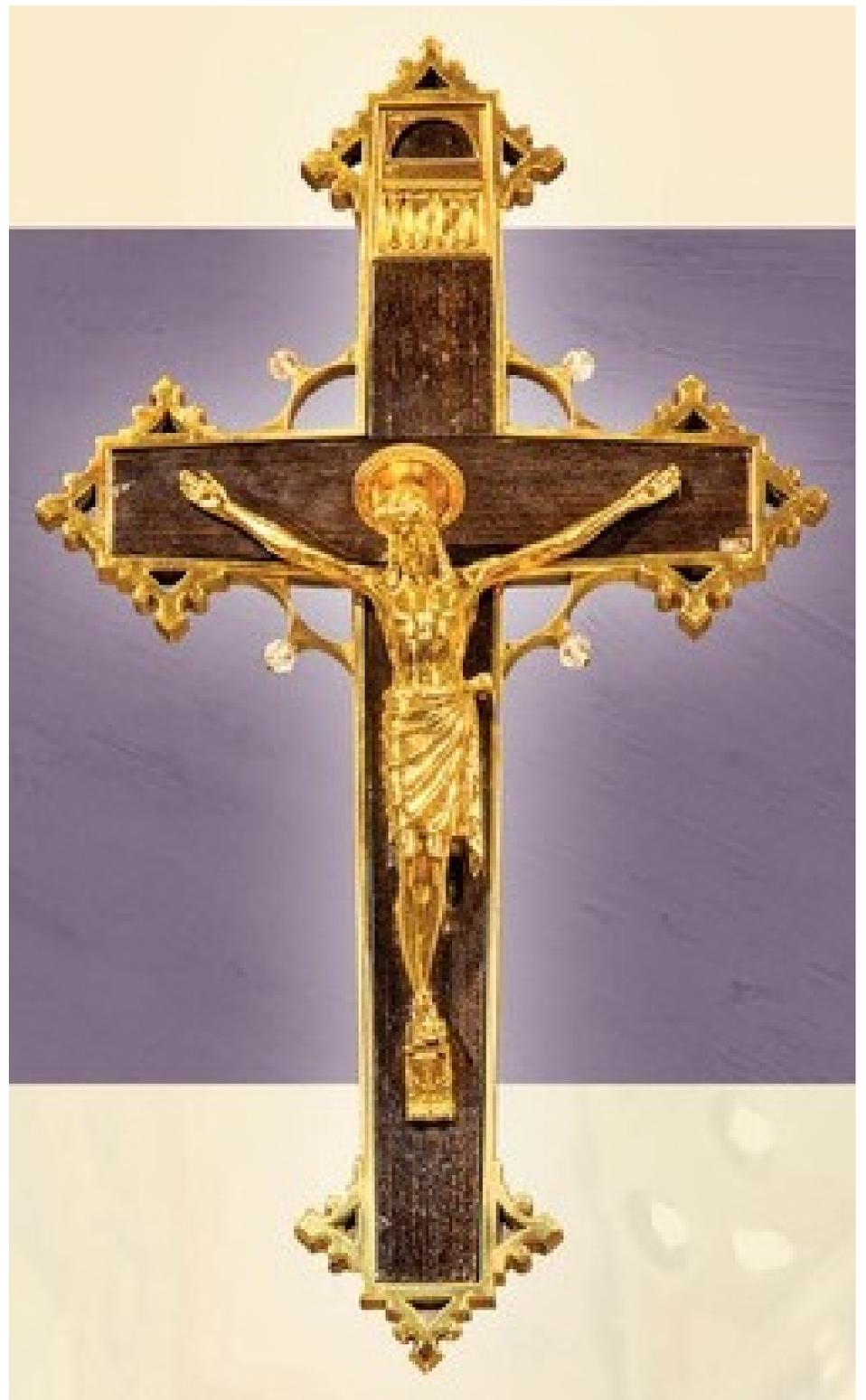
We probably do not think that the whole Church needs Lent but it does. There is an old Latin expression, *Ecclesia semper reformanda*, the Church always in the process of being reformed, that points to the Church's need for renewal. I would like to look at two of the many ways in which that renewal is needed in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

First, the necessity of unity. Has our love grown cold? The Lord says to us: Love one another as I love you [John 15: 12]. It seems to me that some Catholics in West Virginia, as elsewhere in our nation, have let divisive issues in our society color their perception of their brothers and sisters in the faith. Hard lines are drawn, not only on social issues such as abortion and immigration but on liturgical matters: the way to receive Holy Communion and whether or not girls should serve at the altar.

On the latter two issues everyone should recognize that the Church allows greater freedom than some disciples would like to admit. It is the communicant's right to choose to receive Holy Communion in the hand or on the tongue. It is not the priest's or other minister of the Sacrament's right or anyone else's to impose their preference on the communicant. The Church also allows girls and women to be altar servers. We may have our preference but we cannot deny others the right to do what the Church allows, nor should we look down on those who do what we would rather not do. Will you be a modern Pharisee, persecuting your brothers and sisters rather than respecting them? If you do, you are opposing the Lord, who condemned the Pharisees' judgmental attitude.

It is also true that there are things that every Catholic should accept. For example, from the first century AD faithful disciples of Christ have believed that the Lord Jesus gives Himself to us personally in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. His "Real Presence" means it is He, not a reminder of Him or a mere symbol of His love, that we receive in Holy Communion. The appearances of bread and wine remain but they are just that: appearances. The risen Jesus takes over the physical elements and, without changing their appearance, converts them into Himself. Since this belief comes from the Lord – This is my Body; this is my Blood – we are not free to deny it. The American bishops will launch a Eucharistic Revival Project on June 19, Corpus Christi Sunday, precisely to help those Catholics, whose faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist has wavered, to believe again that He gives His very self to them in the Sacrament to build them up in faith and love.

On the moral plane, it is utterly wrong for a Catholic to approve of taking an unborn child's life or that of a handicapped person (euthanasia) or to assist a depressed elderly person to commit suicide. This is to side with the culture of death and disregard the truth that all human life, even if burdened, is a gift from God. It is to agree with the "throw-away culture" that Pope Francis condemns. Rather than eliminate another human



being, even one who is suffering greatly, we are called by our God to bear one another's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ [Galatians 6: 2]. As much as we try, we may not be able to convince our fellow citizens to afford the maximum protection and care to vulnerable persons but, among ourselves, the Lord expects us to be united in the truth.

St. Paul wrote: I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say and that there be no divisions among you but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose [I Corinthians 1: 10]. We must resist, then, the temptation to let political and social divisions in our society infiltrate our Church. We must cherish our unity, holding fast to fundamental teachings while respecting the freedom God gives His children in areas of less importance. As St. Augustine put it: "In essential things, unity; in non-essential things, liberty; in all things, charity."

The other area where this Lent may serve as a beginning of renewal and reform is evangelization. Do not let the word scare you. It simply means bringing the Gospel (evangelium in Latin) to others. There is but one Savior of the human race, only one Person who can save us from sin and death, the twin enemies from which we cannot save ourselves (see I Timothy 2: 5-6). His name is Jesus Christ. This is truly good news, news too good to keep to ourselves. That is why the Lord himself has commanded us: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you [Matthew 28: 18-20].

Too many Catholics see the Church as a gas station where they go to fill their spiritual tank or as a grocery store where they "buy" grace for their needs, without engaging with their fellow disciples. Others understand the deeply social dimension of the Church (a word which, at its

See "Letter" on Page 4

Letter...

Cont'd from Page 3

root, means "assembly") but restrict it to their circle of friends, a kind of "Catholic club." The truth is that we are a movement going through history proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. The Lord's words to make disciples are a command, not a suggestion, and are a principal way that we show love for our neighbor.

There are many people to reach with Christ and His Gospel. Thousands of Catholics in West Virginia no longer walk with us in faith. In the year 2000 there were about 118,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. In 2018 there were 79,000. Now we estimate about 70,000. Do we want our Church in the Mountain State to disappear? Our absent brothers and sisters have many reasons for staying away. We cannot judge their faith; only God can do that, but we miss them. In many instances, with good will and mutual cooperation, even serious problems can be resolved. Pope Francis has urged us, for example, to draw closer to divorced and remarried Catholics to see how the Church may walk with them toward a full integration into Church life. (See his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, *The Joy of Love*, chapter 8.) It is – they are – worth the effort.

There are also hundreds of thousands of West Virginians without any religious affiliation. They may believe in God and share some of our moral values but they do not know their Savior by name, nor do they gather with us to praise him, receive his grace through the sacraments and come to know us as their brothers and sisters in faith. There is a large field for spiritual harvesting in a state which is losing population. Our Church could be growing if we had the courage and love to invite the unchurched to believe in Christ and join us.

Some Catholics feel that they should not bring up their religion with others and even less try to interest them in ours. Religion is private, they think. They say, "I'll practice my faith but let others do whatever works for them." Would St. Paul or St. Francis Xavier or the Catholic Focus missionaries at the West Virginia University campus in Morgantown have brought anyone to Christ with that attitude? We are talking about a relationship with the world's Savior and with those who believe in him. We have not just the right but the obligation to invite – not force – others to take a good look at Jesus Christ and His Church.

Others are simply afraid to speak of the Lord. They fear losing friends or being labeled a religious fanatic. They are like the servant in Jesus' parable who was given one talent to do business with but who, out of fear of his Master, buried it in the ground and then gave it back to him. The Master was not pleased [Matthew 25: 14-30]. We have received the gift of faith to share it with others: parents with their children and grandchildren, catechists with those whom they teach but every one of us with others when the opportunity arises. Imagine standing before the Lord when you die. "Whom did you bring with you?" He asks. You say, "Lord, I was afraid to speak of you. I didn't want to lose any friends." The Lord points to the wounds in His hands and feet and side and says, "I died and rose for them, too, and you were afraid to tell them?" Don't bury your talent of faith. Pray for the courage to speak of Christ!

I challenge you to use the Gospel of Ash Wednesday [Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18] as your model for preparing spiritually to help others know their Savior. There the Lord Jesus speaks of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As a child of God, you can speak to God and to His saints on behalf of Catholics you know who have stopped associating with us and non-religious persons whom God loves. Pray daily for them, that they will be open to faith and the gift of God's grace.

Fasting, especially from food, is a prayer of the body: we offer our

hunger for those for whom we are praying. But fasting may take other forms: denying ourselves an innocent pleasure such as a favorite TV program or podcast or – for the younger ones among us – playing video games. Fast in some way once a week for absent Catholics and non-religious people. Almsgiving is the doing of good works, such as helping a poor family with food or clothing, visiting a sick neighbor or offering to go to the store for her. Offering to God without complaint any hardship or suffering you are experiencing is the other side of good works and is most acceptable to God. Almsgiving in whatever form says to God, "I really mean it when I pray for these folks."

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving prepare you for the final step: asking the Lord for opportunities to speak of your faith in Christ and your love for your Church. You do not need a theological degree. You only need to reflect on why you follow the Lord and why it matters to you to be in union with other disciples in the Christian movement. Then speak simply and sincerely about it. People often will give you an opening. A moment of great joy, such as the birth of a child, when the parents are sensitive to their awesome responsibility to raise the child, allows you to speak of your joy on a similar occasion and how you thanked God for His blessings. A moment of great sadness, such as the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or a great disappointment may give you the opportunity to speak of how your faith in Christ brought you consolation and strength in the face of a similar loss. Most people are not tone-deaf. They will usually give you a hearing and think about it.

If we take Lent seriously this year, we can truly become better Christians. If this is true for each individual believer, it is also true for us as a body of believers, who are privileged to live and work in this beautiful state of West Virginia. In the mid-third to mid-fourth centuries AD, there was a young layman, Anthony, who gave his worldly goods to the poor and went to live in the Egyptian desert. But Anthony did not abandon his Christian brothers and sisters. During times of persecution by the Roman government, he welcomed those who fled the cities for the desert. He counseled disciples who had doubts about their faith, strengthening many. St. Anthony understood what love demands and how important it was to maintain unity among Christ's disciples. In the early twentieth century, a Benedictine monk, Thomas Verner Moore, founded St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington, DC. He always encouraged people to pray but he did not impose any form of prayer on them. He told people, "Pray as you can, not as you can't." Father Moore respected the Christian's freedom to pray according to his or her temperament and situation.

Guarding unity in essentials and respect for liberty in non-essentials, as St. Augustine taught, we are poised to share our faith with our fellow West Virginians, both absent Catholics and persons who are not religious. A young laywoman in a Catholic high school in our Diocese has brought a number of students into the Catholic faith. She prays for them, fasts for them and works hard to encourage them to let the Holy Spirit move them to faith in Christ and union with us. She is not afraid to share her faith. In a simple, personal way, she presents the Gospel of Christ to those whom God has given her the opportunity to evangelize.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, this Lent is about personal renewal and the renewal of our Diocese. Don't let it slip away without addressing both. May God bless and guide you as you move through Lent!

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Saturday, March 5, 11 a.m. – Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Sunday, March 6, 3 p.m. – Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Sunday, March 13, 4 p.m. – St. James the Greater Church, Charles Town

Do Good unto Others, Ditch Digital Addictions for Lent, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must persevere in generously doing good in the world, bolstered by prayer and by fighting evil in their own lives, including an addiction to digital media, Pope Francis said.

“Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication made up of ‘authentic encounters’ — face-to-face and in person,” the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins March 2 for Latin-rite Catholics.

“Let us ask God to give us the patient perseverance of the farmer and to persevere in doing good, one step at a time,” and to know that “the soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity,” the pope wrote.

Released by the Vatican Feb. 24, the pope’s Lenten message was titled, “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all,” which is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians.

Christians are called to sow goodness their entire lives, but even more so during Lent, he wrote.

The first fruit “appears in ourselves and our daily lives,” radiating the light of Christ to the world, he wrote. And sowing goodness “for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God’s benevolent plan.”

Christians must not grow tired of praying, he wrote. “We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion.”

“Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives,” he added, underlining the importance of fasting and asking for forgiveness in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation.

Christians must resist “concupiscence,” the tendency to sin, which is a weakness that leads to “selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin,” he wrote.

One sign of such weakness, he said, is an addiction to “digital media, which impoverishes human relationships.” Lent is an opportune time to cultivate healthy communication and face-to-face encounters.

“Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity toward our neighbors” and of giving joyfully, he wrote.

“Lent is a favorable time to seek out — and not to avoid — those in need; to reach out — and not to ignore — those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit — and not to abandon — those who are lonely,” he wrote.

“Let us put into practice our call to do good to all,” he wrote, “and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized.”

And, Pope Francis said, doing good “with love, justice and solidarity are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each

day” and require patience, prayer and hope.

Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli, interim secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, was among the speakers presenting the Lenten message at a Vatican news conference.

Around the world, she said, one sees the “winds of war, after decades of reckless rearmament,” a deadly pandemic, increasing inequalities and fundamental problems with economic and social systems.

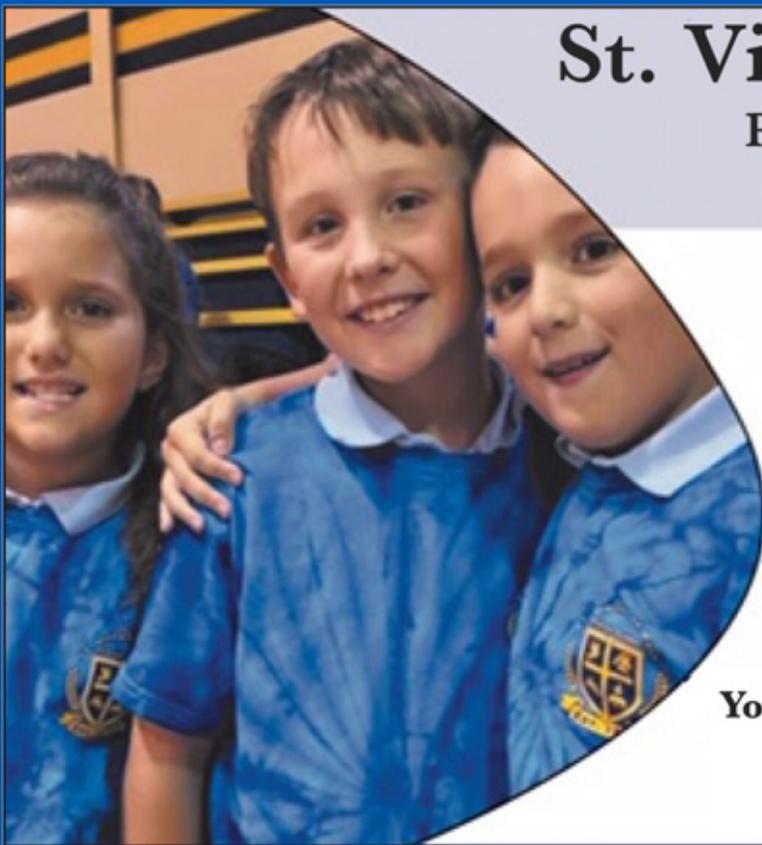
But, she said, “God believes in the Earth and cares for it in the same way that a farmer does not abandon his land,” so in his message, Pope Francis is inviting people “to be that fertile soil that creates the conditions for the seeds to grow” and create something “different from the present.”

Italian Cardinal Francesco Montenegro, a dicastery member and retired archbishop of Agrigento, said bringing about these changes requires a different way of facing problems.

People must not turn their back and believe someone else will take care of things but must know “each one of us can do something” and must look for where there is a need and see others as brothers and sisters, he said.

Communities break down without this kind of loving concern and action, he said, and if everyone were to contribute, creating a “network of love, acceptance and mutual integration, then we will discover a more human world will be possible.”

Open House on Monday, Feb. 28, 6 pm



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Diocese Issues Guidelines for Ash Wednesday

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston issued Guidelines for Ash Wednesday (March 2), giving parishes three options for the distribution of ashes in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

“Last year the Holy See and the USCCB (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) issued guidelines. This year, it has been left to the discretion of the local bishop,” Office of Worship and Sacraments Director Bernadette McMasters Kime said in a Feb. 15 e-mail to all parishes of the diocese.

Kime said that after consulting with other dioceses, the Presbyteral Council and state officials, Bishop Mark Brennan issued the guidelines regarding the distribution of ashes in West Virginia.

“As parishes prepare for the season of Lent we are still exercising caution regarding COVID-19,” the guidelines note.

The first option for the distribution of ashes is sprinkled ashes over the crown of the head. The guidelines state that Bishop Brennan asks that consideration of the reaction of parishioners when this was done last year should be taken into account.

Option 2 is the swab/cotton ball application. For this, as stated in the guidelines, ashes will need to be moistened for the cotton to work effectively and cotton balls or swabs are disposed of properly afterwards.

Option 3 is normal application with thumb. However, the guidelines note that the diocese advises contacting the local health department for more information and guidance. In West Virginia, each county has been given the authority to issue COVID guidelines.

“There have been reports that seem to indicate the virus is not transmitted through cautious physical touch, so long as all the

safety precautions remain in place,” the guidelines note. “If after careful consideration parishes choose the usual distribution of ashes with the thumb, please do the following: Masks are worn by ministers and recipients during the distribution. Ministers sanitize their thumbs before and after the distribution (perhaps after every two or three persons or between families/households).”

Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg will be offering the third option of the normal application of ashes with the thumb for Ash Wednesday, with the availability of the first option of the sprinkling of ashes over the head for those with this preference.

“After consulting with our PhD community health nurse who is a nursing instructor at WVU we feel pretty secure in distributing ashes the usual way with a cross marked on the forehead,” said Very Rev. Casey B. Mahone, pastor of Immaculate Conception and vicar forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate. “We will offer the option of having ashes sprinkled on the crown of the head at Immaculate Conception. We will ask people to cross their arms across the chest and bow down if they prefer the sprinkling.”

Father Mahone went on to say, “Of course, masks will be worn by all.”

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, is also opting for option 3 with available alternatives for those who choose.

“I plan to apply the ashes on the foreheads with regular sanitizing,” Father Higgs said. “I will let those helping me to use one of the methods they are comfortable in doing.”

Father Higgs, who is also vicar forane of the Charleston Vicariate, said he will announce the methods available before the distribution of ashes.



Tyler J. Greenwood Photo

Ashes are shown at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on Ash Wednesday last year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

The diocese’s guidelines for Ash Wednesday also state: “The reception of ashes is not mandatory nor required. Parishioners should be reminded it is their own internal disposition and intention to repent and start over that is the

best fruit of Ash Wednesday, and the ashes are an external sign of that internal reality. They may enter into Lent with a repentant heart even if they decide that receiving ashes is not the right thing for them this year.”

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Very Rev Donald X. Higgs, V.F., is appointed vicar forane of the Charleston Vicariate for a period of three years, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his current assignment as rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

Msgr. Paul A. Hudock has been granted a one-year leave of absence beginning March 1, 2022, with residence at Immaculate Conception Parish rectory in Clarksburg.

Father Cody C. Ford has been granted a leave of absence for a period of six months beginning March 1, 2022.

In consultation with Very Rev. Martin D. Rooney, M.S.A., provincial animator of the Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles, USA Province, **Father Harold F. Dunn, M.S.A.**, is appointed temporary administrator of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling and Our Lady of Seven Dolours Mission in Triadelphia, effective March 1, 2022, with residence at the parish rectory.

Father Aloysius Boh is appointed chaplain to Catholic Distance University in Charles Town, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as administrator of St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville.

2022 Lenten Guidelines

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Lent is a special season within the Church year that focuses on the two-fold theme of repentance and Baptism. We prepare ourselves to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Lent begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 ends with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Because COVID-19 is still present as well as other communicable illnesses (cold, influenza, etc.), core respiratory illness prevention strategies should continue. These include mask wearing, good hand hygiene, vaccination, and staying home when sick.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR ALL CATHOLICS

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone 18 years and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices, is allowed. Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work is affected, the law does not apply. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.

Alliance Between Young, Old Must be Renewed, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The elderly, who are often cast aside, are a treasure trove of wisdom that can help one discover the true meaning of life rather than be consumed by the unrealistic goal of remaining forever young, Pope Francis said.

"Youth is beautiful, but eternal youth is a very dangerous illusion," the pope said Feb. 23 during his Wednesday general audience.

"Being old is just as important — and beautiful — as being young. Let us remember this. The alliance between generations, which restores all ages of life to what is human, is our lost gift, and we must get it back. It must be found, in this culture of waste and in this culture of productivity," he said.

The day's audience talk was the first of a new series dedicated to the meaning and value of old age. Noting that "there have never been so

many of us in human history," the 85-year-old pope said that now more than ever, the elderly face an increasing "risk of being discarded."

"The elderly are often seen as 'a burden,'" he said. "In the dramatic first phase of the pandemic, it was they who paid the highest price. They were already the weakest and most neglected group: we did not look at them too much when they were alive, we did not even see them die."

The pope said that although the current demographic winter has led to a higher number of elderly than young people, the "dominant culture has as its sole model the young adult, that is, a self-made individual who always remains young."

"The exaltation of youth as the only age worthy of embodying the human ideal, coupled with contempt for old age as frailty, decay, disability, has been the dominant image of 20th-century totali-



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

A woman kisses Pope Francis' cross as he leaves his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Feb. 23.

tarianism. Have we forgotten this?" he asked.

Instead of being "honored for the gifts they bring to everyone's sense of life," the pope said, old age, especially "in so-called 'developed' cultures," is often disregarded "as an age that has no special content to offer, nor meaning of its own to live."

Pope Francis warned that the world will be robbed of love if "old age is not restored to the dignity of humanly worthy life," and he en-

couraged Christians "to invest their thoughts and affections in the gifts" old age brings to one's life.

"Everything beautiful that a society has is related to the roots of the elderly," the pope said. "For this reason, in these catecheses, I would like to highlight the figure of the elderly person, so people would understand the elderly are not something to be discarded; they are a blessing for society."

Fraternity of St. Peter Can Continue with Pre-Vatican II Liturgies

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has confirmed that members of the Fraternity of St. Peter may continue to celebrate the Mass, sacraments and Liturgy of the Hours using the pre-Vatican II texts and forms, the fraternity said.

The fraternity, founded in 1988 by traditionalist priests wanting to maintain the old rites while remaining in full communion with the pope, published a copy of the pope's decree on their website Feb. 21.

In an accompanying statement, the fraternity said that Father Benoit Paul-Joseph, superior of the district of France, and Father Vincent Ribeton, rector of St. Peter's Seminary in Wigratzbad, Germany, had met with Pope Francis Feb. 4 and discussed the pope's apostolic letter "Traditionis Custodes" (Guardians of the Tradi-

tion), which limited celebrations of the Mass according to the rite used before the Second Vatican Council.

"In the course of the audience, the pope made it clear that institutes such as the Fraternity of St. Peter are not affected by the general provisions of the motu proprio 'Traditionis Custodes,' since the use of the ancient liturgical books was at the origin of their existence and is provided for in their constitutions," the fraternity said.

The decree signed by the pope and posted on the fraternity's website said Pope Francis "grants to each and every member" of the fraternity "the faculty to celebrate the sacrifice of the Mass, and to carry out the sacraments and other sacred rites, as well as to fulfill the Divine Office, according to the typical editions of the liturgical books, namely the Missal, the Ritual, the Pontif-

ical and the Roman Breviary, in force in the year 1962."

"They may use this faculty in their own churches or oratories," the decree said. "Otherwise it may only be used with the consent of the ordinary of the place, except for the celebration of private Masses."

"Traditionis Custodes" affirmed the duty of bishops to regulate the times and places for celebrations of the Mass using the pre-Vatican II liturgy, ensuring that the faithful who attend those liturgies "do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform" of the Second Vatican Council.

The fraternity's website says it has more than 300 priests and 150 seminarians from 30 countries and serves in more than 130 dioceses around the world.

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Wheeling Knights Council Receives Top Award



Courtesy Photo

Pictured above are officers for the 2020-21 Fraternal Year receiving the Star Council award from District Deputy Ray Blust, second from left. Pictured, from left, are Mike Bush, program director; Blust; Art Bertol, grand knight; and Brian Gordon, membership director.

WHEELING— The Knights of Columbus Carroll Council #504 in Wheeling has received the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award for local councils.

The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented ac-

tivities.

"During this challenging year, Council 504 adapted and continued to stand in the breach serving the people of their parishes, and local organizations in the Wheeling community," Knights of Columbus Supreme Council officials said. "The Supreme Council is please to recognize these achievements and acknowledge the hard work of the Council dur-

ing the 2020-21 Fraternal Year."

Since 1900, West Virginia's first Knights of Columbus Council, Carroll Council #504, has been committed to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism and is one of over 16,000 local Knights of Columbus councils worldwide.

For more information on joining the Knights, contact Grand Knight Mike Bush, at mbush477@gmail.com

Bible Basics Begins in Hurricane Parish March 9

HURRICANE — A five-week course is being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF).

This is a live course which is being held at Ascension Parish in Hurricane on five consecutive Wednesdays from March 9 – April 6. Two class times will be offered: 5 -6:30 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m.

The course is Bible Basics. This course presupposes that an individual has not had a general overview of the bible. This is a great place to begin. The course cannot cover everything one needs to know for navigating into the world of the scriptures, but one is given a few basic concepts to begin the journey. If you have ever wondered how the Bible is arranged, what types of writings can be found in it, how to navigate through the Bible, and how to interpret the Bible as a Catholic, you are about to begin an interesting discovery.

The course is being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, who pays 100 percent of the tuition and the cost of the book associated with the course.

The course facilitator is Gerri Wright. To register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, phone number, and email. Please refer any questions relating to the course content to Gerri Wright at gwright@dwc.org.

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with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

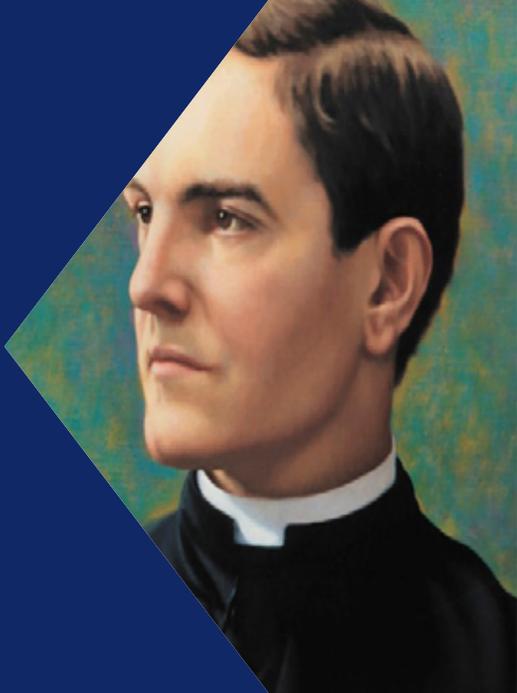
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| 6:30 WOWK 13 | Huntington - Charleston |
| 6:30 WTOV FOX 9 | Wheeling-Steubenville |
| 8:00 WBOY NBC 12 | Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont |
| 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 | Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg) |
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Prayerful Opportunities for Lent at the Cathedral

WHEELING—Lent is just around the corner! Why not give yourself the opportunity to make this the best Lent ever? The Season of Lent provides many ways for everyone to grow closer to Our Lord. Plan ahead to allow yourself the time to participate in some of the wonderful opportunities for prayer at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling during the Lenten Season:

Each Friday, there will be Eucharistic Adoration following the 12:05 p.m. Mass until 5:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by the cathedral at any point on a Friday afternoon and spend some time in quiet prayer and adoration.

Following the period of Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross will be held each Fri-

day at 6 p.m. The Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis) is a journey made in the Holy Spirit, the divine fire that burned in the Heart of Jesus and brought Him to Calvary.

On Fridays at 6:30 p.m. following the Stations of the Cross, the cathedral will have a Simple Lenten Meal in the Chancery Cantina. While the meal is free for everyone, there is an opportunity for almsgiving to a local charitable organization.

On Sunday evenings during Lent, the cathedral will celebrate Solemn Vespers at 6 p.m. Vespers, also known as Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the church. A short liturgy (usually lasting no more than 30 minutes) consisting of the singing

of psalms and the Magnificat by the Cathedral Schola, Vespers is a beautiful way to give thanks to God at the end of the day.

In addition to the regularly scheduled confessions on Fridays and Saturdays, the cathedral will have confessions on the Tuesday evenings of Lent from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Bring a family member or friend to stop in for quiet prayer or rediscover our heavenly Father's heart of mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting, and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter even more meaningful. We encourage you to take Lent seriously this year and make it the best ever!

'With Open Hands,' a Lenten Series Coming to Charleston

CHARLESTON—The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston will present a Lenten series, "With Open Hands," next month.

"With Open Hands" is the title of Henri, J.M. Nouwen's book that will ask participants to answer the following questions during this Lenten Season: "When, Where, Why, How; and for Whom and to Whom should I pray?"

The cost of the book is \$7 and will be available for purchase during the first session on Tuesday, March 15 in the Sacred Heart Cordis Center on 1114 Virginia Street East in Charleston. Participants will meet once a week on Tuesday morning from 10:15-11:30 a.m. There will be a total of four sessions held on the following dates of March 15, 22, 29 and concluding on April 5.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, contact Bob Harrison at DRBOBWV@AOL.COM.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18
An Evening of Music and Prayer ~ **7 p.m.**
to Honor Saint Joseph at Saint John XXIII
Pastoral Center (*light reception will follow*)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
Celebration to Close the
Diocesan Observance of the Year of Saint Joseph
Arrive and Check-In ~ **9:30 a.m.**
Prayer/Adoration/Confessions ~ **10 a.m.**
Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph/Tours of the Basilica ~ **11 a.m.**
Boxed Lunch ~ **12:30 p.m.**
Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph ~ **1:15 p.m.**
Music Program/Concert ~ **2 p.m.**
Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan ~ **3 p.m.**

Please register at www.dwc.org/pilgrimage or by scanning the QR code.
Overnight accommodations available at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center
located at 100 Hodges Road, Charleston. Please call 304-342-0507.
The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is located at 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston



Wheeling University Transforms Benedum Room into a 'Dining Destination'

WHEELING—Wheeling University has invested nearly \$300,000 to transform its dining facility into a 'dining destination' that offers students a place to eat meals, as well as socialize and study.

According to Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favade, "Renovating the Benedum Room allows us to utilize this space as more than a dining facility. The upgrades we made will give students a place where they can eat meals, relax, study and build community."

In 2019, the university partnered with food service provider Aladdin, with a commitment to creating 'a campus dining destination,' Favade said. The cost of the redesign is being provided as part of Wheeling's affiliation with Aladdin.

A flurry of activity began inside the Benedum Room last summer, the president noted. Workers from JD&E Contracting of Wheeling brought to life the plans crafted by Wheeling Alumnus Tim Crowley '90 of Breisch and Crowley, a design firm in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

"Tim's design for the area includes new seating options for dining, as well as areas where students can unwind or study," Favade said. "Our goal with the redesign, was to meet the needs of today's students, by creating a great social space that will remain open for students to enjoy during and after food service hours."

In addition to traditional table and chairs seating, the 'new' Benedum Room now

offers students and employees booths and a counter-style seating areas—complete with charging stations for handheld devices and laptops.

Favade added, there are couches, armchairs and ottomans to allow students comfortable seating to spend time with classmates, meet with a faculty member or just take it easy. The centerpiece of the renovation is a ceramic-wall featuring a water vapor fireplace, complete with seating around the area. Four large screen televisions were installed throughout the room so students can watch the news, sporting events or their favorite shows.

Crowley said as an alumnus, he was honored when Favade contacted his design/build firm to help design the Benedum Room renovations. He explained after onsite meetings and numerous discussions, his excitement grew when he learned of the potential to transform the space into not only a dining area, but also a student union.

"As we explored multiple designs to provide for varied dining seating options, we were able to introduce cool design features like multiple lounge areas, pergolas, live edge tables and even a cutting edge hi-tech water vapor fireplace feature! The time available to bring the project to life, from drawing to reality, was tight. Our entire team, including the Interior Designers from Aster Industries and the contractors from JD&E, Inc., all worked incredibly hard to



Courtesy Photo

Wheeling University invested nearly \$300,000 to upgrade the Benedum Room to make it a dining destination for the entire campus community. The Benedum Room now features a water vapor fireplace and a variety of seating options to provide students a place to eat, study and relax with friends.

make it happen," Crowley added.

Crowley was installing the live edge wood tables when the new students arrived on campus in August. "It was incredible to see the energy and excitement from the students who were already making 'The Cardinal's Nest' a special place of their very own. It brought back a lot of wonderful memories."

Vice President for Student Services, Andrew Lewis said the renovations offer students a true student union.

"The Benedum Room is now a place where students can gather, not only to eat, but to socialize and enjoy each other's company. This newly designed space gives our students a great place to study and hang out with

friends throughout the entire day," Lewis said. "The addition of the water vapor fireplace is something very unique and adds to 'feel' of the room. President Favade continues to make upgrades that will benefit the students, and renovating the Benedum Room is just one more example of how she is putting the needs of our students first."

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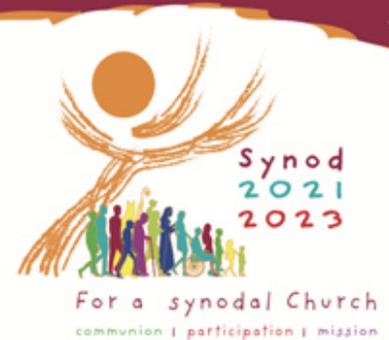
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Synod listening sessions are in full swing across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the faithful to engage in sharing about Church life. Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests encourage everyone to be alert to their parish's routine means of communication, such as bulletins, websites, social media pages, and emails, which will announce specific details about their local synod process.

Find a listening session near you at: dwc.org/synod-sessions/



Synod Listening Sessions Continue Across WV

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling: Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m. in the Chancery Lobby; March 8, 1-3 p.m. in Columbia Hall at St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling

Christ the King, Dunbar: First Session—March 6, noon; Second Session—March 13, noon.

Holy Cross, Pineville: First Session—March 20, 4 p.m.

Holy Redeemer, Spencer: First Session—March 20, 10 a.m.; Second Session—March 27, 10 a.m.

Holy Spirit, Monongah: Third Session—Feb. 26, 5 a.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 27, 10 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland: First Session—March 6, 9:30 a.m.; Second Session—March 11, 6 p.m.; Third Session—March 20, 9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Huntington: First Session—Feb. 26, 6 p.m.; Second Session—Feb. 27, 10 a.m.; Third Session—March 19, 6 p.m.; Fourth Session—March 20, 10 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Bluefield: First Session—March 27, 10 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Princeton: First Session—March 20, 12:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Powhatan: First Session—March 27, 12:30 p.m.

St. Anthony, Charleston: Second Session; Feb. 21, 1 p.m.; Third Session—March 12, 10 a.m.; Fourth Session—April 3, 11:40 a.m.

St. Anthony, Follansbee: First Session—Feb. 28

St. Augustine, Grafton: First Session—March 27, 10 a.m.-noon

St. Bernadette, Hedgesville: First Session—March 2, 10 a.m.-noon; Second Session—March 3, 6-8 p.m.

St. Edward, Terra Alta: First Session—March 6, 2 p.m.

St. Elizabeth, Elizabeth: First Session—March 13, 1 p.m.; Second Session; If needed, April 3, 1 p.m.

St. Elizabeth, Phillipi: First Session—April 3, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown: Third Session—March 8, 10 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg: Fourth Session—March 16, noon; Fifth Session—March 26, 1 p.m.

St. James, Charles Town: First Session—March 5, 1 p.m.
St. James, McMechen: Third Session—Feb. 23.

St. John, Benwood: First Session—March 13, noon; Second Session—March 20, noon

St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg: Third Session—Feb. 19, 5 p.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 24, 7 p.m.

St. Joseph, Martinsburg: First Session—Feb. 26, 2-4 p.m.; Second Session—Feb. 27, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

St. Leo, Inwood: First Session—March 11, 5-7 p.m.; Second Session: March 25, 5-7 p.m.; Third Session—April 3, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Fourth Session—Virtual Session—TBA

St. Luke the Evangelist, Morgantown: First Session—Feb. 27, 9:15-10:40 a.m.

St. Michael, Vienna: First Session—Feb. 27, 10 a.m.; Second Session make up date, March 13, 10 a.m.

St. Michael, Wheeling: Second Session—March 9

St. Peter, Farmington: First Session—March 20, following Sunday Mass

St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont: Third Session—March 6, 11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Fourth Session—March 20, 11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.

St. Peter, Welch: First Session—March 6, 10 a.m.

St. Sebastian, Kingwood: First Session—March 20, 2 p.m.

St. Thomas, Gassaway: First Session—March 13, 12:15 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs: Fifth Session—March 1, 6:30 p.m.

St. Zita, Masontown: First Session—March 13, 2 p.m.

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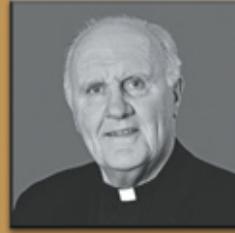
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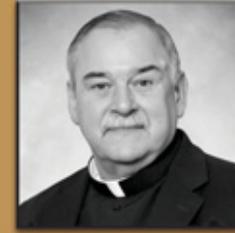
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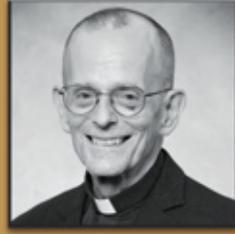
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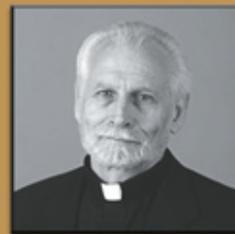
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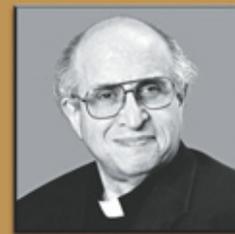
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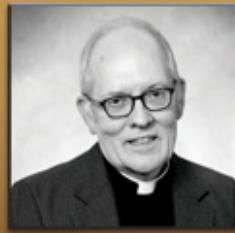
Rev. George Manjadi



Rev. Robert A. Perriello



Rev. William Petro



Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh



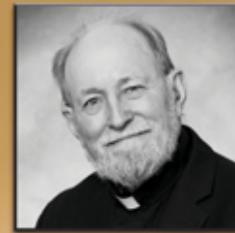
Rev. David J. Schmitt



Rev. Douglas B. Sutton



Rev. Laurence Wrenn



Rev. Paul D. Yuenger

RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: March 20, 2022



Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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

Global Catholic Tours of Va

9 Days Holy Land. Sep 12-20, 2022

\$3199. 1 night Tel Aviv, 2 nights Galilee, 5 nights Jerusalem. With Fr. Dan Pisano from Petersburg, WV.

10 Days Vienna- Salzburg- Budapest Sep 19-28, 2022

\$3999. Includes 3 nights Vienna, 3 nights Salzburg, 4 nights Budapest. With Fr. Bjorn Lundberg from Winchester, VA.

13 Days Istanbul-Greece-Crete Nov 7-19, 2022

\$4999. Includes 2 nights-Istanbul, 1 night each in Kavala, Thessaloniki, Kalambaka & Delphi, 2 nights in Crete & 4-nights in Athens. With Fr. Eric Shafer from Colonial Beach, VA

11 Days Catholic Ireland. Sep 12-22, 2022

\$3950. Includes 1 night Limerick, 2 nights Kilkenny, 3 nights each in Galway and Dublin. With Fr Art Bufogle from Mannington, WV.

For brochures or more information, contact John Tagnesi at 1-888-544-4461 or jtag1964@verizon.net



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Let us Pray,

Use me God,
show me how to give generously,
pray purposefully, and
serve joyfully for a purpose
greater than myself.

Amen.



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To register visit www.emfgp.org/07-16-22-wv-registration-form-2/



CCWVa volunteers unload food from the Mobile Food Pantry van in Smithville.

Courtesy Photo

Food Pantry on Wheels ‘Serves the Whole Person’

“We have the best volunteers in the whole world,” said Jeremy Lessner, the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Mobile Food Pantry Outreach Coordinator. “At the very beginning of the pandemic, we weren’t sure how we could serve safely. So I called each volunteer, and almost everyone came back.”

The CCWVa Mobile Food Pantry travels to six counties in West Virginia which are considered “food deserts.” In these spots, grocery stores are miles away from where people live. And that distance makes it difficult for people to feed their families. “Starvation is worse than any disease,”

Lessner said, so it’s critical to continue serving despite obstacles presented by COVID.

The beauty of the Mobile Food Pantry goes beyond meeting peoples’ very basic need for food. When volunteers learned that “Tom,” a guest of the pantry, wanted help finishing his High School diploma, they connected him with CCWVa’s Adult Learning program.

“He came for food,” said Jeremy of Tom. “But this is the kind of thing we do. We serve the entire person.” Staff and volunteers encouraged Tom, who completed his studies. And when jobs started opening back up, the team worked with him to make sure he found a job that matched

his skill set.

Jeremy noted that many of the leading causes of death in the U.S. every year can be attributed to diet. “Good nutrition improves – and may even save – lives,” said Lessner.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and our Mobile Food Pantry, 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.

Save the Date! ‘Pasta-bilities’ Fundraiser for CCWVa Feb. 27 in Charleston

“Pasta-bilities” on Sunday, Feb. 27, at the St. Anthony Parish Center in Charleston will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Funds raised through the event will support the vital programs and services provided by CCWVa’s Western Region.

Due to COVID restrictions, this will be a carry out lunch/dinner. Tickets are \$15. Donate items needed for the event: tomato paste, tomato juice, pasta penne, and zip closure sandwich bags.

Orders may be placed at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/Pastabilities2022

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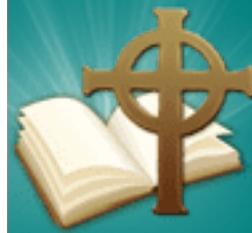
Part-Time Music Director Needed

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

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

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

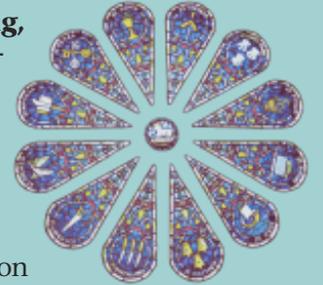
Any questions, please call the parish office at (304) 229-8945.



Principals Needed at Three Catholic Schools

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Wheeling,

West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Vincent de Paul Grade Catholic School, preschool through 8 grades. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school as well as assist in developing long range goals for school advancement.



We seek a leader with strong communication skills, capable of developing and maintaining an excellent academic program. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward our mission to instruct students in the Catholic faith. 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 five years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

Salary will be competitive and negotiable, depending on qualifications and years of experience. This position begins on July 1 for the 2022-23 school year. Applications must be submitted by February 28, 2022.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Martinsburg,

West Virginia, is seeking a principal for St. Joseph School, which has students in 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 five years of successful educational experience, with preference given to one with administrative experience.

A résumé with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Fr. Thomas Gallagher (tgallagher@dwc.org) by Friday, March 11, 2022.

St. Francis of Assisi Church, St. Albans,

West Virginia, is seeking a principal for St. Francis of Assisi School, preschool through 5th grade. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school as well as assist in developing long range goals for school advancement. We seek a leader with strong communication skills, capable of developing and maintaining an excellent academic program. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward our mission to instruct students in the Catholic faith. 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 certificate from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.



Salary will be competitive and negotiable, depending on qualification and years of experience. This position begins on July 1 for the 2022-23 school year. Applications must be submitted by February 25, 2022.

A résumé with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Kelly Oxley at koxley@sfsww.com or mailed to St. Francis of Assisi School, Attn: Ms. Kelly Oxley, 525 Holley St, St. Albans, WV 25177

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Papa pide jornada de oración y ayuno por la paz en Ucrania

Por Junno Arocho Esteves,
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Bajo la amenaza de guerra, el papa Francisco invitó a orar y ayunar por la paz en Ucrania este Miércoles de Ceniza.

Antes de concluir su audiencia general el 23 de febrero, el papa le pidió a creyentes y a no creyentes a luchar contra la "insensatez diabólica de la violencia" diciendo que "se responde con las armas de Dios, con la oración y el ayuno".

"Invito a todos a hacer del próximo 2 de marzo, Miércoles de Ceniza, una Jornada de ayuno por la paz", dijo. "Animo de forma especial a los creyentes para que en ese día se dediquen intensamente a la oración y al ayuno. Que la Reina de la paz preserve al mundo de la locura de la guerra".

En su llamamiento, el papa dijo que, como muchos en todo el mundo, sentía "angustia y preocupación" después de que el presidente ruso, Vladimir Putin, reconociera la independencia de las regiones de Donetsk y Luhansk, al este de Ucrania.

El papa dijo que debido a los acontecimientos "alarmantes" en la región, "una vez más, la paz de todos está amenazada por los inter-

eses de las partes".

"Quisiera hacer un llamamiento a quienes tienen responsabilidades políticas, para que hagan un serio examen de conciencia delante de Dios, que es Dios de la paz y no de la guerra; que es Padre de todos, no solo de algunos, que nos quiere hermanos y no enemigos", dijo.

También instó a los líderes mundiales "que se abstengan de toda acción que provoque aún más sufrimiento a las poblaciones, desestabilizando la convivencia entre las naciones y desacreditando el derecho internacional".

El reconocimiento de Putin de la independencia de las dos regiones separatistas fue visto por líderes occidentales como una violación del derecho internacional que protege la integridad territorial de Ucrania y como una medida que podría allanar el camino para una invasión rusa del este de Ucrania.

A raíz de las acciones del presidente ruso, Estados Unidos, el Reino Unido y la Unión Europea anunciaron sanciones contra varios bancos e instituciones rusas.

En un comunicado emitido el 22 de febrero, el arzobispo Sviatoslav Shevchuk de Kyiv-Halych, jefe de la Iglesia católica ucraniana, dijo que el reconocimiento de Putin de

las regiones de Donetsk y Lugansk ha causado un "daño irreparable" a la "lógica de las relaciones internacionales".

También dijo que el presidente ruso "destruyó los principios fundamentales para un proceso a largo plazo de restauración de la paz en Ucrania" y "creó el camino para una nueva ola de agresión militar contra nuestro estado".

"Hoy, toda la humanidad ha sido puesta en peligro", dijo, porque la acción de Putin afirma que "los poderosos tienen derecho a imponerse a quien quieran, sin

tener en cuenta el estado de derecho".

El arzobispo Shevchuk recordó a los líderes mundiales su deber y responsabilidad de "trabajar activamente para evitar la guerra y proteger una paz justa".

"Hago un llamado a todas las personas de buena voluntad para que no ignoren el sufrimiento del pueblo ucraniano provocado por la agresión militar rusa", dijo. "Somos un pueblo amante de la paz. Y precisamente por eso estamos dispuestos a defenderla y luchar por ella".

Rito de Elección y Llamada a la Conversión Continua

Sábado, 5 de marzo, 11 a. m. – Catedral de San José, Wheeling

Domingo, 6 de marzo, 3 p.m. – Basílica de la Concatedral del Sagrado Corazón, Charleston

Domingo 13 de marzo, 16 hs. – Iglesia de Santiago el Mayor, Charles Town

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. 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, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

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

Center for Sleep Medicine Now Accepting Pediatric Patients

WHEELING—The Center for Sleep Medicine, operated by WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, recently received its accreditation in pediatrics, and now accepts patients 5 years old and up as well as adults.

“We are the only center for sleep in our region offering pediatric sleep testing to keep your children close to home,” said Edmond Roberts, MD, a trained specialist in pediatric sleep medicine.

Sleep studies are often ordered to find out if a child has problems breathing while asleep. Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is one of the most common reasons for doing a sleep study. It is often found in chil-

dren who snore, gasp for air, or stop breathing while asleep.

“If your child is having trouble falling asleep, problems with sleeping through the night, trouble staying awake during the day, or unexplained decrease in daytime performance these maybe reasons to seek a pediatric sleep specialist,” Dr. Roberts said.

The Center for Sleep Medicine, located at 980 National Road, is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Its two board-certified physicians are accepting new patients.

For more information, call 304-243-3720.

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