

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Bishop Announces 'Crusaders: One Campus, One Community,' Campaign for Parkersburg Catholic Schools

PARKERSBURG — Bishop Mark Brennan announced Feb. 20 the launch of the "Crusaders: One Campus, One Community," campaign designed to strengthen the long, storied tradition of Catholic education in the area.

The massive, \$2 million, infrastructure project centers on relocating the elementary school to the existing high school campus by renovating the old PreK building/convent and executing improvements to the high school building.

To launch the campaign, Bishop Brennan announced a 3:1 match for this program totaling a possible \$1.5-million investment from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The project will be dependent on the local community raising a minimum of \$500,000 to bring it to fruition.

"Our young people are our greatest resource," Bishop Brennan said. "As the primary educators of their children, parents have entrusted us to not only fill their child's mind with knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also to fill their hearts with faith and knowledge of the love God has for them. This project will continue that legacy, and with strong support from our



Photo courtesy of Anne Marie Silvis/Anne Marie Silvis Photography
Bishop Mark Brennan speaks at the Feb. 20 launch of the "Crusaders: One Campus, One Community," campaign designed to strengthen the long, storied tradition of Catholic education in the area.

families and the community, I look forward to seeing its completion."

The project represents a milestone in the history of the Parkersburg Catholic community, moving from

two separate locations to a single, vibrant campus for Pre-K through 12th-grade students. This transition is designed to foster a "Crusader Family" atmosphere where campus operations

are streamlined for maximum efficiency.

Very Rev. John Rice, V.G., V. F., vicar general for the diocese and pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg, said, "I am ex-

cited about this opportunity for us to invest in the future of Catholic education in the Mid-Ohio Valley. We have a great history that we build on every day: **See "Schools" on Page 3**


To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishop-abuse.org 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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint 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://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



You're Invited to Attend... **16th Annual**
Hope GALA
 Catholic Charities

Enjoy an evening of dinner, drinks, dancing and celebrating those we serve!



	February 27, 2026 Vol. 56, No. 10	Office: 1322 Eoff St. Mailing: PO Box 230 Wheeling, WV 26003 (304) 232-0444	thecatholic spiritwv.org dwc.org
<p>Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc.</p>			
<p>Published every Friday by e-mail & printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to registered Catholics 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.</p>			

Tickets & Sponsorships Now Available

<p>Date: March 7, 2026 Time: Cocktail Hour - 5 pm; Dinner - 6:30 pm Location: The White Palace 1801 National Rd Wheeling, WV 26003</p>  <p>ccwva.org/event/gala</p>	<p>\$125 Single Tickets</p> <p>Proceeds from this Gala directly support our mission in 17 counties in northern West Virginia, including our Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center on 18th Street in Wheeling, and other programs and services for children, seniors and families.</p>
--	---

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2026 Print Dates:

- The Annunciation of the Lord, March 13 (Solemnity, March 25)
- Easter, April 10 (Easter Sunday, April 5)
- Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 15
- Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 12
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
- Triumph of the Cross, September 11
- Month of the Rosary, October 9
- Advent, November 20
- Christmas, December 18

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

 We Also Specialize n Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Lou W. Nau, Inc.
 69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311
louwnau.doitbest.com

 **Panhandle** 800.504.7054
 CLEANING & RESTORATION
 Wheeling • Morgantown • Charleston
 Pittsburgh • Sarasota
 FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER PanhandleCR.com

 **"CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY THE MOUNTAINEERS CALL"** 



CRUSADERS

One Campus, One Community



Courtesy of Pickering Associates



Photo courtesy of Anne Marie Silvis/
Anne Marie Silvis Photography
Fifth grader Angelica Long colors in the first gifts of \$75,000.

Schools ...

Cont'd from Page 1

the investment of time, talent, and treasure that so many educators, parents, and priests who have gone before us have made to hand on the excellent tradition that we have. I am privileged to be part of that tradition and excited for what this investment in the future brings for the Parkersburg Catholic community."

"This project is a tremendous blessing for our parishes, school families, and community," said Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E., vicar for clergy for the diocese and pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg. "Bringing our youngest students onto a single unified campus will allow us to nurture their faith, learning, and sense of belonging from their very first years through graduation. I hope that this shared environment will strengthen our Catholic iden-



Photo courtesy of Anne Marie Silvis/Anne Marie Silvis Photography
Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School Principal Katy McLean speaks at the assembly.

tity, deepen our sense of community, and help every child know they are part of something

greater—a true Crusader family rooted in Christ. I am deeply
See "Schools" on Page 4



Photo courtesy of Anne Marie Silvis/Anne Marie Silvis Photography

Students and faculty sing to close out the assembly.

Schools ...

Cont'd from Page 3

grateful to Bishop Brennan for his vision, generosity, and steadfast support of Catholic education in Parkersburg. His leadership and commitment give us great confidence and hope for a vibrant future for our children and our Church."

"I want to thank Bishop Brennan for this wonderful opportunity for the Parkersburg community. This project is a testament to our commitment to a sustainable and thriving future for Catholic education in the Mid-Ohio Valley," said Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. "By bring-

ing our community together on one campus, we won't be just sharing a campus—we will be strengthening the bonds of our faith and our families."

The "Crusaders: One Campus, One Community" project will be funded through a collaborative effort of diocesan support and local contributions. Construction and relocation phases will be scheduled to begin as soon as the local support for the project reaches the \$500,000 initial goal.


If anyone would like to support this project, please contact Tara Nelson, advancement director, Parkersburg Catholic Schools: tnelson@pchs1.com for more information.


100%
Online

Catholic International partners with our diocese to offer free continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry.

Start Today!

Catholic International,
Joy from The Truth






Use the access code:
CDU20DIOCESEWC
when setting up your account to receive your free tuition!
<https://catholicciu.edu/continuingeducation/>

Rite of Election



AJ Emery photo

A catechumen signs his name in the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston Feb. 22. The Rite of Election will also be held Saturday, Feb. 28, at St. Leo Church in Inwood at 11 a.m.; and Sunday, March 1, at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling at 3 p.m. with Bishop Mark Brennan presiding.

JOHNSON BOILER WORKS, INC

53 Marshall St.
Benwood, WV 26031
(304) 232-3070
Steam Boiler Repairs

Now is the time to Talk!

Kepner
FUNERAL HOMES
CREMATORY

304.232.5110 | KepnerFuneral.com

James B. Kepner President | Melissa Hill COIC



project rachel

Peace starts here

If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God's healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.

For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org

Duplaga's TOP NOTCH

LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC

Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls

Supply Yard

Chris Duplaga, Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com



office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

St. Carlo Acutis Relic and Statue of the Pietà Installed at Parkersburg's St. Margaret Mary Parish

By Colleen Rowan

Last week was a very special time for St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg. On Saturday, Feb. 21, Bishop Mark Brennan confirmed 21 young parishioners. They then joined him as he installed and dedicated a relic of St. Carlo Acutis and a statue of the Pietà at the church.

The relic and Pietà are now housed in the church's mosaic area. In this Lenten Season, parishioners are invited to venerate the relic of St. Carlo Acutis and gaze upon the statue of the Pietà.

In a letter to parishioners, Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.E., pastor of St. Margaret Mary's, said they are "blessed beyond measure to receive and solemnly install a relic of St. Carlo Acutis for veneration in our parish."

Last September, Father Devasya made a pilgrimage to Italy for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

"By God's grace, I was in Assisi on the very day he was canonized," Father Devasya said. "To stand in that holy place and witness the Church declaring him (St. Carlo) a saint was a moment of immense gratitude and joy."

Father Devasya also visited St. Carlo's tomb at the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, where his body rests as a visible reminder that holiness is possible in the modern day.

Father Devasya said the parish is deeply grateful to a generous family who donated a reliquary for the relic of St. Carlo Acutis and the statue of the Pietà.

"The Pietà—Our Blessed Mother holding the lifeless body of her Son—draws us into the mystery of sacrificial love," Father Devasya wrote. "It is an image of sorrow, yes, but also of profound hope. Mary teaches us how to stand at the foot of the Cross with steadfast faith and quiet trust."

"Especially during Lent, this sacred image will help us contemplate Christ's Passion and the depth of God's mercy poured out for us."



Courtesy photo

Bishop Mark Brennan installs and dedicates a relic of St. Carlo Acutis and a statue of the Pietà at St. Margaret Mary Church in Parkersburg Feb. 21. With him are Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.E., pastor (right); Deacon Clifton Mastran (left); and a few of the 21 young people just confirmed by the bishop looking on.



Courtesy photos

The relic of St. Carlo Acutis (left) and the statue of the Pietà (right) are seen at the church.



CURSILLO

INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Where: St. Francis Xavier Parish Center



If you are unable to attend in person, let us know, and you can join via Zoom.

For the Zoom link, please email:

Cursillo@dwc.org or you can leave a message at the following phone number – it is checked frequently – 304-233-0880, Ext. 480.



Is the Holy Spirit calling you to a richer relationship with God?

- Cursillo is a Catholic movement that encourages Christians to deepen their faith and become better evangelizers in their community.
- Those who have “lived” Cursillo say it is an experience of living and sharing with others in a loving and caring Christian community.
- It is not a theoretical course but, an experience that must be lived. It is said to be life-changing experience, which brings with it the discovery of the basis of Christianity and its fundamental significance to life.
- It is an experience that can change your relationship with Christ.
- The motto of Cursillo is make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.

February 28, 2026 – 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
609 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
CURSILLO MINISTRY

1311 Byron Street
 PO Box 230

Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

304-233-0880, Ext. 480 | cursillo@DWC.org | dwc.org (Events – Cursillo)

Building Purchase Allows Mary's Refuge Maternity Home to Expand Programming in Martinsburg

By **Meg H. Partington**

MARTINSBURG — The team that sustains a maternity home in Martinsburg had a vision for expansion and now, it has a clear view of progress from a building downtown.

Mary's Refuge purchased the 3,500-square-foot site at 314-318 W. King Street in Martinsburg on Dec. 9, 2025. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston provided half of the funds as an interest-free loan and the rest was paid for from the maternity home's budget.

"We have been frugal with the donations that we received and were able to save enough money over the last three years to pay for our half of the purchase price of the building and all the renovations," said Deacon Patrick Michel from St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg.

"We have been extremely grateful to the diocese and the bishop for their support," added Father Thomas Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph's.

Allison Ferrell, executive director of Mary's Refuge, said Eastern Panhandle Catholic parishes have been vital to funding the growth, as has the West Virginia Mothers and Babies Program, which offers reimbursement for services provided to expectant mothers.

The first floor of the two-story building will house two day-care rooms for infants, toddlers and those younger than 3, plus two offices and a meeting room. Upstairs, there will be five transitional living spaces for women and children preparing to go out on their own.

Before the space can be used — the goal is by the end of June — a lot of work needs to be done. Michel said the bathrooms and kitchens, heating and HVAC systems will be upgraded, and a bathroom and laundry room will be installed on the second floor. The hardwood floors found under the carpet will be refurbished.

Work is already underway, thanks to a group of 30 men who dedicated an entire day to replacing windows in the building. Under the leadership of Ben Carswell from St. James the

Greater Parish in Charles Town, the volunteers installed 34 windows purchased from Crown Windows & Doors in Oak Hill, after removing the old ones and tearing out frames where necessary. The cost of the windows was covered by the parish of St. James and its Mother Teresa Council 12036 Knights of Columbus.

A small group did some preliminary demolition work on Jan. 19, then the larger group labored from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 24, starting the day with Mass celebrated by Father Gallagher and staying fueled by breakfast, coffee and lunch prepared at and donated by Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville.

Deacon David Galvin from St. James the Greater said some members of the group — which included priests, deacons, Knights, the president of the Mary's Refuge board and others — also hauled lumber to the attic, which is being insulated for the sprinkler system. He added that 27 seminarians from Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC, will visit the area from March 7 to 10 and spend some of that time painting the interior of the newly purchased building and finishing the trim on the windows.

Ferrell said Peter Galvin, the maintenance supervisor at St. Joseph Parish, has been instrumental in all of the projects happening at the King Street site, not only spending his working hours managing contractors, but donating his time on weekends and holidays.

Refuge and parish officials were quickly sold on the building, constructed in 1900, after it went on the market.

"Our goal is to expand the ministry to not only include the initial program that allows our mothers to learn independence, but also give them a safe and good place to live after they graduate from the program," Deacon Michel said. "We needed office space for our social worker and psychologist. With the increase in mothers, we also need a bigger day care space."

"It was providence that guided us



Meg H. Partington photo

Among those who helped install new windows and do other projects Jan. 24 at the site recently purchased on West King Street in Martinsburg to expand Mary's Refuge are, from left, Jeff Ferrell, Ethan Legend, Peter Galvin, Deacon Patrick Michel, Father Rusiri Wijewickrama, and the Father Thomas Gallagher.



Meg H. Partington photos

Left: Trevor Held, outside, works with Michael Gormley, left, and Jeff Ferrell to install new windows Jan. 24 at the building recently purchased by Mary's Refuge. Right: Brian Davis, left, and Daniel Hayes install new windows Jan. 24 at the building.

to this site," Father Gallagher said of the building, which is within walking distance (0.4 mile) of Mary's Refuge.

A program will operate out of the new site to support the fathers of children connected to Mary's Refuge, Ferrell said.

"While men are not permitted to live or participate in programming on-site (at the refuge), many of our mothers are co-parenting," she said.

"This initiative creates a separate, dedicated space where fathers can be engaged, supported and equipped for their role. Through mentorship, parenting education, job readiness support and life skills training, fathers will gain the tools to provide stability, communicate well and stay meaningfully involved in their child's life."

See "Expand" on Page 9

Expand ...

Cont'd from Page 8

"It is important for men who want to be fathers to get the skills they need ... and to take responsibility," Father Gallagher said. "A child needs both a mother and a father" active in their lives, he said, which provides stability that is crucial to children's development and success as well-adjusted, loving and responsible people. "It's absolutely crucial that we try to build up that side of the program," he said.

Also operating from the King Street space will be the Legacy Moms alumni program, which provides support for mothers as they transition from residential care to independent living. Ferrell said those who "graduate" from the refuge can stay connected through monthly gatherings, case management and structured programming focused on parenting, employment, financial stability and healthy decision making.

"It is great because it allows us to grow in such a way to help these mothers and their babies on their journey," Father Gallagher said.

The day care center that will be run from the new location will be available to refuge mothers going to school and/or working, as well as to alumni. Ferrell said it will be staffed with experienced teachers and some residents of Mary's Refuge, who can gain income and job training through the experience. Other refuge mothers will have a chance to help.

Having additional space allows the original refuge, which is housed in a former convent, to undergo some changes, too. The playroom there will be converted to a space where the residents can meet one on



Dom Pileggi, top, John Guiney and Aidan Pressl prepare the frames for new windows to be installed Jan. 24 at the building recently purchased on West King Street in Martinsburg by Mary's Refuge.

Meg H. Partington photo

one with representatives from West Virginia Birth to Three, a system of services for those 3 and younger with developmental delays or who might be at risk for delays, as well as others who can provide support.

Refuge staff members and supporters are surprised by how quickly the refuge has grown since its Jan. 9, 2023, opening.

"It came on very quickly with expanding," Ferrell said.

The current site can hold 12 mothers and their children and is currently home to 11 mothers and 15 children; another baby is due in May. The staff includes Ferrell; Ayla

Gressler, social worker/psychologist; Haleigh Ruppenthal, case manager; and Jacqueline Robinson, church and home coordinator.

Deacon Galvin said the work done through the refuge supports the Catholic Church's pro-life stance and shows its commitment to not only encourage women to carry babies to term, but to support them after their children enter the world.

"We love the babies, we love the mothers," Deacon Galvin said.

The next goal for Mary's Refuge is to help open other such facilities throughout the diocese, Ferrell said, possibly including another in the

Eastern Panhandle.

"We can share our knowledge," Father Gallagher said.

Taking care of the women at the refuge is one way to repay the love that was given to so many, Deacon Galvin said.

"We have a good life because somebody helped us," he said.

For more information about Mary's Refuge or to make a donation, call (304) 350-1632; email life@marysrefuge.com; or go to marysrefuge.com.

(Meg H. Partington is the administrative assistant at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.)



Our 100% Pro-Life Maternity in home in Martinsburg is a place where young soon-to-be mother's facing fear and anxiety can find a supportive and nourishing environment to anchor themselves.

Click the link for more information or to provide support

<https://marysrefuge.com/how-to-help/>

HOPE IS HERE.

EMBRACING LIFE, MOTHER, AND CHILD

Bishops Urge Prudence, Prayer, Invoke Guadalupe's Protection as Violence Erupts in Mexico

By **Junno Arocho Esteves**

(OSV News) — Mexican bishops called on the faithful to follow safety protocols as violence broke out in several states following the military's killing of a powerful cartel boss.

In a message published by the Mexican bishops' conference Feb. 22, the bishops expressed their closeness with Catholics, "sharing your concern and inviting you to prudence and prayer."

"We exhort you, with a pastoral and fraternal spirit, to strengthen personal and community security measures, take shelter in your homes when necessary, and avoid unnecessary travel, always following the instructions of the civil authorities," the statement read.

The message, which was addressed to "The Pilgrim People of God in Mexico," was signed by Bishop Ramón Castro Castro of Cuernavaca and Auxiliary Bishop Héctor M. Pérez Villareal of Mexico City, the president and secretary general of the bishops' conference, respectively.

Mexican military officers conducted an operation in the town of Tapalpa, located in the central western state of Jalisco Feb. 22, in an attempt to capture Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, who was known by his nickname, "El Mencho."

Oseguera was the head of the notorious Jalisco New Generation Cartel, known by the Spanish acronym CJNG, Mexico's most powerful drug cartel known for trafficking fentanyl, methamphetamine and cocaine into the United States.

According to The Associated Press, a shootout occurred, resulting in the deaths of four people; three more, including Oseguera, were

wounded and later died.

Hours after his death, violence broke out in half a dozen states across the country, with gunmen blocking highways and setting cars and businesses on fire. Residents and tourists were forced to shelter in place in the resort town of Puerto Vallarta, after several major airlines canceled flights due to the increasing violence.

The Reuters news agency also reported that gunmen attacked a National Guard military police base in Jalisco.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a cartel member confirmed that the attacks were done out of revenge for Oseguera's killing and warned that more attacks would be coming as rival gangs attempt to take control of CJNG.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed via X that the United States "provided intelligence support to the Mexican government in order to assist" with the operation.

In their message, the bishops called on the faithful to "intensify their prayer for the peace that our nation so greatly needs" and prayed that through Jesus, Catholics renew their commitment "to be sowers of reconciliation and fraternity."

Invoking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the bishops prayed that Mary would "cover us with her mantle, protect our families, and help us build paths of justice, peace, and hope."

"May the Lord strengthen us and grant us to live through these moments united, with prudence, solidarity, and faith," the bishops wrote.

(Junno Arocho Esteves is an international correspondent for OSV News.)



OSV News photo/Paola Garcia, Reuters
A burned bus is seen Feb. 22 at the site of a highway in Santa Rita Tlahuapan, Mexico, that connects Mexico City with the state of Puebla. Members of organized crime in several states put up roadblocks and carried out arson attacks after a military operation in which Mexican drug lord Nemesio Oseguera, known as "El Mencho," was killed in Tapalpa in Mexico's Jalisco state.

Mansuetto
Roofing & Sheet Metal

N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors
Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community
Since 1945
Three Generations of Family Management
116 Wood Street
Martins Ferry OH 43935
740-633-7320

Pro-Abortion Professor Withdraws from University of Notre Dame Institute Appointment

By Gina Christian

(OSV News) — A professor at the University of Notre Dame has declined a research appointment at the school, following weeks of outcry from students, staff and several U.S. Catholic bishops, over her prominent advocacy for abortion.

Susan Ostermann, associate professor in the Keough School of Global Affairs, has “decided not to move forward” as director of that school’s Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, said Keough Dean Mary Gallagher in a Feb. 26 email.

Ostermann — who specializes in the study of regulatory compliance, comparative politics and environmental regulation, with a focus on South Asia — will remain a member of the Keough School’s faculty.

The development was announced Feb. 26 by The Observer, the independent student newspaper of Notre Dame, St. Mary’s College and Holy Cross College.

Gallagher said she was “grateful” for Ostermann’s “willingness to serve and for the thoughtfulness with which she approached this decision.”

Ostermann’s appointment, announced Jan. 8, was set to take effect July 1, and quickly drew fire from Notre Dame faculty and staff due to her robust public endorsement of legal abortion. She had also worked as a consultant for the Population Council, an international research and policy firm that works to advance “sexual and reproductive health, rights and choices” as a key aim.

At least two Notre Dame faculty members, professor Diane Desierto and emeritus professor Robert Gimello, resigned their roles at the Liu Institute in protest, according to The Observer.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, whose diocese includes the university, had issued a statement Feb. 11 expressing “dismay” and “strong opposition” to the university’s

decision, which he said was “causing scandal to the faithful of our diocese and beyond.”

Ostermann’s “extensive public advocacy of abortion rights and her disparaging and inflammatory remarks about those who uphold the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death go against a core principle of justice that is central to Notre Dame’s Catholic identity and mission,” said Bishop Rhoades, noting he had read many of the opinion pieces in which Ostermann had articulated her defense of abortion.

OSV News reached out to Bishop Rhoades and is awaiting a response.

Two days prior to Ostermann’s withdrawal, Bishop Rhoades joined some 50 students, faculty and staff gathered at the university’s Marian grotto to “pray together for the cause of life and respect for all human life.”

He said, “We pray for the University of Notre Dame, and we ask for the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother as she looks over this campus.”

Notre Dame sophomore Luke Woodyard, one of the prayer gathering’s organizers, told OSV News the Ostermann appointment was “the straw that broke the camel’s back.”

“It’s part of a long line of university action that’s just unacceptable,” he said. “So in the spirit of love and charity to our university, we want to come together as students and show that this is our voice, this is what we want.”

Woodyard described it as a “movement is to bring Notre Dame’s Catholic character back into focus in a real sense and put it on the front lines.

“Notre Dame loves to talk about their Catholic identity, their broad, vague feel-good term, but what does that actually mean, and how do we put that into action?” he said.

Woodyard said a planned student-led protest, the March on the

Dome, is still moving forward for Friday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.

The University of Notre Dame acknowledged the student-led protest in a Feb. 24 message to OSV News and said, “We respect the perspectives of our students and their desire to be heard.”

Its message stated that Ostermann was chosen to head the Liu Institute “for her expertise in Asian studies,” and that “she respects the University’s position on the sanctity of life, and that as director, she

understands her role is to support the diverse research of the Institute’s scholars and students, not advance a personal political agenda.”

In a statement included with Gallagher’s Feb. 26 email announcing her withdrawal, Ostermann said her “only goal” in accepting the Liu directorship “was to serve as a steward for the Institute’s world-class faculty, students and staff.” Ostermann said she had not

See “University” on Page 12



Knights of Columbus®

Carroll Council 504

Since 1900, West Virginia’s first Knights of Columbus Council — Carroll Council 504 — has been committed to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Guided by these Principles, we will continue to serve the parishioners of St. Michael, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Alphonsus, and the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and the Wheeling community today and tomorrow.

To learn more and to join us,
[click here](#)

University ...

Cont'd from Page 11

applied for the position, but was “truly honored to take on” the role.

“At present, the focus on my appointment risks overshadowing the vital work the Institute performs, which it should be allowed to pursue without undue distraction,” said Ostermann. “At the same time, it has become clear that there is work to do at Notre Dame to build a community where a variety of voices can flourish. Both academic inquiry and the full realization of human dignity demand this of us.”

The controversy over Ostermann’s appointment at a flagship Catholic university, given her prominent advocacy for abortion, echoed widely in the Church, extending even to the Vatican, with the president of the Pontifical Academy for Life responding to a question on the matter Feb. 17.

In one opinion piece, published by the Chicago Tribune in December 2022, Ostermann and former faculty colleague Tamara Kay (who left Notre Dame for the University of Pittsburgh, following outcry over her endorsement of legalized abortion) surveyed “lies about abortion” that have “dictated public policy.”

Among those lies, wrote Ostermann and Kay, was that “abortion kills babies.” They further asserted that “women who are denied an abortion experience a panoply of negative outcomes physically, mentally and occupationally,” and described crisis pregnancy centers as “anti-abortion rights propaganda sites” that “operate and provide false information to women who are lured to them believing they will receive legitimate medical care.”

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and as such, opposes direct abortion while advocating for life-affirming solutions for mothers and their children, before and after birth. Church officials in the U.S. have also called for strengthening social support for those living in poverty and other risk factors that can push women toward having an abortion.

The controversy over the now-declined appointment highlights the role of Catholic universities in the life of the Church, as delineated in St. John Paul II’s 1990 apostolic constitution, “*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*,” for which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a particular application in 1999.

In their particular application,

the U.S. bishops said they “want to maintain, preserve and guarantee the Catholic identity of Catholic higher education” as a shared responsibility with “sponsoring religious communities, boards of trustees, university administration, faculty, staff and students.”

Noting that “academic freedom is an essential component of a Catholic university,” the particular application also stresses the university — especially its trustees, administration, and faculty —

“should take practical steps to implement its mission statement in order to foster and strengthen its Catholic nature and character.”

Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, emeritus professor of history at Notre Dame, told OSV News he was “deeply pleased” by Ostermann’s decision to decline the Liu appointment, but added, “I recognize there is much work to do to uphold Notre Dame’s Catholic mission and identity.”

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

Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin

Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

LAETARÉ

Charleston-Area Young Adults Group

Our Charleston-Area Young Adult Group consists of members from all across the Charleston area. Please consider joining if you are interested in forming quality friendships with other Catholic Young Adults in the area!

Why Join???

- Active Community
- Bible Studies
- Cookouts
- Game Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities

JOIN NOW!

Use your camera to scan the QR code if you want to keep up to date through our GroupMe chat!

Mission Moments



Catholic
Charities
WEST VIRGINIA

A Place to Begin Again

They had just been watching the weather reports that night, like everyone else. Storm advisories were scrolling across the screen. The wind was picking up, but they never imagined how quickly it would turn.

At home were a grandmother and grandfather raising their two young grandchildren, ages 4 and 6. The youngest was staying with another grandmother. Grandpa and the 6-year-old were in the living room. Grandma was in the bedroom.

Then they heard it.

She said it sounded like a train bearing down on the house. She shouted for them to get to the bedroom. They made it down the hall just seconds before a tree crashed straight through the living room. Glass exploded. Wood splintered. The force of it nearly split the home in two.

The storm kept raging. Trees were snapping outside. In the front yard, another tree crushed the water lines, sending water spraying into the air. There was no time to think.

Grandma grabbed her granddaughter and ran out the back door. Grandpa flipped the breakers and followed close behind. They ran to a neighbor's house and waited, listening to the wind tear through what had been their home.

By morning, there was nothing left to salvage. The house was a total loss.

This is a family that works hard and serves others. Grandpa is a full-time firefighter. Grandma works two full-time jobs. They are raising their grandchildren and doing everything they can to provide stability and love.

After the storm, they pushed forward. They qualified for a new mobile home loan with a down payment of \$12,810. They emptied their savings and committed their next paychecks, but they still could not quite get there.

That is when they reached out to Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa).

Through disaster case management, CCWVa was able to walk alongside them and provide \$5,000 toward their down payment. That support helped close the gap and made a new home possible.

Today, their family is safe, dry, and together under one roof again. In the middle of crisis, they found steady ground. And because our community steps up when it matters most, they have a place to call home once more.



ccwva.org

Join in Our Mission to
Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Scan to
make a
donation



www.ccwva.org/get-involved/donate/donate-online

HESS Family Foundation Provides Funding for Wheeling University Mentorship Program

WHEELING — Through the generous support of the HESS Family Foundation, Wheeling University will again offer the 10-week mentoring program for students from Wheeling Middle School.

The university received \$15,000 from the Foundation to support the Help Enrich Someone Special, HESS, Mentoring Program. Throughout the 10-week program, the Wheeling Middle School students come to Wheeling's campus where the University's Education majors serve as mentors – guiding them when they participate in fun, educational activities in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM) each week.

HESS is enhancing the learning experience for the middle school students and Wheeling education majors, said Dianna M. Vargo, Ed.D., president of Wheeling University.

Shawna Safreed, director of education programs at Wheeling University, said, "This grant makes it possible for Wheeling Middle School and Wheeling University students to work side by side in a true community partnership. This collaboration strengthens learning for the middle school students while also giving our future educators

meaningful, real-world experience rooted in service and connection," she explained.

"The HESS program provides the Wheeling University education students with the opportunity to engage with the middle school students in an informal setting. This gives the Wheeling University students a foundation that fosters communication and an understanding of student needs and recognition of student strengths. For the students from Wheeling Middle School, HESS enhances critical thinking skills by providing them with the opportunity to participate in STEAM education. The students work collaboratively with their peers and University mentors to solve problems creatively. By bringing the Wheeling Middle School students to the University, they are given the opportunity to experience a college campus," Safreed said.

Safreed added, "We are



Courtesy photo

Shown are Wheeling Middle School students and Wheeling University students who are participating in the 2026 HESS Mentoring Program held at Wheeling University. The university students serve as mentors to the WMS students who come to campus each Wednesday to participate in STEAM activities.

grateful to the HESS Family Foundation for supporting the continuation of this valuable educational pro-

gram that aligns with the mission of Wheeling University – to educate students for Life, Leadership

and Service.

The 2026 HESS Mentoring Program began on February 3.

304-232-0330

"THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"

WHEELING CHAPEL
1400 Eoff Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-0330

SOUTH WHEELING CHAPEL
3828 Jacob Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-5444

ELM GROVE CHAPEL
154 Kruger Street
Elm Grove, WV
304-242-0330

BENWOOD-McMECHEN
214 Marshall Street
McMechen, WV
304-232-1710

MOUNDSVILLE
118 Grant Avenue
Moundsville, WV
304-845-4560

BECK-ALTMAYER
204 West Main Street
St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-0475

www.altmeyer.com

Established
1914
Centre Wheeling
Market House

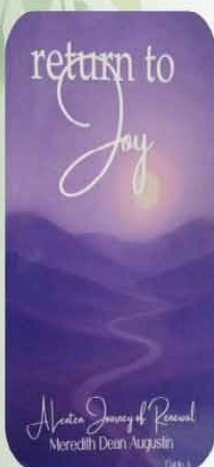
304-232-8510

111 Years

Return to Joy

A LENTEN JOURNEY OF RENEWAL

As the season approaches, many of us ask: What does my heart need this Lent? Return to Joy offers an answer, inviting individuals and groups to slow down, reflect deeply, and rediscover the quiet joy that grows from an honest relationship with God. Gather with others in a space that creates time for prayer, meaningful conversations, and renewal of the spirit!



Join us as we gather virtually for 8 weeks to explore the book **RETURN TO JOY** A Lenten Journey of Renewal!

Individuals will do self-reflection each day and then gather once a week for faith sharing! Bring your lunch, your copy of **Return to Joy** and your reflections!

MONDAY

February 16

TUESDAYS

February 24

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7

ZOOM over LUNCH

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Participants must purchase the book

Reserve your spot today:
 Contact Anna Marie Troiani
 Phone: 304-907-0171
 Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org



A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

Men today need a band of brothers – other Catholic men to share in that call, who walk together on the journey towards something better.

**You are invited
 to put your
 faith in action**

kofc.org/joinus



The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

Become a Knight.

Click here

Employment Opportunities

Principal

Corpus Christi School is seeking a Pk-8th Grade Principal. 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 identity of the school.

The ideal candidate would 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 to Father Joseph Wiley: jwiley@dwc.org

Applications will be accepted through February 27, 2026.

Cook

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, has an employment opportunity for a cook. The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions. Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area. Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Pastoral Associate

Pastoral Associate (Full-Time ~30 hrs/week) Catholic Churches of McDowell & Wyoming Counties, W.Va.

The Catholic communities of McDowell and Wyoming Counties seek a faithful Catholic Pastoral Associate to assist our shared parish communities in advancing the mission of evangelization, faith formation, and pastoral outreach. Working alongside our priest, this person will help nurture parish life across four rural church locations.

Primary Responsibilities

- Support preparation for liturgies and sacramental celebrations
- Coordinate adult faith formation, OCIA, CCD, prayer groups, and Bible studies
- Encourage and train lay ministry participation
- Visit the sick and homebound and assist with pastoral outreach, including local correctional facilities
- Assist with parish administration, records, calendars, and communications

Campus Minister – Marshall University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Marshall Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Marshall Catholic Community; Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries; Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.; Manage the day-to-day operation of the center; Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well; Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus; Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Charleston Vicariate in

offering joint young adult ministry opportunities; Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

- Collaborate with Catholic Charities, food pantry efforts, and parish fundraising initiatives
- Qualifications**
- Practicing Catholic in good standing
 - Bachelor's degree in Theology or related field (or in progress)
 - Prefer parish/office ministry experience
 - Ability to work collaboratively, maintain confidentiality, and serve diverse communities
 - Virtus Safe Environment certification (current or in progress)
- Schedule**
- About 30 hours weekly, including some weekend visibility at liturgies

This position offers an opportunity to serve the Church by strengthening faith, fellowship, and outreach in our rural Catholic communities while supporting the diocesan evangelization mission.

Click link to apply: <https://dwc.org/job/mcdowell-wyoming-counties-wv-mcdowell-wyoming-counties-46-pastoral-associate/>

Supervise support staff of the center; Support ministry volunteers and committees; Support volunteer peer ministers.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required: M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.; C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.; Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the

Spirit"; Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church; Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs; Experience in and knowledge of campus life; Interpersonal communication skills; Word processing and related computer skills; Effective presentation skills; Ability to organize and facilitate meetings; Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

For full posting and to apply, click here: <https://dwc.org/job/diocese-of-wheeling-charleston-faith-formatin-huntington-wv-46-campus-minister-marshall-university/>



Duplaga's
TOP NOTCH
LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC

Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls

Supply Yard

Chris Duplaga, Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com



office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

Check out What's Happening This Lenten Season Near You



Catholic faith will challenge and inspire those who hear him. Questions? Call (304) 723-2054.

Buckhannon

Holy Rosary Parish—A Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, Feb., 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to watch and pray together. Deacon John Yaquinta of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood will lead participants in a morning of "Watching and Praying" as they participate in various forms of prayer, all geared towards this sacred time of the liturgical year.

The following methods of prayer will be discussed and experienced including Lectio Divina, Guided Meditation with the Rosary, Visio Divina, and Circle of Prayer. Deacon Yaquinta will also touch on journaling, contemplative prayer, and charismatic prayer.

Charleston

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart—All are invited for presentations and reflections based on the FORMED program "Wilderness Within." In this program, Sister Josephine Garrett invites us to explore the interior wilderness of our hearts to expand our love as we prepare for Easter.

Sessions began Feb. 15 and continue through April 1. We will have 3 sessions each week on the same material Sundays at noon in the Gathering Space, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cordis Center, and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Please attend any sessions whenever you are available. Make this Lent your best ever as we prepare for Easter!

Elkins

St. Brendan Parish—An hour of Adoration will be held at the church on Wednesday, March 4, at 6 p.m.

Parkersburg

St. Francis Xavier Church—The Sixth Annual Holy Hour for Life Novena with Eucharistic Adoration continuing on Wednesdays: Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, and April 1 at St. Francis Xavier Church, 6-7 p.m. Mass follows at 7 p.m.

This is an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for respect for the dignity

of human life from conception to natural death, for repentance and healing for all those who have been wounded by abortion, and that those who govern may be guided by justice, truth, and love for the gift of life.

South Charleston

Blessed Sacrament Parish—To assist you in your Lenten journey, we are offering a Bible Study which will focus on the seven "I AM" sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. These proclamations of Jesus tell us a great deal about Him, especially His character and nature. The study will be on Wednesday evenings in Room 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. according to the schedule below: March 4, I AM the Good Shepherd; March 18, I AM the Resurrection and the Life; March 25, I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life; and April 1, I AM the True Vine.

Feel free to attend whichever classes fit into your schedule. You do not need to attend all the sessions to benefit from the study. The study will be facilitated by Terry Mathias.

Star City

St. Mary Parish—Journey with Christ through His Passion this Lent in a guided adult book study of "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ." There will also be a viewing of the movie "The Passion of the Christ" during Holy Week. Began Feb. 19 and runs through March 26, 10:45-11:45 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. on Thursdays, Movie Viewing: March 31 at 5:30 p.m. Materials provided.

Weirton

St. Joseph the Worker Parish—Lenten Mission with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivens, a.k.a. the Dynamic Deacon, March 22-24, 7-8 p.m. followed by confession, meet & greet, book sales, & refreshments.

Deacon Burke-Sivens is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today. He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the

Wheeling

Cathedral of St. Joseph—Sung Solemn Vespers, Sundays of Lent at 6 p.m. This short liturgy (usually lasting no more than 30 minutes) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours and consists 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 and prayerfully observe the Season of Lent.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish—Each Thursday at 6 p.m. during the Lenten Season, St. Vincent de Paul Parish will be hosting the Lenten Study Series "Conversion and Renewal: A Lenten Journey with Christ" in the sanctuary.

Week 3: March 5, "Faith Sharing and Witness Testimonials" presented by Deacon Tom and Michelle McFadden and Barb Napple.

Week 4: March 12, "Conversion and Renewal: The Journey of Lent" — repentance, confession, spiritual combat, and growth in holiness. Presented by Father Joseph Wiley, pastor Corpus Christi, Wheeling.

Week 5: March 19, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," forgiveness, suffering, hope, trust, surrender — presented by Father John Soplinski, vocation director for the diocese, vice rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and parochial vicar of St. Alphonse Parish in Wheeling.

Week 6: March 26, "Walking with Jesus to Calvary: The Passion Narratives," study the Passion in the Gospel of John, presented by Father Jeason Stephan, MCBS, pastor St. Vincent's.

(The graphic shown above is a CNS graphic/Nancy Wiechec)



RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

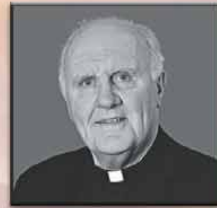
Collection Date: March 8, 2026



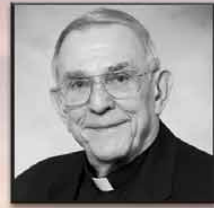
Msgr. Frederick P. Annie



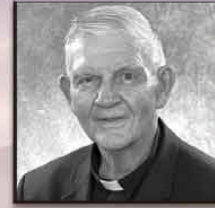
Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer



Msgr. Jeremiah F. McSweeney



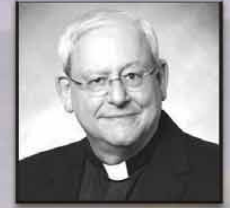
Msgr. Eugene S. Ostrowski



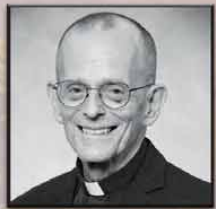
Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus



Rev. William A. Anderson



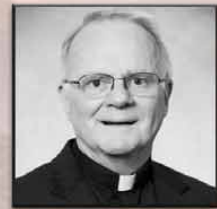
Rev. James C. Conyers



Rev. Harry N. Cramer



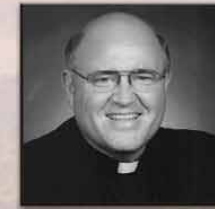
Rev. John V. Di Bacco, Jr.



Rev. Larry W. Dorsch



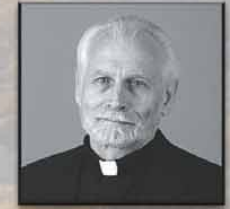
Rev. John H. Finnell



Rev. John R. Gallagher



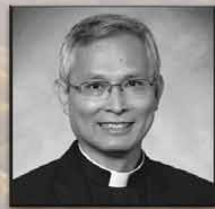
Rev. Patsy J. Iaquina



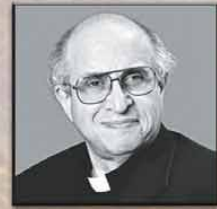
Rev. Giles LeVasseur



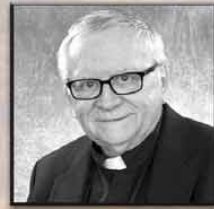
Rev. George M. Manjadi



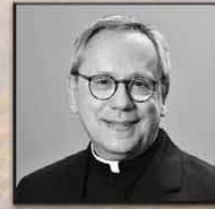
Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen



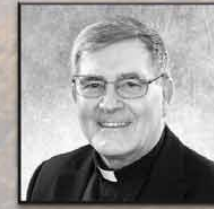
Rev. Robert A. Perriello



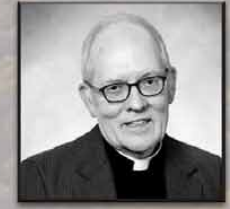
Rev. William J. Petro



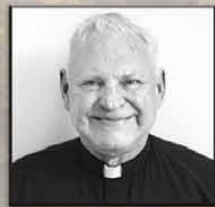
Rev. Joseph Daniel Pisano



Rev. Ronald G. Prechtl



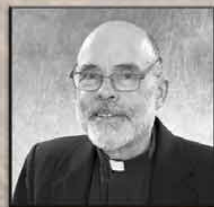
Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh



Rev. David J. Schmitt



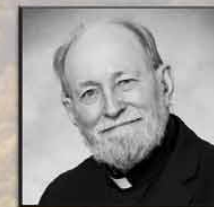
Rev. Douglas B. Sutton



Rev. Anthony G. Thurston



Rev. Laurence Wrenn



Rev. Paul D. Yuenger

“I thank you for your lives given in service to the Kingdom, for your daily labors, for so much generosity in the exercise of the ministry, for all that you live in silence, and that at times is accompanied by suffering or misunderstanding.” ~ Pope Leo XIV

Obispos instan a la prudencia y la oración, e invocan la protección de la Virgen de Guadalupe ante el estallido de violencia en México

By Junno Arocho Esteves, OSV News

(OSV News) — Los obispos mexicanos han pedido a los fieles que sigan los protocolos de seguridad luego de que estallara la violencia en varios estados del país tras el asesinato por parte del ejército del líder del Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación.

En un mensaje publicado por la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano (CEM) el 22 de febrero, los obispos expresaron su cercanía con los católicos, “compartiendo su preocupación e invitándolos a la prudencia y oración”.

“Les exhortamos, con espíritu pastoral y fraterno, a reforzar las medidas de seguridad personal y comunitaria, resguardarse en sus hogares cuando sea necesario y evitar desplazamientos innecesarios, atendiendo siempre las indicaciones de las autoridades civiles”, se lee en el comunicado.

El mensaje, dirigido al “Pueblo de Dios que peregrina en México”, fue firmado por el obispo Ramón Castro Castro, de Cuernavaca, y el obispo auxiliar Héctor M. Pérez Villareal, de Ciudad de México, presidente y secretario general de la conferencia episcopal, respectivamente.

El 22 de febrero, oficiales del ejército mexicano llevaron a cabo una operación en la localidad de Tapalpa, situada en el estado centro-occidental de Jalisco, con el fin de capturar a Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, alias “El Mencho”.

Oseguera era el líder máximo del Cártel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG), el cártel de drogas más poderoso de México, conocido por traficar con fentanilo, metanfetamina y cocaína hacia Estados Unidos.

Según The Associated Press, se produjo un tiroteo que causó la muerte de cuatro personas; otras tres, entre ellas Oseguera, resultaron heridas y fallecieron posteriormente.

Horas después de su muerte, estalló la violencia en más de una docena de estados de todo el país, con hombres armados bloqueando autopistas e incendiando coches y negocios. Según CNN, Nuevo Milenio y otros medios, los estados afectados por la ola de violencia y bloqueos de las carreteras incluyen a Jalisco, Michoacán, Puebla, Querétaro, Tamaulipas, Colima, Guanajuato, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero y Aguascalientes.

Los residentes y turistas se vieron obligados a refugiarse en la ciudad turística de Puerto Vallarta, después de que varias aerolíneas cancelaran sus vuelos debido al aumento de la violencia.

La agencia de noticias Reuters también informó de que hombres armados atacaron una base de la policía militar de la Guardia Nacional

en Jalisco.

Bajo condición de anonimato, un miembro del cártel confirmó que los ataques se llevaron a cabo en venganza por el asesinato de Oseguera y advirtió que se producirían más ataques, ya que las bandas rivales intentan tomar el control del CJNG.

La secretaria de prensa de la Casa Blanca, Karoline Leavitt, confirmó a través de X que Estados Unidos “proporcionó apoyo en materia de inteligencia al Gobierno mexicano para ayudar” en la operación.

En su mensaje, los obispos pidieron a los fieles “a intensificar la oración por la paz que tanto necesita nuestra nación” y rezaron para que, a través de Jesús, los católicos renovaran su compromiso de “ser sembradores de reconciliación y fraternidad”.

Invocando la intercesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, los obispos rezaron para que María “nos cubra con su manto, proteja a nuestras familias y nos ayude a construir caminos de justicia, paz y esperanza”.

“Que el Señor nos fortalezca y nos conceda vivir estos momentos unidos, con prudencia, solidaridad y fe”, escribieron los obispos.

(Junno Arocho Esteves es corresponsal internacional de OSV News.)

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea

directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en “Rendición de cuentas”, luego “Informar mala conducta” o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Saturday, April 11: St. Agnes, Charleston, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 12: Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 13: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 14: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
- Saturday, April 18: St. James, Charles Town, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 19: Assumption, Keyser, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 22: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, April 23: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 25: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, April 26: St. Brendan, Elkins, 11 a.m.
- Friday, May 1: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2: SS Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 3: St. Catherine of Siena, Ronceverte, 11 a.m.
- Saturday, May 9: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 10: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 7 p.m.
- Monday, May 11: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 13: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 16: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 17: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 9 a.m.
- Friday, May 22: Epiphany of the Lord, Moorefield, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23: St. Leo, Inwood, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 24: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 11 a.m.
- Sunday, May 24:
St. Joseph, Martinsburg,
4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 6: Basilica
of the Co-Cathedral
of the Sacred Heart,
Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 14:
St. Matthew / Sacred
Heart Mission, Point
Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.
- Saturday, June 20:
St. Sebastian, Kingwood,
6 p.m.

**Food service Equipment,
Supplies, Disposables,
Janitorial and more**



1 Fourteenth Street,
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-233-2270
Stop in or call us today!



Now is a good time for parishes and schools to plan ahead and order materials for Lent '26 "Operation Rice Bowl." This now fifty year old program is a major way for American Catholics to be part of the worldwide work of Catholic Relief Services, our bishops' sponsored international relief agency.

Rooted in the history of the Eucharistic Congress, **CRS Rice Bowl** invites Catholics and faith communities in the United States to encounter God and our global family throughout Lent by practicing the **pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 120 different countries each year. Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised more than \$350 million. With drastic federal cuts in international humanitarian aid our support of CRS is even more critical.

Free materials for Lent '26 "Operation Rice Bowl" can now be ordered at:
<https://www.crsricebowl.org/order-crs-rice-bowl-materials>

These materials include:

1. The now iconic "mite boxes" to collect saving from fasting,
2. Prayer materials for each day of Lent,
3. Stories and photos about communities being served by our support of CRS and even recipes based on meals of those people.
4. Videos and printed materials suitable for use during announcements at Sunday mass and other gatherings.
5. Materials for various levels of student and university participation.

For more information about Catholic Relief Services: search CRS.org

Diocesan contact **Chad Carter**, Chancellor, at 304-233-0880
or
Fr. Larry W. Dorsch, CRS Global Fellow,
For guest homilist or program speaker: Phone 304-281-6503

Good Shepherd treats me like family.




Welty
Home for the Aged

304.242.1093 • www.weltyhome.org

Prison Ministry Needs Your Help

Prison Ministry is in need of a priest, deacon, or trained Catholic volunteer willing to serve the incarcerated men and women at **North Central Regional Jail in Greenwood, WV.**

Prison ministry has received several calls requesting support for the facility. Before his retirement, Deacon Rue Thompson faithfully traveled to NCRJ weekly to offer prayer, encouragement, and sacramental support to inmates. His ministry made a meaningful impact, and the need continues.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, or if there is someone already serving, please reach out to Kay Sanders at 304-621-4514 or msanders@dwc.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to those in need.

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

**THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS
IN WEST VIRGINIA**

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the **WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program** at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

**WVU Heart & Vascular
Institute**