Diocese’s Parishes and People Helping Ukrainians Find Safe Haven in West Virginia

By Colleen Rowan

“My Ukraine is blossoming,” Veronika McCann of Martinsburg thought to herself on a visit to her beloved home country a few years ago. She and her husband Brian, originally from Berkeley Springs, and their daughter Oxana were visiting Veronika’s mother and father and younger sisters. Veronika noticed how nice the community looked, that the economy was good, and the many flowers adorning the streets and businesses of her hometown. This was a cherished memory of happy times before the horror that befell her homeland, and before her family’s life would be changed forever.

Veronika was pregnant with her son Artur when the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, 2022. Helplessly watching the images on the news, she knew her family was in the center of it all.

“Aawful,” was all Veronika could say about how she felt. After some time and effort, her mother Oksana and two younger sisters, Mariia and Anna, were able to leave Ukraine and are now safe in Martinsburg with her.

“My sister, Anna, she actually has a birthday today,” Veronika said in a Jan. 26 interview with The Catholic Spirit. “She is 12.”

Blessed Martin School’s History and Former Students Honored in Wheeling

By Colleen Rowan

Standing in front of the St. Martin de Porres statue and plaque commemorating Blessed Martin de Porres Catholic School for African American boys and girls are former students (from left) Betty Gordon, Dolores Long, and Alice Walker; Bishop Mark Brennan; and Evangelist Ruth Stinson of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Steubenville, Ohio, a former student.

Catholic Sharing Appeal Raises $2.3 Million

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—More than $2.3 million has been raised in the 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal through the support of the Catholic faithful across West Virginia.

“We are extremely grateful for the generous outpouring of financial support given by Catholics across the diocese, not only to their local parish, but to support small parishes, missions, Catholic schools, evangelization and outreach efforts diocesan wide,” said Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. “Together we can do great things to carry out the work of the church.”

The appeal surpassed its $2 million goal by 116 percent with a total of 3,816 donors pledging to sustain diocesan parishes and Catholic schools, Catholic Charities West Virginia, and vocations as well as ministries and programs in evangelization and for youth.

The CSA kicked off in April and since then, the faithful have been pledging their support for the appeal and all it makes possible.

“Thanks to generous donors from all across the state, young people were able to grow in Christ’s love at Camp Carlo, campus ministers were able to bring students together in an intentionally Catholic environment, CCWVs was able to provide goods and services to those in need, and faith was made stronger.”

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—"This is one of those events that we’ve been able to witness how black history turns into our history, which is American history, and it connects and affects each and every one of us.” Ron Scott, director of the Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach Program at the Wheeling YWCA, shared these words at a ceremony on the evening of Jan. 24 inside Central Catholic High School’s gym.
Haven...

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now enrolled at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg.

Veronica’s father is unable to leave Ukraine, and her mother’s side of the family is in an area under occupation. Veronica’s grandparents live in Ukraine just the week before. “We couldn’t even go to say our last good-byes and hold her hand for one more time,” she said.

Veronica is channeling her anger and grief into the efforts of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg to help more Ukrainian families, just like her own, to leave the war-torn country and find hope and safety in the Eastern Panhandle. The first of three families—a mother and father and their 10-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son—arrived in Martinsburg Jan. 20. Their daughter is also now enrolled at St. Joseph School.

“What was truly heartwarming was watching Anna, our first Ukrainian student, translating for them and showing the whole family around,” said Dr. Patrick Michel, parish operations and financial officer at St. Joseph Parish and a member of the parish’s Ukrainian Ministry Committee.

A generous parishioner is providing housing for the family in an apartment which the parish group helped furnish through the kindness of that same parishioner, Michel said. All of the kitchen supplies such as dishes are supplied by a group in the area called Sister All. All of the kitchen supplies such as dishes are supplied by a group in the area called Sister All. All of the kitchen supplies such as dishes are supplied by a group in the area called Sister All.

The parish’s Ukrainian Mini-

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. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children, contact the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1-833.230.5656. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org.
Concerns for Immigrants Among Us

February 2, 2023

As a priest, I have spent over thirty-five years serving and getting to know immigrants to our country. They are good people. While, we may not have large numbers of immigrants in West Virginia, those who are here deserve respect and fair treatment. I am concerned that proposals in the West Virginia legislature may harm immigrants and produce effects counter to the intention of those proposals.

The US constitution gives the conduct of foreign affairs and associated matters such as immigration to the federal government. Reforming our struggling immigration system, restoring order at the southern border, overcoming the obstacles facing those seeking asylum or refuge from oppression or starvation, being fair to immigrants brought here as children, and keeping families together when parents lack legal status, but their children born here are citizens—these challenges are for the federal government to solve, not the individual states. As Americans we can both welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for his or her humanity and live in a country that takes responsible steps to secure its borders and enforce its laws for the common good.

Here at home, West Virginians should focus on building compassionate and caring communities that foster the basic conditions necessary to permit human flourishing. I am concerned that reforming our code to impose draconian penalties on local governments and agencies when they fail to prioritize national immigration law over more local concerns may lead to labor exploitation where immigrant communities do not feel able to report unfair pay practices or unsafe working conditions to civil authorities; to human trafficking where people feel trapped and unable to go to the police for help; to unjust discrimination where the penalties for missing someone with a detainer order are so extreme that oppressive measures seem preferable; and to the ability of law enforcement to deal with crime, because immigrants who are witnesses to crimes or themselves victims, may fear cooperation with the police because of the threat of deportation or the deportation of loved ones.

I was ordained a priest in our nation’s bicentennial year, 1976. That year, the Smithsonian Institution, our national museum, had an exhibit entitled “A Nation of Nations.” The exhibit recognized that, since the beginning, the immigrant experience has always been a major part of the American experience. We are all the descendants of immigrants or are immigrants ourselves. We must work together to reform our immigration laws at the national level, to stop or prevent trafficking and drug smuggling, to provide adequate security at our borders and to address the basic needs of food, shelter and safety of those who arrive on our doorsteps. Trying locally to root out a few strangers in West Virginia is not a productive, proportionate or humane response to these immigration concerns.

When King Herod threatened the life of Jesus Christ, Mary and Joseph became refugees in Egypt. Today we can remember our refugee Lord in our humane and fair treatment of those strangers among us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

“I’m so grateful to St. Joseph’s. They don’t have any kind of personal relationship to Ukraine. They don’t have to do anything to help Ukraine ... I’m just amazed how kind people’s hearts are. They’re willing to — whether it’s financial or just spend their time — to help people from my country and for nothing in return. It’s just really nice to know that there are kind people out there.”

— Tetyana Marshall, a member of the St. Joseph’s Ukrainian Ministry Committee in Martinsburg, who is originally from Ukraine

Haven...

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“They have been instrumental in getting people that they know over here to the United States,” Dan said.

So much financial support in Weirton has also come from Luke Myers, Rhonda Quattrocchi, the Community Foundation For The Ohio Valley, and Tommy Charnie and his mother Marilyn, who are members of St. Paul Parish in Weirton. They raised money through a separate fundraiser, Janet and Scott Winwood, members of St. Mary’s Byzantine, helped raise money as well. Janet helps with communication as she speaks Ukrainian.

“It’s a labor of love,” Dan said of the effort. “I think they are some of the most gracious people, very thankful.”

The families always invite Dan and Patti to dinner, and made a surprise visit to their home at Christmas singing carols.

Another great surprise in the effort in Weirton came from Bishop Mark Brennan. When the kids enrolled at Madonna and St. Joseph’s, Dan reached out to the West Virginia Catholic Foundation to see if there was any possibility for help with their tuition. Bishop Brennan and the foundation responded with the foundation covering the tuition in full.

“We’re very thankful to the bishop for that,” Dan said.

Helping to connect all of the Ukrainian families in Martinsburg and Weirton is Corbett and the CCWVa Refugee Resettlement office, which provides resettlement support services to any eligible humanitarian population in West Virginia, including refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, and, most recently, “Ukrainian Humanitarian Paroles” of the Uniting for Ukraine program, Corbett said.

Once a Ukrainian arrives in West Virginia through the program, she said, CCWVa provides guidance to him or her and sponsors about the logistical “next steps” to adjusting to life in West Virginia.

The steps can look different for each family, Corbett said. The office offers guidance on how to apply for benefits and all other services available.

“Our goal is to support newcomers through every stage of their resettlement as they reestablish their independence and regain self-sufficiency,” she said. “Ukrainians are eligible for our resettlement support services for the full period of their parole, which is typically two years.”

Corbett said her office is working with 42 Ukrainians in 10 counties of West Virginia.

Father Tom Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph’s in Martinsburg, had the pleasure of introducing the Ukrainian family his parish helped come to Martinsburg to his parishioners after Sunday Mass Jan. 29.

“They came over with just one suitcase,” he shared with The Catholic Spirit a few days before. He thanked everyone from his parish, St. Bernadette’s and St. James and from the wider community for coming together to help this family and the two other families the parish ministry is working to bring to Martinsburg as well. He thanked all involved for “The Corporal Work of Mercy of sheltering the homeless—brining shelter to those without a home—and continuing to support them in whatever needs that they have.”

Tetyana Marshall, a member of the St. Joseph’s Ukrainian Ministry Committee, said the family is amazed by the accommodations that the parish and the United States in general are providing.

“They’re very grateful,” Marshall said.

Marshall is originally from Ukraine. She moved to the Martinsburg area years ago and her daughter is a first grader at St. Joseph School. She has been helping the family, driving them around, shopping for groceries and other needs. She also picked up the family members at two different airports when they arrived last month.

On a personal note, Marshall said, “I’m so grateful to St. Joseph’s. They don’t have any kind of personal relationship to Ukraine. They don’t have to do anything to help Ukraine ... I’m just amazed how kind people’s hearts are. They’re willing to—whether it’s financial or just spend their time—to help people from my country and for nothing in return. It’s just really nice to know that there are kind people out there.”
History... Cont’d from Page 1

in Wheeling. On this site once stood Blessed Martin de Porres Catholic School for African American boys and girls, which was opened by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in 1942 and staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school was named before St. Martin de Porres was canonized a saint in 1962 by Pope John XXIII.

At the ceremony, Bishop Mark Brennan joined former students of the school and community members to celebrate the school and its history. Joining the bishop were officials from the diocese and CCHS. The ceremony was held between the CCHS boys’ basketball games that evening.

Blessed Martin School is truly a piece of history for all, Scott said in his remarks.

“This ceremony wasn’t born from complaints. There weren’t protests and demonstrations demanding this happen. This is happening right now because it’s the right thing to do and it’s long overdue,” Scott said.

Held just a week before the beginning of Black History Month, the ceremony included the blessing and dedication of a new statue of St. Martin de Porres, a replica of the statue that stood in Blessed Martin School 80 years ago. The statue was secured from the Diocese of Pittsburgh and has a permanent place at the entrance of the gym with a plaque on the wall beside it depicting an image of the school and a brief history. The purchase and restoration of the statue was funded by the West Virginia Catholic Foundation through a grant directed by Bishop Brennan.

Before blessing the statue, Bishop Brennan spoke of growing up in segregated Maryland, and knowing, even as a boy, that this was wrong. He also recalled getting involved in the civil rights movement in college. “It is really just a joy to be able to be here with you,” for the ceremony, the bishop said.

The bishop then spoke of St. Martin de Porres and his life. He was born in Lima, Peru on Dec. 9, 1579. He was the illegitimate son to a Spanish gentleman and a freed slave from Panama, of African or possibly Native American descent (according to Catholic Online). He also experienced ridicule for being of mixed race.

In naming the school Blessed Martin, Bishop Brennan told the crowd, they chose a man who would “inspire students who would study here to know that they mattered as this man mattered.”

The bishop then blessed the statue.

Also speaking was CCHS Principal Becky Sancomb, who said that Central is proud to be a part of the history of East Wheeling.

“We are so proud to be able to share with you this evening the very special history that we share with Blessed Martin School and East Wheeling,” she said.

Sancomb announced that CCHS students (Gianna Blake, Quinton Burlenski, Josie Frizzell, Ava Hanson, and Eli Tucker) took first place in the state Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee—Five-Minute Film Competition. The students’ video highlighted Harry H. Jones, Wheeling’s only practicing African American lawyer in 1936 and his “Wheeling’s Twentieth Man,” speech on WWVA Radio. The 20th man referred to the fact that African Americans made up 20 percent of Wheeling’s population at the time. The students’ video was then played on the jumbo screen.

Speaking after the video presentation was Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the diocese. “We stand in this gym tonight as we have for so many years on the site of an important piece of history not only for members of the African American community but surely for the city itself,” he said. The “Twentieth Man” speech, Bishop continued, “began a long difficult process of transforming our city for members of the African American community.”

In a column he wrote 10 years after his radio address, Jones commended the leadership of Archbishop John J. Swint, bishop of the diocese, noting evangelization efforts to African Americans and the operation of Blessed Martin School.

Bishop recognized several people who were instrumental in the success of Blessed Martin School as well as those who secured its history, including the Sisters of St. Joseph. He shared that the last living woman religious who taught at the school, Sister Angelina Cavallaro, CSJ, passed away in June of last year at the age of 99. The congregation was represented at the ceremony by the Congregation of St. Joseph’s archivist, Sister Mary Palmer, CSJ.

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Bishop also thanked Sean Duffy of the Ohio County Public Library for compiling a history of the school. He thanked Jon-Erik Gilot, archivist for the diocese, and John Reardon, director of Buildings and Properties for the diocese, who worked to secure the St. Martin de Porres statue and plaque. Bishop also recognized the late Clyde and Anne Thomas, and said that Anne was a champion of the school's history. He also recognized local historian Margaret Brennan for her work.

"Last but certainly not least, we acknowledge the men and women who called Blessed Martin home," Bishop said. "Those students whose parents fought so hard so that they would receive an education when all others turned them away. We honor their hunger for knowledge and, like St. Martin de Porres, their desire for racial harmony. Our community is better with you in it."

Bishop acknowledged Dorthy Daniels Jackson, who became the first student to graduate entirely from Blessed Martin, having attended all 12 years of her primary and high school education. He also acknowledged Blessed Martin’s first graduating high school class: Norman E. Campbell, Theodora May Cooper, William A. Galloway, Albert A. Gentry, Launbural Spriggs, Wanda Elaine Lyle, and Wiley Walker.

Bishop then introduced Evangelist Ruth Stinson of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Steubenville, Ohio, who attended Blessed Martin.

"Blessed Martin is a blessed place…" 81-year-old Stinson told the crowd. "You’re standing on history, and we that have been here carry it in our hearts."

She then asked everyone who was involved with the school to stand, and they received a round of applause. Stinson then individually introduced the three other ladies present who attended the school—Betty Gordon, Dolores Long, and Alice Walker. The crowd was later delighted to hear Walker sing the Blessed Martin School song.

When they arrived at the gym before the ceremony began, Stinson and Long shared with The Catholic Spirit their memories and love of their former school.

"I’m excited to be here," said Long, who attended Blessed Martin from fifth through eighth grades. Among her best memories, she said, are the teachers and the sisters. "We had a lot of fun," she said. "I loved that school. I loved it!"

Following the ceremony, Stinson shared with The Catholic Spirit that she was one of the first African American girls to attend St. Joseph’s Academy in Wheeling after the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision banning segregation in public schools.

"God got me through all of it," Stinson recalled. "Keep looking to the Lord. He will keep you in all things."
A Reflection on Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Sacramentum Caritatis (The Sacrament of Charity)

By Michael Brumley, candidate in the Permanent Diaconate Formation program for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Benediction of the blessed sacrament begins with prayer, going to the altar, genuflecting, then kneeling, and incensing the blessed sacrament while a eucharistic song is sung. He then rises and offers a prayer which he chooses from the liturgical rite. The prayer is a petition that starts with expressing our faith and belief in Jesus' presence in the sacrament, celebrates the salvation won for us, and pledges our undivided love and loving service to others.

It is within this prayer, and its alternative forms, that we find a petition and grace for living a Eucharistic life – a life of faith and service celebrated in continual thanksgiving. Our recently deceased Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his Apostolic Exhortation, Sacramentum Caritatis, reflects on The Eucharist as A Mystery to be Believed, to Be Celebrated, and to be Lived. Benedict sought to stir in our hearts "a renewed commitment to Eucharistic enthusiasm and fervor in the Church" (SC, 5) inviting all of us to enter into the Benediction prayer and seek to live more fully a Eucharistic life.

The Holy Eucharist – The Sacrament of Charity

Benedict XVI, in the opening paragraph of Sacramentum Caritatis, describes the Holy Eucharist as "the gift that Jesus Christ makes of himself, thus revealing to us God's infinite love for every man and woman." Later in that same paragraph, drawing from the words of John the Evangelist, Benedict reflects on the amazement of the Apostles in "witnessing what the Lord did and said during that Supper" and then in experiencing Jesus' love "to the end" (Jn 13:1) by "laying down his life for his friends" (Jn 13:13). In this opening paragraph Benedict explains the Eucharist as a sacrament instituted by a ritual meal which both anticipated and celebrated the sacrificial offering of Jesus' body and blood and as this "wondrous" sacrament that makes "manifest that 'greater' love" (Jn 13:1). Benedict also points to key elements of the Eucharistic Liturgy – a gift of Jesus himself, a ritual meal, and a sacrifice – all acting together as the action of Christ (truly present) to reveal to us God's infinite love for every man and woman.

In the second paragraph Benedict explains how "Jesus shows us in particular the truth about the love which is the very essence of God." He goes on further, "It is this evangelical truth which challenges each of us and our whole being. For this reason, the Church, which finds in the Eucharist the very center of her life, is constantly concerned to proclaim to all…that God is love. Precisely because Christ has become for us the food of truth, the Church turns to every man and woman, inviting them freely to accept God's gift."

A Mystery to be Lived

Benedict specifically encourages “Christian people” to seek a deeper “understanding of the relationship between the eucharistic mystery, the liturgical action, and the new spiritual worship which derives from the Eucharist as the sacrament of charity” (SC, 5). He calls each of us to enter into a “new way of understanding and living one’s life” (SC, 77) as a sacrifice to enter “into full communion with the Pasch of Jesus Christ” (SC, 85).

Are You Being Called to Priesthood? Upcoming Priestly Discernment Retreat Can Help Men Explore Possibility

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Vocations Office is inviting men 18 years and older to consider being open to God's will at a retreat weekend of prayer and discernment. This will be a weekend where men can take off from their busy lives to listen and seek to follow God's will for them, whatever it may be,” said Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. “This retreat is for men at all stages of discernment, beginning or serious. Even if you have just a small curiosity toward the priesthood, this retreat is for you.”

The retreat is set for March 3-5 at the Eastern Panhandle’s Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville where participants will gather in prayer with other men who may be hearing God’s call. They will also have the chance to get a clearer picture of the priesthood through talks by and discussions with priests and seminarians of the diocese.

“Topics of discussion will include the role of a priest, what the life of a priest in West Virginia looks like, the demands of the priesthood, seminary life,” Father Crenwelge said. “Basically, a crash course on the priesthood, so men can hear about it, pray about it and, hopefully, open the doors to future conversations.”

The retreat will also include Mass and opportunities for prayer, Confession, and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. “Adoration is where I found my vocation when I was a student at WVU,” Father Crenwelge said. “I remember, specifically, how it was in Adoration that I began praying about being a priest. People encounter our Lord uniquely in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament so I want to give them as much opportunity for that as well.”

“We need good, faithful men to lay down their lives for Christ in service of His people,” Father Crenwelge said. “I recognize today that the vocation to the priesthood is not as popular or ‘normal’ as it once was to say, our grandparents or great grandparents. Yet we still need just as faithful priests today as they were blessed to have. The future of the Church in West Virginia depends on it. You don’t need to be immediately conceived for God to call you to be His priest. Holiness, prayer, and self-giving come with time and a willingness to grow. You just need an open heart.”

This retreat is a “no strings attached” opportunity for men to come and see what God has in store for them, Father Crenwelge said. “To follow the will of God leads to the greatest fulfillment in this life,” he said.

Retreatants can sign up at wvpriests.org
Diocese’s Catholic Schools are a Great Blessing, Bishop Brennan Says in Video Message

By Colleen Rowan

Joining in the celebration of national Catholic Schools Week Jan. 29-Feb. 4, Bishop Mark Brennan shared a video message to the Catholic school community of the diocese.

“What a great opportunity for us to celebrate all of our 24 Catholic schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,” the bishop said in his message posted on the diocese’s social media platforms Jan. 29.

As a boy, he attended public schools through eighth grade, but then had the opportunity to go to a Catholic high school, he said.

“I really noticed the difference,” he said. “It was a great experience to be able to learn more about my faith and to, at times, celebrate Masses with my fellow students and faculty and to pray as we began each day.”

Bishop Brennan continued by saying that he has made it a personal priority the last two years, to visit each of the diocese’s school campuses and to spend quality time with staff and students.

“It really is a motivation for me to continue my support of Catholic schools to see signs of a vibrant Catholic faith in the schools always in classroom, the artwork of prayers on the walls, and especially in the Masses we celebrate to see that Catholic faith come fully alive,” he said.

The bishop expressed his gratitude to the primary educators of students, their parents.

“Thank you, parents, for choosing a Catholic education for your children and for making an investment to give them a Christ-centered environment, where they can flourish spiritually as well as academically,” he said. “We’re very happy to partner with you.”

“I extend my heartfelt, sincere appreciation to our teachers who inspire our students and bring the gospel to life across all subjects,” the bishop said.

Over the last few years, he noted, the diocese’s Catholic schools have been blessed to welcome a number of new families. He also pointed to the schools’ academic successes and proficiency scores that remain above the state and national averages.

“Our schools are a great blessing,” Bishop Brennan said. “We teach more than reading, math, history, sciences, and the arts. We teach morals. We teach sound values. We teach empathy for one another. We teach love.”

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Enrollment Trends Continue Upward Swing Since Fall 2020

Parents Value Education of the Whole Child

By Joyce Bibey

WEST VIRGINIA—Five years prior to the pandemic Catholic schools across the nation, including here in West Virginia, were reporting a steady decline in enrollment. However, since the fall of 2020, numbers are changing with a trending upward swing.

Catholic grade schools have seen a 5.8% increase and the preschool level experienced a 33.5% enrollment increase from the Fall of 2020 to the Fall of 2021.

“In the past 18 months, we have seen more enrollment retention and increases than we have seen in decades in our Catholic schools, as parents prioritized in-person learning, values, mental health, and social interaction in addition to academics,” Catholic Schools of West Virginia Superintendent Mary Deschaine, Ed.S., said. “We know the critical value of being together. Our schools provide an environment that is an extension of family. We are committed to providing a quality education and are unapologetically Catholic. Lessons in Catholic faith are integrated into all subject areas and activities.”

She said while parents are favoring an education to nurture the whole child, Catholic schools value and respect that parents are the primary educators of their children.

“Parents choose us and with that they choose a Christ-centered educational environment that balances growth, rules, boundaries, and faith,” Deschaine said. “‘Parent and grandparents that send their students to be part of our school families have seen their students’ flourish’.”

Reports following 2020 show that transfer students are doing well in the Catholic school setting. According to the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), 95% of parents said their child had positive academic experiences and 90% said the communication received from the school was excellent.

“What is also an elite finding of the NCEA report is that new families – Catholic and non-Catholic – said the best attribute of Catholic school ‘is the caring and effective faculty and staff,’ ” Deschaine said. “Parents may be choosing to enroll in our school because of a desire to have reliable in-person learning or higher test scores, but the bottom line is these things happen, because our teachers and staff truly care about the children sitting in our classrooms.”

More than 4,400 students are enrolled in one of 24 Catholic schools in 13 counties of the state and approximately 1,750 of those students are non-Catholic.

To learn more about Catholic education in West Virginia go to: https://wvcatholicschools.org.
Parish Communities Making Mental Health Ministries a Priority

By Colleen Rowan

Mental health ministries within the church have become a priority both nationally and in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The National Alliance on Mental Illness indicates that one in five U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, while 17% of youth (6-17 years) annually experience a mental health disorder.

Parishes in West Virginia are responding to many different needs. Two parishes brought on mental health counselors volunteering their services to the communities. Father Alfred Obiudu, pastor of St. Therese of Lisieux in Inwood, said a parishioner was volunteering her counseling services, but had to stop recently because of ongoing health issues.

In Weirton, Ann Stipe began volunteering as a mental health counselor this month. Stipe, who has more than 50 years of experience in the mental health field, began testing the waters of the need for counseling services last April. And she saw that need right away.

“She has been looking for counseling and volunteer counseling services for many years,” said the Worker Parish in Weirton. “There’s not a lot of options around. And what I’ve learned is that even people in crisis can’t get into see somebody.”

Stipe began as a psychiatric nurse in the 1960s, then offered outpatient counseling for individuals, couples, and families for the last 30 years until her retirement. She has also been offering pro bono work to students of Madonna High School and St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, located on the parish campus.

Young people, she said, are dealing with so many things that can be difficult. “Everything is sexualized out there in the culture,” she said. “Every time they turn around, they see it. There’s a lot of broken families, there’s a strong spirit of division in the world, and I think it’s just important to have somebody available to help them know that there’s somebody there that can talk to.”

With her counseling, she includes the faith element. She wants to help kids who are struggling, “to know who God is and that they are God’s beautiful children.”

The importance of having a counselor serving a parish community is threefold. “First of all,” she said, “it’s a support to the teachers. If students are being disruptive in class, she said, teachers can refer them to her.

“I can give the one-to-one attention. I can talk to them, find out what’s going on, give them some coping skills,” she said. It’s also a support to parents, many of whom have requested their children see Stipe. In her volunteer services in Weirton she has counseled children suffering a death in their family, such as the loss of a grandparent, as well as children whose parents are divorcing. She has helped kids dealing with issues in school and with their peers as well.

“They have a confidential place where they can vent their feelings. They can talk about what’s going on and get positive reinforcement and encouragement and support as well.

“There’s a not a lot of options around. And what I’ve learned is that even people in crisis can’t get into see somebody.”

—Ann Stipe, who is offering counseling pro bono at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton

Mental health ministry has been a long-time focus at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. For the last 25 years, the parish has joined with the Wheeling Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to hold a prayer service every year during the first week of October during National Mental Illness Awareness Week.

Janet Boyle, a member of the St. Michael Stewardship Council which sponsors the Mass, said mental illness is a devastating illness for the individuals who suffer with it, and for their families.

“St. Michael parishioners come together to pray for people with mental illness and their families and pray for a cure,” she said.

Many people have attended this prayer service since the first time St. Michael held it, she said, grateful and privileged to be a part of St. Michael’s recognition of their suffering.

“As part of the prayer service, a person who suffers from a mental illness talks about his or her journey,” Boyle said. “It’s always the best part of the program.”

Parishioners host a social after the service with baked goods provided by the parish Christian Women Organization.

The NAMI prayer service at St. Michael’s was started by the late Dorothy McCloskey and her husband Jerry, lifelong St. Michael parishioners and two of the founders of the Wheeling Chapter of NAMI. Their late daughter Lynn suffered from a severe and persistent mental illness.

“The McCloskeys wanted to call attention to the plight of individuals who suffer from mental illness and the families that love and support them,” Boyle said.

St. Michael’s priests have always been in support of having the service Boyle said, and the parish music director Chad Carter participates every year which adds a beautiful dimension to the service.

“Statistics indicate that one in five people experience a mental illness every year,” Boyle said. “That means there are many within our parish communities who are suffering. We hope we can help to diminish the stigma that many still associate mental illness with.”

One’s mental health can be deeply affected by the death of a loved one, and Deacon Doug Breiding has been reaching out by leading bereavement groups.

“It is good to have family and friends to be there in times of need. Sometimes it is a blessing to have an outside resource to assist in the grieving process,” Deacon Breiding said.

The gatherings, he said, are a group of people going through similar suffering, yet uniquely specific to each individual.

“It is a gathering where a person can be with others without judgment or pressure to be engaging and always confidential. A place to be long-term along the way, or longer if needed,” he said.

“Research suggests that holding all the pain, loss and uncertainty to oneself and holding it ‘inside,’ may lead to mental health issues, depression,” he said.

The gatherings are designed to provide an individual with various resources to assist them in the grieving process, Deacon Breiding said. “A place to just sit and listen, or share their story with others that can identify with what they too are dealing with, various pamphlets addressing specific losses to take home and read, etc.”

Bereavement gatherings led by Deacon Breiding are normally at St. John Parish Hall in Benwood. Upcoming dates are Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 31, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 27, Dec. 18.

Courage
A Ministry for Catholics with Same-Sex Attraction
Meets monthly in Morgantown
Faith, Fellowship, and Support
couragewvc@gmail.com
dvoc.org/courage-apostolate

“Courage is doing the work of God!” - Pope St. John Paul II
Appeal ...
Cont’d from Page 1

through various evangelization efforts,” Storza said.

The diocese’s Director of Stewardship & Development Krissie Benson expressed her gratitude to the faithful for supporting the appeal, adding that the appeal is unique in West Virginia. “None of the money raised goes to support salaries or chancery expenses like it does in most other dioceses across the country,” Benson said. “Appeal money at the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston goes right back to support the local parishes, schools and their immediate needs,” she noted.

Of the more than $2.3 million raised, more than half went back to our parishes, schools and their immediate needs,” Benson said. “That is a phenomenal amount of money going directly back to support the local parishes and schools and their immediate needs,” Benson said.

The top 10 parishes or missions that raised the most funds are Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield; St. Patrick Parish, Weston; St. Michael Parish, Vienna; Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg; St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town; St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling; St. Michael Parish, Wheeling; Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton; and St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown.

The top 10 parishes or missions to surpass their goal by percentage are: St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg; St. John Parish, Benwood; St. Patrick Parish, Weston; Sacred Heart Parish, Chester; St. Michael Parish, Wheeling; St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale; St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown; St. Monica Mission, Lubeck; and Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton.

See “Appeal” on Page 11

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

As another Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) comes to a close, I can’t help but reflect on all we’ve accomplished this past year. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you and Catholics across West Virginia, we were able to continue building a culture of faith centered around the Eucharist. The 2022 CSA raised more than $2.3 million from 3,816 generous donors. As the need for outreach to the young, the vulnerable, and the less fortunate continues to grow, your generosity enables us to make a significant contribution toward meeting those needs, making more resources available to care for those around us.

Thank you for joining me in sharing the Good News with those in need. The Appeal enables all of us to reach out beyond the walls of our parish church to advance the Church’s mission.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

[Director of Stewardship & Development]

February 3, 2023

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

Amen.

2022 GRATITUDE REPORT

$2.2 Million Raised
for Parishes & Missions, Catholic Education, and Evangelization & Outreach Efforts across the Diocese.

Parishes & Missions 58% $1,525,285
Catholic Education 20% $356,766
Evangelization & Outreach Efforts 17% $312,170
CSA Costs 5% $89,192

Because of YOU...

- Almost $200,000 in CSA grant funding was awarded to parishes, Catholic schools, and food pantries
- Catholic Charities WV was awarded $210,000

Catholic Sharing Appeal
P.O. Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304)233-0880

dwc.org/CSA

See “Appeal” on Page 11

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

[Director of Stewardship & Development]
## 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal Parish/Mission Goal Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish/Mission</th>
<th>Parish Goal</th>
<th>Total Raised</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston</td>
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<td>$68,900.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Christ Our Hope Mission, Marietta</td>
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<td>Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Hills Parish, Elkview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risen Lord Mission, Clay</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Mission, Rainelle</td>
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<td>19%</td>
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<td>St. Barbara Mission, Chapmanville</td>
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<td>$200.00</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>St. Bernadette Mission, Hedgesville</td>
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<td>$10,645.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Brendan Parish, Elkins</td>
<td>$21,500.00</td>
<td>$4,275.00</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Continued on Page 11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish/Mission</th>
<th>Parish Goal</th>
<th>Total Raised</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ronceverte</td>
<td>$8,645.00</td>
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<td>$7,770.00</td>
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<td>$2,400.00</td>
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<td>$3,265.00</td>
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<td>St. Elizabeth Parish, Philippi</td>
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<td>$1,300.00</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley</td>
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<td>St. Francis Xavier Parish, Moundsville</td>
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<td>St. John University Parish, Morgantown</td>
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<td>St. Patrick Parish, Hinton</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter Parish, Welch</td>
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<tr>
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<td>St. Stephen Parish, Ona</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Thomas</td>
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<td>St. Thomas Parish, Gassawey</td>
<td>$5,365.00</td>
<td>$6,325.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkeley Springs</td>
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<td>$7,134.00</td>
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<td>$82,041.94</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$17,395.00</td>
<td>$9,860.00</td>
<td>57%</td>
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</table>

Top 10 Parishes/Missions That Raised the Most Funds
1) Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield
2) St. Patrick Parish, Weston
3) St. Michael Parish, Vienna
4) Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
5) St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg
6) St. Mary Parish, Charleston
7) St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling
8) St. Michael Parish, Wheeling
9) Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton
10) St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

Top 10 Parishes/Missions to Surpass Goal by Percentage
1) St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
2) St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg
3) St. Church, Charleston
4) St. Patrick Parish, Weston
5) Sacred Heart Parish, Chester
6) St. Michael Parish, Wheeling
7) St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale
8) St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
9) St. Monica Mission, Lubeck
10) Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton

Appeal ... Cont'd from Page 9
See both lists, in full, with more information on this page.

Benson said that over the years, the Catholic Sharing Appeal has proven to be an opportunity for the faithful to unite together to serve increasing needs throughout the diocese.

"This was very true this year," Benson continued. "As we see the costs rise, unemployment uncertainty, and unstable economy, we are even more aware that many throughout West Virginia need our help now more than ever. Donors are making a huge difference in the lives of those who benefit from programs and services made possible through the help of the CSA."
Joe Jordan Presents

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Date: February 23, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Registration link: purpose.abbatekofc.com

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© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT
By Joyce Bibey

December 1995 was a dire straits moment for Ted Rouse. He lost his job and was instantly filled with anxiety. It was Christmas, but he was devastated and didn’t know which way to turn.

He and his wife Shelly had just bought a house and baby number two was on the way. Overwhelmed with worry on how he was going to pay the hefty mortgage, handle the looming medical expenses, and put food on the table for his young family, Rouse turned to someone he knew could relate to his heartache—St. Joseph.

He prayed big—not just for a job, but one that would provide for his family, a job he would be energized to give it all he had, and a job that would make a difference. He wanted to be that proud hard worker like Joseph—a man who made a way, but didn’t have to be in the forefront and happy to be behind the scenes.

“I carried my resume everywhere I went and passed them out to everyone I knew,” he said. “On paper I had a degree in business and a Master’s in public administration. But that was on paper. My heart kept bringing up thoughts of my 13-year-old self—a film nerd from Wheeling, who didn’t want to put down my father’s 8mm camera. I needed a job, any job, but I wanted one in video production.”

He kept thinking God intentionally gave him the gift of loving film, production, and sharing positive stories and fascinating perspectives, why can’t that God lead to a career to specifically use that gift? He continued to call upon St. Joseph, when he prayed and to guide him—send him some sort of sign.

He said most that know him don’t know his story let alone his thoughts and how he credits the humble spouse of Mary, Mother of God, for guiding him on the right path.

“To this day, I religiously pray to St. Joseph, the patron of the family,” Rouse said. “I truly believe he has had a hand in providing so many opportunities for me.”

It was one of his friends in television production that called Rouse about a job. Rouse thought it was at one of the local stations, but the friend said it was the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. In short, the diocese was looking to do the film of the Mass and other projects in house.

In short, the diocese was looking to do the film that called Rouse about a job. Rouse thought it was perfect—the perfect path right there,” he said. “I knew it was God moving me. It was St. Joseph.”

Pausing, with his eyes closed and shaking his head in affirmation, Rouse said, “It was more than a job. It was what I needed. It changed my life. It saved my life.”

His first assignment—a video on the history of the cathedral—the Cathedral of St. Joseph!

Rouse ran the in-house productions for the diocese for three years, and in 1999 branched out to start his own company Rouse Studios. He continued to do the work for the diocese—covering appeals, schools, charities, and Mass—but also was able to expand to do video production for public and private businesses.

His work has taken him all over the globe and each trip he has been able to relate back to his faith—visiting the places that gave us the awe-inspiring architecture he loves in the German, Italian, Irish, Polish, and French inspired churches around the diocese; experiencing the unique cultures of some of the priests now serving in West Virginia; and walking the same ground as many of our holy saints, religious, and pontiffs.

One of Rouse’s latest projects is working as the executive producer of Lights Camera Location, a production series showcasing the locations of classic Hollywood movies—Rome, Paris, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and more. He’s also had the honor to meet and work with the families of Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck, and three-time Oscar winning “Best Director” William Wyler to name a few.

In fact, later this year, Rouse’s documentary on Wyler will air on the Turner Classic Movie (TCM) channel. He teamed up with Wyler’s daughter Catherine Wyler to produce the program.

Rouse’s work has been picked up nationally on The CBS Evening News, ABC’s Good Morning America, Fox’s Funniest People, The Montel Williams Show and The David Copperfield Magic Special.

Rouse does not take his career for granted and continues to have the humble attitude of St. Joseph the Worker.

“Working for and with the diocese—the mission of the Church—I have learned to tackle my work purposefully to help others as best I can,” Rouse said. “When you work for the Church, it becomes natural to focus on using your talents for a higher purpose to honor God. The people I have gotten to work with and meet around the state are the most wonderful, positive people. Each has enriched my faith with their lives—their stories I’ve shared from behind the camera.”

Do you know an exceptional Catholic in West Virginia, someone or a group who are shining examples of #FaithInWV? Email Joyce Bibey your feature idea to jbibey@dwc.org. Visit FaithInWV.org and every issue of The Catholic Spirit to read more inspiring stories.
Food insecurity continues to plague our nation and our state; according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 15.1% of West Virginia households face food insecurity.

Due to the far-reaching effects of inflation, donations of food to social service organizations have declined. Our Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Western Region, which serves 16 counties from Wood to Mingo county, has seen an increased need for food while experiencing a decline in donated food.

Fortunately, a substantial donation arrived from the West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) this past fall. The WVNG donated over 10,000 Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs). MREs are self-contained, shelf-stable meals developed for use where other food is not available. These MREs were a great solution for several of the populations CCWVa serves, including people experiencing homelessness. The CCWVa team shared how grateful they were for this unique partnership with the WVNG.

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

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.
Pope Francis Expresses ‘Great Sorrow’ over ‘Spiral of Death’ in Holy Land

By Judith Sudilovsky

JERUSALEM (OSV News) — Religious and world leaders condemned the violence that engulfed Jerusalem and the West Bank, leaving 10 Palestinians and seven Israelis dead. The violence pushed tensions to an all-time high in recent years and created fears of yet another wave of reciprocal attacks. Landing in Israel on a pre-scheduled trip, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken condemned the “shocking” Jan. 27 terrorist attack that took place outside of a Neve Yaakov synagogue in Jerusalem following Sabbath prayers on International Holocaust Memorial Day. He called on Israelis and Palestinians to not inflame tensions amid the deadly surge of violence. Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and planned to meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah Jan. 31.

The shootings took place following days of violence in the West Bank and Gaza, and another attack left two Israelis injured just outside of the Old City in the Palestinian village of Silwan where Jewish settlers have established themselves and an archaeological site. Nine Palestinians — who according to Israel were members of an Islamic Jihad terror cell — and one civilian, an older woman, were killed.

A 13-year-old Palestinian boy was identified as the shooter in the Silwan attack, and a 14-year-old Israeli boy was among those killed in the Friday shooting. Pope Francis expressed his “great sorrow” on hearing the news of the attacks. “The spiral of death that increases day after day does nothing other than close the few glimpses of trust that exist between the two peoples,” he said following his weekly Angelus prayer Jan. 29.

“At the beginning of the year, dozens of Palestinians have been killed during firesights with the Israeli army. I appeal to the two governments and to the international community so that, immediately and without delay, other paths might be found that include dialogue and a sincere search for peace,” the pontiff added. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres strongly condemned the synagogue attack in a Jan. 27 statement, noting that it was “particularly abhorrent that the attack occurred at a place of worship” and on the commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

“There is never any excuse for acts of terrorism,” he said. “They must be clearly condemned and rejected by all.”

In the wake of the attacks, Netanyahu, who was just sworn in to office for the sixth time in December with the extremely right-wing and religious government in Israel’s history, vowed punitive measures. Israeli police have sealed off the home of the Palestinian gunman identified as Alqam Khayri, and are preparing to demolish the family house. Members of Khayri’s family also were summoned by the police. Amid the heightened tensions, Palestinians reported alleged revenge attacks by vigilante settlers in the West Bank. Palestinians posted videos of a torched car and burning house and said other Palestinian cars had been damaged by settlers. Israeli police said they were investigating the incidents.

In a Jan. 29 statement following the bloody weekend, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem called on all parties to practice restraint and self-control. “Everyone must work together to defuse the current tensions and to launch a political process based upon well-established principles of justice that will bring about a lasting peace and prosperity for all,” they said in the statement.

“Consonant with this, in these most difficult of times we call upon all parties to reverence each other’s religious faith and to show respect to all holy sites and places of worship,” they added.

Armenian residents of Jerusalem’s Old City posted on Facebook information about two alterations that took place on the night of Jan. 28. They involved confrontations between radical settler youth and Armenian residents of the city including an incident of some Jewish settler youth trying to climb the Armenian convent’s wall. They allegedly wanted to take down the monastery flag as a group of mourners were leaving a memorial event at the convent. A confrontation ensued and the settlers attacked the Armenians with pepper spray and sticks, according to the report.

The post on the Jerusalem’s Armenian Quarter Facebook page includes a video showing the police beating and arresting one of the Armenian young men — including sitting on him — and noted the attack came shortly after racist graffiti was scrawled on the convent walls a few weeks ago. “The Israeli police are treating these attacks on our ancient religious community very lightly. The absence of any deterrence by the police is to be blamed,” the community group wrote. “We call on the Israeli government to take immediate action to stop these vandalistic attacks.”

The Christian-owned restaurant located at the New Gate of the Old City was attacked on the evening of Jan. 26 by a gang of radical settler youths as Jewish-Israeli, Arab and tourists were dining at outdoor tables.

Prominent Christian activist and director of the International Center for Consultations, which provides consultation services to diplomatic missions, pointed to the “radicalization” of the Israeli government by its extremist groups into radical actions. The Israelis, he underlines, are feeling empowered toward violence and the Palestinians lack hope and faith in their leadership. (Judith Sudilovsky writes for OSV News from Jerusalem.)

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Catholics Call for Prayer, Justice as Video of Memphis Black Man’s Deadly Arrest Released

By Gina Christian

OSV News — Catho-
lics in Memphis, Ten-
ssee, and throughout the
nation are joining in prayer
while the investigation into
 zagged
a Black man
from two separate incidents Oct.
who worked for FedEx and
ys. Both Davis and Nichol-
we must identify and
honor our commitment to
Justice for all.

Catholic Pro-Life Activist Mark Houck Acquitted of Federal Charges

By Gina Christian

PHILADELPHIA (OSV News) — A Catholi-
crime has been found not guilty of charges
in a Jan. 27 statement provided by the Shelle-
ictory failing,” Davis
said in her statement. “This will
humanity toward another indi-
ividual. I expect you to feel
out in the disregard of
human rights.”

Both Davis and Nicholls’
family have called for
demonstrations, as has President Joe
Dion and Institute — said they “join (the) community
in praying for the soul
of Tyre Nichols and
for the comfort of his
family during this horrible
time.”

The friars said “for over
182 years, the friars and pa-
iotics in praying for the
peace of the city.

The Knights of Peter
Claver and Ladies Auxil-
iary, the world’s oldest and
largest historically Black
Catholic fraternal order,
also issued a Jan. 27 state-
ment, assuring their “prayers and love are with (Nichols’) family and loved
ones.”

Ashley Garecht, vice chair of the
Pro-Life Union of Greater Phil-
delphia, told OSV News she and fellow pro-life advocates were “overjoyed” Houck has been ac-
quitted.

“We are grateful that truth won
out in Philadelphia,” she said.

“Most of all, we just praise God for
his protection and provision for
Mark. We know so many people
have been praying for him, and
that courtroom was full of many ro-
saries.”

By Gina Christian (OSV News) — Cathol-
ics in Memphis, Tennessee, and throughout the na-
ation are joining in prayer while the investigation into the death of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols, a young Black man who worked for FedEx and was the father of a 4-year-old boy.

Now, the city is bracing itself for protests as police body camera footage of the arrest is released on YouTube the evening of Jan. 27. Memphis Police Chief Cereyl Davis, speaking in a Jan. 26 video statement, described the footage as “heinous, reckless and inhumane.”

The five former Memphis police officers have been charged with second-de-
grade murder, aggravated as-
sault,agrivated kidnap-
ing, and obstructing justi-
t"force or threat of force or ... phys-
ical obstruction” to “injure, intimi-
date or interfere with” someone entering an abortion clinic.

The 1994 law prohibits inten-
tional property damage of a facility
that provides “reproductive health
services, including abortion.”

Houck’s acquittal.

Jurors in the trial, which began
on Jan. 24, remained deadlocked
on a verdict as of Jan. 27. By midaf-
ternoon on Jan. 30, however, they
had reached a verdict resulting in
Houck’s acquittal.

“We are, of course, thrilled with
the outcome,” stated Peter Breen,
executive vice president and
head of litigation at the Chicago-
based Thomas More Society, which
represented Houck in the proceed-
ings. “Mark and his family are
now free of the cloud that the
Biden administration threw upon
them. We took this case to the
full might of the United States
government — and won.

The jury saw through and rejected
the prosecution’s discriminatory
argument, which was harassment
from day one. The Biden Depart-
mint of Justice’s intimidation
against pro-life people and
people of faith has been put in its
place.”

Ashley Garecht, vice chair of the
Pro-Life Union of Greater Phil-
delphia, told OSV News she and fellow pro-life advocates were “overjoyed” Houck has been ac-
quitted.

“We are grateful that truth won
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“Most of all, we just praise God for
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Mark. We know so many people
have been praying for him, and
that courtroom was full of many ro-
saries.”

Gina Christian is a national re-
porter for OSV News.
New Translation Tweaks to Sacrament of Penance Take Effect this Lent

By Gina Christian
(OSV News) — The experience of the sacrament of penance in the Roman rite will be slightly different this Lent, thanks to approved changes in the English translation set to take effect in a few weeks.

Starting Ash Wednesday — which takes place this year on Feb. 22 — the prayer of aboulution will include three modifications, so that the revised version will read as follows:

“God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out [formerly “sent”] the Holy Spirit for [previously “Holy Spirit among us for”] the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God grant [instead of “give”] you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

The new text was adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during its Spring 2021 meeting, with the Vatican’s dicastery (then-Congregation) for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approving the text in April 2022. As of April 16, 2023, the second Sunday of Easter known also as Divine Mercy Sunday, the revised formula for absolution is mandatory.

“The essential part of the absolution formula has not changed,” said Father Andrew Menke, executive director of the USCCB’s Secretariat for Divine Worship, during an Oct. 25, 2022, webinar co-sponsored by his office and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

During his presentation, Father Menke admitted the bishops had debated whether the minor changes were worth undertaking. However, he said the consensus favored striving for a more accurate translation from the Latin.

Father Menke noted penitents “who can be a little scrupulous” might panic if priests — many of whom “have said this prayer literally thousands of times” — inadvertently use the old form of absolution. “They might be concerned (that absolution) doesn’t count,” he said.

Yet he stressed that “the heart of the document” remains intact, and the absolution is still valid.

While not a major alteration, the update to the text nonetheless offers “a wonderful opportunity to reiterate and teach the importance of the sacrament of penance as a staple for living the Christian life,” Father Dennis Gill, director of the Office for Divine Worship at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, told OSV News ahead of a Jan. 11 webinar he planned to give on the topic. “It’s also a wonderful opportunity to catechize about the sacrament itself.”

Father Menke noted in his October 2022 webinar that the updates are part of a broader effort by the Vatican to ensure accuracy in the translation of liturgical texts.

“It’s not due to anything against the Latin texts,” he said. “It’s based on the fact that the Holy See instructed the bishops of the world at the beginning of the 21st century that our translations needed to be more accurate.”

Liturgical texts have been revised throughout church history under papal direction: St. Pius V modified both the breviary and the missal in response to the Council of Trent, while St. Pius X, Pope Pius XII and St. John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council, all significantly furthered such efforts.

Noting several difficulties in the practical application of Vatican II’s liturgical reforms, St. John Paul II stated in his 1998 apostolic letter “Vicesimus Quintus Annum” the need “to remedy certain defects or inaccuracies, to complete partial translations ... (and) to ensure respect for the texts approved.”

The 2001 document “Liturgiam authenticanim,” issued by the Vatican’s then-Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, developed the scope of the project, which first resulted in the 2011 full retranslation of the Roman Missal.

Since then, “we’ve dutifully been going through the books one by one with the assistance of ICEL (the International Commission on English in the Liturgy) and preparing new editions of these books,” said Father Menke in his presentation.

So far, he said, new English translations of liturgical books have been completed for confirmation (2015), marriage (2016), exorcism (2017), the dedication of a church (2018), the blessing of oils (2019), the baptism of children (2020) and ordination (2021).

The updates do not imply that “the (older versions) are heretical,” Father Menke told OSV News Jan. 30. “It’s just that church authorities have determined we might do better.”

The translation process is a rigorous one, with plenty of opportunities for bishops to review and reconsider the proposed updates, he added.

ICEL contracts with translators who prepare texts for consideration by the 11 bishops’ conferences that are full members of the commission: Australia, Canada, England and Wales, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, and the U.S.

The bishops representing those conferences in ICEL then evaluate the translators’ work and, once approved, texts are then provided to the various bishops’ conferences for evaluation by all of their members.

Each bishops’ conference decides whether to implement and publish the eventual final version, Father Menke told OSV News.

As the translations are completed, he looks forward to a slightly slower work pace.

“There’s been this (ongoing) change for the last 10 years or so, with new books coming out,” said Father Menke. “I hope 10 years from now we’ll start a period of stability that will last a long time.”

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

St. Joe’s Parish Lenten Mission
229 California Ave., Weirton, WV.

7 - 8 PM Mission Talk
8 - 9 PM Confession/Met-Greet
Talk #1 (Monday) Confession as Spiritual Warfare
Talk #2 (Tuesday) Eucharistic Testimony
Talk #3 (Wednesday) Spiritual Discipline in Spiritual Warfare

Book sales and signing, meet and greet and refreshments.
All are Welcome!
Católicos piden oración y justicia al publicarse el video del arresto mortal de un hombre de Memphis

Por Gina Christian (OSV News)—Católicos en Memphis, Tennessee, y en todo el país se unieron en oración mientras piden justicia, momentos antes de que las imágenes perturbadoras de un arresto policial que resultó fatal en esa ciudad se publicaran a fines del 27 de enero.

Según la Oficina de Investigaciones de Tennessee, el "incidente del uso de la fuerza" de los oficiales del Departamento de Bomberos de la ciudad que resultó en la muerte de Nichols el 10 de enero, fue la "principal razón" para que los cinco ex oficiales, todos los cuales también son negros, fueron acusados de asesinato en segundo grado, asalto con agravantes, secuestro con agravantes, mala conducta y opresión en la detención del 7 de enero y posterior muerte de Tyre Nichols, de 29 años, un joven negro que trabajaba para FedEx y era padre de un niño de 4 años.

La ciudad se preparaba para protestas, ya que las imágenes de la cámara corporal de la policía del arresto se publicaran en YouTube la noche del 27 de enero. El jefe de policía de Memphis, Cerelyn Davis, hablando en una declaración el 26 de enero, describió las imágenes del trato "atroz, imprudente e inhumano" de Nichols por parte de los cinco ex oficiales, todos los cuales también son negros.

Según la Oficina de Investigaciones de Tennessee, el "incidente del uso de la fuerza" de los ex-oficiales resultó en la muerte de Nichols el 10 de enero en un hospital cercano. Dos empleados del Departamento de Bomberos de la ciudad que respondieron a la urgencia médica de Nichols fueron relevados de sus funciones. La diócesis de Memphis invitó a los fieles a "se unir a la comunidad en oración por el alma de Tyre Nichols y por el consuelo de su familia durante este horrible momento".

"Dios es nuestro refugio, suplicamos por la paz en nuestra ciudad", decía un gráfico de las redes sociales en el Twitter del obispado. "Oramos por un espíritu de unidad, amor y paz que impulse nuestros pensamientos, acciones y palabras".

OSV News se puso en contacto con la Diócesis de Memphis para obtener comentarios adicionales, pero no hubo respuesta hasta el momento de la publicación de este artículo.

En una declaración del 27 de enero proporcionada a OSV News, los frailes dominicos de Memphis, que se encargan tanto de la Iglesia Católica St. Peter como del adyacente Instituto y Santuario Nacional St. Martin de Porres, dijeron que "se unen a la comunidad en oración por el alma de Tyre Nichols y por el consuelo de su familia durante este horrible momento".

"Durante más de 182 años, los frailes y feligreses de St. Peter han visto algunas de las peores escenas en la historia de nuestra ciudad".

"El trágico brote de fiebre amarilla, el asesinato de un de las luces más brillantes de nuestra nación, el reverendo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., y ahora este acto de violencia sin sentido que resultó en la muerte de Tyre Nichols".

"No obstante, los dominicanos "permanecieron en San Pedro predicando el Evangelio de Jesucristo" y ahora "se unen a la familia de Tyre Nichols para orar por la paz este fin de semana y por la justicia en estos meses y años venideros".

Los Caballeros de Peter Claver y las Damas Auxiliares, la orden fraterna históricamente negra católica más antigua y más grande del mundo, también emitieron una declaración el 27 de enero, asegurando que sus "oraciones y amor están con la familia (de Nichols) y sus seres queridos".

"Dado que la muerte de Nichols es una de varias muertes relacionadas con la policía de alto perfil que involucran a estadounidenses negros, incluida la muerte de George Floyd en mayo de 2020, que provocó protestas internacionales, la orden fraterna católica también declaró que "en demasiados niveles y de demasiadas diferentes maneras, la santidad de la vida humana es cada vez más devaluada e irrespetada. "Debemos identificar y erradicar las culturas malvadas e hipócritas que plagan a nuestro país. Hace mucho tiempo que llegó el momento de tomar medidas correctivas", dijo la declaración de los Caballeros y Damas Auxiliares. "Ya no pregunto "Por qué?" ahora es demasiado el tiempo para los asesinatos despiadados que muestran una absoluta falta de respeto por el regalo más preciado de la vida".

"Gina Christian es una reportera nacional de OSV News.

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

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:**
La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comunicése con uno de nuestros mensajes en Twitter instando a orar por la ciudad. "Dios es nuestro refugio, suplicamos por la paz en nuestra ciudad", decía un gráfico de las redes sociales en el Twitter del obispado. "Oramos por un espíritu de unidad, amor y paz que impulse nuestros pensamientos, acciones y palabras".

OSV News se puso en contacto con la Diócesis de Memphis para obtener comentarios adicionales, pero no hubo respuesta hasta el momento de la publicación de este artículo.

En una declaración del 27 de enero proporcionada a OSV News, los frailes dominicos de Memphis, que se encargan tanto de la Iglesia Católica St. Peter como del adyacente Instituto y Santuario Nacional St. Martin de Porres, dijeron que "se unen a la comunidad en oración por el alma de Tyre Nichols y por el consuelo de su familia durante este horrible momento".

"Durante más de 182 años, los frailes y feligreses de St. Peter han visto algunas de las peores escenas en la historia de nuestra ciudad".

"El trágico brote de fiebre amarilla, el asesinato de un de las luces más brillantes de nuestra nación, el reverendo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., y ahora este acto de violencia sin sentido que resultó en la muerte de Tyre Nichols".

"No obstante, los dominicanos "permanecieron en San Pedro predicando el Evangelio de Jesucristo" y ahora "se unen a la familia de Tyre Nichols para orar por la paz este fin de semana y por la justicia en estos meses y años venideros".

"Dado que la muerte de Nichols es una de varias muertes relacionadas con la policía de alto perfil que involucran a estadounidenses negros, incluida la muerte de George Floyd en mayo de 2020, que provocó protestas internacionales, la orden fraterna católica también declaró que "en demasiados niveles y de demasiadas diferentes maneras, la santidad de la vida humana es cada vez más devaluada e irrespetada. "Debemos identificar y erradicar las culturas malvadas e hipócritas que plagan a nuestro país. Hace mucho tiempo que llegó el momento de tomar medidas correctivas", dijo la declaración de los Caballeros y Damas Auxiliares. "Ya no pregunto "Por qué?" ahora es demasiado el tiempo para los asesinatos despiadados que muestran una absoluta falta de respeto por el regalo más preciado de la vida".

"Gina Christian es una reportera nacional de OSV News."
Sunday, March 19: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 26: St. Ann, Shingston, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, April 16: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 18: St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 24: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25: St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30: St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 13: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 14: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 14: St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 19: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 22: Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 28: St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 1: St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 11: Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 18: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 10: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.
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