

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

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 Veroni-

ka'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.

"Awful," 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." Anna is
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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, CCWVa was able to provide goods and services to those in need, and faith was made stronger
See "Appeal" on Page 9

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



Colleen Rowan Photo

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.

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
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Haven...

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now enrolled at St. Joseph Parish School in Martinsburg.

Veronika's father is unable to leave Ukraine, and her mother's side of the family is in an area under occupation. Veronika's grandmother died 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," Veronika said.

Veronika 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 the school," said Dr. Patrick Michel, parish operations and financial officer at St. Joseph Parish and a member of the parish's Ukrainian Ministry Committee. He remembered when Anna spoke very little English. "She is now a pro!" said Michel, who is also a deacon candidate for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

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 Act.

Michel added that the two other families are in various stages of paperwork and will live in the same building as the first family.

The parish's Ukrainian Mini-

stry Committee was formed shortly after the war began last year at the urging of parishioners Clarence "CEM" Martin and Ben Slominski. Michel said the parish received a great amount of support in efforts from St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville. Together, the two parishes conducted a children's clothing drive, collecting 18 huge boxes of clothing which they sent to Ukraine. The St. James Furniture Ministry of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town is helping supply furniture for the apartments for the families. The three parishes also joined together, Michel said, for a fundraiser with all money raised supporting the Ukrainian families coming to Martinsburg.

"We are working with Catholic Charities to help resettle these wonderful folks and we have already established Ukrainian families who are acting as point people to support these families," Michel said.

St. Joseph's is working through the Uniting for Ukraine program, through which Americans can sponsor families and bring them to the U.S.

Renee Corbett, Outreach Worker with Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services in Martinsburg, who has been helping to connect Ukrainian families with services available to them in the community, said Veronika has been a true movement maker for Ukrainian unity—"a real force of nature."

"It's been so incredible for me to get to work with her and with so many of these Ukrainian families," she said. "It's been wonderful to see so many people coming together to support them."

That support is also overflowing in Weirton, where many Catholics have joined with others in the community to bring families to safety

through the Uniting for Ukraine program. Involved in the initiative in Weirton are Dan McCune and his wife Patti, members of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton. Dan recalled the anger he felt when seeing the images on the news of the invasion last year. He and Patti knew they had to do something to help.

"We were watching the news and what was happening... we started to put ourselves into their shoes," he said.

The McCunes and many other Weirton Catholics learned about the Uniting for Ukraine program.

"It provides them two years of sanctuary here in the United States," McCune said.

The three families that have come to Weirton through sponsors in Weirton are a man and his wife and their 15-month-old; a man and his wife and their children who are now in sixth grade and 11th grade at Madonna High School and fifth grade at St. Joseph the Worker Grade School; and another girl who is a seventh grader at Madonna. Her mother and brother had to return to Ukraine to run the family's grocery store.

All of the families in Weirton are Byzantine Catholic and attend Mass at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton.

The father in one of the families has been back and forth from Ukraine because he is a Byzantine Catholic priest. He is pastor of two parishes in Ukraine with 600 parishioners. When in Weirton, he has celebrated Masses at St. Mary's Byzantine.

Also sponsoring the families in Weirton are John and Sue Grecco, members of St. Joseph the Worker; and Nataliia and her husband, Vasyl, who wished to just use their first names. They moved to Weirton from Ukraine five years ago.

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

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

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

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability," then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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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 reasonable 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

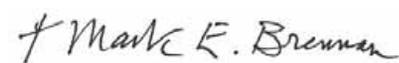
trafficking where people feel trapped and unable to go to the police for help; to unjust discrimination where the penalties for missing someone with a detainer order are so extreme that oppressive measures seem preferable; and to the ability of law enforcement to deal with crime, because immigrants who 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 re-

form our immigration laws at the national level, to end human 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 doorstep. 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...

Cont’d from Page 2

“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 Quattrochi, 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



Courtesy Photo
Veronika McCann of Martinsburg (right) is happy her mother Oksana (center) and two younger sisters Mariia and Anna (at left is Anna) were able to leave Ukraine and are now safe in Martinsburg with her. Veronika is a member of the St. Joseph Parish Ukrainian Ministry Committee in Martinsburg.

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 Parolees” 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.

These 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 first 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 “living the Corporal Work of Mercy of sheltering the harborless—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.”



Colleen Rowan Photo
Ron Scott, director of the Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach Program at the Wheeling YWCA, speaks at the Jan. 24 ceremony honoring Blessed Martin School and former students at Central Catholic High School's gym in Wheeling. Looking on is CCHS Principal Becky Sancomb.

“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.”

—Ron Scott, director of the Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach Program at the Wheeling YWCA

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 gentlemen 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.

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



Photo Courtesy of the Archives of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Blessed Martin Catholic School in Wheeling

See “History” on Page 5



Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the new statue of St. Martin de Porres at Central Catholic High School's gym in Wheeling during the Jan. 24 ceremony honoring Blessed Martin School and former students.

History...

Cont'd from Page 4

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 Dorothy 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-



Evangelist Ruth Stinson of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Steubenville, Ohio, who attended Blessed Martin School in Wheeling, speaks to WTRF 7 News following the Jan. 24 ceremony honoring Blessed Martin School and former students.

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



Alice Walker, left, sings the Blessed Martin School song as Dolores Long stands with her. Both Walker and Long attended the school and were honored guests at the Jan. 24 ceremony honoring the school and former students.

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.

"They chose four of us from the school (Blessed

Martin)," to attend St. Joseph's Academy. This was the all-girls school operated by the diocese before the opening of Central Catholic.

"God got me through all of it," Stinson recalled. "Keep looking to the Lord. He will keep you in all things."

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A Reflection on Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Sacramentum Caritatis (The Sacrament of Charity)



NATIONAL
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Throughout this Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, each print edition of *The Catholic Spirit* (published on the First Friday of each month) will feature a guest article on the Eucharist.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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



Michael Brumley

Benediction of the blessed sacrament begins with presider 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, reflected 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 "lay[ing] down his life for his friends" (Jn 15:13). 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).

An Invitation

Benedict proclaims that God is love and invites every one of us to reflect on this truth, to see this truth, to accept this truth, and to receive and consume this truth as "food of truth." As Lent approaches, I encourage you spend some time each day with Pope Benedict in reflecting on his words in *Sacramentum Caritatis*, especially during this Eucharistic Revival, so that the love of the Eucharist may burn in your hearts.

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 immaculately 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



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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, in 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 Catholicity in the schools always in classrooms, 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

See "Schools" on Page 9



Courtesy Photo

In Huntington on Jan. 29, St. Joseph Catholic School students dressed in their school uniforms and greeted parishioners at St. Joseph Church as they arrived for Sunday Mass. The students gave each parishioner a handmade postcard they created for Catholic Schools Week. Each card had this message: "We are blessed to be a part of St. Joseph Catholic School and Church. We would like to ask for your prayers during this Catholic Schools Week and throughout the rest of the school year. We are praying for you!" Pictured above, ready to give out the special cards, are (from left) first-grader Isabel Serrat, eighth-grader Abigail Sheets, and second-grader Myles Dellinger.

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 Ann 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. "Further parents 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 those 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://wvcatholic schools.org>.

W.Va. Hope Scholarship Accepted at Catholic Schools

By Joyce Bibey

WEST VIRGINIA—As the Catholic Schools of West Virginia begin accepting applications for enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year in February, families who anticipate applying to the state's Hope Scholarship Program – an education savings account (ESA) – are welcome to apply.

The Hope Scholarship Program is an ESA program that will allow parents and families to utilize the state portion of their education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them. Beginning on March 1, 2023, the Hope Scholarship Board will accept applications for the 2023-2024 school year.

To learn more about Catholic education in West Virginia go to: <https://wvcatholic schools.org>.

For more information about the Hope Scholarship go to: <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com>.

It is important to note that the Hope Scholarship program is run by the state of West Virginia not the diocese or the WV Catholic Schools office.

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. Leo's 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.

"Here, in Weirton, it's not easy to get mental health services," said Stipe, who is based at St. Joseph 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 recent retirement. In addition to offering counseling for the people of the parish she has also extended her 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 let them know that there's somebody there that they 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 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

as coping skills to deal with whatever they're dealing with and certainly to know that there's somebody there that cares about them."

For the parish level, Stipe firmly believes that having a mental health counselor equipped with a strong foundation in the Catholic faith is vital. At St. Joseph, she has been meeting with many couples from the parish helping them to navigate through problems and issues they are experiencing.

"Sister Lucia from Fatima said that Satan's last battle would be against the family, and it is against the family," she said. "You can see that happening everywhere. It's so important to have somebody who understands the faith, understands what we believe and what we're founded on to help families to stay together and to help them to deal with the culture and everything that's out there."

When Stipe is not counseling parishioners or students, she is in the parish's adoration chapel praying for them before the Blessed Sacrament.

Stipe is a secular Carmelite—men and women in the Catholic Church who are called to a deeper spiritual

life. Under the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and inspired by St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux, they make a commitment to the Discalced Carmelite Order to seek God for the church and the world through prayer, and to share him with others.

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 pleased that St. Michael's recognizes 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 good provided by the parish Christian Mothers/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 attach to mental illness."

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 belong perhaps for a short while, 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.



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Appeal ...

Cont'd from Page 1

through various evangelization efforts," Sforza 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 out to our parishes, schools and ministries."

Of the more than \$2.3 million raised, more than half went back to parishes and schools, she noted.

"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,

2022
GRATITUDE REPORT

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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

Let Us Pray

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

Amen.



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Catholic Sharing Appeal
P.O. Box 230
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(304)233-0880



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

Schools...

Cont'd from Page 7

for God and our neighbor and how to serve them and to be a saint. Our Catholic schools are truly a force for good. May God bless all of our Catholic schools this week and throughout the year."

Throughout the week, students celebrated the gift of Catholic education with fun activities as well as outreach in their communities. Students began the week attending school Masses at the parish churches. They made cards for veterans, first responders, and residents of nursing homes, among others. They raised money for special causes and had fun at parties, school spirit days, patriotic days, games and events with teachers and clergy, and so much more.

The diocese's Catholic schools are located all over West Virginia. Its secondary schools are Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, Charleston Catholic High School, Madonna High School in Weirton, Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, Parkersburg Catholic High School, and St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington.

The diocese has 18 Catholic elementary and grade schools. In Wheeling are Corpus Christi School, Our Lady of Peace School, St. Michael Parish School, and St. Vincent de Paul Parish School. Weirton is home to St. Joseph the Worker Grade School and St. Paul School.

In the south are Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston, St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans, Our Lady of Fatima Parish School and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington, SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Oak Hill, and St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley.

In the Central Region of the state through the I-79 corridor are St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown, Fairmont Catholic Grade School, St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg, and St. Patrick School in Weston. The Central Region is also home to Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School, while the Eastern Panhandle provides Catholic education at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.

For contact information for each of the diocese's Catholic schools, visit wvcatholicsschools.org/our-schools/.

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,

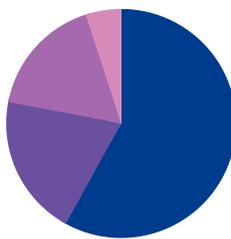
Krissie Benson

Director of Stewardship & Development



\$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

2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal Parish/Mission Goal Report

Parish/Mission	Parish Goal	Total Raised	Percent of Goal
All Saints Parish, Bridgeport	\$50,310.00	\$23,242.00	46%
Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, Fort Ashby	\$10,485.00	\$8,985.00	86%
Ascension Parish, Hurricane	\$24,145.00	\$30,260.00	125%
Assumption Parish, Keyser	\$18,140.00	\$19,251.00	106%
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston	\$68,900.00	\$68,900.00	100%
Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston	\$40,055.00	\$12,997.50	32%
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling	\$19,740.00	\$38,435.00	195%
Christ Our Hope Mission, Harrisville	\$1,895.00	\$2,565.00	135%
Christ the King Parish, Dunbar	\$6,695.00	\$2,850.00	43%
Corpus Christi Parish, Wheeling	\$27,290.00	\$42,493.80	156%
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston	\$6,997.72	\$0.00	
Epiphany of the Lord Parish, Moorefield	\$5,930.00	\$5,475.00	92%
Good Shepherd Parish, Glenville	\$2,410.00	\$4,275.00	177%
Holy Family Parish, Richwood	\$3,500.00	\$3,590.00	103%
Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer	\$5,540.00	\$7,950.00	144%
Holy Rosary Mission, Sistersville	\$4,765.00	\$2,875.00	60%
Holy Rosary Parish, Buckhannon	\$13,315.00	\$18,690.00	140%
Holy Spirit Parish, Monongah	\$13,065.00	\$17,604.45	135%
Holy Trinity Parish, Nitro	\$8,130.00	\$7,645.50	94%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg	\$67,555.00	\$35,499.63	53%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont	\$24,345.00	\$49,834.96	205%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery	\$4,090.00	\$1,484.50	36%
Immaculate Conception Parish, New Cumberland	\$8,130.00	\$11,135.00	137%
Mater Dolorosa Parish, Paden City	\$5,730.00	\$1,195.00	21%
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Huntington	\$41,405.00	\$10,064.00	24%
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Romney	\$9,000.00	\$8,115.00	90%
Our Lady of Mercy Mission, Parsons	\$5,420.00	\$1,575.00	29%
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Wheeling	\$25,030.00	\$8,080.00	32%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Stonewood	\$33,745.00	\$46,360.63	137%
Our Lady of Seven Dolours Mission, Triadelphia	\$5,225.00	\$415.00	8%
Our Lady of the Hills Parish, Elkview	\$6,135.00	\$6,830.00	111%
Risen Lord Mission, Clay	\$1,790.00	\$1,796.00	100%
Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant	\$3,465.00	\$550.00	16%
Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan	\$2,350.00	\$3,200.00	136%
Sacred Heart Mission, Rainelle	\$2,335.00	\$450.00	19%
Sacred Heart Mission, Salem	\$3,195.00	\$3,195.00	100%
Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton	\$15,530.00	\$12,272.00	79%
Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield	\$25,420.00	\$52,381.20	206%
Sacred Heart Parish, Chester	\$14,365.00	\$34,660.00	241%
Sacred Heart Parish, Huntington	\$12,020.00	\$8,495.00	71%
Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton	\$19,275.00	\$237,607.31	1,233%
Sacred Heart Parish, Williamson	\$8,230.00	\$4,000.00	49%
St. Agnes Parish, Charleston	\$19,610.00	\$3,445.00	18%
St. Agnes Parish, Shepherdstown	\$48,200.00	\$16,295.00	34%
St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling	\$10,050.00	\$3,088.00	31%
St. Ann Parish, Shinnston	\$13,560.00	\$4,750.00	35%
St. Anne Parish, Webster Springs	\$2,110.00	\$1,030.00	49%
St. Anthony Parish, Charleston	\$10,580.00	\$11,225.00	106%
St. Anthony Parish, Fairmont	\$16,290.00	\$9,985.00	61%
St. Anthony Parish, Follansbee	\$23,205.00	\$10,140.00	44%
St. Anthony Parish, Ridgely	\$4,160.00	\$2,475.00	59%
St. Anthony's Shrine Mission, Boomer	\$6,075.00	\$0.00	0%
St. Augustine Parish, Grafton	\$8,350.00	\$1,549.00	19%
St. Barbara Mission, Chapmanville	\$1,410.00	\$200.00	14%
St. Bernadette Mission, Hedgesville	\$20,505.00	\$29,724.50	145%
St. Boniface Parish, Camden	\$5,565.00	\$10,645.00	191%
St. Brendan Parish, Elkins	\$21,500.00	\$4,275.00	20%

Continued on Page 11

Parish/Mission	Parish Goal	Total Raised	Percent of Goal
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ronceverte	\$8,645.00	\$1,965.00	23%
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, White Sulphur Springs	\$7,770.00	\$1,945.00	25%
St. Edward the Confessor Mission, Terra Alta	\$2,870.00	\$1,250.25	44%
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Franklin	\$2,890.00	\$2,595.00	90%
St. Elizabeth Mission, Elizabeth	\$2,525.00	\$3,265.00	129%
St. Elizabeth Parish, Philippi	\$6,010.00	\$1,300.00	22%
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley	\$45,210.00	\$28,718.00	64%
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown	\$77,050.00	\$245,250.00	318%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Logan	\$6,800.00	\$7,585.00	112%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Albans	\$25,090.00	\$6,484.44	26%
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Moundsville	\$21,660.00	\$14,388.33	66%
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg	\$32,200.00	\$70,252.00	218%
St. James Parish, McMechen	\$4,305.00	\$1,785.00	41%
St. James the Apostle Parish, Clarksburg	\$10,820.00	\$10,820.00	100%
St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town	71,565.00	79,700.96	111%
St. John Neumann Parish, Marlinton	\$3,950.00	\$6,680.00	169%
St. John Parish, Benwood	\$5,295.00	\$12,110.13	229%
St. John Parish, St. Marys	\$8,335.00	\$5,793.00	70%
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Summersville	\$13,990.00	\$10,375.00	74%
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Wellsburg	\$16,400.00	\$16,885.00	103%
St. John University Parish, Morgantown	\$41,540.00	\$14,229.00	34%
St. Joseph Mission, Proctor	\$4,675.00	\$3,975.00	85%
St. Joseph Parish, Huntington	\$65,560.00	\$47,113.33	72%
St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg	\$56,820.00	\$17,150.00	30%
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Weirton	\$47,455.00	\$21,161.00	45%
St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale	\$10,785.00	\$33,221.00	308%
St. Leo Parish, Inwood	\$29,540.00	\$36,560.00	124%
St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake	\$25,830.00	\$42,955.00	166%
St. Margaret Mary Parish, Parkersburg	\$49,575.00	\$27,647.50	56%
St. Mark the Evangelist Mission, Bartow	\$1,510.00	\$620.00	41%
St. Mary Parish, Petersburg	\$4,750.00	\$5,195.00	109%
St. Mary Parish, Star City	\$48,565.00	\$18,135.00	37%
St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Madison	\$2,465.00	\$1,885.00	76%
St. Matthew Parish, Ravenswood	\$10,425.00	\$5,227.00	50%
St. Michael Parish, Vienna	\$30,090.00	\$53,977.00	179%
St. Michael Parish, Wheeling	\$68,045.00	\$185,766.42	273%
St. Monica Mission, Lubeck	\$3,550.00	\$18,481.00	521%
St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft	\$3,420.00	\$3,505.00	102%
St. Patrick Parish, Coalton	\$5,340.00	\$2,110.00	40%
St. Patrick Parish, Hinton	\$5,925.00	\$5,050.00	85%
St. Patrick Parish, Mannington	\$7,960.00	\$3,930.00	49%
St. Patrick Parish, Weston	\$22,030.00	\$52,795.12	240%
St. Paul Parish, Weirton	\$30,880.00	\$9,940.00	32%
St. Peter Claver Parish, Huntington	\$5,570.00	\$8,885.00	160%
St. Peter Parish, Farmington	\$6,960.00	\$4,525.00	65%
St. Peter Parish, Welch	\$2,465.00	\$2,535.00	103%
St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont	\$23,080.00	\$26,181.00	113%
St. Sebastian Parish, Kingwood	\$12,480.00	\$5,864.00	47%
St. Stephen Parish, Ona	\$7,475.00	\$1,420.00	19%
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Thomas	\$14,500.00	\$7,251.00	50%
St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway	\$5,365.00	\$6,325.00	118%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkeley Springs	\$14,740.00	\$7,134.00	48%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, New Martinsville	\$16,000.00	\$7,273.00	45%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling	\$38,720.00	\$82,041.94	212%
St. Zita Mission, Masontown	\$5,870.00	\$1,240.00	21%
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Oak Hil	\$17,395.00	\$9,860.00	57%

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. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town
- 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. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling
- 2) St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg
- 3) St. John Parish, Benwood
- 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

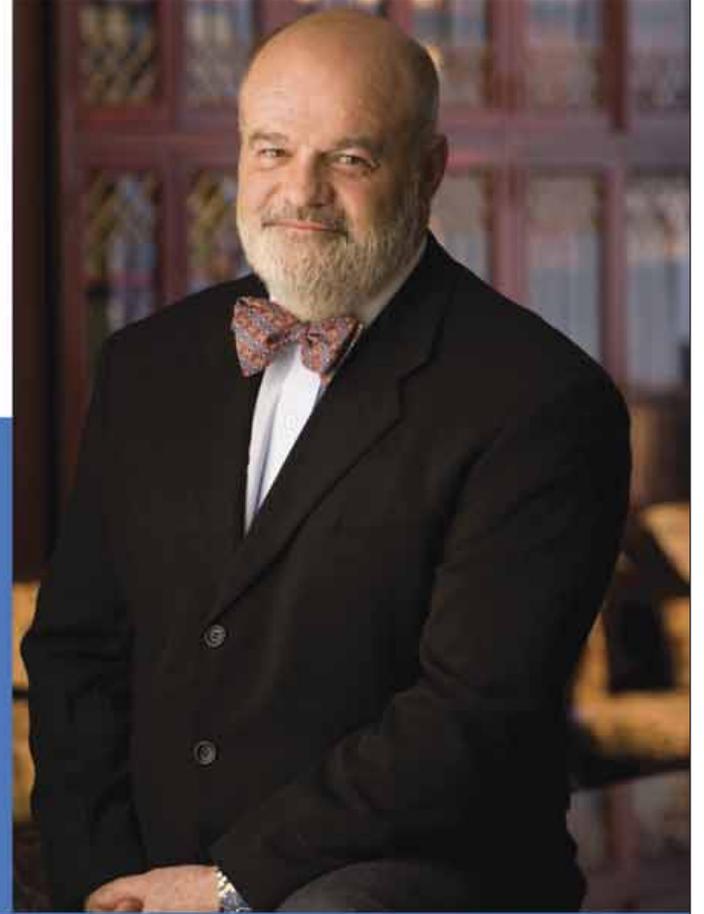
See both lists, in full, with more information on this page.

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 an 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.”

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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 filming of the Mass and other projects in house.

"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!

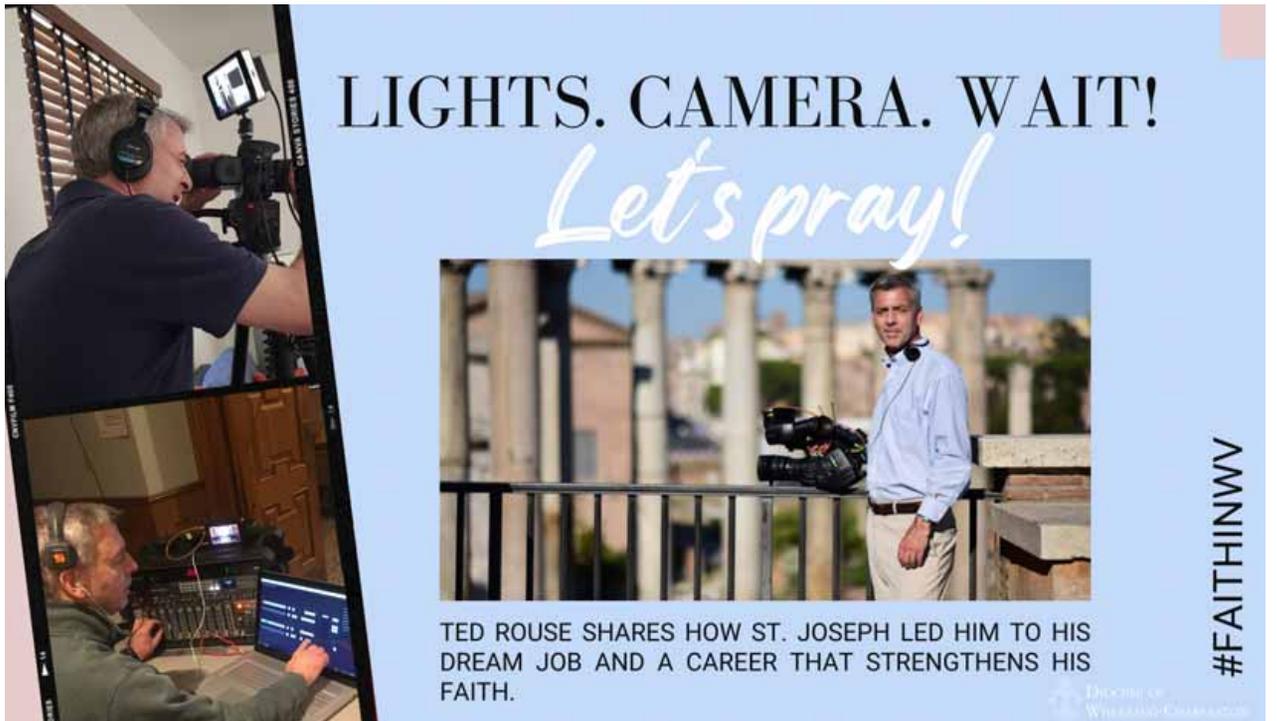


Photo Illustration by Joyce Bibey

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-striking 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."

#FaithInWV

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.

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Finding Blessings in Unexpected Places

Courtesy Photo
 The West Virginia National Guard delivers 10,000 Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) to the Catholic Charities Charleston Office.



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.

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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 terrorist 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.

“From the beginning of the year, dozens of Palestinians have been killed during firefights 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 most extreme 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 po-

lice. 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 altercations that took place on the night of Jan. 28. They involved confrontations between radical settlement 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

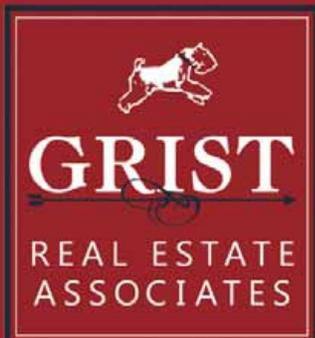
the settlers attacked the Armenians with pepper spray and sticks, according to the report.

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 members and to the ailing Palestinian Authority leading youth from both 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) — Catholics in Memphis, Tennessee, and throughout the nation are joining in prayer while calling for justice, as disturbing images of a police arrest turned fatal in that city were released late Jan. 27.

Five former Memphis police officers have been charged with second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, misconduct and oppression in the Jan. 7 apprehension and subsequent 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 Cerelyn Davis, speaking in a Jan. 26 video statement, described the footage as “heinous, reckless and inhumane” treatment of Nichols by

the five former officers, all of whom also are Black.

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the “use-of-force incident” with the former officers resulted in Nichols’ Jan. 10 death in a nearby hospital. Two city Fire Department employees who responded to Nichols’ medical distress also have been relieved of duty. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Shelby County District Attorney’s office and the Department of Justice are investigating the case.

“This was not just a professional failing,” Davis said in her statement. “This was a failing of basic humanity toward another individual. ... I expect you to feel outrage in the disregard of basic human rights.”

Both Davis and Nichols’ family have called for peaceful demonstrations, as has President Joe Biden, who spoke by telephone with Nichols’ mother and stepfather

earlier Friday.

The Diocese of Memphis invited faithful to a Jan. 27 noontime rosary for peace at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Memphis Bishop David P. Talley posted several messages on Twitter urging prayers for the city.

“God is our refuge, we plead for peace in our city,” read one social media graphic on the bishop’s Twitter feed. “We pray for a spirit of unity, love, and peace to drive our thoughts, actions, and words.”

OSV News contacted the Diocese of Memphis for additional comment but had not yet heard back by as of publication time.

In a Jan. 27 statement provided to OSV News, the Dominican Friars of Memphis — who have care of both St. Peter Church and the adjacent St. Martin de Porres National Shrine 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 parishioners of St. Peter have seen some of the worst scenes in our city’s history,” including “the bloodshed of the Civil War, the tragic outbreak of yellow fever, the assassination of one of our nation’s brightest lights, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and now this senseless act of violence resulting in the death of Tyre Nichols.”

The Dominicans have nonetheless “remained at St. Peter preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” and now “join Tyre Nichols’ family in praying for peace this weekend and for justice in these months and years ahead.”

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, 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.”

With Nichols’ death being one of several high-profile police-related fatalities involving Black Americans ... including the May 2020 death of George Floyd, which sparked international protests — the Catholic fraternal order also declared that “on too many levels and in too many different ways, the sanctity of human life is increasingly devalued and disrespected.

“We must identify and root out the evil, hypocritical cultures that plague our country. The time for corrective action is long overdue,” said the Clavers’ statement. “We no longer ask ‘Why?’ We now demand the end of these merciless murders which show a stark lack of regard for the most precious gift of life.”

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

Catholic Pro-Life Activist Mark Houck Acquitted of Federal Charges

By Gina Christian

PHILADELPHIA (OSV News) — A Catholic pro-life activist has been found not guilty of charges that he violated a federal law protecting access to abortion clinics, thereby avoiding a possible 11-year prison sentence.

Mark Houck, known for his sidewalk counseling outside a Philadelphia abortion facility, was tried in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on two charges under the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, or FACE Act, for allegedly assaulting an abortion clinic volunteer in October 2021.

The 1994 law prohibits intentional property damage of a facility that provides “reproductive health services,” including those related to abortion, and prohibits using “force or threat of force or ... physical obstruction” to “injure, intimidate or interfere with” someone entering an abortion clinic.

Charges against Houck stemmed from two separate incidents Oct. 13, 2021, where Houck allegedly assaulted the victim — identified in the indictment as “B.L.” and

named in trial proceedings as Bruce Love — who was acting as a volunteer escort at the reproductive health care clinic. Houck maintained he was instead defending his young son from harassment by Love.

Jurors in the trial, which began on Jan. 24, remained deadlocked on a verdict as of Jan. 27. By midafternoon 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 proceedings. “Mark and his family are now free of the cloud that the Biden administration threw upon them. We took on the Goliath — the full might of the United States government — and won. The jury saw through and rejected the prosecution’s discriminatory case, which was harassment from day one. The Biden Department 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 Philadelphia, told OSV News she and fellow pro-life advocates were “overjoyed” Houck has been acquitted.

“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 rosaries.”

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News. Julie Asher is senior editor for OSV News and contributed to this report.)

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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 absolution 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 sacrament” 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. 31 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 Annus” the need “to remedy certain defects or inaccuracies, to complete partial translations ... (and) to ensure respect for the texts approved.”

The 2001 document “Liturgiam authentiam,” 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), matrimony (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.)

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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 publicarán a fines del 27 de enero.

Cinco ex-policías de Memphis 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 publicarían en YouTube la noche del 27 de enero. La jefa 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 también fueron relevados de sus funciones. La Oficina de Investigaciones de Tennessee, la oficina del Fiscal de Distrito del Condado de Shelby y el Departamento de Justicia están investigando el caso.

"Esto no fue solo una falla profesional", dijo Davis en su declaración. "Esta fue una falta de humanidad básica hacia otro individuo...

Espero que se sientan indignados por el desprecio de los derechos humanos básicos".

Tanto la familia de Davis como la de Nichols han pedido manifestaciones pacíficas, al igual que el presidente Joe Biden, quien habló por teléfono con la madre y el padrastro de Nichols el viernes.

La Diócesis de Memphis invitó a los fieles a un rosario por la paz el 27 de enero al mediodía en la Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción. El Obispo de Memphis David P. Talley publicó varios 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 obispo. "Oremos 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 había recibido 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".

Los frailes dijeron que "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", incluyendo "el derramamiento de sangre de la Guerra Civil, 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 fraternal 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 fraternal 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 preguntamos '¿Por qué?' ahora exigimos el fin de estos 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 alentamos a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. Tam-

bien puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:

llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988. Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule Spring 2023 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 19: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 26: St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, April 16: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 18: St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 24: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25: St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30: St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 13: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 14: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 14: St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 19: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 22: Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 28: St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 1: St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 11: Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 18: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 10: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

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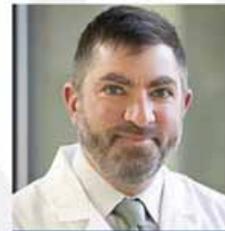
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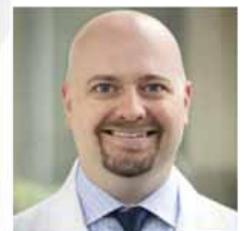
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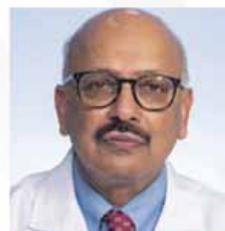
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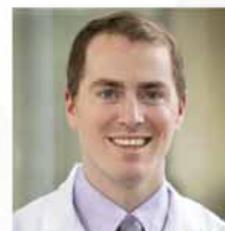
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