

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Bishop Brennan Releases Statement on Pro-Life Issues

WHEELING—Bishop Mark E. Brennan is joining fellow West Virginians in Charleston for the annual Pro-Life Rally Day at the Capitol on Feb. 7.

Bishop Brennan will speak at the rally and offer the invocation

beginning at 9 a.m. in the lower rotunda. Those in attendance will join the bishop as they are introduced in the House/Senate Galleries when sessions begin at 11 a.m.

In advance of the event, Bishop

op Brennan has released a statement on pro-life issues in our state and country. In it, he reiterates the church's teaching that every life, that of a mother and that of her child, is precious and deserves our respect and help. He also calls on

Mountain State faithful, and indeed all West Virginians, to work toward strengthening and expanding programs that support pregnant women and their children. Read the bishop's statement on Page 5 of this issue.

Year of St. Joseph to Conclude with Pilgrimage to the Basilica in Charleston

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—A Lenten pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston will mark the closing of the Year of St. Joseph for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. This diocesan pilgrimage will be held on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan opened the Year of St. Joseph March 19, 2021, with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. He now invites all to join him for the closing Mass in Charleston.

"Everyone in the whole diocese is welcome to attend," said Bernadette McMasters Kime, director of the diocese's Office of Worship and Sacraments. "We encourage participation. Bishop Brennan began a year of St. Joseph at the cathedral last year and is ending it at the co-cathedral."

At St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston the night before, there will be an evening of prayer and music in honor of St. Joseph at 7 p.m. Kime said the faithful are encouraged to make it a weekend in Charleston by staying at the pastoral center, which is located just 10 minutes from the basilica co-cathedral. A reception will be held following that evening's event.

The next day's events for the closing of the Year of St. Joseph will begin at

See "Pilgrimage" on Page 2

Catholic Schools Week Celebrated with Prayer, Service, and Fun



Courtesy Photo

On the first day of Catholic Schools Week, Fairmont Catholic Grade School students help Sister Reeta Lopez fill blessing bags for community helpers. Catholic Schools Week was celebrated across the diocese and the country Jan. 30-Feb. 5. See more on Catholic schools on Pages 6-8 of this issue.

Inside: A Pastoral Letter on Marriage and Family Life from Bishop Brennan, Pages 3-4

St. Joseph Icon to Travel around the Diocese

By Colleen Rowan

Through the Knights of Columbus's Pilgrim Icon Program in honor of St. Joseph, an icon of the saint will be making its way to parishes around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

"As our bishop closes out our Year of St. Joseph at the basilica, it is fitting that our local Knights of Columbus members host the Icon of St. Joseph," said Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. "For St. Joseph is the greatest patron of being a faithful husband, caring father, and protector of the family."

The icon will arrive at the basilica co-cathedral March 12. The parish will receive the icon at the 5:30 p.m. Mass that evening. Other parishes in the diocese will host the icon as well. Locations will be announced soon. The icon program will continue over the next year as council/parishes receive four icons touring the state.

In materials released for the icon pilgrimage, Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly said the icon is housed at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal, Canada's preeminent Shrine to St. Joseph, founded by St. André Bessette. The original is written (prayerfully painted) by Elizabeth Bergeron, from a drawing by famed iconographer Alexandre Sobolev. In the image, St. Joseph stands with his eyes cast humbly down, but with a determined strength in his face. In his covered arm he bears the Child Jesus, whose own hand is raised, blessing the world.

"Our world desperately needs men and women of courage," Kelly said. "But in a particular way, it needs courageous fathers — men willing to stand up and to carry out their own mission of protecting, defending and raising future generations. It needs men willing to risk it all, in order to offer the world Jesus. In short, our world needs men in the model of St. Joseph."



Photo Courtesy of the Knights of Columbus
Pictured is the St. Joseph icon.

In West Virginia, the Icon Program was inaugurated at the state council's midyear meeting. West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Deputy Frank Koenig said the knights are pleased to provide the St. Joseph Icon to parishes throughout the state, and hopes it allows all to learn about the patron saint of husbands, the church, the diocese, and the protector of families.

"St. Joseph has been called the 'Silent Knight' in a Scott Hahn book, as St. Joseph set the example for us as husbands, fathers, and knights," Koenig said. "I hope we can all take the time to strengthen our vocation as leaders of our families and to grow in our own image of St. Joseph's quiet strength, integrity, and fidelity as leaders."

Icons were blessed by Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore at the midyear meeting for State Deputies in November in Nashville, Tenn., which Koenig attended.

collaboration. There will be a 12:30 rehearsal. RSVP voice preference (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) to Mark Haas: mhaas@shccwv.us.

The day will culminate with the celebration of Mass at 3 p.m. by Bishop Brennan to close the Year of St. Joseph. For all who attend this Mass, Bishop Brennan is giving a dispensation, so it will count as their Sunday obligation for that weekend. Kime said the pilgrimage offers a tremendous opportunity for the faithful to celebrate St. Joseph and learn more about the patron saint not only of the universal church but also of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. "We've been through a lot in the pandemic, and we have not been able to gather as a diocese," Kime said. "This is a chance for us to come together."

More information about the diocesan pilgrimage is forthcoming.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

Pilgrimage ...

Cont'd from Page 1

the basilica at 9:30 a.m. with check-in. People who attend will receive a name tag and a memento of St. Joseph, Kime said. At 10 a.m. there will be morning prayer followed by adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Throughout the morning there will also be the opportunity for the faithful to receive the sacrament of penance from various priests stationed throughout the church. Tours of the basilica co-cathedral will also be available.

Talks on St. Joseph will begin at 11 a.m. and will be presented by individuals to be announced. A box lunch will be provided. In the afternoon a music program will be held at 2 p.m. presented by various parishes. Singers are invited to participate in this combined musical

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444
Fax: (304) 233-8551
Web site: www.thecatholicspiritwv.org
Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
February 4, 2022, Vol. 53, No. 5

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

Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 crowan@dwc.org

Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan

Freelance Writers:

Martina Hart, John Sherwood



Member

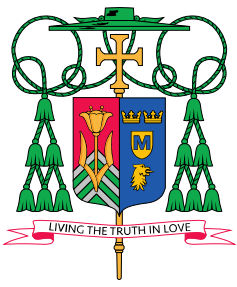
Catholic Press Association

West Virginia Press Association

National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



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



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

February 4, 2022

Pastoral Letter on Marriage and Family Life

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

“Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being” wrote Pope St. John Paul II.¹ As we are about to observe World Marriage Day, I offer you these reflections on the Catholic understanding of marriage and family life as “an intimate community of life and love.”² I do so as a priest who for many years enjoyed meeting with couples not only to plan their wedding but to consider, in the light of God’s revelation, the nature of the union they would form. I continue to have friendships with a number of families, observing how the spouses meet the challenges of marriage and enjoying seeing their children grow up.

Marriage and family life are the way God calls most of His children to live out their baptismal vocation, so it always deserves our attention but all the more so in our times, when the nature of marriage and the given-ness of sexual identity are challenged by dominant forces in our society. There is a radical sanity in the Catholic understanding of marriage and family life, which is a lifeline for a society floundering in a sea of uncertainty about these fundamental relationships.

At the very beginning of the Bible, God speaks of marriage and the family. After the man exclaims that the woman is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh, the sacred author comments: this is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife and the two of them become one body [Genesis 2: 23-24]. Their union is the foundation of the family, for God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it [Genesis 1: 28]. Marriage and families are directly willed by God and are hard-wired into our human nature. Only a special grace given by God can enable a man or woman to forsake marriage for a celibate life in service to others.

From God’s Word we learn some important truths. First, marriage can only be between members of the two sexes, not just one. God gave the command to a married couple to be fertile and multiply. Members of the same sex may have profound friendships with appropriate signs of affection and a true caring for one another, but they cannot produce children. Marriage is intimately tied not only to procreation but to the raising of children as well, because human children need years of care from adults before they are able to make their own way in life. The persons best suited to raise them are, in most cases, their parents, whose stable relationship and natural ties to their children ordinarily make them willing to make the sacrifices necessary to provide for their offspring.

So, are infertile heterosexual couples ineligible

for marriage? No, because a deficiency in the reproductive organs is different from not having them at all. A medical intervention may correct the deficiency or a miracle cure it (remember Abraham and Sarah, and Zachariah and Elizabeth in the Bible). The point is: infertile couples have the bodily design necessary to create new life, but its parts are broken or diseased. Neither medicine nor God as He has revealed His will could cause a pregnancy between same-sex partners. Infertile couples do have life-affirming options such as adoption and teaching or coaching the young.

A second lesson from God’s Word is the lifelong nature of marriage. Jesus taught, What God has joined together, no human being must separate [Mark 10: 9]. Children know they benefit from the stability of their parents’ marital commitment. One evening in my former parish’s religious education program, a boy and a girl from different families told me they were worried that their parents might divorce. Pope Francis echoes my experience: “Children not only want their parents to love one another but also to be faithful and remain together.”³

But the husband and wife also benefit from a stable, loving union. St. Thomas Aquinas called marriage “the greatest form of friendship.”⁴ Pope Francis says, “It is the very nature of conjugal love to be definitive. The lasting union expressed by the marriage vows is more than a formality or a traditional formula; it is rooted in the natural inclinations of the human person.”⁵ If the husband and wife make a constant effort to love, a friendship may form that stands strong when the winds of hardship blow. In my first parish, a wife suffered a severe back problem that kept her bedridden for years. Her husband was a busy lawyer, but he made time to take care of her. Eventually her health improved – and then the husband fell ill with cancer. In a role reversal, she became his primary caregiver. Theirs was a friendship born of love and strengthened by God’s grace.

Another benefit of a lifelong marriage is that each spouse brings personal qualities to the relationship that enrich the other: for example, a very patient spouse may help a less patient spouse learn patience. The spouses also bring to the marriage qualities that are typical of their sex. Men and women differ not only biologically but, as experience shows, they often think and express feelings in different ways. Yet, over a lifetime together, men may learn from their wives how to integrate some feminine qualities into their ways of thinking and feeling, while women do the same with male qualities. These are not absolute differences: some men exhibit ways of thinking and feeling more typically associated with women and vice versa; but “typical” means “more often than

not” and that works for the good of marriages. It is good, then, that a couple remain together, barring atrocities such as domestic violence. Those who think divorcing and finding another spouse is the way to go should look at the divorce statistics for second marriages; most fail.⁶ It makes more sense, in many cases, to make the effort to work out their problems than for a couple to abandon their marriage.

Nonetheless, some marriages fail because the couple should never have married in the first place. Some factor or combination of factors renders that marriage invalid. God and the Church do not hold people to the impossible. Our Diocese has a court, called a Tribunal, much of whose work is handling annulment cases that Catholics and even non-Catholics submit. I have helped many persons through the annulment process, always trying to see if this was a “marriage in the Lord” or not. A Jewish psychiatrist who served on the Archdiocese of Washington’s Tribunal said that the Catholic annulment procedure was far more humane than civil divorce proceedings because it tried to get at the reasons for the marriage’s failure. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free, said Jesus [John 8: 32]. Knowing why a marriage failed should help the person who chooses to marry again. It is a myth that annulments can be bought or that only “important people” get them. Our Wheeling-Charleston Diocese does not charge any fees for annulments. I invite persons who have divorced to speak to our diocesan Tribunal personnel to see if we may serve you.

A third lesson from God’s Word is that married couples should take seriously God’s command to be fertile and multiply. In the Biblical story there are no other human beings when that command is given: therefore, multiply. That is obviously not the situation now. Nonetheless, be fertile means that the married couple should be open to having children and committed to raising them.

It is distressing that some couples today render themselves infertile by using artificial means of birth control throughout their marriage. This is a direct violation of God’s command and will likely be a source of sorrow to them as they age. Other couples have only one or two children owing to a medical condition that impedes conception or they may have married when the wife was near the end of her reproductive life. I find such couples grateful for the child or children they have. I never judge couples with few children because I do not know their circumstances. I only encourage them to be honest with themselves and God.

See “Letter” on Page 4

¹Apostolic Exhortation on the Family, *Familiaris Consortio* 11

²*ibid.*, 50

³The Joy of Love, *Amoris Laetitia*, 123

⁴*Summa Contra Gentiles*, III, 123, quoted in Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*,

⁵ *Amoris Laetitia*, 123

⁶Divorce Strategies Group, June 22, 2022. 67% of second marriages end in divorce.

Letter ...

Cont'd from Page 3

Yet God's command to be fertile challenges couples to cooperate with Him in bringing forth new life. A couple I prepared for marriage told me, "We want to have just one child and give that child all of our love." I asked them, "Have you ever thought of it from the child's point of view? You will die some day and, because of your decision, your child will have no family left. Is that what you want for your child?" It is also the nature of parental love that it grows as other children are born. I have seen this in many families. Love does not shrink. It will be tested, but rarely does it break.

There is a benefit to children in having a number of siblings. In their own family they learn how to get along with one another, to play fair, to stick up for one another when others harass them. Friendships with siblings can last a lifetime. There is also a benefit to parents in having more children. Older children can help them take care of the younger ones. In addition, their children are the ones most naturally inclined to help their parents when the parents have difficulties, especially in their old age.

Having advocated for a couple to respect and embrace God's command to be open to new life, I must add that there are circumstances that justify postponing having another child: a parent's (especially the mother's) serious illness, a severe loss of income, having several children of young age, having one or more children with special needs. The couple must decide honestly what they can manage. If they decide that they are not in a position now to have another child, the Church assures them that they do not offend God by that decision.

The means to a worthy end must also be worthy. Many people, including many Catholics, see no problem with the use of contraceptives. Why does the Church still maintain that their use is wrong? Let me explain. Jesus said about marriage: What God has joined together, no human being must separate [Mark 10: 9]. The logic of his words applies not only to the lifetime union of the couple but to the act by which they may bring forth new life. Their sexual union has two distinct but related dimensions: the expression of their love for one another – called the "unitive dimension" – and the possibility of engendering and conceiving a child – called the "procreative dimension."

The unitive dimension is always operative but the procreative dimension only periodically, when the woman is in her brief fertile phase. What artificial means of birth control do is to deliberately and forcibly separate the two dimensions when both are present. They separate what God has joined together. This is the crucial difference between contraception and natural family planning. The couple following NFP does not separate the two dimensions of their sexual union; they simply refrain from sexual intercourse during their fertile phase.

NFP today is far more effective than the older rhythm method, just as modern medical care surpasses that available to our ancestors. NFP is based on real-time observations of changes in the woman's body and gives accurate information so that the couple can decide to engage in or refrain from sexual relations. It can be inconvenient at times, but it avoids the medical problems associated with contraceptive use by some women and gives spiritual peace of mind. Does NFP always work? No, but neither do contraceptives. A woman pointed to her little child and said to me, "The pill didn't work, thankfully." A man fathered a child after a vasectomy! But if the couple is properly instructed and follows

the NFP method carefully, it will usually postpone an untimely pregnancy.

Once formed, the family becomes a "school of love" and the "domestic Church," the Church's smallest social unit. Without pretending that family life can avoid all struggles and trials, it remains true that families are where we learn to care for other human beings and, in many cases, are introduced to faith in God. Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "Marriage and the Christian family build up the Church; in effect, within the family the human person not only is engendered and progressively introduced through education into the human community but through the rebirth of baptism and education in the faith is introduced as well into the family of God, which is the Church."⁷

In the multiple relationships within the family – that of the spouses to one another, their relationships with their children, the children's relationships with each other, plus grandparents, uncles and aunts and cousins – the love that places the other first must gradually overcome the family members' natural self-centeredness. For the spouses, St. Paul writes: Wives should be subordinate to their husbands, as to the Lord, but insists, husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church [Ephesians 5: 21-33].

As Pope St. John Paul II wisely noted, a husband cannot love his wife if he is selfish. He must, like Christ, subordinate his own plans and preferences to her good; she does likewise by respecting and caring for her husband even when it costs her.⁸ Love always has a sacrificial dimension. Marriage and family life are truly a school that teaches that lesson.

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children in all things, including the faith. With respect to the faith, parents should have their children baptized soon after birth so that the life of grace may grow in them from an early age as their bodies and minds grow. Parents should see to the adequate preparation of their children for First Eucharist, Confirmation and the Sacrament of Penance and should seek the Sacraments of Initiation themselves if they have not received them. When parish programs ask parents to be involved in their children's religious education, it should not be seen as an imposition but as an opportunity to join with their children in penetrating more fully the mysteries of our Catholic faith. At home, parents can teach their children basic prayers and pray with them; I still remember fondly my parents praying with me when I was a little boy. Family meals give parents the opportunity to ask their children how things are going and will often, if the parents listen closely, give the parents guidance on how to guide their children's spiritual and moral formation.

As for formal education, I can only admire those parents who home-school their children, while recognizing that this is beyond the ability of many parents. I urge parents who choose to send their children to school to give serious consideration to sending them to a Catholic school, where such a school exists. There they will receive a regular formation in the faith to supplement – not replace – what the family gives at home. Paying tuition is a challenge for some families, but if a Catholic education is seen as an investment in the children's future, then the sacrifice is worth it. Some tuition assistance is available from the Diocese, usually from the school itself and sometimes from the family's parish.

Children should respect their parents for all they do for them and obey them, unless this would lead them into sin. The commandment, Honor your father and mother, refers first of all to the obligation

of adult children toward their elderly parents but, by extension, it encompasses the duty of children to listen to and cooperate with their parents. Children, even teenagers, benefit from having clear rules, even if they chafe under them at times. But in raising children it is prudent to follow St. Paul's advice: Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged [Colossians 3: 21]. Unreasonable demands put upon a child or adolescent can wound their spirit. As children grow, they should be given more responsibility (e.g., taking care of pets, helping with household chores), be rewarded when they perform well and be gently corrected when they fail. One bit of advice I gave to adolescents who complained that their parents did not trust them, was: "Show your parents you are worthy of their trust by acting responsibly. Before long, your parents will notice and begin to trust you more."

The Church must help married couples and families. The Diocese is hosting a "Together in Holiness" Conference on February 12, 2022, in Charleston, which will also assist parishes to form small groups of couples for ongoing formation and support. As a Diocese we will participate in World Family Day, June 22-26, 2022, in different locations. Movements such as Marriage Encounter and the Apostolate for Family Consecration strengthen families. Our beautiful Camp Carlo near Elkins provides a rich experience of faith and outdoor activities for children, while efforts to bring back Teens Encounter Christ retreats are ongoing as a supplement to youth programs that some parishes have. Campus ministry is flourishing at some of our universities and we will be trying to extend it to more campuses.

There are many more topics relating to marriage and family life, too many for me to address in this letter. I encourage you to read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)* for a fuller discussion of this most important matter. It is available at the Vatican website and in printed form from *The Word Among Us Press*, 7115 Guilford Drive, Frederick, MD 21704.

Some who read these reflections may judge them to be out of touch with the reality of contemporary life and the many alternative ways people understand marriage and families. I would counter that the Catholic approach to marriage and family life constitutes a radical sanity in a world that has lost its bearings on these fundamental relationships. In the Catholic faith we are able, like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old [Matthew 13: 52], to offer something of perennial value in new clothing. We have new ways to prepare couples for marriage and to assist them in living a grace-filled family life while emphasizing the old and authentic teachings of the Church as the foundation of their relationships. In doing that, we respond appropriately to the needs of married couples and their children and offer our Catholic vision of marriage and family life as a model for the world.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, look on our families with kindness and love. Strengthen them in the truth of their vocation and give them the confidence that, with God's grace, they can live it with love and joy! Amen.

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

⁷Familiaris Consortio, 15

⁸Letter on the Dignity and Vocation of Women, *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 24 (1988)

Every Life, that of a Mother and that of Her Child, is Precious and Deserves our Respect and Help

A Statement on Pro-Life Issues by Bishop Brennan

My friends, however the US Supreme Court decides the Dobbs vs. Jackson case, the Court's ruling is not likely to change the minds and hearts of the people of our country. We hope for a decision that provides the greatest possible protection for unborn children, but we will still have much work to do to move public opinion toward a genuine respect for all human life.

To show our true colors to our fellow citizens who are neither diehard supporters of abortion or diehard opponents, we must be as concerned for the welfare of mothers as we are for their unborn children. We must show we are both pro-child and pro-woman. Many mothers are in truly difficult situations and struggle over the decision to have or to abort their child. We need to understand that, without denying our principles. If we are judgmental in our attitude, harsh in our speech and unwilling to offer positive help, we will not win many people over to the side of protecting all life.

How can we change attitudes? We start with ourselves. We must recognize that a woman inclined to abortion or who procures one is still a person made in God's image and likeness. We are called to love everyone without exception. That does not mean approving or promoting bad behavior, but it does mean trying to understand why some women think their only viable choice is to abort their child. We must think and act in such a way that we come across as their allies in dealing with the pregnancies that are causing them distress. Many pregnant women face powerful threats, some from their own families.

What positive help can we offer? We have outreach centers for pregnant women all around this state. They not only counsel women to respect and cherish their unborn child but they offer concrete help, ranging from providing baby clothes, diapers and formula to giving parenting classes. We need to support them and ensure that their good work is widely known. A Catholic initiative called "Walking with Moms in Need" joins local parishes to pregnancy centers to mentor pregnant women and mothers with infants and offer them the assistance they need.

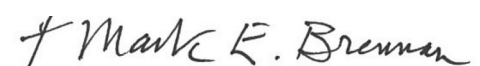
An effort to establish a safe, welcoming place for a woman to live while pregnant and for some time after the birth of her child is underway in the Eastern Panhandle. How can we establish more of these programs in our state to help pregnant women who need a place to stay?

Do we condemn or turn our backs on women who have had abortions? Does that do any good? We show the compassionate side of our movement when we offer post-abortion counseling, as some pregnancy centers do, and initiatives such as Project Rachel counseling and Rachel's Vineyard retreats. We can help post-abortive women move from remorse and guilt to forgiveness and peace.

Many of these efforts can be undertaken of our own initiative and without government assistance but government policy can also be a help to pregnant women, and those already raising children. We can continue to ask our state and local officials for relief from the housing and food insecurity that many women face, for resources for women experiencing domestic violence, for effective laws that forbid discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace, for adequate maternity leave, and for affordable child care options for working mothers. In these ways we may broaden society's support for pregnant women and those with young children. These things are consistent with the love, compassion and kindness that define our movement. This approach to women can indeed change the minds and hearts of West Virginians who are not strongly in the pro-abortion camp but sympathize with women who are desperate for help and struggling with an abortion decision. We can, and we must, be both pro-child and pro-woman.

Every life is a gift from God. Every life, that of a mother and that of her child, is precious and deserves our respect and help. We are grateful for signs that our West Virginia legislators want to strengthen our laws to reduce abortions in this state. Let us also show that we are committed to helping mothers deal with the challenges that a pregnancy can present. Mother and child should not be pitted against one another. They are not natural enemies. We can support both. I urge you to pray, fast and serve in whatever ways you can so that mothers and children in the Mountain State may live with dignity and thrive.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Natural Family Planning Introductory Session to be Held

WEIRTON—The Creighton model fertility-care system is Natural Family Planning (NFP). Those who want help with infertility, those who are interested in learning about today's effective methods of NFP, and those married or single and looking for a way to treat women's health problems other than using birth control pills are encouraged to come to a Creighton System Introductory Session.

The next introductory session will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton. There is a \$10 fee and reservations are necessary.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Kathy Hirkala at (304) 723-0478.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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

Success of Catholic Schools Attributed to Culture of Collaboration and Shared Responsibility among Staff at Building Level

By Joyce Bibey

WHEELING—As the nation celebrates Catholic Schools Week from January 30 through February 5, West Virginia Catholic Schools' leadership and parents agree the success of the Catholic school system in West Virginia is completely reflective of the dedication of the individual school principals, teachers, and support staff.

The Catholic Schools of West Virginia made headlines last year with the announcement that academic achievement did not falter during the pandemic and remote learning, based on their national assessment scores across grade levels. Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., credits her principals, teachers, and support staff for maintaining a mission driven focus and continually enriching a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility.

"Without hesitation we completely attribute our successes to the phenomenal women and men, who work for our Catholic schools," Deschaine said. "From the building administrators to the teachers, secretaries, advancement directors, custodians, and auxiliary personnel, each plays a significant role in carrying out the mission of Catholic education. When you

are in our buildings it doesn't take long to recognize their genuine dedication and flexibility."

It is no secret the pandemic has been hard on educators and the educational system across the board, she said.

"I firmly believe everyone who works in education, no matter if it is a Catholic school or not, are heroes in our society, right up there with health care workers and first responders," Deschaine, who has worked in both the public and Catholic school systems as an educator and administrator, said. "When you consider what we ask our school staff to include in their objectives, and look at the sacrifices and demands they willingly take on for the betterment of our children, it takes that sentiment to another level. The impressive teams our principals and pastors have assembled in our schools are exceptional. They are living and leading with faith, Christian values, and respected morals. That is the environment that enables students to thrive."

Carol McDonald, a parent at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, shares Deschaine's attitude. "Over that past two years we have discovered many heroes among us," McDonald said. "The SJS staff and teachers are defi-

nately some of those heroes. As heroes they have superpowers, not to see our children for who they are today but see what they can become tomorrow and strive to help them achieve this. These powers are blessings from our heavenly Father. It has been challenging but they rose above these challenges by showing strength, love, and compassion for our children. This dedication helped our students weather the storm."

Jocelyn Czapp, a parent of Corpus Christi School and Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, said she could cite "a million" examples of how school staff has helped her three children.

"The staff and principals at our Catholic schools are fully invested in our children's education, spiritual growth, and successes. For that, my husband and I are forever grateful and feel very blessed for their Catholic education," she said. "The teachers go above and beyond to ensure that

our children are learning and working to their full potential. They do it with so much compassion, care and love that it makes me know that they are there for our kids and truly want the best for them. It is an amazing feel-

ing that they celebrate our children's accomplishments and are just as excited for them, as we are as parents, when they hit milestones and goals."

Michelle Martin, principal of St. Paul School in Weirton, said the pandemic has placed a spotlight on the collaboration that has always been a part of Catholic education. Supporting one another as a staff or even filling someone else's shoes in order to get work done or reach an objective is second nature in the Christ-centered school system. Returning to a classroom to substitute for a teacher who is in quarantine may be challenging for administrators, but it is also rewarding and grounding, she said.

"It's definitely been challenging, but I do enjoy it," she said. "I get first-hand experience on the challenges the teachers face. I enjoy having the students see me as a teacher and not just the principal! Doing both jobs at one time can be a bit overwhelming, but I have a supportive staff that will pitch in, no questions asked. They work really hard to give the students a normal school year by keeping them engaged and challenged."

We expect a lot from our schools, **See "Success" on Page 8**

Catholic Education More Than School, It's Extended Family

Morgantown Mom Says Catholic School Helped Her Family When It Mattered Most

By Joyce Bibey

While working at a fundraising event four years ago at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown, Stacy Downey received a phone call that shook her to the core, but she was quickly wrapped in the love and comfort she knows that only her Catholic school could offer.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer," she said. "I actually received the call while at St. Francis. I hung my cell phone, took a deep breath, and finished out my task. When I was leaving, I spoke with our secretary, Ms. Janet (Stone), and explained to her that I did in fact have cancer. She hugged me and told me that we were going to fight it together. I thanked her and left with tears in my eyes."

Downey, the mother of three children, said in the midst of trying to comprehend the how her and her young family's life was about to change because of the surgery and treatments ahead, she never felt so supported and confident that her children would be in an envi-

ronment that would be compassionate and empowered through prayer and actions.

Stacy and her husband Brandon had just transferred their children to the school that year. Aydan, their oldest, was in fourth grade, Kaitlynn was in first grade, and Mallory was just a baby.

The Downey family remembers well the day they toured the school and the children shadowed in the classroom.

"The day I picked my oldest two children up from their shadow day, I had never heard my kids speak about how wonderful school was," she said. "They talked my ear off. Katilynn asked me if she was able to go back because she wanted to learn more. I knew at the moment this move was what my children needed. I was amazed at how organized the structure of the classes were. Their focus on education was a breath of fresh air."

The Downey children are among the 40% of students attending Catholic school in West Virginia that are non-Catholic.

"I have had numerous friends ask me how I feel

about our children learning about Catholicism, and the only answer I ever say is, 'We are blessed that our children are able to learn about Catholicism in a place that does not force it as a religion, but shows them how the teachings relate in their lives and what it truly means to be a good person,'" she said.

"We are never judged or treated differently for not being Catholic. Honestly, I have never felt more welcome in a place before. I, myself, love to hear Ms. (Nora) Sheets or (Principal Arthur Moore) give prayer every day."

That prayerful energy is the balance Stacy Downey has needed.

"The night before my surgery, Mr. Moore called and spoke with me," she said. "We talked about my cancer, my family, and what the school could do to help us fight this! His words put me at ease knowing that while I was taking care of myself, he, the teachers, and the whole school would be behind our children providing them with all they needed during this time. Now keep in mind, we were a new family and did not know much of the staff



Courtesy Photo

The Downey family (pictured left to right: Aydan, Brandon, Stacy, Mallory, and Katilynn) of Morgantown is grateful to St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School for compassion during Stacy's fight against breast cancer.

yet. Over the next several weeks, I received numerous text messages, emails, phone calls from our St. Francis family checking on me and my family."

During that time teachers made sure to provide her children with extra time and attention to help keep them on track in school, as well as process what their mother

was going through.

Downey said the school is like an extended family led by the most amazing people you have ever known.

"So, how does St. Francis go above and beyond? I believe that is the only thing they know to do," she said. "Our St. Francis family community is a wonderful place to be a part of."

Catholic Sharing Appeal Brings Great Joy to St. Vincent's Faculty and Staff

When you commit to working for a Catholic school or parish, you commit early on to the mission; to give rather than receive, to serve rather than be served. The faculty and staff of St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling felt what it was like to be on the receiving end this Christmas.

Through the generosity of the parish, the annual Catholic Sharing Appeal, exceeded its goal once again this year. Regardless of the economy in the Upper Ohio Valley, parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish continue to support the parish and school through their time, talent and treasure. Even throughout the pandemic weekly collections and on-line giving remained strong.

This year, Msgr. Paul Hudock, pastor of St. Vincent's, asked that the teachers and staff of St. Vincent de Paul Parish School benefit from the monies raised through the Catholic Sharing Appeal. Rami Peckens, middle school math teacher at SVS, was overjoyed with the gift.

"I was surprised, actual-

ly shocked, when I received the call from Mrs. Rossell, our principal. The additional money was a way of showing appreciation for me as well as my colleagues," Peckens said. "Several of us are just starting a family of our own. We already use so much of our own money on classroom supplies. It was in that moment of kindness that we felt our hard work was noticed. It was such a great feeling! God bless our

parish for their giving spirit!"

TJ Butyn teaches physical education/gym to all of the SVS students. He knows every student by name. He recently welcomed his second child to the Butyn family. "I am extremely grateful for the gift," he said. "It helped make our family life just a little bit easier!"

School secretary, Missy Carpenter, said that she was not only surprised but deeply grateful. She ex-

pressed how very much she appreciated the generosity of the parish. She confirmed the joy that many of the teachers felt when sharing the good news about the gift they received.

Through the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the Catholic Sharing Appeal is an annual campaign designed to enliven the shared ministries of the diocese and each parish. The appeal strengthens

families, enriches parish life, and expands the charitable outreach ministry of the church.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish values the administration, faculty and staff of our school. Laurajenn Rossell summed it up best when she said; "Our staff is truly deserving because of the day to day contributions they make and especially for the love and joy they share so generously with our students!"



St. Vincent de Paul Parish School

Wheeling, WV

Register NOW for the 2022-23 school year

PK3, PK4, TK, K-8

- Small Class Size
- Highly experienced and qualified educators
- Engaging Curriculum
- Opportunities for serving the community
- YMCA partnership - After School Care Program
- Award Winning Students
- Nationally Accredited through Cognia
- Hot Lunch Program
- Affordable Tuition/Assistance Available
- SPORTS/CLUBS/EVENTS
- Forensics and Poetry Declamation
- Spelling Bee Finalists
- Geography Bee
- Science and Social Studies Fairs
- Chromebooks 1:1 Grades 5-8

Your Catholic Education is just minutes away from home!

Learn more about St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling, WV
email jjelenic@stvincentschool.org 304-242-5844

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Saturday, March 5, 11 a.m. – Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling
Sunday, March 6, 3 p.m. – Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
Sunday, March 13, 4 p.m. – St. James the Greater Church, Charles Town

Global Catholic Tours of Va

9 Days Holy Land. Sep 12-20, 2022
\$3199. 1 night Tel Aviv, 2 nights Galilee, 5 nights Jerusalem. With Fr Dan Pisano from Petersburg, WV.

10 Days Vienna, Salzburg, Budapest

Sep 19-28, 2022 \$3999. Includes 3 nights Vienna, 3 nights Salzburg, 4 nights Budapest. With Fr Bjorn Lundberg from Winchester, VA.

13 Days Istanbul and Greece
Nov 7-19, 2022 \$4999. Includes 2 nights-Istanbul, 1 night each in Kavala, Thessaloniki, Kalambaka & Delphi, & 3-nights in Athens. Plus a 3 day cruise to

Islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, & Santorini. With visit to Ephesus. With Fr Shafer from Colonial Beach, VA

11 Days Catholic Ireland.

Sep 12-22, 2022 \$3950 Includes 1 night Limerick, 2 nights Kilkenny, 3 nights each in Galway and Dublin. With Fr Art Bufole from Marlinton, WV.

6 Day Mexico OL of Guadalupe Anniversary Dec 8-13, 2022, Price TBD Includes Insurance. With Priest TBD.

For brochures or more information, contact John Tagnesi by calling 1-888-544-4461 or by e-mail to jtag1964@verizon.net



Thanks to the Passion and Care of our Generous Donors

\$2.3 million

was raised in 2021 to enliven parishes, support Catholic education, shine light on shared ministries, and expand outreach efforts across West Virginia!



Visit dwc.org/CSA today to learn more!



CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL



Courtesy Photo

At Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, students pray a live rosary as a student body for Catholic Schools Week.

Success ...

Cont'd from Page 6

said Jennifer Hornyak, associate superintendent for accreditation and technology. Hornyak oversees staff development for the diocesan schools, as well as technology enrichment.

"Our teachers are constantly challenged to learn new teaching and learning methods while balancing their everyday classroom work," Hornyak said. "Teachers and administrators put in a great deal of time and effort to learn new things and are true models of what it means to be a life-long learner. They continually participate in new professional development opportunities, not only in the changing landscape of education, but also, in the ever-changing world of technology."

Julie Link, office manager of the Department of Catholic schools, praises the individual schools' front office staff for gracefully handling the constant juggle of duties.

"Our secretaries in our schools don't get enough credit for the important role they have in the daily

life of the school," Link said. "Their list of to-dos is constantly growing, not only from staff, students, and parents, but from our office, as well. They go the extra mile to assist their principal when our office requests documents or if we have specific requests. I always find that when I call a school, I hear a friendly, well-spoken voice."

Theresa DiPiero, director of curriculum and instruction for the diocesan schools, loves working with and for the 24 Catholic schools in the state. It is reaffirmed every time she gets to observe the principals concern and attention for their students as they constantly are "calming fears, extending a warm smile, calling students by their first names in the halls, and asking about a brother, sister or their parents."

She said there is nothing like watching "the way a student lights up when he or she is noticed and made to feel important. Catholic schools are a gift."

"I reflect on my conversations with a guidance counselor and wonder how they remember every sin-



Courtesy Photo

Students at Ss. Peter and Paul School in Oak Hill made rosaries Feb. 1 for Catholic Schools Week. Above, one of the younger students works on her rosary. The next day, students prayed the rosary for vocations using their newly crafted rosaries.

gle detail about their students," she said, adding that it is her privilege "to work in a system where teachers and counselors are able to pray with and for a student when they lose heart."

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



Courtesy Photo

Central Catholic High School in Wheeling celebrated the CCHS Family & Community during Catholic Schools Week. As parents and friends arrived at school the morning of Jan. 31, the CCHS Student Council and Principal Becky Sancomb greeted them with coffee and muffins as a thank you for choosing CCHS. Students are pictured above passing out the treats.

L
—
G

LEWIS GLASSER

LAW OFFICES

Ann Starcher Tom Casto Mark Sadd

Matthew Bowles Jay Arceneaux

Ramonda Lyons James Stebbins

www.lgcr.com 304.345.2000

**JOHNSON
BOILER WORKS, INC**

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

Jarvis-Williams Funeral Homes

Weldon P. Williams, FD & LIC

"Boots" Jarvis, Co-Owner & Sec

1224 S. Bridge Street,
New Martinsville, WV
(304) 455-3456

309 N 4th Avenue,
Paden City, WV
(304) 337-2311

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

We Also Specialize n Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Lou W. Nau, Inc.

69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311

louwnau.doitbest.com

Retreat Will Help Men Consider Priesthood

By Colleen Rowan

KEARNEYSVILLE — An upcoming retreat will offer men a chance to consider God’s call to be priests of Jesus Christ. A weekend of prayer and discernment will be offered by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Vocations Office at Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville March 5-6.

“If you are a man discerning priesthood or have at least considered it: What have you to lose by going on the retreat?” asked Father Brian Crenwelge, vocations director. “It’s a no-strings attached deal where you can give time over to our Lord and ask him what he wants of you in this life. We can do whatever we choose in this life, but if it is not what God de-

sires of us, it will only ever be mediocre. We should desire to be great—and true greatness is found in being conformed to Christ and his will.”

Much of the time, Father Crenwelge said, a man may enter the retreat believing he is called to discern the priesthood, but it isn’t until after hearing more talks on the priesthood, spending time in adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and in speaking with other men discerning that they get the confirmation that they need to make the next step.

Seminarians of the diocese also participate, so that the discerning men can speak with them about their own discernment journey.

“It’s also good for the discerning men to see men who are their age who have taken the next step,” Father Crenwelge said. “It’s always a joy to have the seminarians be a part of this weekend.”

Though the talks always center around the priesthood, discernment, and prayer each year, the content of the talks develop and change, Father Crenwelge said.

“I am also inspired by the community of men who come on the trip,” he said. “They tend to be shy at first but by the end of the retreat have begun to open up with each other and are clearly having a great time. Around prayer and talks, we also host fraternity time where we can just have fun and get to know each other. I find

that the men generally enjoy this time together.”

This will be the diocese’s third annual men’s discernment retreat. The first was held in 2020 with about 13 men attending, and two of them then entering the seminary. Seventeen men attended last year, and one of them entered seminary. The duration of last year’s retreat was shortened because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Father Crenwelge said, adding that attendees enjoyed themselves and wanted more time together.

“The Lord clearly blesses the retreats,” Father Crenwelge said, “because they seem to help a man to make the final leap to apply to the diocese.”

To apply, visit WVPriests.org.

Catholic Distance University in Charles Town Offers Affordable Online Degree Programs

CHARLES TOWN — Enrollment is underway in Catholic Distance University’s Winter II term. Classes begin March 14, so apply soon to be admitted and eligible to register. Working adults especially appreciate Catholic Distance University’s online course format, affordable tuition, and faithfully Catholic focus. For about \$47k, students can earn a bachelor’s degree in theology. A master’s degree in theology is just \$20k.

The master’s degree in Theology and Educational Ministry is geared to teachers and those working in a religious education capacity. It fully equips educators, directors of religious education, and catechists for their important role of faith formation in parishes and schools.

Graduate Ute Eble

earned her master’s degree in Theology and Educational Ministry while living in several different states while her husband was in the military. “My intellectual growth in the field of theology is indisputable after completing this program,” she says. “I have also grown from a person who was just interested in the faith into a person who is able to invite and accompany others on their faith journeys to more fully live Christ’s mandate to become missionary disciples. This is mostly due to my spiritual progress.”

The program is unlike any other currently offered. While the coursework for the MA program is completed online, a component of the program that must be fulfilled prior to graduation is a unique, self-designed practicum that of-

fers students the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice in a classroom or parish setting. Students design their own practicum programs usually around their current Church and school involvement. This crossover makes it possible for those already working in the field to use their experiences to complete the master’s degree program while gaining expertise in ministerial

leadership.

CDU’s graduate programs are accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, which accredit most seminaries in the U.S. and Canada.

CDU also offers an Associate degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Catholic Studies and a Catechetical Diploma program. Certificate options include the undergraduate Catechetical Coordinator

certificate and graduate certificates in Sacred Scripture, Church History, and Catholic Education.

Learn more at cdu.edu or contact Admissions Director Todd at admissions@cdu.edu; 1-888-254-4CDU.


WHEELING · SOUTH WHEELING · WARWOOD · WOODSDALE · ELM GROVE
www.kepnerfuneral.com
(304) 232-5110



FUNERAL HOMES
Serving the community since 1845

John D. Kepner and James B. Kepner
Co-Presidents

Larry Dean, COIC



MJ T


MICHAEL J. TUPTA, D.D.S.

Dentistry That Makes You Smile

1701 Oakhurst Drive
Charleston, WV 25314
304-744-4150

MyDentistInCharleston.com

Accepting New Patients



Catholic Distance University
EST. 1983

Partner of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Degree and Certificate Programs in Theology

Continuing Education

FAITHFUL • 100% ONLINE • AFFORDABLE • ACCREDITED

cdu.edu

300 S. George St., Charles Town WV 25414
admissions@cdu.edu | 1-888-254-4CDU



Mansuetto
Roofing & Sheet Metal

N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors

Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community

Since 1945
Three Generations of Family Management
116 Wood Street
Martins Ferry OH 43935
740-633-7320

Consecrated Women and Men on the Journey for the Synod for a Synodal Church

The consecrated women and men in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are responding to the invitation of Pope Francis and Bishop Mark Brennan by participating in the Journey for the Synod for a Synodal Church. The group initially met virtually on Dec. 14.

"We have been part of a journey—a long journey—for generations," said Sister Martha Gomez, delegate for consecrated life for the diocese. "We have all been called to grow and build the Church, the Body of Christ among us. This body must change somewhat to keep up with the needs of our time."

She said changes do not have to be feared or considered radical, but when carefully examined by calling upon the Holy Spirit for guidance will be respectful and full of integrity.

"The Church is a living body of hopes, dreams, faith, and trust," she said. "It is a body blessed with sacramental ointments that heal, strengthen, and make us as the family of God. Sure, together the Church has been bruised and broken, challenged and strained, we remain together as one by God's love and design. We are products of our time today, here, and now. We need a living and loving Church for which the third millennium – still new and unfolding in our mist."

She said the religious brothers and sisters in the diocese will also be able to be part of the listening sessions in their parishes. Though having specific listening sessions as the group of religious brothers, sisters, and Consecrated Virgins is an important voice in the Church.

"Our participation is valuable to the end product, because we have already been sent by our Baptism to be disciple of Jesus, to live and preach by our lives the faith that is the gift to us and to the world," she said. "We are faithfully united in the task of our Diocese, to join in the conversation,

the prayer and sharing at each level; to listen deeply to what God's desire is for the Church now, today. We are a beautiful array of cultures and customs that shape and express our one faith in Jesus, in our one Church, the Body of Christ. That richness is who we are as a Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston."

Sister Gomez praised the Holy Father, the Synod of Bishops, and Bishop Brennan for making the Synod for a Synodal Church a priority.

"It shows we come together knowing that we cannot be a Church alone," she said. "This is not about one or a few, but ALL of us adding color, texture, and spirit to the soul of God among us! We need to go to the margins and meet people who no longer journey with us and engage them, invite them, and listen to them. We need to include those whose voices are rarely heard, for we all are loved dearly by God.

"We journey together, sojourners, if you will, side by side, leading all we meet along the road mapped out by God, to be disciples of the Gospel Mission of Jesus in our Church today."

Sister Gomez said it is important to note that the sisters, brothers, and consecrated virgins all belong to the National Catholic Conference of Vicars for Religious (NCVR), Inc. The National Conference of Vicars for Religious is recognized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as a Conference of service to and represents all members of consecrated life in our dioceses in the U.S. As such, NCVR is responsible to invite all its members to participate in the Synodal Process and submit a Conference Report to USCCB.

She said she will gather the information from her group before the end of February.

SYNOD Listening Sessions

Check updates at <http://dwc.org/synod-sessions/>

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston: Second Session—Feb. 4, 12:40 p.m.; Third Session—Feb. 13, 1 p.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.; Fifth Session—Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.

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

Holy Rosary, Sistersville: First Session—Feb. 7, 6-8 p.m.

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

Mater Dolorosa, Paden City: First Session—Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling: First Session—Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; Second Session—Inclement weather date, Feb. 24.

Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview: Fifth Session—Feb. 6, after 8:30 Mass

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

Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton: Third Session—Feb. 9, 1-2:30 p.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 9, 6-8:30 p.m.

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

St. Anthony, Fairmont: Second Session, Feb. 6, 6 p.m. after Mass; Third Session—Feb. 5, 7 p.m. after Mass; Fourth Session—Feb. 6, noon after Mass; Fifth Session—Feb. 7, 10 a.m.

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

St. Elizabeth, Phillippi: First Session—April 3, 2022, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown: Second Session—Feb. 19 after 5:15 p.m. Mass; Third Session—March 8, 10 a.m.

St. James, Charles Town: First Session—March 5, 1 p.m.

St. Joseph, Proctor: First Session—Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m.

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

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

St. Patrick, Coalton: First Session—Feb. 6, after 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Patrick, Hinton: First Session—Feb. 9, 1-3 p.m.; Second Session—Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m.

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

St. Peter Claver, Huntington: Second Session—Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.; Third Session—Feb. 6, directly after Mass

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

St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs: Third Session—Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 23, 2 p.m.; Fifth Session—March 1, TBA

St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling: First Session—Feb. 6; Second Session—Feb. 16; Third Session Inclement weather date, Feb. 20

St. Vincent de Paul, New Martinsville: First Session—Feb. 11, 6-8 p.m.

RICH & SHIRLEY'S QUICKPRINT

RSQP.net

PRINT & DESIGN

(304) 233-7433

92 16th Street,
Wheeling, WV

LOL

Light of Life
Radio Ministry

Catholic Radio

304-598-0026 www.LoRadio.org

throughout West Virginia 24/7 on the internet
www.rdo.to/WLOL

Grafton Fairmont Clarksburg Bridgeport Kingwood AM 1190
Wheeling Moundsville St Clairsville FM 90.7
Clarksburg Bridgeport FM 97.5 Morgantown FM 89.7

304-232-0330

ALTMAYER
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

"THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"

James E. Altmeyer, Jr. President
James E. Altmeyer, Sr. Chairman
Eugene T. Fahey Vice President

www.altmeyer.com

Wheeling Chapel 1400 Eoff Street Wheeling, WV 304-232-0330	South Wheeling Chapel 3828 Jacob Street Wheeling, WV 304-232-5444	Elm Grove Chapel 154 Kruger Street Elm Grove, WV 304-242-0330
Benwood-McMechen 214 Marshall Street McMechen, WV 304-232-1710	Moundsville 118 Grant Avenue Moundsville, WV 304-845-4560	Beck-Altmeier 204 West Main Street St. Clairsville, OH 740-695-0475

RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT WE DO BEST.



Forbes **2022**
**AMERICA'S
BEST INSURANCE
COMPANIES**
POWERED BY STATISTA

* Knights of Columbus ranked #6 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes 2022 America's Best Insurance Companies list. Forbes partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



**Knights of
Columbus®**
The Abbate Agency

Visit our website for more information: www.abbatekofc.com
Call or email us at: 1-866-868-1492 / abbateagencymail@kofc.org
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Abbatekofc



THE YEAR OF

St. Joseph

MARCH 19, 2021 - MARCH 19, 2022

Weirton Parish Invites All to 33-Day Consecration to St. Joseph Group, and a Lenten Eucharistic Mission

WEIRTON—Bishop Mark Brennan began the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Year of St. Joseph on March 19, 2021, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

"Who is St. Joseph? What better time to learn about St. Joseph than now as our diocese's Year of St. Joseph is coming to an end," officials of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton said. "We invite you to join the 33-Day Consecration Group at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton, in consecrating yourself to St. Joseph."

The 33-day journey will meet on Tuesdays — Feb. 15, 22, and March 1, 8, 15, and conclude on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Saturday March 19. Cost for the book is \$15; time is 6-7:30 p.m.;

location is St. Joseph the Worker Grade School in Weirton.

To register and order the book, call Sally at the rectory at (304) 723-2054.

The parish also invites all to its Lenten Eucharistic Mission the week of March 19-24. Father William Casey, CPM, of the Fathers of Mercy will be speaking at local parishes during Sunday Masses and then present the Eucharistic Mission for four nights, March 21-24.

The mission talk will take place from 7-8 p.m. each evening followed by confession from 8-9 p.m. Refreshments and a Eucharistic display will be in the church vestibule.

The theme of a Eucharistic Mission was chosen to promote Eucharistic

adoration.

"Our local Catholic community is in the process of establishing Perpetual Adoration in the Communion of Saints Adoration Chapel located in St. Joseph the Worker Church," parish officials said. "The chapel is open to all people of the upper Ohio Valley who wish to participate either as a Guardian or visitor."

Adoration is currently open every Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

This week-long event will also be used as recruitment for guardians, who are people from various local parishes who commit to a specific hour of adoration each week in the chapel. Their role is to ensure that the Blessed Sacra-

ment is never left alone.

"By their generosity, the chapel can remain open for others to come and visit Our Lord," parish officials said, noting that they are now registering guardians for Saturday adoration 8 a.m.-8 p.m. When at least two guardians have signed up for each hour, the chapel will open for another 12-hour day of adoration.

"Our goal is to establish Perpetual Adoration which would make Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament available in the chapel day or night, 24/7," parish officials said.

The opportunity to register as a guardian will be in the church vestibule. For more information, call (304) 374-6170.

All Saints Parish in Bridgeport Celebrating Year of St. Joseph by Helping to Clothe Children at the Southern Border



Courtesy Photo

Father Walter Jagela, pastor of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, blesses donations of clothing for children at the southern border of the U.S. in Texas at the end of Mass Jan. 30.

BRIDGEPORT — All Saints Parish in Bridgeport is celebrating the Year of St. Joseph with the "Children of Light," a project to help clothe the children at the U.S. southern border. Parishioners brought clothes for 2- to 6-year-old children. All clothing was placed near the icon of St. Joseph throughout December and January.

Sister Norma, who is the director of Catholic Charities in Brownsville, Texas, works among the immigrants and migrants on the

border in the Texas region. She walks with the families there as they search for new ways of life and to provide for their needs.

Father Walter Jagela, pas-

tor of All Saints, has said: "The crisis at the border is a humanitarian crisis, and we as people of faith, listening to and following the Gospel of Jesus Christ

are called to respond in faith!"

The gifts were blessed at the end of Mass Jan. 30 and

were sent to McAllen, Texas. The gifts will then be given to the "Children of Light."

Established
1914
Centre Wheeling
Market House
304-232-8510
107 Years

TerraCare

Grounds Maintenance ♦ Design-Build ♦ Landscape Architecture

The premier professional grounds maintenance and landscape design build firm of West Virginia

(304) 925-4751
www.terraccareinc.com

Charleston White Sulphur Springs Morgantown

Clarksburg Knights Brought 'Wreaths Across America' to Veterans at Rest

Our Lady of Peace Assembly #1184, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus sponsored the "Wreaths Across America" project at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Clarksburg on Dec. 18.

Sir Knight Anthony Ovie was the project Chairman, and "he did the incredible job of raising donations to sponsor over 800 wreaths to honor the veterans interred at Holy Cross," assembly members said. "We would like to acknowledge Brian Wiseman, and his staff at

the cemetery for their invaluable assistance, and the members of VFW Post 573 in Clarksburg, who provided an honor guard, and 21 gun salute, and a rendition of "Taps."

The assembly gave a special acknowledgment to Berkshire - Hathaway Corporation for providing volunteers to help lay the wreaths, and lunch for all the volunteers.

"Our Lady of Peace Assembly intends to continue this project on an annual basis to honor our deceased veterans," members said.



Sir Knight Carmen Romano, right, presents a wreath to be placed honoring veterans at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Clarksburg. Courtesy Photo

Dr. Mark Miravalle to Present Talk on St. Joseph at Cathedral

WHEELING — World-renowned theology professor and author Dr. Mark Miravalle will present a talk titled "Meet Your Spiritual Father: St. Joseph the Worker" on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

There will be a recitation of the rosary prior to the event at 7 p.m.

Miravalle has been a professor at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, since 1986, where he has been the recipient of several teaching awards and holds the St. John Paul II Chair of Mariology. He is president

of the International Marian Association, comprised of more than 130 theologians, bishops, clergy, and laity worldwide who seek to promote Marian devotion and doctrine.

Miravalle has made numerous appearances on radio and television, including EWTN, National Family Catholic Radio, BBC, Fox News, and the NBC Series "Dateline." He has authored more than 20 books on Mariology and Spiritual Theology.

Miravalle's book, "Meet Your Spiritual Father: A Brief Introduction to St. Joseph" will be available for purchase and autographing after the talk.



Recovering from a House Fire: Suzanne and Her Grandkids Turn to Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) helps people across the state recover from disasters. While disasters are devastating for anyone impacted, people already struggling financially have an increased risk of sliding more deeply into poverty after a disaster. That's why our Disaster Services program is concentrated on finding resources for as many people as possible.

House fires are particularly heartbreaking. Over the past four months (just since October 2021), we have encountered six families who lost their homes to fire. "Suzanne" represents one such family. She is raising her three grandkids. They lost their home in May 2021 and were homeless for many months, relying on friends and family to sleep indoors.

The family qualified for subsidized housing, and Suzanne could even afford the down payment. But she had no money left over to get utilities connected, so the family was stuck without a place of their own.

Luckily, the Disaster Services team was able to step in. "Our job was to make sure Suzanne and her grandkids had a safe place to call home," said Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services Specialist.

Suzanne's granddaughter had to sleep in a playpen after the fire and before family moved into their new home. "She is just so happy to have her own bed again!" said Suzanne.

"We have been through so much, one thing after another," said Suzanne. She is grateful for Catholic Charities staff, volunteers, and donors who made it possible to rebuild a life for the three kids who depend on her. "May God bless you so you may keep blessing others who need help like my family and I!"

Because donors give so generously, CCWVa can distribute funds to help families like Suzanne's get back on their feet after a tragic house fire. "In general, we offer up to \$500 per family to help them secure their next residence," said Pierce.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and our Disaster Services program, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

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



Panhandle
CLEANING & RESTORATION

Fire • Smoke • Wind • Mold • Sewage • Water

24-Hour Emergency Line
800.504.7054
304.232.2321 PanhandleCR.com

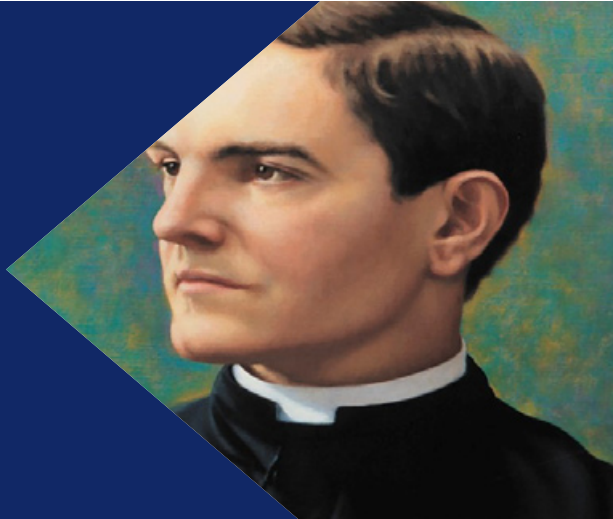
Accepted by All Major Insurance Companies


Residential and Commercial Complete Restoration Services
24-Hour Emergency Board-Up
Personal Property Cleaning & Storage
24-hour Emergency Water Extraction
WV 014743 PA 100310

In honor of Father McGivney's Beatification.....

On-Line Membership is FREE until June 30, 2022.

Use Promo Code:
MCGIVNEY2020






Duplaga's TOP NOTCH

LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC

Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls

Supply Yard

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



office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

Papa ora por hombre que interrumpió oración, habla de relación con santos

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—El papa Francisco dijo que cuando era pequeño, pensaba que la frase "la comunión de los santos" en el Credo significaba que los santos en el cielo estaban recibiendo la Comunión.

En cambio, la comunión de los santos expresa cómo "cada miembro de la iglesia está ligado a mí de una manera profunda y este vínculo es tan fuerte que no puede ser roto ni siquiera por la muerte", dijo el 2 de febrero durante su audiencia general semanal.

Concluyendo su serie de charlas sobre San José durante la audiencia, el papa Francisco recitó una oración que dijo haber recitado todos los días durante más de 40 años.

Pero mientras lo leía, un hombre en la parte de atrás de la sala de audiencias comenzó a gritar, incluso sobre el uso de los cubrebocas. La policía del Vaticano lo escoltó fuera del edificio.

Tan pronto como terminó su oración, el papa Francisco le dijo a la gente en el salón que el hombre tenía un problema.

"No sé si es físico, psíquico o espiritual, pero es nuestro hermano con un problema. Quisiera terminar orando por él, nuestro hermano que sufre, pobre hombre. Si grita es porque está sufriendo, tiene algún problema. No debemos ser sordos a las necesidades de este hermano", dijo.

Luego, el papa dirigió a la multitud a rezar un Ave María por él.

En su discurso de audiencia principal, el papa Francisco dijo que quería dejar en claro la diferencia entre la devoción a un santo, incluso a San José o María, y la superstición o la idolatría.

"A veces, incluso el cristianismo puede caer en formas de devoción que parecen reflejar una mentalidad más pagana que cristiana", dijo. Pero "la diferencia fundamental es que nuestra oración y la devoción del pueblo fiel no se basa en la confianza en un ser humano, ni en una imagen ni en un objeto, aun sabiendo que son sagrados".

"No son los santos los que hacen milagros, sino sólo la gracia de Dios que actúa a través de ellos", dijo.

Los santos, canonizados o no, dijo, son parte de la comunidad de la iglesia, una reunión no de los perfectos sino de "pecadores salvados".

Y así como una persona puede tener una amistad con otro feligrés, él o ella puede tener una relación "con un hermano o una hermana en el cielo", dijo el papa. "Los santos son amigos" y la devoción "es en realidad una forma de expresar el amor que nace de este vínculo que nos une".

"En Cristo, nadie puede jamás separarnos verdaderamente de aquellos a quienes amamos", dijo.

"Sólo cambia la manera de estar con ellos, pero nada ni nadie puede romper este vínculo. La comunión de los santos mantiene unida a la comunidad de los creyentes en la tierra y en el cielo".

RECUERDOS DE AMOR CELEBRANDO EL DÍA MUNDIAL DEL MATRIMONIO



RENOVACIÓN

De Las Fotos De La Boda

UNA NOCHE PARA DISFRUTAR Y AGRADECER

Todos Los Años de Amor y Felicidad

IGLESIA DE SANTIAGO APÓSTOL EL MAYOR

CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

19 DE FEBRERO 2022 - A LAS 7 PM

COSTO POR PAREJA: \$120

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN LLAMAR A JORGE OLIVAREZ 304-579-3734

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 eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

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

Principal Openings at Three Catholic Schools

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

We seek a leader with strong communication skills, capable of developing and maintaining an excellent academic program. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward our mission to instruct students in the Catholic faith. The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification. The candidate will have a minimum of five years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

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

A résumé with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Jen Kinkade at jenkinkade@pgka.com or at St. Vincent de Paul School, 127 Key Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia, is seeking a principal for St. Joseph School, which has students in preschool through eighth grades. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts, and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

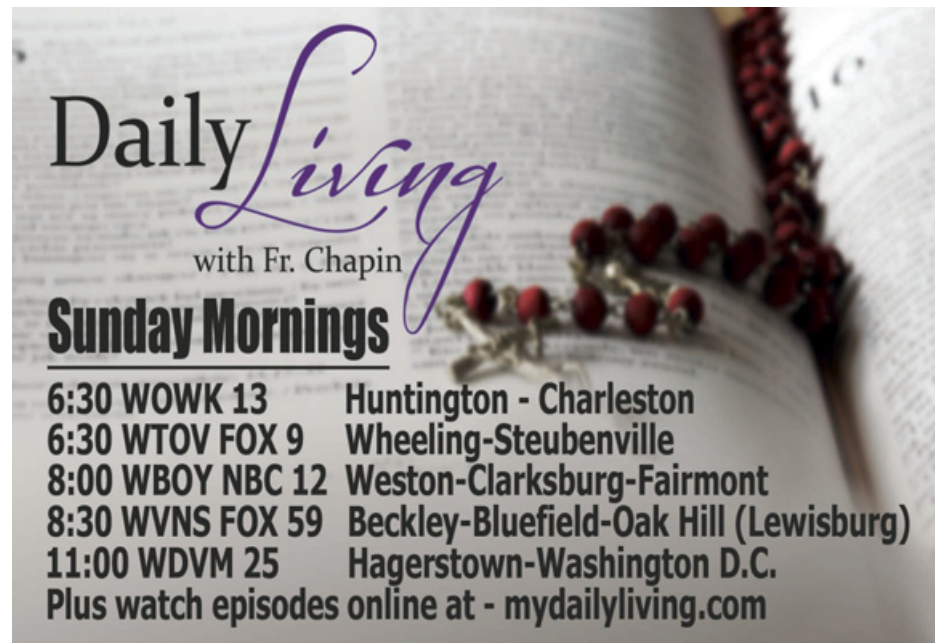
The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration, or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification. The candidate will have a minimum of five years of successful educational experience, with preference given to one with administrative experience.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Saint Albans, West Virginia, is seeking a principal for St. Francis of Assisi School, preschool through 5th grade. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school as well as assist in developing long range goals for school advancement. We seek a leader with strong communication skills, capable of developing and maintaining an excellent academic program. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward our mission to instruct students in the Catholic faith. The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certificate from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

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

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




Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin

Sunday Mornings

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


Plus watch episodes online at - mydailyliving.com



Gracious living

Welty
Home for the Aged

304.242.5233 www.weltyhome.org



MILLS GROUP
ARCHITECTURE ■ PLANNING ■ PRESERVATION

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON'S PARISHES
AND SCHOOLS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

DWC PARISHIONERS VICTOR GRECO, JULIE DOERR AND ALEXIS BEHRENS

VISIT US @ MILSGROUPONLINE.COM

Foodservice Equipment,
Supplies, Disposables,
Janitorial and more



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

Place
your
ad
here

Five-star care for our community



★★★★★

Welty
Home for the Aged

GOOD SHEPHERD
NURSING HOME

304.242.1093 • www.weltyhome.org



Do you want a life of Heroic Sacrifice?

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

Come join us for a weekend of prayer and discernment

March 5-6
Priest Field Pastoral Center
4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430

To complete an application visit WVPriests.org

Dr. David Burkland
Medical Director of the Emergency/Trauma Department

OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.

Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of **Other Illnesses** Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don't ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We'll protect you, and take good care of you.




WVU Medicine
WHEELING HOSPITAL