

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Diocese Increases Role of Laity through Diocesan Pastoral Council

WHEELING—Bishop Mark E. Brennan will be conferring with lay and religious representatives from across the diocese, as he has re-established the Diocesan Pastoral Council that Bishop Joseph H. Hodges originally established in 1968.

The council will assist Bishop Brennan in outlining and developing priorities, initiatives, and plans to fulfill the mission of the Church. The full mission of the council is five-fold.

1) To assist the Bishop, through consultation and cooperation, in developing pastoral priorities, initiatives, and plans to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ within the Diocese in the light of its existing social, economic, demographic, and cultural circumstances and resources;

2) To act as an authentic and reflective voice of the people of God;

3) To provide an honest and open forum of dialogue and communication regarding pastoral affairs among the Bishop, laity, religious, and clergy;

4) To collaborate with the Presbyteral Council, Parish and Vicariate Pastoral Councils, Vicariate leadership, and Diocesan offices in furthering the mission of the Diocesan Church;

5) To be a visible sign of the unity of the people of God in the Church at Wheeling-Charleston.

Beginning in 1968, the council served a vital role in the life of the diocese and the spiritual formation of the faithful. Under the guidance of Most Rev. Bernard W. Schmitt, seventh Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, this council helped form the four major documents of the Ninth Synod of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Those documents are available on the Diocesan website.

Bishop Brennan noted, "I look forward to having a Diocesan Pastoral Council that can bring to my attention concerns and ideas to enhance the spiritual and apostolic life and work of the Diocese and react to plans and issues I may bring up."

The Diocesan Pastoral Council includes
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Catholic Schools Week Celebrated with Prayer, Service, and Fun



Courtesy Photo
At Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston, second-graders Madelyn Lioi, Michael Paterno, and Donovan Wright (pictured from left) pack donations they collected for a local animal shelter Feb. 1 during Catholic Schools Week. Catholic schools across the state celebrated the week with special Masses, service projects, and fun gatherings. See coverage on Pages 6 and 7.

Inside:

Diocese Releases Financial Audit, Pages 9-13

Biden's Orders Restore Humane Treatment of Immigrants, Refugees, Says Bishop

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Joe Biden's executive orders aimed at rebuilding the U.S. immigration system, restoring due process and recognizing the dignity of newcomers illustrate his "commitment to prioritize assisting our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters," said the head of the U.S. bishops' migration committee.

These orders "will help to ensure that immigrants and refugees are treated humanely and in accordance with their God-given dignity," said Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration.

The bishop's Feb. 3 statement addressed the actions Biden took the previous day.

The president signed orders to address root causes of migration from Central America and expand opportunities for legal migration; create a task force to reunify families separated by policies of the Trump administration; and strengthen integration and inclusion efforts for new Americans.

The task force will be led by Alejandro Mayorkas, confirmed by the Senate Feb. 2 — and sworn in the same day

— to serve as the next U.S. secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, which includes carrying out Biden's immigration agenda. Mayorkas is the first immigrant as well as the first Latino appointed to the high-profile Cabinet position.

In his statement, Bishop Dorsonville said migration policies implemented by the Trump administration "have directly impacted and harmed immigrants' and refugees' lives, in many cases needlessly instilling fear and creating or perpetuating family separation."

"The Catholic Church teaches that each person is created in the image and likeness of God and that we must uphold the inherent dignity of each person," he said. "As a society, we must remain consistent in our openness and treatment of all persons, regardless of whether they were born in the United States or immigrated here."

Bishop Dorsonville said the U.S. bishops "know that changes will take time but (we) applaud President Biden's commitment to prioritize assisting our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. We also offer our assistance and cooperation on these urgent matters of human life and dignity."

Bailes, Kim Enders, Susan Bossie-Maddox

—Clarksburg Vicariate: Jim Archer, Charlotte Vester-Velloso, Perri DeChristopher

—Martinsburg Vicariate: Paul Buede, Kathleen Brockett, Linda Abrahamian

—Parkersburg Vicariate: Denise Laurine-Klug, Linda Nedeff, Colleen Newhart

—Wheeling Vicariate: Kevin Britt, Jerod Buck, Denis Wilson

Additional members will be added by the Bishop and include a Deacon of the Diocese, a person from one of the religious communities serving in the diocese, and two young adults of the Diocese.

Monsignor Eugene Ostrowski, Vicar General and Chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, stated he is "eager to work with a representative group from the Diocese to plan for the future and address significant issues."

The group will meet three times a year with its first meeting set for February 19-20. The Charter for the Diocesan Pastoral Council can be found on the diocesan website.

Council ...

Cont'd from Page 1

three elected members of the laity from each of the Diocese's six Vicariates (regions) for a total of 18; plus the Diocesan Bishop, the Vicar General, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Vicar for Clergy, the Chair of the Presbyteral Council, the Delegate for Consecrated Life, and several appointed members.

The election process for lay membership is as follows:

—Each parish, with any mission it may have, elects two laypersons to form, with those elected from other parishes, a Vicariate Council.

—The Vicariate Council then elects three persons from its membership to serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council making each member an elected member from among the faithful.

Parishes and Vicariates of the Diocese conducted their elections late in 2020 with the following lay members being selected:

—Beckley Vicariate: Gina Bog-gess, Darleen Whelan, Jim Copolo

—Charleston Vicariate: Mac

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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March Small, but Group's Message of Solidarity' with Unborn Strong as Ever



CNS Photo/Tyler Orsburn

Journalists cover March for Life participants as they make their way toward the U.S. Supreme Court building Washington Jan. 29, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

By Kurt Jensen, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It was the coldest national March for Life in some years, it was the smallest, and it also may be remembered as the bravest.

A little over 200 people, tightly flanked by members of the Knights of Columbus, endured subfreezing temperatures and wind as they sang hymns and trudged a zigzag route with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, from the Museum of the Bible to the Supreme Court Jan. 29.

Mancini acknowledged “that we’re all symbolically marching, and we’re all in solidarity with each other.”

Before they stepped off, she told the marchers, originally a group of 60, that although this year was a deeply somber occasion, “let’s be prayerful” and to fulfill the event “in the best way we can.”

Marchers included Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. “Never despair, never give up and keep fighting,” Bishop Coffey told EWTN while marching.

Others included former NFL player Benjamin Watson and Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who operates the pro-life ministry And Then There Were None.

The march, lasting about 90 minutes, was considerably quieter than the placard- and flag-filled processions of thousands up Constitution Avenue in previous years. And there were no counterprotesters.

Tim Saccoccia, a March for Life board member and a senior policy director for the Knights of Columbus, said the original group was joined halfway through the route by more than 100 others who seemed to be mostly from the Washington area.

There was a brief moment of concern, but the additional marchers turned out to be well-behaved. “They were very respectful,” Saccoccia told Catholic News Service in a phone interview from the march.

“We had a fantastic partnership with the D.C. police,” he added. “The Capitol Police also came out to help us.”

It was tough, even with a diminished event, “to stay socially distanced at times,” Saccoccia acknowledged. “Not everyone is a professional marcher.”

The 48th annual march, a continuing protest of the

court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide, already was hampered by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and Mancini, announcing a virtual event, told people to stay home and participate in smaller local marches.

But the aftermath of the violent Jan. 6 insurrection — 5,000 National Guard troops are still protecting members of Congress, House and Senate office buildings and the fenced-off Capitol building — and fears of more unpredictable violence by random individuals increased the symbolism of the moment. It was the first street event in Washington since Jan. 6.

In a callback to a former March for Life tradition, Mancini and others in the core group carried single red roses, which, she announced, would “symbolize the profound grief pro-life Americans feel over the deaths of 62 million unborn children through legal abortion.” They laid those on the sidewalk behind the fenced-off Supreme Court building as marchers broke into the “Ava Maria” and “God Bless America.”

In its early years, the march had sent individual roses to every member of Congress.

The smallest previous march, during a 1987 snowstorm, was officially estimated at 10,000. The U.S. Park Police stopped issuing crowd counts after disputes arose over the size of the Million Man March in 1995, and the agency’s estimates were always considerably lower than that of march organizers.

Last year, with President Donald Trump speaking at the pre-march rally at the National Mall, well over 100,000 were believed to be in attendance. Future restrictions on Washington protest marches of any size will be the topic of debate in the coming months.

The first march was held Jan. 22, 1974, organized by Nellie Gray, a government lawyer, and the Knights of Columbus. The idea was to form a “circle of life” around the Capitol and Supreme Court. Mancini assumed leadership after Gray died in 2012.

This year’s theme was “Together Strong: Life Unites.”

Saccoccia pronounced the event a success. “We represented tens of millions of Americans who have suffered and lost their lives from abortion.”

Archbishop Criticizes Biden, Hopes for Change from Courts at National Prayer Vigil for Life

By Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities called President Joe Biden’s stance on abortion “religiously and ethically incoherent” during his homily at the opening Mass of the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life Jan. 28.

Biden “proudly professes to be a devout Catholic even as he promises to codify Roe v. Wade, seeks to force American taxpayers to fund abortions ... and desires to force the Little Sisters of the Poor to provide contraceptives and abortifacients in their employee health plans,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas.

“Sadly, President Biden is the perfect example of the religiously and ethically incoherent straddle: claiming to believe that human life begins at conception and personally opposing abortion, while doing everything within his power to promote and institutionalize abortion not only in the U.S.A. but also around the world.”

He added, “The people of the United States have entrusted enormous power and responsibility to President Biden. However, the presidency does not empower him to define Catholic doctrine and moral teaching.”

Archbishop Naumann made his remarks in a startlingly empty Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington as coronavirus restrictions capped the number of those in attendance at 250.

What’s more, March for Life organizers, because of the pandemic and security issues arising from the rioting at the Capitol three weeks earlier, decided on an all-virtual march, except for a small contingent of pro-life leaders making speeches on the National Mall, followed by a walk up to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 29.

Archbishop Naumann called the seating of Amy Coney Barrett on the Supreme Court “one of the unanticipated blessings of the past year.”

“The makeup of the court has vastly improved in the last four years,” he added. “There is legitimate hope that the U.S. Supreme Court could modify or even reverse the decisions that we commemorate each year,” a reference to the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions in 1973 that legalized abortion throughout the country.

See “Life” on Page 14

A Pastoral Letter on Life Issues from Bishop Brennan

January 14, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Why have we been wearing face masks for many months and staying six feet apart? Why have we followed intensely the development and distribution of effective vaccines? Why do we abhor the violence and bloodshed in our homes, on our city streets and in the US Capitol? Have not the Coronavirus pandemic and recent violent events given our generation an opportunity to reflect seriously on the value we place on human life?

We instinctively realize that our lives and those of others matter, but it is useful to consider why. First of all, our life is pure gift. We did nothing to deserve it; we did not earn it; we could not demand it. It was simply given to us. For us who are religious, we believe this gift comes from God, who directly infuses an immortal soul in us and indirectly creates our body by means of our parents.

Secondly, as followers of Christ, we, along with Jews and many others, believe that each human being is made in the image and likeness of God. Human beings reflect God's wisdom, power and beauty not only through our ability to reason, our free will and our spiritual faculties but also by how we employ our bodies to create everything from buildings and roads to satellites and works of art. All of creation reflects the attributes of God but we human beings are the crown of God's creative work in the visible universe. The lives of such marvelous beings should be protected and given the opportunity to flourish. So, because all lives matter, we wear masks, wash our hands, wait for our turn to be vaccinated and deplore violence.

Apart from the threats posed by the Coronavirus and social violence, there are other serious threats to the lives of human beings. January each year brings the anniversary of one such threat. On January 22, 1973, I was at dinner with an American couple in Rome when we received word of the US Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion. At that dinner was a priest, Fr. Bernard Haring, a well-known moral theologian who had served as a medic in the German army in the Second World War. All of us were appalled at the Court's decision. Fr. Haring said, "How could this happen in America? It was your country that freed the world from the barbarity of Hitler. How could America allow abortion on demand?"

Almost fifty years after that decision, our country is still deeply divided over abortion. A Pew Research Center survey, released August 29, 2019, showed that, while a majority of Americans did not want *Roe vs. Wade* overturned, only 27% thought abortion should be legal in all cases – precisely the regime now in place. There is a social consensus that *Roe vs. Wade* went too far. There is considerable room for modifying current abortion practice. Don't expect this issue to go away.

Abortion is a direct assault on the life of the unborn child, whose Author ultimately is God. Even in very difficult circumstances (I have dealt with some of them), it is always objectively a grave evil. Without judging the subjective culpability of the mother and any man or woman involved in the abortion – for many circumstances may lessen or increase their responsibility – the abortion always results in a dead baby. It is so unjust to the child. Even in the rare case of a pregnancy resulting from rape – as hard as it is for the woman to have to bear a child conceived in a violent act – one must ask: why should the child be given the death penalty for what the father did?

When I returned from Rome I went on the second March for Life in 1975 in Washington, DC, and I have been on many since then. This year I will not go, as most activities connected to the March are being done virtually. A series of virtual Holy Hours will be led by our nation's bishops, including me, on Friday, January 29, at 5:00 AM. Get up and join me! (I urge West Virginians not to travel to Washington while the pandemic rages but to take part virtually in the event and to pray for the unborn, their parents and our public officials.)

The pro-life movement has grown over the years. I was privileged to serve on the Board of Directors of a pregnancy center in Maryland for ten years, one of thousands in the country, and I am proud of the work that such centers do. They not only help women avoid an abortion but provide many kinds of material assistance, emotional support during and after the pregnancy, parenting classes, as well as post-abortion counseling for women and men who later regret their choice of an abortion. I took part in post-abortion counseling through Project Rachel for many years, a form of ministry begun by Catholic women.

Abortion is not the only life issue, however; there are many others. The late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago used the image of a "seamless garment" to speak of the interconnectedness of the many life issues. I have always liked that image, taken from the tunic Jesus wore for which the soldiers cast lots, because they did not want to tear it. Issues such as poverty, racism, nativism, unequal access to good education and decent jobs, the physical environment as well as the treatment of elderly, handicapped and terminally ill persons, are

all included in the fabric of the seamless garment. We should not rip out some issues from the pro-life garment and ignore or even oppose others. Rather, we should give moral support to those working on issues that surpass our own time and inclinations.

I would argue that the seamless garment has a hem. The hem keeps the garment from fraying at the edges; it keeps it together. That hem is respect for the physical life of every person. Other issues, as important as they are, are irrelevant if the person is dead. That is preeminently true for the unborn child, who has not yet had a chance to break into the world and who lacks a voice to protest attacks on his or her life. If we oppose the death penalty for those convicted of heinous crimes, so that they may have time to repent and be saved, all the more should we oppose the taking of a tiny child's life, who has committed no crime and is defenseless. A person who is mentally or physically handicapped or terminally ill also deserves our protection. Euthanasia and its cousin, assisted suicide, are not respectful of the person as such, even if that person wants to exit life now. Respect for the inherent value of the person and loving care are what each vulnerable person needs, as I have witnessed in hospices.

Before ending, I must mention two other issues that directly affect how we view other people: racism and nativism. I heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speak when I was in college. He advocated for justice not just for African Americans but for all people being oppressed by powerful forces of hatred and self-interest. His doctrine of non-violence as the morally right method for promoting social and political change was thoroughly Christian and led me to take part in civil rights sit-ins and educational efforts to overcome racism. Sadly, racism still exists in our society. Change that lasts will come from people who let their minds and hearts be converted to God's way of looking at us: a beautiful mosaic in which the content of our character is far more important than the color of our skin. In society generally and in our Church, we have to recognize where racism still hurts people and take appropriate actions to eliminate it.

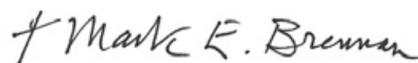
With respect to nativism – the social heresy that immigrants do not deserve the respect and rights that the native-born do – I have spent many years working with immigrants from around the world, especially Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, the Philippines, Korea and Vietnam. They are every bit as good as native-born Americans and, with their youth, their customs, their skills and their willingness to do the work many native-born do not want to do, they contribute considerably to our national life. It is as wrong to despise other people because of where they come from as it is to look down on persons because of their race.

Reasonable people can differ on how our country should handle immigration, but it is appalling how long it takes to come to the United States legally: according to a Cato Institute study (Policy Analysis # 873, June 18, 2019), it took a Mexican-born sibling of a US citizen twenty years from 1998 to apply for a permanent resident visa, while persons from some other countries waited even longer. Such long delays in immigrating legally increase the pressure on some persons to come illegally when facing starvation, rampant violence or religious or political harassment at home. We need immigration reform. Meanwhile, our faith teaches us to respect and treat the stranger fairly, regardless of his or her origin.

The seamless garment of life issues was sewn by our Creator, who has given us a beautiful, bountiful world in which to live together – "our common home," as Pope Francis reminds us, where we should live in peace. God wants us to cherish one another, as He cherishes us. That is why we must engage in the struggle to preserve or restore the fundamental rights that allow human beings to live and flourish: the born and the unborn, the fully functioning and the handicapped, persons of different races and those from different countries.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, a Jewish woman, appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe to a Mexican peasant, Juan Diego, in 1531 to show compassion to the people of our hemisphere, whom her Son had saved but who did not yet know it. Her prayers brought healing to Juan Diego's uncle, who was gravely ill, and gave hope to millions of Mexicans who put their faith in Christ. Her example of reaching out to others is a model for us as we work together on the great life issues of our day. Let us call on her often to intercede before her Son, the Lord of Life, that our efforts to respect, protect and enhance the lives of all people may bear fruit in peace and justice.

Faithfully in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Diocesan Official Appointments:

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

Msgr. Eugene S. Ostrowski, V.G., has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Msgr. Dean G. Borgmeyer, V.F., has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Msgr. Joseph Peterson has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025. He has also been appointed to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

Very Rev. Leonard A. Smith, V.F., has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Father Sebastian E. Devasya has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Father Carlos Melocoton has been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus has been elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective Dec. 31, 2020, and terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

Very Rev. James R. DeViese, Jr., J.C.L., J.V., has been elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective Dec. 31, 2020, and terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

Very Rev. John Ledford, V.F., has been appointed to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

Father Leon Alexander has been elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective Dec. 31, 2020, and terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

Father James Conyers has been elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective Dec. 31, 2020, and terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

Father John Rice has been re-elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective Dec. 31, 2020, and terminating Dec. 31, 2023.

With the approval of Archbishop Dominic Lumon of Imphal, India, **Father Joseph M. Konikattil** is appointed pastor of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont, effective immediately. His place of residence is not affected. He has also been appointed to a five-year term as a member of the College of Consultors. His term began on Dec. 31, 2020, and will expire on Dec. 31, 2025.

Deacon Raymond Godwin is appointed Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese, effective immediately. This appointment is made in addition to his duties as permanent deacon at St. Brendan Parish in Elkins and St. Patrick Mission in Coalton, and as pastoral associate at St. Anne Parish in Webster Springs.

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Lenten Guidelines

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

Lent begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and ends with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021.

This year, Lent looks a little different as we are still amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Therefore, it is important that we continue to practice social distancing, the wearing of masks, sanitizing, and employ safety precautions.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR ALL CATHOLICS

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

ASH WEDNESDAY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

On January 12, the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments (Holy See) issued the following statement: Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic

The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.



Mount Calvary Cemetery

Wheeling, W.Va.

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

We will be conducting our Spring clean-up at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling, W.Va., weather permitting, **beginning March 1 and concluding March 15.**

All items will be removed throughout the entire cemetery (graves and mausoleums).

Items in vases on the graves will be removed too.

Please remove any items you wish to keep by February 28.

After February 28 all items will be removed.

Please do not place any items in the cemetery until March 16th.

Further information is available at

Mount Calvary Cemetery Office by calling (304) 242-0460.



Copies of the rules and regulations are available at Mount Calvary Cemetery's Main Office.

Burial of the faithful and care for their final Catholic resting places with dignity, honor and respect.

Mount Calvary offers grave space, mausoleum crypts, niche space and a full line of monuments, grave markers, benches and cameos.

WV Catholic Schools Expand Partnership with Universities to Benefit Mind, Body

By Joyce Bibey

WHEELING—The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston announced an expanded partnership with Wheeling University and Franciscan University of Steubenville that provides innovative education strategies to benefit students across the state of West Virginia academically and physically.

The diocesan schools initiated the original partnership last summer with universities for a remote one-on-one or group setting tutoring program that would be available to all Catholic schools in West Virginia. For 2021, the program continued and also extends to enrich students mentally and physically through a wellness program set up through the WU School of Physical Therapy.

Dr. Carrie Abraham, Clinical Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at WU, is excited about the opportunity for her students and the diocesan school students; and sees it as a win-win. She added the material WU PT is providing promotes physical activity and mobility in the children which as we know has many physical, psychological and emotional benefits.

“Our physical therapy students participate in service-learning experiences at the local, regional and international levels,” Abraham said. “During the time of COVID restrictions, we have had limited access to our community partners on all levels of our service-learning program which has required some creative thinking in order to provide our students with educational experiences necessary to meet curricular needs. When this opportunity was proposed to us, it seemed to be a great fit. Our Doctor of Physical Therapy students could provide education to and promote mobility in school age children and support the parochial school classroom teachers at the same time.”

In conjunction with WU faculty small groups of PT students created class instruction on a recorded video platform for use by the DWC Catholic school students in compliance with the WVDE Wellness Standards K-12. The curriculum categories are flexibility/car-

diovascular; Strength; and Balance/Coordination.

“For the children in the classrooms, the videos promote physical activity and are geared towards the specific physical development of the

child in their respective grade level,” she said. “The videos also provide a means for teachers to promote physical activity at times when face to face classroom interaction is limited. The benefits of phys-

ical activity for all ages are well known, but especially now, physical activity for young people who are social isolated can be a mental health boost as much as it is a physical one — and that is so important right

now.”
The program also reinforces the significance physical therapy mindfulness in our community.

“This opportunity will help
See “Schools” on Page 17



CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.cchsknights.org



CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org



MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL
www.weirtonmadonna.org



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
www.notredamewv.org



PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.parkersburgcatholic.com



ST JOSEPH CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.stjosephhs.org



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL
www.corpuschristiwheeling.com



FAIRMONT CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL
www.fairmontcatholic.com



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH SCHOOL
www.olofps.org



OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL
www.olpschool.org



PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
www.pceswv.org



SACRED HEART GRADE SCHOOL
www.shgs.us



WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop and share their God-given gifts and talents.



SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.sspcatholic.org



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CENTRAL CATHOLIC
www.stfrancismorgantown.com



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL
www.sdfsbeckley.org



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL
www.sfswv.com



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.stjosephgs.org



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
www.sjswv.org



SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER GRADE SCHOOL
www.weirtonstjoseph.net



SAINT MARY'S CENTRAL SCHOOL
www.stmaryswv.org



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL
www.stmikesparishschool.org



SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL
www.stpatswv.org



SAINT PAUL SCHOOL
www.weirtonstpauls.org



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH SCHOOL
www.stvincentschool.org

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS VISIT US AT WWW.WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG

Students Enjoy Catholic Schools Week Fun



Courtesy Photos

Clockwise from top: Father Douglas Ondeck celebrates Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Patrick School in Weston; students at Our Lady of Fatima Parish School in Huntington carry food boxes for Facing Hunger Food Bank; and a student at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg creates a thank you card for first responders.

By Colleen Rowan

School Masses, service projects, as well as silly hat and pajama days, and parties marked the celebration of Catholic Schools Week all over the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Kids dressed up as what they want to be when they grow up and as their favorite teachers and priests as they celebrated their Catholic schools, which are rooted in a Christ-centered environment, focusing on academic excellence and service to others.

Many of the diocese's Catholic schools participated in national One-Day of Giving to raise funding. Special days during the week were also dedicated to a theme such as patriotic day at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown. Students dressed in red, white, and blue and made Valentine cards for Military personnel and veterans to thank them for their service. The cards will be sent to the local VA hospital for distribution before Valentine's Day. Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg had America Monday with students wearing red, white, and blue



as well. They made cards for first responders.

Thrid-graders at Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston held the Pennies for People service project to benefit Sojourners Shelter for Women & Families and WV Health Right. Middle school students at Our Lady of Fatima Parish School in Huntington participated in a service project for Facing Hunger Food Bank. Organization representative Bill Brown visited the kids and explained the food bank's "Backpack program" of medically indicated food boxes.

Mass with the new pastor of St. Patrick School in Weston, Father Douglas Ondeck, kicked off the special week for the kids there who also heard from sixth-grader Kara Determa sharing with the congregation why she loves St. Patrick School. At St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley, students showed kindness for one another through different activities.

These are just a few of the ways the diocese's Catholic schools celebrated the special week.

To learn more about Catholic schools in West Virginia, see the ads on Pages 6 and 17 of this issue.

From the Desk of Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

Department of Catholic Schools • www.WVCatholicSchools.org



WV Catholic Schools Applaud Accolades as We Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

National Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate. We know things will be a bit different due to the pandemic, but it will not contain our pride. Now is the perfect time to applaud our school community and the impressive accomplishments we have worked so hard to achieve.

Our 24 Catholic schools - 18, faith leaders, and families to nurture high achieving and morally responsible young people.

While times have been uncertain our goals remain very clear. Whether in the classroom or remote we are steadfast in presenting challenging and engaging academics complimented with life and leadership lessons in empathy, morals, responsibility, service, and faith.

Our schools have gone above and beyond with safety protocols based on the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control, and state and local health departments, so we could maintain a five day a week plan. When remote learning was mandated by the state our principals reported full attendance with faculty requiring participation and accountability among students. Principals continued to have high expectations of their faculty; and in turn teachers did not settle for bare minimum work or ease grading to a pass-fail curriculum.

We require standardized assessments not once, but three times a year in our Catholic schools to measure our students' growth, define areas that need improvement, and identify strengths in order for our educators to develop the best course of action for student success.

It is that persistence that guides our students to surpass their own expectations. The Class of 2020 in our six high schools were offered more than \$28.4 million in academic and athletic scholarships. That's nearly \$14 million more than the previous year thanks in part to the encouragement of our teachers, counselors, principals, coaches, and priests.

As a school system we remain forward thinking and are committed to high standards as we plan ahead. We have embarked on an intentional growth planning process in 2020-2021. In doing so our schools have been able to honor and reflect on the past and plan for the future. Each school's comprehensive plan strategically focuses on the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS). All 24 schools' plans center around four pillars:

- Mission and Catholic Identity
- Governance and Leadership
- Academic Excellence
- Operational Vitality

This growth process is part of our national accreditation. The diocesan intentional growth plan will reflect the individual school plans. It is our priority to continually improve Catholic education across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

We are not only making history, but also writing our story of adaptability, perseverance, and unwavering faith every step along this journey. As I have said countless times, I am inspired by our schools, their advisory boards, and parishes they love and value each one of our students.

May God bless you always and in all ways.

Peace,

Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.
West Virginia Catholic Schools Superintendent

St. Bernadette's Youth Group Stands up for Unborn Children's Right to Life

By Colleen Rowan

On a cold and busy January afternoon, 14 members of the youth group from St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville and chaperones gathered with Father Bill Kuchinsky, to pray in front of "Hagerstown Reproductive Health," where abortions are performed.

They gathered that day to stand up for unborn children's right to life. They prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. They prayed for the "mothers and their babies, for the abortionist and his staff, for the sidewalk counselors in their baby- and soul-saving work," Father Kuchinsky said, noting that more than 500 babies have been saved by these sidewalk counselors over the years. The group also prayed for the crisis pregnancy center next door, and for all women who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

During their time of witness, Father Kuchinsky spoke of the sidewalk coun-

seling, of "the efforts of the good people of the area to fight this evil." He called attention to the crisis pregnancy center, "which provides mothers with real choices."

Their hour of prayer and witness closed with the praying of the rosary.

"This was offered in the context of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to civil rights, and peaceful/non-violent protest to bring change," Father Kuchinsky said of the gathering, which was held in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

"On this busy street were many honks of the horns from passing vehicles with waves, thumbs up, etc. Some of the young people would acknowledge the support of motorists with waves..." Father Kuchinsky said. "Those walking by seemed friendly, with one lady stopping to talk. She fully approved of our efforts!"

Father Kuchinsky noted in his brief talk to the youth: "We are here be-



Courtesy Photo

Father Bill Kuchinsky and members of the youth group and chaperones from St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville pray in front of "Hagerstown Reproductive Health," where abortions are performed.



Courtesy Photo

At the prayer gathering in Hagerstown, brothers Jake and Nate Lathwell hold signs with pictures of family members, including their little sister Zoey and younger brothers Anthony and Dylan who have Down syndrome.

cause God remembers these children, and so we do not forget. We bear witness to God's love for the preborn. Abortion kills babies and hurts women."

Also on the trip were members of the parish's Lathwell family—Kevin and his sons Jake, Zach, and Nate. The brothers held signs bearing pictures of their mother Cindy and father with their little sister Zoey and younger brothers Anthony and Dylan, who have Down syndrome.

"These children are a great joy to the parish!" Father Kuchinsky said. "Beautiful. Unique. Loved."

He went on to say that with genetic testing, some parents "screen" for Down syndrome.

"The percent of these babies lost through abortion is huge," he said. "Some say as much as 90 percent of these wonderful children are lost."

The Lathwells have been participating in the March for Life for 15 years. "I have

been to the March for Life four or five years," Jake said. "I went this year to the abortion clinic near us to be a voice for those who don't have a voice."

"I have been to the March for Life three times, but since we could not go this year we went to the abortion clinic to pray," Nate said.

For a few of the youth group members, this was their first trip to pray in Hagerstown. This was the case for 10-year-old Eric Canby, who said, "Abortion is wrong." He encouraged people to pray, "instead of yelling and using physical violence to stop abortions." Ashlyn Canby, 13, attended the March for Life last year, but this was her first trip to Hagerstown to pray at the center where abortions are performed.

"There are more options than just abortion," she said, "like the pregnancy center next door, and adoption."

"And I think it is nice

that we prayed for the women who needed prayers," she said.

Fifteen-year-old Joselyn Canby attended the March for Life two years in a row, and this was her first trip to pray in Hagerstown.

"It was peaceful," she said, "and I enjoyed praying for the women considering abortion and the child(ren) they are carrying."

All of the youth group members who participated are committed to the pro-life cause.

"Children get it!" Father Kuchinsky said. "When they see a model of an eight-(to) 10-week-old fetus they know what it is, a baby. Instinctively, our little ones know it is wrong to harm a child such as this. To hear from the families and their church is important as the public schools and 'the world' do not teach the truth of our common humanity or even the biological fact about conception and fetal development."



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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

February 5, 2021

Dear faithful of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,

I am pleased to present to you a report on the independent audit of the Diocese's financial status for fiscal 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020). The full report can be found online at dwc.org.

The 2019-2020 fiscal year reminds me of the rollercoaster rides I took as a youth: lots of ups and downs. I was installed as the ninth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston on August 22, 2019 in a cathedral full of the faithful. By March, 2020, we had to suspend public Masses throughout the Diocese because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We re-opened our parishes for Masses again in late May, 2020, but with a variety of protective measures that restricted attendance but allowed those who could come to worship safely. The pandemic drastically affected diocesan revenue, as it did that of parishes, but Catholic Charities West Virginia never stopped, helping record numbers of suddenly unemployed and distressed persons and families. I was charged by the Holy See in Rome to assist Bishop Michael Bransfield in making amends for his wrongful behavior; in July, 2020, the Holy See informed him and us of the amends it considered acceptable in this difficult matter. A year-long rollercoaster ride indeed!

Looking more closely at diocesan finances, the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in large losses in the Diocese's stock portfolio (the stock market is also a rollercoaster!) and in its mineral revenue as oil prices fell. Most dioceses depend on the parishes to support diocesan operations but in West Virginia the financial support given by parishes to the Diocese (called the cathedraicum) is relatively minor. Even that funding has dropped considerably during the pandemic. The three Pastoral Centers (St. John XXIII in Charleston, Mary, Help of Christians, in Huttonsville, and Priestfield in Kearneysville) had to be shut down and the income from them disappeared. Meanwhile, struggling parishes and schools looked to the Diocese for help.

In response to this financially perilous situation, the Diocese tightened its belt by combining some departments, reducing staff by attrition and offering early retirement to eligible employees and by permanently closing two of the Pastoral Centers (only Charleston remains open). We also restructured our health insurance plan to lessen its cost to the Diocese and to make it more accessible to parish, school and other Church employees. That new plan, however, only took effect in January, 2021.

Learning that religious organizations were eligible for the federal government's Payroll Protection Program, the Diocese applied for that relief and received it, not only for diocesan operations but for most of its parishes and schools. There was no reason for our Church employees, who pay taxes, to lose their jobs and possibly their homes when the government was making funds available precisely to keep people at work.

In contrast, now that diocesan revenues have rebounded somewhat, mainly owing to more favorable stock earnings, and with some of our cost-cutting measures taking effect, I believe the Diocese need not apply for PPP assistance under the latest federal relief bill. Some parishes, schools and Catholic Charities do need that help, however, and the Diocese will help those who qualify apply for it.

Another source of income for the Diocese, its parishes and allied programs is the annual Catholic Sharing Appeal. It was set to launch in March, 2020, when the pandemic hit. To help soften the financial blow that hit many parishes and schools at the start of the pandemic, I suspended the CSA and had the Diocese pay for the initial protective and sanitization supplies needed to safely re-open our facilities later in the year. Revenue from the CSA is shared by the Diocese and the parishes, with the parishes' share coming largely in the first half of the fiscal year and the Diocese's share coming mostly in the last quarter of the fiscal year. That means that the parishes got their share of

the 2019 CSA but the Diocese lost its share of the 2020 CSA, owing to its suspension. Without 2020 CSA revenue, the Diocese could not give an additional CSA-related gift of \$200,000 to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities did receive help from the PPP, which mitigated the loss. The Diocese also sponsored a Giving Tuesday event in early December, 2020, that raised \$1,244,435, most of it for our parishes in accord with donors' instructions.

Wheeling University (formerly Wheeling Jesuit U.) is the only residential Catholic institution of higher learning in West Virginia. Its land and buildings are owned by the Diocese. It is important that we maintain and strengthen it to serve our Catholic people. Under its new leadership, enrollment has improved, course offerings have increased and physical plant issues have been addressed, but owing to unsettled conditions inherited from the former University administration, it still needs financial assistance from the Diocese, as a public university needs financial support from the state. Archbishop Lori, as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese, made \$2,000,000 available to the school for fiscal 2020; having consulted the Diocesan Finance Council, I promised the University an additional \$5,000,000 over five years in unequal installments. Apparently a "promise to give" must be reported as a liability in the full amount in the fiscal year in which it is made. But I assure you the amount given to the University in fiscal 2020 was \$2,000,000.

During fiscal 2020, we were still dealing with the effect of the scandal surrounding the former Bishop. As the audit reports, The Bishop's Fund was dissolved and its remaining assets given to the Diocese, which used them to purchase Wheeling Hospital's interest in Diocesan Real Estate, thus formally separating the two entities. The Diocese sold the former Bishop's residence for \$1,200,000 and cancelled the lease on his retirement home in Wheeling (the Holy See had told him not to live in this Diocese in retirement). In addition, along with stipulating that the Bishop accept a much-reduced retirement package, the Holy See ordered him to pay back \$441,000 of the diocesan funds he had used for personal expenses. That payment and the proceeds from the sale of the residence were put in a restricted fund for victims of sexual abuse and harassment (listed in the audit as "Designated - Victims Outreach" under "Net Assets"). Money cannot heal emotional and religious wounds, however, so we must keep praying and reaching out to victims and others affected by sexual harassment and abuse.

Building on Archbishop Lori's promise for greater transparency, I want you to know how the funds at the Diocese's disposal are being used. Look over the numbers and graphs and the FAQs. I hope those materials and this letter create a clear picture for you.

Whether directly or indirectly, diocesan income supports the mission of the Church: to proclaim Jesus Christ and his Good News of salvation to all who are willing to listen. If we were as poor as some dioceses in the world, we could still proclaim that Gospel and its Lord; but having some financial resources enables us to do so with teachers and priests whom we financially support, in buildings which we put up and maintain, while running programs such as youth retreats and community pantries that we subsidize. Money is not the root of all evils: the love of money is (I Timothy 6:10). In love we will seek to use the financial resources we have in order to do good to God's people and others who cross our paths.

May God bless and enrich with His grace you and your loved ones!

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

The Financial Audit on Pages 10 & 11 is a separate document with this issue of The Catholic Spirit. To view Pages 10 & 11, refer to the original e-mail of this issue and click the link "Financial Audit," or visit thecatholicspiritwv.org and click "Downloadable Spirit."

PARISH ASSESSMENTS

5 Things You Should Know

What exactly happens to the money you donate at your parish on Sunday?

Where does the money go?

How is it spent?

Here are five important things you should know about the Diocesan Assessment and what it means at your parish.

THE NUMBERS

1

91 cents of every dollar (or more in many instances) stays right in your parish. The Diocese does, however, assess some collections in the parish.

6% of the Diocesan Assessment is used to fund the Priest Health and Retirement Fund (PHRA). This money does not come to the Diocese but rather is allocated to a separate entity. It is used to support our priests as they age and leave active ministry and enter retirement.

3% of the assessable income is Cathedraticum. This is what is used to provide operational support for the Diocese. The assessment in our Diocese is one of the lowest in the country. What we receive in assessments that the Diocese collects is not alone sufficient to sustain Diocesan operations. The 3 percent is returned to parishes in need, such as mission parishes or parishes that have difficulty covering parish operations through their collections. The assessment is also used to support Catholic Charities West Virginia and Catholic Education.

DEDUCTIONS

2

Just like with taxes, there are deductions referenced above. Under the current structure, parishes are able to maximize their offertory income by taking advantage of the following deductions:

- The first \$100,000 of offertory and memorial contributions are exempt from the 3% and 6% assessments.

YOUR OFFERTORY DONATION

3% - Cathedraticum

"Amount of parish funds assessed annually by the Diocese."

6% - Priest Retirement Fund

"Non-Diocesan Held"

91% - Stays with Parish



- The first \$150,000 of parish support given to the school is deducted from assessable income.
- The first \$50,000 of parish support given to a Catholic high school is deducted from assessable income.
- The first \$100,000 of total bequests received in a calendar year are exempt.
- The first \$750,000 of principal and interest paid on a DWC or bank loan is deducted from assessable income.
- Approved capital campaign donations are exempt from assessment.

These deductions are a great benefit to parishes as they reduce the amount parishes are assessed and increase the resources available for parish needs.

HOW IT IS SPENT

3

Cathedraticum is given right back to parishes. Currently, only about 75% of parishes across the Diocese are able to pay Cathedraticum. As noted in the recently released audit report, the Diocese collected \$306,188 in Cathedraticum for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. The receipts from cathedraticum combined with Diocesan Funds subsidized parishes and schools at an expense of \$5,921,362. None of the Cathedraticum collected by the Diocese is used to fund Chancery operations. Cathedraticum is also not used to pay legal fees or settlements.

2ND COLLECTIONS

4

Second collections are not assessed. These funds are collected for specific agencies outside the Diocese and the parish. Unless conducted by the parish for debt reduction, building funds, etc., the second collection is strictly a pass through the funds are not retained by the parish or the Diocese, but forwarded to the appropriate agency.

SCHOOLS

5

School funds and fundraisers are NOT assessed by the Diocese. Tuition payments, donations to schools and school fundraising revenues are not assessed by the Diocese in any form. Any Catholic Schools donation goes directly to the school and is used solely by the school for the benefit of students.

**To review the
Independent Auditors' Report,
Audited Financial Statements,
and Notes to
Financial Statements
please visit
www.dwc.org**

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the 2020 Financial Audit

This document will help answer some of the questions you may have regarding the 2020 financial audit that were not addressed in Bishop Mark Brennan's accompanying letter dealing with the Diocese's finances or in the audit's accompanying footnotes.

—Cathedraticum income is down significantly from the prior year. Did the Diocese lower cathedraticum rates for parishes?

The reduction in income was due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assessment rates for the Diocese remained unchanged from the previous year with 91 cents of every dollar (or more in many instances) staying right in your parish. The Diocese does assess some (more on this later) collections in the parish.

6% of the Diocesan Assessment is used to support the Priest Health and Retirement Fund (PHRA). This money is solely used to support our priests as they age and leave active ministry in retirement.

3% of the assessable income is Cathedraticum used to provide operational support for a Diocese. Our assessment is one of the lowest in the country. This assessment does not operate our Diocese. Instead, it is entirely returned to parishes in need, such as mission parishes or parishes in need of support for priest's wages and benefits if collections are not sufficient to sustain operations of the parish. None of the Cathedraticum collected by the Diocese is used to fund chancery operations.

—Income listed as "Use of Facilities" is also lower this year. Can this be explained?

The Diocese does garner income from the use of various facilities across the state—such as pastoral centers. Due to the pandemic, these facilities were forced to close for an extended period.

It is important to note, in his commitment to prudent financial stewardship of the Diocesan Church, Bishop Brennan announced last June that operations at the Mary Help of Christian Pastoral Center in Huttonsville and the Priest Field Pastoral Center would cease on July 31, 2020. This will be reflected in the 2021 financial audit.

—There is a significant reduction in expenses listed under the "Parish and School Deposit and Loan Program." Has the Diocese reduced its support of parishes and schools?

The reduction in expenses of the parish and school deposit and loan Program is due to a decrease in bad debt expense related to notes/loans receivable. The allowance for uncollect-

ible notes/loans receivable is an estimate and does vary each year based on several factors which include new amounts borrowed, amounts paid each year on existing loans, assistance provided as subsidies instead of loans, and offertory changes.

Assistance provided as subsidies instead of notes/loans is evidenced by an increase of nearly \$600,000 in the Statement of Activities/Expenses/Parish and School Subsidy line item.

—I notice an increase in expenses under "Outside Entity Support." Can you explain?

Expenses increased under this line item due to the contribution to the West Virginia Catholic Foundation from Mount Calvary Cemetery. The "Mount Calvary Perpetual Care Fund" was created to help provide ongoing operational support to the cemetery for years to come. The funds were garnered from a mineral lease bonus on cemetery property.

—I've noticed a new line item under the "Liabilities" section on the Statement of Financial Position—"Loan Payable." Can you detail this line item of \$1,996,372?

This represents the federal Paycheck Protection Program loan received by the Diocese. As the program itself indicates, it was designed to provide support to businesses, including non-profit organizations, adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. As its title indicates, it was designed to ensure continuing paychecks to affected employees of such organizations, and the Diocese applied these funds in that manner and kept its employees on its payroll and provided health insurance to them throughout the covered period even though facilities were closed for weeks.

The Diocese intends to follow the guidelines of the program and submit its application for loan forgiveness as it has continued to provide payroll and benefits to its employees throughout the pandemic, as well as other qualifying expenses. It will appropriately complete SBA Form 3510 which will provide the Small Business Administration with the required information to determine forgiveness, just like every other non-profit organization.

While some parishes and schools within the Diocese may be considering filing for additional PPP loans under the recently passed CARES Act, the Diocese currently has no plans to file for a second round of PPP loans for Chancery staff.



Catholic Charities
West Virginia
Mission Moment

Supporting Relatives as Parents in Ohio County

By Susan Hollis, Catholic Charities West Virginia Diocesan Director of Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Over 7,000 children across West Virginia are formally being cared for by a person other than a biological parent. When this happens, there are so many hurdles to cross for both the child and the new guardian. Physical, emotional, financial, legal, and cultural barriers to becoming successful new parents abound.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Relatives as Parents (RAP) program seeks to support these new families and give participants the resources they need to be informed, effective, and responsible parents. The RAP program is run through the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (CCNC) in Wheeling and is funded by the James B. Chambers Memorial Foundation and the Robinson Parlin Trust Fund.

Monthly meetings, prior to the coronavirus pandemic, included guest speakers, group support and sharing time for the adults, supervised crafts and conversations for the kids, and a catered meal.

"All of the speakers were so beneficial," said Christine Vi-relli-Kuhens. She and her husband Aaron care for their granddaughter Destiny. "So many of us didn't know the resources available, but RAP really guided us to it."

Among the guest speakers, Christine mentioned the representative from the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) seemed to have the greatest impact for the group; the representative gave an overview of DHHR processes and then took time with each family privately to answer personal questions about the system.

These meetings also build community among the participants and allow time to open up and understand their struggles together. "We all became parents from different circumstances and sets of issues," Christine said. After



Courtesy Photo
Prior to COVID-19 Christine Vi-relli-Kuhens's granddaughter Destiny hugs CCNC Coordinator Diana Bell at the 2019 Christmas party.

breaking the ice, "we came together as a group to support each other."

Material drop-offs and support over phone and email has sustained the program as COVID presented many difficulties.

CCWVa will continue the RAP program with a new set of families this year, using a mix of virtual and in-person meetings following proper social distancing, mask wearing and hand-washing protocols.

The program runs from February through December and accepts 10 families each year with no income guidelines for the participants. CCWVa is seeking participants in Ohio County for the 2021 sessions now. Contact Diana Bell at 304-232-7157 or dbell@ccwva.org if you are interested.

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

Catholic Charities West Virginia
*Shining a Light
on Hope*
VIRTUAL GALA
Save the Date
March 16, 2021

Life ...

Cont'd from Page 3

As Barrett noted during her confirmation hearings, Archbishop Naumann said, "the Roe and Doe decisions are far from having the features of settled law as evidenced by the many statutes passed in state legislatures annually testing and challenging the assumptions of Roe and Doe."

He offered a refutation of the notion held by some Christians that the Bible is "silent on the morality of abortion."

"What these Christians ignore is how frequently the Scriptures speak about the wonder, awe and beauty of life in the womb. The Bible speaks of children as a blessing. In fact, fruitfulness is recognized as a great gift from God," Archbishop Naumann said.

He cited passages from the Scripture readings used at the Mass: Isaiah's declaration that "for now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb"; the psalmist's proclamation that "truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb"; and Luke's Gospel account of Mary meeting her kinswoman Elizabeth, who tells the Blessed Mother, "For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant of my womb leaped for joy."

EWTN was one of the many television outlets showing the Mass live; a livestream also was carried on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops.

The number of those watching the Mass on the basilica's YouTube channel topped out at 1,189 at the end of Archbishop Naumann's homily — a far cry from the 10,000-plus who would ordinarily cram into the nation's largest Catholic church for the vigil's opening Mass. But by 8 the following morning, YouTube had recorded 9,540 views.

The concelebrants — Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the military archdiocese — did not take part in the procession.

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Retreat Offers Men Chance to Consider Priesthood

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—The third annual Men’s Priestly Discernment Retreat will be held March 20 at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. Presented by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Vocations Office, the retreat is for college-age men and older.

Each year the retreat hosts about 10 men from around the state open to reflecting upon God’s will in their lives. The retreat will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and will consist of Mass, Adoration, prayer, reflections on the priesthood, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance.

“The most important thing a man can take away from this retreat is to be open to the will of God in his life.”

—Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations

“The most important thing a man can take away from this retreat is to be open to the will of God in his life,” said Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the diocese. “We so often want to plan our lives according to what we want, but can often forget to ask what God wants of us. If we follow God’s will for us in our lives, then we will of course be the most satisfied that we can be in this life.”

Joining the retreatants will be Bishop Mark Brennan; Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington; and seminarians. The bishop will celebrate Mass and give a talk on priestly celibacy. There will also be additional talks on prayer, obedience, and celibacy.

For men who may be considering priesthood, Father Crenwelge said, it is

important for them to come together in community with other discerning men.

“So often when a person is discerning, he can feel alone,” he said. “After all, the priesthood is not the most common ‘career path’ people take. It’s a supernatural calling. Therefore, for men to be around other men who are being drawn toward the same vocation—well, that is encouraging to them. It shows that they are not abnormal.”

Father Crenwelge, who is also pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown and director of Campus Ministry for West Virginia University, said that since the retreat was launched three years ago the diocese has had at least one man apply to be a seminarian each year after attending the retreat.

Seminarian Tyler Boyd applied to the diocese after going on the retreat last year.

“The discernment retreat was an opportunity to rethink the direction I was going with the Lord, an opportunity to grow in a deeper desire for his call and not my own,” Boyd said. “The Lord tells us that he is with us wherever we go, but I learned from this retreat that he was calling me to return home, to serve his people, and to make him known and loved in my WV home.”

Father Crenwelge said he prays God’s graces may continue to pour through this retreat and encourage men to discern their vocation more seriously in seminary. Father Crenwelge encourages any single man who has often wondered if he is called to serve the church in a particular way to attend the retreat with an open heart and mind.

“To be a priest is an extraordinary life,” he said. “A priest’s ultimate role is to bring his flock to heaven. He lays down his life for them. What greater honor is there in life than that?”

For any men interested in attending, e-mail Rick Teachout at rteachout@dwc.org or call (304) 233-0880, ext. 442. See the ad on this page for more information.



You may find the answer at the

Men’s Priestly Discernment Retreat

Saturday, March 20

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center
Charleston, WV

For college-age young men
and older

Presented by the Vocations Office
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Do you desire a life of sacrifice and faithful service to God and His People? Do you desire to give yourself completely to God in a life of consecration and commitment to building up the kingdom of God here in West Virginia? Perhaps the Lord is calling you to be a Priest of Jesus Christ in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston!

The annual diocesan Men’s Priestly Discernment Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 20 at the Pope St. John XXIII Pastoral Center (100 Hodges Rd, Charleston, WV 25314) from 10AM – 5PM. This event is open to men 18 years and older who are simply open to reflecting on God’s will for them in their lives. The day will consist of Holy Mass, prayer, reflections on the priesthood, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession.

For any men interested in attending, email Rick Teachout at rteachout@dwc.org or call (304) 233-0880, ext. 442.

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Diocesan Worship and Sacraments Director to Lead Lenten Zoom Series

By Colleen Rowan

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, Bernadette McMasters Kime, director of the Office of Worship and Sacraments for the diocese, will facilitate a Notre Dame Bible Study via Zoom.

Participants can join Kime for "Journey with The Saint John's Bible," a Free online series by the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. The series is available for anyone in the diocese.

According to promotional materials, "Participants will explore the church's tradition of reading Scripture and depicting it in art, explore several spectacular illuminations from the St. John's Bible—a hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible crafted in the 21st-century, and take a deep dive into the Scripture passages those illuminations depict." Participants will also learn how to pray with Scripture and art through guided experiences of lectio and visio

divina and have the opportunity to grow in faith with others.

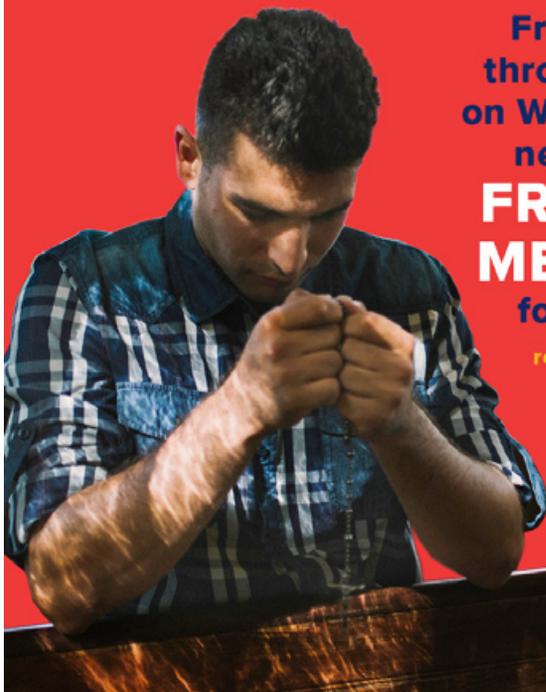
"Last year when we were in lockdown mode," Kime said, "I participated in this program during Lent. It was extremely fascinating, informative, and it gave me time each week to slow down from my busy life. This year, the University of Notre Dame asked me if I would be willing to facilitate a cohort from our diocese."

Kime said what she found most rewarding about this series is that University of Notre Dame professors present informative short videos about the St. John's Bible and Scripture in general. She also noted the spiritual exercise visio divina which was new to her.

"Instead of meditating on words of scripture," she said, "you are invited to use art work as a part of prayer."

Those interested in participating must sign up by Feb. 8. For more information or to sign up, contact Kime by at bkime@dwc.org

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Schools ...

Cont'd from Page 6

our students in seeing that their skills and knowledge can be impactful outside of the traditional clinic setting," she said. "It highlights the role that they have in the realm of population and community health. As health care professionals, they can assist their local community and the broader community at large with needs as they arise by thinking creatively and filling the gap with services that fall within their scope of practice. We have seen the evolution of telehealth and virtual communication explode over the course of the past year which demonstrates to us that we are no longer bound by traditional means of health care delivery. Students can see that engaging in community level health activities is just as important as the direct patient care they deliver in their practices."

Abraham said the pandemic has made us all think outside the box, "It has forced us to consider methods of achieving objectives that we might not ever have thought possible. And, what we are seeing in many cases is that our creative solutions can bring about unexpected positive results. And, even when they don't, those seemingly failed attempts teach us something. So, we reflect on them, grow from them and do better the next time!"

Talks between the universities and the WV Catholic schools began in June. Soon-to-be teachers at the two universities were then assigned to certain students, schools, and curriculum. The program has been flexible to allow students to meet virtually with their university mentors before school, during class breaks, and after school.

Terry DiPiero, director of curriculum and instruction said the remote tutoring program with the universities was first set up "to address any learning gaps that have occurred due to schools moving to remote instruction last March and continuing into the 2020-21 school year."

Additionally, DiPiero added, "Additional targeted instruction can be provided on an individual basis, and as a supplement to classroom instruction."

Susan Poyo, Ed. D., director of education at Franciscan University of Steubenville, said her students will be better prepared for a dual learning environment – virtual and in-person.

The program knocks down a lot of roadblocks that were necessary to fight the pandemic as safely as possible in the schools. The tutoring sessions are offered remotely by the future teachers to respect the diocesan schools' COVID-19 safety precautions, which strictly limit

people in the building to staff and students.

"Having the ability to bring in qualified, well prepared, and impressive students from both Wheeling University and Franciscan University on a virtual platform was the ideal fit," said Jennifer Hornyak, associate superintendent of technology for the diocese.

"Because our Catholic schools around the state were fortunate enough to attend school five days a week for most of the fall, and now for our K-8 schools, tutoring has been able to take place daily," Hornyak said.

The partnership proves that even in a pandemic, good things can arise, Sherri Theaker, Ph.D., director of education and accreditation coordinator at Wheeling University, emphasized, noting the remote tutoring "is a perfect way for preservice teachers to gain valuable experience by building relationships with PK-12 students, assessing student needs, designing instruction, and managing students in an online learning environment."

"This collaboration between our DPT program and schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is a wonderful example of how Wheel-

ing University works with the Diocese to provide educational assistance to young learners throughout the state. I am grateful to our physical therapy students for their creativity in preparing learning modules that will impact schools throughout the Diocese," said Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University.

Furthering the success of the program, according to DiPiero, all three partners are from faith filled institutions, "Which brings about a strong obligation to see and find the good in all circumstances and across our curriculum."



A Snapshot of Catholic Schools Moving Mountains

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SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

18 ELEMENTARY & 6 HIGH
SCHOOLS

20TH LARGEST WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL SYSTEM IN NUMBER OF STUDENTS

4,195 elementary & secondary students

11% of students represent minorities

Over 400 professional staff

8TH LARGEST WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL SYSTEM IN NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

13 counties are served by West Virginia Catholic Schools



The WV Catholic Schools' Class of 2020 received \$28.4 million in academic and athletic scholarships.

DIOCESAN APPEAL ASSISTANCE

The Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program (TAPS) awarded more than \$850,000 to Catholic school families in 2020.

Funds raised for West Virginia Catholic Schools through the diocesan annual giving program provide professional development for faculty and staff, online assessment and remote learning trainings, enrichment classes for faculty, school-based health programs, health screenings, healthcare access, and more.

West Virginia Catholic Schools provide exceptional academics in a Christ-centered environment, while nurturing responsibility, accountability, citizenship, and empathy. Our PK-12 focus is to encourage individual and critical thinking; deepen faith; build self-esteem; and develop a sound moral foundation rooted in the gospel. God is in our schools. Everything we do, choices we make, and plans we develop are prayerfully made with the best intentions of our students' success. The social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental well-being of each child is just as important to academic achievement. We lead with faith.

- Mrs. Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

West Virginia Catholic Schools remain forward thinking and committed to high standards. We have embarked on an intentional growth planning process. In doing so, each of our 24 schools were able to honor and reflect on the past and plan for the future. Each school will finalize a comprehensive plan strategically focused on the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS). All 24 schools' plans center around four pillars:

- Mission and Catholic Identity
- Governance and Leadership
- Academic Excellence
- Operational Vitality

This growth process is part of our ongoing accreditation through our national accrediting organization, Cognia. The diocesan intentional growth plan will reflect a strong combination of the individual school plans. It is our priority to continually improve Catholic education across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



West Virginia Catholic Schools follows the MAP (*Measures of Academic Progress*) practical testing protocol that tests our students not once a year, but three times. This assessment tool helps us measure individual student learning and growth at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year. We can then use this data to support individual student needs, educational plans, group learning, and advanced placement academics, so students can strive to reach their full academic potential. For more about the MAP Growth test, please visit: [www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/](http://WWW.NWEA.ORG/THE-MAP-SUITE/FAMILY-TOOLKIT/)

La Diócesis aumenta el papel de los laicos a través del Consejo Pastoral Diocesano

WHEELING — El Obispo Mark E. Brennan conversará con representantes laicos y religiosos de toda la diócesis, ya que ha restablecido el Consejo Pastoral Diocesano que el Obispo Joseph H. Hodges estableció originalmente en 1968.

El consejo ayudará al obispo Brennan a delinear y desarrollar prioridades, iniciativas y planes para cumplir con la misión de la Iglesia. La misión completa del consejo es quintuple.

1) Ayudar al Obispo, a través de consultas y cooperación, en el desarrollo de prioridades pastorales, iniciativas y planes para cumplir la misión de Jesucristo dentro de la Diócesis a la luz de sus circunstancias y recursos sociales, económicos, demográficos y culturales existentes;

2) Actuar como una voz auténtica y reflexiva del pueblo de Dios;

3) Proporcionar un foro honesto y abierto de diálogo y comunicación sobre asuntos pastorales entre el Obispo, laicos, religiosos y clérigos;

4) Colaborar con el Consejo Presbiteral, los Consejos Pastorales de la Parroquia y Vicariato, el liderazgo del Vicariato y las oficinas diocesanas para promover la misión de la Iglesia Diocesana;

5) Ser un signo visible de la unidad del pueblo de Dios en la Iglesia de Wheeling-Charleston.

A partir de 1968, el consejo cumplió un papel vital en la vida de la diócesis y la form-

ación espiritual de los fieles. Bajo la dirección del Reverendísimo Bernard W. Schmitt, séptimo obispo de Wheeling-Charleston, este consejo ayudó a formar los cuatro documentos principales del Noveno Sínodo de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston. Estos documentos están disponibles en el sitio web Diocesano.

El obispo Brennan señaló: "Espero tener un Consejo Pastoral Diocesano que pueda llamar mi atención sobre inquietudes e ideas para mejorar la vida y el trabajo espiritual y apostólico de la Diócesis y reaccionar a los planes y problemas que pueda plantear".

El Consejo Pastoral Diocesano incluye tres miembros electos del laicado de cada uno de los seis Vicariatos (regiones) de la Diócesis para un total de 18; más el Obispo Diocesano, el Vicario General, el Canciller de la Diócesis, el Vicario para el Clero, el Presidente del Consejo Presbiteral, el Delegado para la Vida Consagrada y varios miembros designados.

El proceso de elección de miembros laicos es el siguiente:

—Cada parroquia, con cualquier misión que tenga, elige a dos laicos para formar, con los elegidos de otras parroquias, un Consejo Vicariato.

—El Consejo del Vicariato luego elige a tres personas de su membresía para servir en el Consejo Pastoral Diocesano, convirtiendo a cada miembro en un miembro elegido entre

los fieles.

Las parroquias y los vicariatos de la diócesis llevaron a cabo sus elecciones a fines de 2020 con la selección de los siguientes miembros laicos:

—Vicariato de Beckley: Gina Boggess, Darleen Whelan, Jim Copolo

—Vicariato de Charleston: Mac Bailes, Kim Enders, Susan Bossie-Maddox

—Vicariato de Clarkburg: Jim Archer, Charlotte Vester-Velloso, Perri DeChristopher

—Vicariato de Martinburg: Paul Buede, Kathleen Brockett, Linda Abrahamian

—Vicariato de Parkerburg: Denise Laurine-Klug, Linda Nedeff, Colleen Newhart

—Vicariato de Ruedas: Kevin Britt, Jerod Buck, Denis Wilson

El obispo agregará miembros adicionales e incluirá un diácono de la diócesis, una persona de una de las comunidades religiosas que sirven en la diócesis y dos adultos jóvenes de la diócesis.

Monseñor Eugene Ostrowski, Vicario General y Presidente del Consejo Pastoral Diocesano, dijo que está "ansioso por trabajar con un grupo representativo de la Diócesis para planificar el futuro y abordar problemas importantes".

El grupo se reunirá tres veces al año y su primera reunión está programada para el 19 y 20 de febrero. La Carta del Consejo Pastoral Diocesano se puede encontrar en el sitio web diocesano.

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 Am-

biente 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.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Human Resources

Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire a Director of Human Resources, a full-time position based at the Chancery Building in Wheeling, West Virginia. Reporting to the Vicar General of the Diocese, the Director of Human Resources develops policy and directs and coordinates human resources activities such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training and employee services. Essential duties includes overseeing the employee onboarding system, providing data on wage and salary information, explaining policy directives to department managers, consulting with legal counsel on a regular basis regarding employment issues and immigration matters, managing records in compliance with law or governmental authorities, delivering presentations to department directors regarding human resources policies and practices, administering all benefit programs and government regulatory standards, and maintaining all records required by the Affordable Care Act, including all necessary ACA reporting requirements.

Qualification requirements include a Master's degree, 4-10 years of experience in an administrative position, expertise in federal and state employee legislation, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, ability to provide direction on personnel issues, familiarity with payroll databases and Microsoft Office suite, ability to work within a team environment and the successful candidate must adhere to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church and possess a clear sense of a Catholic Theology of work and compensation. Applications must be submitted on or before February 4, 2021. Applications may be directed to the Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Kitchen and Pantry Assistant

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Kitchen and Pantry Assistant in its Neighborhood Center in Wheeling. Duties include assisting in the kitchen and in other parts of the Center as assigned by the Neighborhood Center Coordinator. The Assistant is also responsible for dishwashing, cooking, cleaning, donation weighing and recording, freezer and stock maintenance, and pantry setup. The Assistant may also be responsible for driving the company vehicle to donation sites to pick up donations. Work schedule includes early mornings, weekends, and holidays as needed.

Qualifications include: at least one year of experience in food service preferred; a valid driver's license with the ability to drive a large delivery van; ability to follow directions and supervision; ability to communicate and work with others in a team environment; and be flexible with changes in scheduling. Must be able to lift heavy packages and other items, work on his/her feet for the majority of the day, and operate various types of food service equipment. Individual hired must possess or be able to obtain a food handler's card as issued by the state of West Virginia.

Please send cover letter, resume and three references to Diana Bell, Neighborhood Center Coordinator, CCWVa, at 125 18th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email to dbell@ccwva.org.

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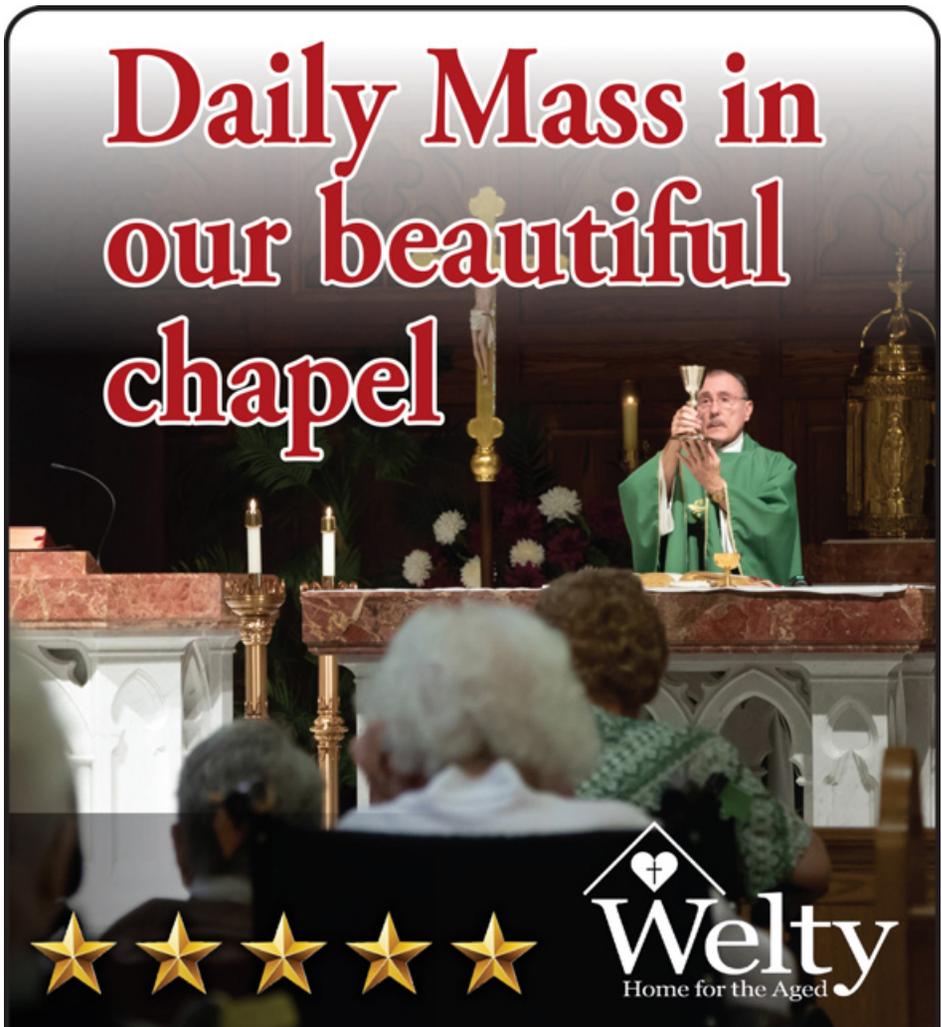
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9:30 WVFX FOX 10 Clarksburg, Fairmont, Morgantown
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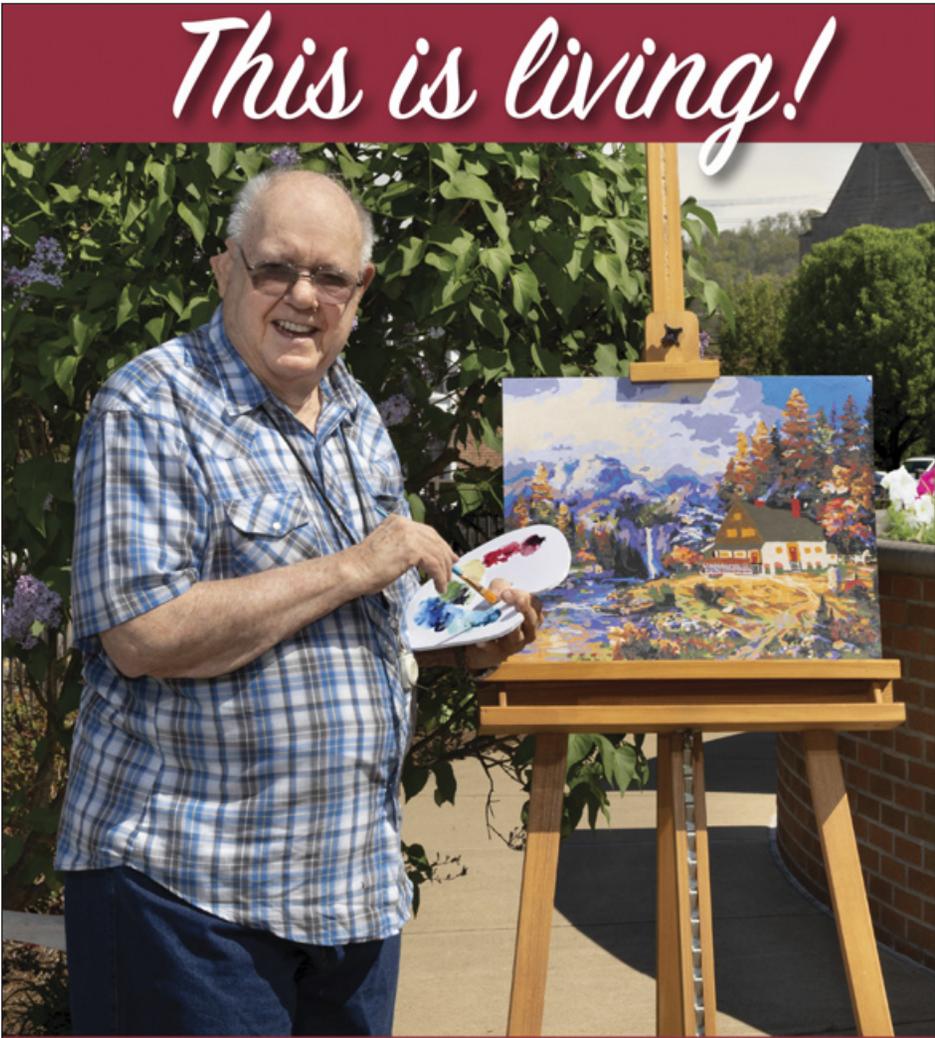
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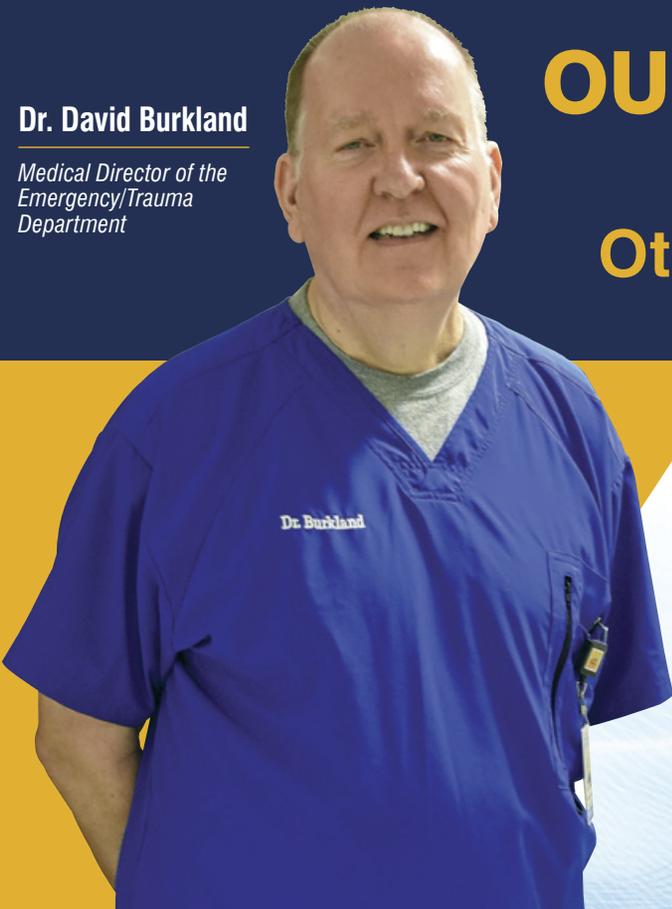
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