

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Pandemic Draws Attention to 'Simple, Profound Meaning of Christ's Birth,' Bishop Says



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan incenses the nativity at Christmas Eve Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

**By Martina Hart**

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrated the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston on Christmas Eve.

The Mass was livestreamed on the diocese's and the Basilica's Facebook pages and televised throughout the state at midnight. Due to current coronavirus restrictions, in person attendance was limited to 75 people in what

would normally be a packed house.

Bishop Brennan welcomed all who were "joining us on this festive occasion of celebrating Christ coming among us, God himself coming among us for our salvation." In his homily, Bishop Bren-

nan called the incarnation "God's decisive intervention in history." Compressing his infinite being into the confines of a baby's body and soul, entering human history by

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## Year of St. Joseph Brings Special Opportunity to the Diocese

**By Colleen Rowan**

**WHEELING**—Pope Francis' proclamation of the Year of St. Joseph Dec. 8 celebrates the 150th anniversary of the declaration of the foster father of Jesus as Patron of the Universal Church. This moment also brings a special opportunity to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to celebrate

St. Joseph as its patron as well.

Bishop Mark Brennan said that he is grateful that the Holy Spirit inspired the pope to have this year to focus on the saint's faith, virtues, and goodness "in view of our need to renew ourselves as followers of Christ."

In St. Joseph, the bishop said, we see his faith, de-

termination to serve God, to meet all the obstacles to come, trusting God to help him.

"That's the kind of spirit," Bishop Brennan said, "that's what we need to move forward to do what we're supposed to be doing as Catholic Christians—to live our faith and invite others to

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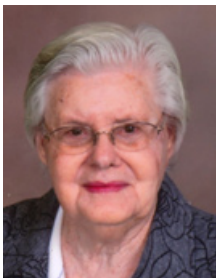
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### Obituary—Hazel Dell Hudock

Hazel Dell Hudock, age 90, of Wheeling, West Virginia passed away December 22, 2020 at The Welty Home for the Aged in Wheeling, West Virginia. Hazel was a native of Five Points, Tennessee. As a young woman she moved to Washington D.C. where she met Charles (Charlie) J. Hudock, Sr. who became her husband of 45 years. Charlie was a meteorologist in the US Navy. Charlie and Hazel were stationed with the US Navy in both England and Morocco. Their family lived in Pensacola Florida, Patuxent River Maryland, and Rockville, Maryland. Later in life they moved to Gerrardstown, West Virginia, where they restored an old country home and ran a bed and breakfast inn. She and Charlie were members of the original congregation of St. Leo's Catholic Church, in Inwood, West Virginia, when it was founded in 1982. Confirmed in the Catholic faith in 1983, Hazel served her parish as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist. After Charlie's death in 1998, Hazel lived in Martinsburg, West Virginia and Wheeling, West Virginia.



In addition to her husband, Charlie, she was preceded in death by her parents, Lovick and Leila Dell Thomas of Five Points, Tennessee; five brothers, Millard (Ruby) Thomas, James Edgar "J.E." (Mable) Thomas, Emmitt (Marie) Thomas, and Clarence (Eva) Thomas, James Brice (Ellen) Thomas and two sisters, Eva Inez (Cilvie) Hale, and Fannie Marie Thomas.

She is survived by her five children: Patti (Dennis) Dmytryk of Port St. Lucie, Florida; Kathryn (Thomas) Herlihy of Morgantown, West Virginia; Stevan (Wendy) Hudock of Gerrardstown, West Virginia; Charles J. (Valerie) Hudock Jr. of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Rev. Msgr Paul Hudock of Wheeling, West Virginia. She is also survived by seven grandchildren: Sean (Kara) Thomas, Kevin (Adriane) Herlihy, Ryan (Sarah) Herlihy, Marc Dmytryk, Maureen Dmytryk, Samuel Hudock and Lena Hudock, and six great-grandchildren.

Hazel's family would like to thank the staff of the Welty Home for the Aged, 21 Washington Ave in Wheeling, for making the last 5 years of her life very enjoyable and happy.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated December 30 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling, with her son Rev. Msgr. Paul Hudock officiating. At a future date, Hazel will be interred next to her husband, Lt. Charles J. Hudock, Sr. USN, at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington Virginia. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com).

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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## Christmas ...

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engaging us "on our own turf" could only make sense because God is moved by an immense love that surpasses our ability to understand it. "That's what we celebrate here this evening in the midst of a pandemic," he said.

Bishop Brennan recalled another Christmas Eve in 1223 when near the little town of Greccio, Italy, St. Francis of Assisi set up the first nativity scene in a cave with an ox, a donkey and a feeding trough. He invited his friars and the townspeople to come and see what the birth of Christ was like hoping that seeing the poverty, humility, and simplicity in which the Son of God was born would challenge the people's materialism.

"I wonder if our circumstances this year, as we make our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, might help us to see Francis' point," Bishop Brennan said. He went on to describe how the pandemic has reduced some of the pageantry that is ordinarily associated with Christmas: The lack of choir concerts and caroling, canceling of nativity plays, even church decorations being scaled down. "Here's a little taste of poverty for us this Christmas," he said. "And we are humbled, or should be, by the need to wear these masks all the time and to keep washing our hands and keep apart from other people, refrain from shaking hands and embracing. That's a humility imposed upon us, but it's an opportunity to give our attention to the simple, profound meaning of Christ's birth." Focusing on this reality could be the silver lining in this dark cloud.

Bishop Brennan invited the congregation to praise God, like the angels



Martina Hart Photo

Faithful are gathered at Christmas Eve Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

and the shepherds, for his love made visible in the birth of his Son, and to "be confident that we can handle any other hardship we encounter, because ours is a God who is with us."

In addition, he said, loving one another is equally important and inseparable from the love of God. Bishop Brennan also encouraged the faithful to "proclaim the good news" to others who may not yet be aware of God's love for them.

"We do not have to bang on people's heads or knock down their doors," he said. "But we can share our faith with them when the opportunity arises. ... We can prepare, like John the Baptist, ... the way for the Lord to enter

the lives of other people, praying for them daily, fasting for them once a week, offering up our sufferings and good works for them, and then if they give us an opening, we should tell them simply and personally why our faith in Jesus Christ and our belonging to his people matter to us."

"Be the shepherds who tell others of the Good Shepherd born for them, the one in whom all their hopes for true happiness lie," he concluded. "That's the best Christmas present you could give to anyone."

Concelebrating the Mass were Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector of the basilica, Father Binu Emmanuel, CST, associate rector, and Father Leon Alexander. Father Higgs

thanked all those who had contributed to the celebration and especially Bishop Brennan for spending Christmas at the Co-Cathedral.

"It's great to have you in your southern home," he said.

"It really is a pleasure to celebrate this Christmas Mass with you," Bishop Brennan responded. "Despite all of these restrictions, we are able to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our faith together and do so safely. ... God will bring us through this. God is always faithful to his people and brings us through the hard times, and he will get us through this one."

Bishop Brennan also presided over the 9 a.m. Mass at the basilica on Christmas morning.

## St. Joseph ...

Cont'd from Page 1

share it with us."

In his Dec. 8 apostolic letter, "Patris Corde" ("With a father's heart"), the pope said Christians can discover in St. Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, "an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."

Here, in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, planning is underway to offer different ways for the faithful of West Virginia to participate, especially in the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. "The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is excited to celebrate this Year of St. Joseph and even had plans to initiate it in March, had not Pope Francis promulgated it this month," Bernadette Kime, director of Worship and Sacraments for the diocese, said just before Christmas.

As people of the diocese cannot gather as one because of COVID-19, different ideas are being discussed. The diocese's Presbyteral Council Committee on Social Justice as well as diocesan staff have been brainstorming on ways that the faithful can celebrate and reflect on St. Joseph and the role he plays in salvation history, Kime said. Under consideration are pilgrimages to special places dedicated to St. Joseph. Kime said such places would include the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and various parishes named for the

saint. Pilgrimages, Kime said, may be held on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph. "That is, if the pandemic has lessened and we are able," she stressed. Definite plans will be announced soon.

Ideas also include special prayers that invoke St. Joseph, activities for families to engage in at home, and catechetical activities. Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Huntington, who chairs the Presbyteral Council committees, said they have suggested that during each month of the year focus be put upon a social issue that relates to the life and influence of St. Joseph such as family life, labor, migration, death and dying. Kime said the diocese also invites those who are sick, shut-in or vulnerable to COVID-19 to participate in prayers and activities that are designed to do at home.

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree Dec. 8 stating that plenary indulgences will be granted to Catholics through prayer and penance, but also through acts of justice, charity and piety dedicated to St. Joseph.

Among the conditions for receiving an indulgence are a spirit detached from sin, receiving sacramental confession as soon as possible, receiving Communion as soon as possible and praying for the Holy Father's intentions.

The decree also highlighted several ways to obtain the indulgence throughout the year, includ-

ing to those who "meditate on the prayer of the 'Our Father' for at least 30 minutes or take part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph."

As a "just man," the document continued, who guarded "the intimate secret that lies at the bottom of the heart and soul," St. Joseph practiced the virtue of justice in "full adherence to the divine law, which is the law of mercy."

"Therefore, those who, following the example of St. Joseph, will perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, will also be able to obtain the gift of the plenary indulgence," it said.

Indulgences will also be granted to families and engaged couples who recite the rosary together and thus imitate the "same climate of communion, love and prayer lived in the Holy Family." Other acts of devotion include entrusting one's daily activities and prayers for dignified employment to St. Joseph, reciting the litany or any "legitimately approved" prayer to St. Joseph.

During this time of pandemic, the Apostolic Penitentiary also decreed that special indulgences will be granted to the elderly, the sick and all those who "for legitimate reasons are prevented from leaving their home" by "reciting an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph and committed to fulfilling the conditions as soon as possible."

(Contributing to this story was Junno Arocho Esteves of Catholic News Service.)

# A Letter from Bishop Brennan



## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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

December 21, 2020

Dear faithful of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,

We have reason to be grateful to God that some vaccines are now being made available to various segments of our American population and eventually to all who live here to inoculate them against the COVID-19 virus. I plan to get vaccinated when it's my turn and I strongly urge all Catholics and other residents of West Virginia to do the same when they have the opportunity.

We must remember that in protecting ourselves through an effective vaccine we are also protecting others. Getting vaccinated, then, is a way of promoting the common good and putting into practice the commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Some questions have arisen about a connection between COVID-19 vaccines and abortion. Bishop Kevin Rhoades and Archbishop Joseph Naumann, who chair the US Catholic Bishops' Conference Committees on Doctrine and Pro-life Activities, respectively, issued a statement declaring that neither of the two vaccines now being made available, from Pfizer and Moderna, used cell lines from aborted fetuses in the design, development or production of their vaccines. Each, however used a cell line from an aborted fetus in confirmatory tests to determine the vaccine's effectiveness. There is a connection to abortion but it is remote. Citing Roman documents, the Bishops conclude that it is morally permissible to use either of these two vaccines, especially given the gravity of the threat that the COVID-19 virus poses to our people and the lack of other remedies. You can read the Bishops' full statement at <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>.

To illustrate why we may in some circumstances benefit from a morally wrong action in which we did not directly participate and of which we do not approve, I offer a historical analogy. The Benedictine Sisters who taught me in high school lived in a convent that, in the early nineteenth century, was the home of a slave-owning family in Northeast Washington, DC. In the basement were chains and instruments used to punish slaves who worked on the family's farm. Were the Sisters giving approval to slavery or the mistreatment of slaves because they lived in that home? Hardly. They supported civil rights and taught and nurtured the descendants of former slaves in the high school. But the Sisters did benefit from living in a home built and occupied by former slave owners. There is a connection to slavery but a very remote one.

Jesus told a parable about wheat and weeds (Matthew 13: 24-30). The master's servants came to him to report that weeds were growing among the wheat. "An enemy has done this," said the master. Should they pull up the weeds? "No," said the master, "if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them grow together until harvest." Then the weeds would be burnt and the wheat gathered into the barn.

There is wisdom in this parable. We should avoid participating in the evil acts of others but we cannot wall ourselves off from the rest of the world. We will inevitably come into contact with persons and situations that are tainted with evil. We should never give material aid to someone doing wrong but we will sometimes be pre-

sented with a *fait accompli*: the wrong has already been done and we cannot change it. But because our connection to the wrongdoing is not material (that is, it did not help cause the wrong) nor is it close to us in time, we can, if reluctantly, accept a benefit from it. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine that was tested using a morally compromised cell line is in that category.

Because abortion is a gravely wrong act, we should always oppose it and never give the appearance that we approve of it. Ideally, we would avoid even a remote connection to evil. The aforementioned Bishops and heads of many other organizations wrote the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration last spring to urge that vaccines be developed and tested without even a remote connection to abortion. Why don't you add your voice to theirs? (Commissioner, FDA, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20993; or call 888-463-6332.) Fortunately, cell lines that do not come from aborted fetuses are available for pharmaceutical companies to use. Some vaccines based on them are in development but are not yet ready for production or distribution. In the meantime, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are morally legitimate to use, given the remoteness of their connection to the aborted babies and the urgent need to protect ourselves and others from a deadly disease.

A third vaccine, being developed by AstraZeneca, has used a cell line from an aborted baby in its design, development and production phases, so it is more immediately tied to an abortion. If at all possible, that vaccine should be avoided. Yet, as the Bishops point out, it may not be possible for the individual to choose which vaccine he or she receives, while the danger to the person and to other people remains grave if vaccination is long delayed or refused. Because the researchers and producers of the AstraZeneca vaccine did not abort the unborn child, but used that child's cell line for their work, theirs is a more immediate connection to the evil of abortion but still not a material cooperation in it.

While we wait for our vaccinations, we should use the protective measures that can keep us from getting infected with the COVID-19 virus and from infecting others: washing our hands frequently, wearing face masks, not shaking hands, maintaining appropriate physical distancing and avoiding large crowds.

Let us continue to pray for the victims of this disease and their families, for our health care personnel and for others susceptible to the virus because of their type of work or their age or weak health. Pray, too, for an end to the pandemic and for a greater appreciation for the lives of all human beings, from the unborn to the elderly. God has given us life and breath. We ask Him to give us and all people good health, so we pray: Jesus, Divine Physician, have pity on your people!

Sincerely in Christ,

*+Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



# Pope on Christmas: Share Hope, Promote Peace, Give Vaccine to All

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**  
**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — On a Christmas like

no other, Pope Francis prayed for people who could not be with their families because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but he urged everyone to recognize and help those who are suffering even more. From inside the Hall of Blessings — a long, gold-hued room above the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica lined on the east with enormous windows and balconies facing St. Peter's Square — Pope Francis delivered his Christmas message and his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

As announced by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, the solemn blessing included a plenary indulgence for everyone watching on television, listening by radio or following by computer.

Because of Italy's renewed lockdown to slow the spread of the virus, the pope read his message in the presence of a representative group of about 50 people. The tens of thousands of people who usually would throng the square for the midday appointment Dec. 25 were all ordered to be at home, and St. Peter's Square was closed to the public.

"My thoughts at this moment turn to families: to those who cannot come together today and to those forced to remain at home," the pope said. "May Christmas be an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness, fraternal solidarity and shared joy, a source of peace for all humanity."

In a last-minute addition to his text, Pope Francis called for "vaccines for all," especially the world's most vulnerable people. "At Christmas, we celebrate the light of Christ that comes into the world, and he comes for all, not just for some," the pope said. "Today, at this time of darkness and uncertainty because of the pandemic, there appear different lights of hope, such as the discovery of vaccines."

"But so these lights may illuminate and bring light to the whole world, they must be available to all," he said. "I cannot put myself before others, placing the laws of the market and of patents above the law of love and the health of humanity." Pope Francis pleaded with the leaders of governments, pharmaceutical companies and international agencies "to promote cooperation and not competition" in ensuring the widespread availability of the vaccines.

Peace and family — in the sense that all people are brothers and sisters — were the central themes of the pope's message, echoing the teaching in his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship."

"A birth is always a source of hope; it is life that blossoms, a promise of the future," he said. But Jesus' birth is even more powerful since he was born "to us" — an "us" without any borders, privileges or exclusions. The child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem was born for everyone: he is the 'son' that God has given to the entire human family."

"Thanks to this child, we can all call one another brothers and sisters, for so we truly are," the pope said. "We come from every continent, from every language and culture, with our own identities and differences, yet we are all brothers and sisters." Recognizing that connection, he said, is even more important "at this moment in history, marked by the ecological crisis and grave eco-



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

**Pope Francis delivers his Christmas message and blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) Dec. 25.**

nomie and social imbalances only worsened by the coronavirus pandemic." As children of God and brothers and sisters to one another, the pope said, the kinship existing between everyone is not sentimental, but is "grounded in genuine love, making it possible for me to encounter others different from myself, feeling compassion for their sufferings, drawing near to them and caring for them even though they do not belong to my family, my ethnic group or my religion."

"For all their differences, they are still my brothers and sisters," he said "The same thing is true of relationships between peoples and nations."

Pope Francis prayed that the newborn Jesus would help everyone "be generous, supportive and helpful, especially toward those who are vulnerable — the sick, those unemployed or experiencing hardship due to the economic effects of the pandemic, and women who have suffered domestic violence during these months of lockdown."

Migrants, refugees and the innocent victims of wars around the world were also on the pope's mind as he celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace. The faces of the suffering children in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, he said, should touch people's consciences and make them pray and work for peace. "May the Babe of Bethlehem grant the gift of fraternity to the land that witnessed his birth," the pope said. "May Israelis and Palestinians regain mutual trust and seek a just and lasting peace through a direct dialogue capable of ending violence and overcoming endemic grievances, and thus bear witness before the world to the beauty of fraternity."

Pope Francis also made specific pleas for reconciliation and an end to conflicts in eastern Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh, Ethiopia, northern Mozambique, South Sudan, Nigeria and Cameroon. "May the Eternal Word of the Father be a source of hope for the American continent, particularly affected by the coronavirus, which has intensified its many sufferings, frequently aggravated by the effects of corruption and drug trafficking," he prayed. "May he help to ease the recent social tensions in Chile and end the sufferings of the people of Venezuela."

Praising those who "work to bring hope, comfort and help to those who suffer and those who are alone," the pope insisted that Jesus' birth "tells us that pain and evil are not the final word. To become resigned to violence and injustice would be to reject the joy and hope of Christmas."

# Pope Announces Yearlong Reflection on Family, 'Amoris Laetitia'

By **Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service**

As the fifth anniversary of his apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" approaches, Pope Francis announced that the Catholic Church will dedicate more than a year to focusing on the family and conjugal love. During his Sunday Angelus address Dec. 27, the pope commemorated the feast of the Holy Family and said that it served as a reminder "of the example of evangelizing with the family" as highlighted in his exhortation.

Beginning March 19, he said, the year of reflection on "Amoris Laetitia" will be an opportunity "to focus more closely on the contents of the document."

"I invite everyone to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the year and that will be coordinated by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life," he added. "Let us entrust this journey, with families all over the world, to the Holy Family of Nazareth, in particular to St. Joseph, the devoted spouse and father." According to the dicastery's website, the "Amoris Laetitia Family" year "aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations."

The dicastery said that the goals of the celebration include sharing the contents of the apostolic exhortation more widely, proclaiming the gift of the sacrament of marriage and enabling families to "become active agents of the family apostolate."

The "Amoris Laetitia Family" year will include forums, symposiums, video projects and catechesis as well as providing resources for family spirituality, pastoral formation and marriage preparation.

The commemoration will conclude June 26, 2022, "on the occasion of the World Meeting of Families in Rome," the dicastery said. In his Angelus talk, the pope said that the Holy Family is a model in which "all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration." Through them, he said, "we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit; it must be founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope."

Families can experience sincere communion when they live in prayer, when forgiveness prevails over discord and "when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God's will," he added. "I would like to say something to you: If you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace," the pope said. "And do you know why? Because cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous. It does not help."

Pope Francis also reflected on the theme of forgiveness during his Angelus address on the feast of St. Stephen Dec. 26. Recalling St. Stephen's martyrdom, the pope said that although it may seem that his death was in vain, among those who witnessed and consented to his stoning was St. Paul, who eventually became "the greatest missionary in history."

St. Stephen's example "was the seed" of St. Paul's conversion, he said. "This is the proof that loving actions change history: even the ones that are small, hidden, every day." Christians, he added, can become witnesses of Christ through their everyday actions, "even just by fleeing the shadow of gossip" or refusing to speak ill of others. "When an argument starts at home, instead of trying to win it, let's try to diffuse it," and forgive one another, Pope Francis said. Small efforts and gestures, he said, "change history because they open the door, they open the window to Jesus's light."



# Over 40 Pro-Life Leaders Call on Senate to Reject Biden's Nominee to Head HHS

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Over 40 prominent pro-life leaders called on the U.S. Senate Dec. 21 to reject President-elect Joe Biden's nomination of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to head the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Mr. Becerra carries a national reputation for his vehement, unwavering support for abortion, including in the ninth month, his staunch convictions in opposition to conscience rights for medical professionals, and his hostile opinions regarding the freedoms of religious organizations, among other issues that are of major concern to us," the leaders said in a letter to senators. Becerra, who was nominated by Biden Dec. 7, must be confirmed by the Senate. He would be the first Latino to be HHS secretary and would be Biden's chief health care officer.

Pro-life leaders who signed the letter included the heads of March for Life, Students for Life Action, Family Research Council, Susan B. Anthony List, National Right to Life, Live Action, Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, Center for Medical Progress, And Then There were None and National Institute of Family & Life Advocates.

The group cited Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America's 100% rating for Becerra's record on abortion during his 25 years in Congress.

Among other actions as a House member, Becerra voted against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prevent abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy when, the bill said, extensive evidence shows an unborn child is capable of feeling great pain." He also voted against the Conscience Protection Act of 2016, which would have prevented the federal government from denying federal funds to Catholic hospitals and other facilities that refuse to perform abortions.

Becerra also worked in 2009 to get the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act through Congress, leading to its successful passage in 2010. As California's attorney general, he has defended the ACA in court.

Those who support his nomination to head HHS say he has spent his career spent "fighting for underserved communities" and his efforts "to protect the welfare of immigrants and migrants."

Mercy Sister Mary Haddad, who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, called Becerra "a strong partner with CHA in defending the Affordable Care Act and for advocating for greater access to quality, affordable health care coverage for every-

one, particularly the most vulnerable."

Currently, he is the head attorney in a group of attorneys general from Democratic-led states defending ACA law against the Trump administration's lawsuit to have it overturned.

A native of Sacramento, California, Becerra was sworn in Jan. 24, 2017, as California's 33rd attorney general. He's the first Latino to hold the office in the history of the state. He succeeded Kamala Harris, now vice president-elect, in the post after she was elected to the U.S. Senate Nov. 8, 2016.

Other objections to Becerra raised by the pro-life leaders is his involvement in litigation to revoke the Little Sisters of the Poor's religious exemption to the ACA contraceptive mandate in the state of California.

Becerra had sued the Trump administration for expanding the religious exemption to the ACA's contraceptive mandate in 2017 to fully accommodate the Little Sisters of the Poor's refusal on religious grounds to cover contraceptives and abortifacients in their employee health care plan.

He argued the federal government was inserting itself into the state's "sovereign duty" to protect women's "reproductive rights."

The religious order ultimately prevailed on July 8 of this year when the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in their favor in a similar challenge from Pennsylvania. But California is still working to take away their exemption as upheld by the court.

"His bias for anti-life, anti-religion policy is apparent, and he should be rejected to serve as a national department head," the pro-life leaders said.

Their letter to the Senate follows a national petition by Students for Life Action petition urging Becerra not be confirmed. The group outlined the same issues as the pro-life leaders but highlighted the HHS nominee joining in a friend-of-the-court-brief earlier this year challenging the Food and Drug Administration's requirement the abortion pill be dispensed in-person. The brief argued that because the pandemic was severely limiting in-person visits to doctors and pharmacists, women seeking a chemical abortion were being denied their rightful access to the abortion pill. "Consensus is a rare thing in political life these days, especially when it comes to what's needed to address COVID-19," Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life Action, wrote in a Dec. 12 online op-ed for RealClear Politics. But, she wrote, "one idea has emerged from the abortion lobby as their solution to the pandemic. It's being pushed through by the media and liberal, political establishment, and that is the expansion and deregulation of the chemical abortion pill

market for DIY abortions." Others have criticized Biden's choice of Becerra because the nominee has no front-line experience in the medical field.

## Vatican Calls for Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)**—The Vatican's coronavirus commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life issued a joint statement calling for a coordinated international effort to ensure the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. The document highlights the "critical role of vaccines to defeat the pandemic, not just for individual personal health but to protect the health of all," the Vatican said in a statement accompanying the document Dec. 29. "The Vatican commission and the Pontifical Academy of Life remind world leaders that vaccines must be provided to all fairly and equitably, prioritizing those most in need," the Vatican said. The pandemic has exacerbated "a triple threat of simultaneous and interconnected health, economic and socio-ecological crises that are disproportionately impacting the poor and the vulnerable," the document said. "As we move toward a just recovery, we must ensure that immediate cures for the crises become stepping-stones to a more just society, with an inclusive and interdependent set of systems." Pope Francis established the COVID-19 commission in April with the goal of expressing "the church's concern and love for the entire human family in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic." The new document issued a set of objectives, particularly around making the vaccines "available and accessible to all." Part of that process, the document said, would be to consider how to reward those who developed the vaccine and repay "the research costs and risks companies have taken on," while also recognizing the vaccine "as a good to which everyone should have access, without discrimination."

## Maryland Catholic Conference Urges Trump to Stop a Federal Execution

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Eight Catholic bishops serving Maryland dioceses urged President Donald Trump Dec. 22 to stop the planned federal execution of Dustin Higgs, a Maryland man on death row in Indiana. The bishops, including Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori and Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Wilmington, Delaware, also wrote to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan seeking his support in fighting this execution, which is scheduled to take place Jan. 15. In their letter to Trump, the bishops wrote: "Alternative sentences, such as life without parole, are punishments through which society can be kept safe. The death penalty does not create a path to justice. Rather, it contributes to the growing disrespect for human life and perpetuates a cycle of violence in our society." They also quoted Pope Francis, who said: "Human justice is imperfect, and the failure to recognize its fallibility can transform it into a source of injustice." In a letter to Hogan, a Republican, the bishops said they were proud of the state's leadership in ending the death penalty and urged him to "intervene with the Trump administration to ask that this execution be stopped."

## Argentina Legalizes Abortion during First 14 Weeks of Pregnancy

**MEXICO CITY (CNS)** — Argentina has legalized abortion during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy, despite strong Catholic opposition and polls showing deep divisions on the issue. The Senate approved the bill 38-29 Dec. 30 after a 12-hour debate as supporters with green handkerchiefs and opponents with blue handkerchiefs awaited the decision in the streets during the small hours of the morning. President Alberto Fernández presented legislation in November — it was quickly approved in the lower house — and has promised to sign it into law. The bishops' conference expressed disappointment with the legislation's approval, but said in a Dec. 30 statement it "will continue working with firmness and passion in the care and service of life." "This law which has been passed will further deepen divisions in our country," the bishops said. "We deeply regret the remoteness of our leaders from the feelings of the people, which have been expressed in various ways, in favor of life, throughout our country." The bishops also pledged to "continue working on the authentic priorities requiring urgent attention in our country: children living in poverty in increasingly alarming numbers, a number of (those children) dropping out of school (and) the urgent pandemic of hunger and unemployment, which affects many families."

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## Diocese has Renewed Commitment to 'Faithful, Fun' Camping Ministry, New Director Says

By Colleen Rowan

**WHEELING**—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston announced last month the reopening of its summer youth camping ministry in Huttonsville with a new name and new leadership.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, Camp Carlo for short, is named for the recently beatified Italian teen who died in 2006. Bearing the motto, "With Him on the Mountain," Camp Carlo will open this summer led by Director Riley Keaton.

Under this new name, Keaton said, the diocese has renewed its commitment to "faithful, fun" camping ministry to reflect the vision for camp life in Huttonsville.

"Blessed Carlo Acutis is a model for young people seeking to grow in holiness," he said. "As the first 'millennial' to be beatified, Blessed Carlo offers a unique intercessor to those seeking to lead young people to Christ."

Keaton encouraged all to research Blessed Carlo and pray for his intercession on behalf of the camping ministry, which the diocese sees as an important part of formation of Catholic youth. Camping ministry, Keaton said, offers unique opportunities for young people to deepen their relationship with Christ and His Church, adventure through His Creation, and build a solid foundation of Catholic relationships across the state.

"Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp will be an adventure like no other and a model of authentic Catholic community life," he said.

In regard to what changes families and campers can expect with the reopening, Keaton said: "The lay of the land will be much clearer the closer we get to summertime, but I anticipate we will be taking precautions related to the coronavirus." He said the camp is deeply committed to modeling authentic Catholic community life, leading young people into encounter with Christ, while having fun.

Keaton is from Spencer, where he is a member of Holy Redeemer Parish. The diocese's Evangelization and Catechesis Director Daniel Maul said that Keaton has led values-based leadership camps for the last four years—including through the summer of coronavirus—and represents his hometown in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

"I urge faithful families to get in touch with him," Maul said of Keaton, "learn more about what we're planning in Huttonsville this summer, and, ultimately, give your children an experience that will 'make' their summer at Camp Carlo."

In making the announcement of the reopening of the diocese's camp ministry, Maul said, "Catholic youth will have a tremendous opportunity to deepen their faith, experience His creation, and build lasting relationships with Catholic peers from across the state."

For more information about Camp Carlo, contact Keaton by e-mail at rkeaton@dwc.org.



Courtesy Photo  
**Riley Keaton, camping director for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston**

## Charleston Catholic Students Steadfast in Commitment to Outreach in Clay County



Courtesy Photo

**Charleston Catholic High School teachers and students deliver Christmas food boxes to Risen Lord Mission's food pantry in Maysel.**

By Colleen Rowan

**MAYSEL**—For almost 30 years Charleston Catholic High School has helped to bring Christmas to children and families in need living in one of West Virginia's poorest counties. In the small community of Maysel in Clay County is Risen Lord Mission, and its food pantry is one of the only places residents who have fallen on hard times can find food and assistance.

Each year, Charleston Catholic students and teachers make the 45-minute trip to Risen Lord with Christmas food boxes, toys, stockings stuffed with goodies, and other provisions for the people.

"This project truly involves the whole Charleston Catholic community," said Principal Colleen Hoyer. The effort, she said, also includes help from Sacred Heart Grade School next door as well as the schools' teachers and staff working together to reach out to the people in need.

"This year, Sacred Heart put together 150 food boxes! Charleston Catholic added just over 100, so we distributed over 250 food boxes to 135 families and almost 400 children," Hoyer said.

The partnership with Risen Lord, Hoyer said, was started by longtime former CCHS Principal Debra Sullivan. Since then, every Charleston Catholic student in grades six through 12 is involved in the project each year. They bring in stockings and stocking stuffers, buy food items for food boxes, and shop for an individual child from Clay County with that child's specific wants, needs, and sizes, Hoyer said. Teachers manage the food and present collection in homeroom classes and getting everything bagged and labeled. Several staff members take on additional responsibilities, she said, from data entry of all of the children's information to organizing reports that outline all of the perti-

nent information and assigns pick-up times for families to managing the logistics of how almost 400 presents will be collected, organized and packed.

**"It is important for our students to be aware of the need in West Virginia and recognizing how they can use their gifts and blessings to help meet the needs in our state."**

—Colleen Hoyer, principal of Charleston Catholic High School

Limited this year to what they could do because of the coronavirus pandemic, the students were determined to do all they could. They were not able to host their annual Christmas party at Risen Lord, but they still made the annual journey to deliver presents Dec. 12 with a drive by distribution.

In normal times, Hoyer said, senior volunteers attend the Christmas party and help distribute the presents, stockings, and food boxes. This year's seniors helped collect and organize presents during their theology classes the day before the trip and a group of senior volunteers helped load the trucks with food boxes and presents after school.

"It's a tremendous undertaking," Hoyer said, "but it is one of the most important things that we do every year. Though this year presented

**See "Students" on Page 10**



# Sister Mugore Finishes Nursing Degree

By **Martina Hart**

**CHARLESTON**—Sister Placexedece Mugore, SJI, recently graduated from the School of Nursing at the University of Charleston (UC).

"It was a tough journey, but I thank God that I managed to sail through," she said. Sister Mugore is one of the four Sisters of the Infant Jesus residing in Charleston. Since her arrival in the U.S. in 2013 she had been working in the parish at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart with plans to eventually further her studies and resume her nursing career.

"I have a passion for the sick," said Sister Mugore. "I just love to help the sick."

In her native Zimbabwe, she had worked as a nurse in a very busy Catholic clinic for two and half years. In 2016, after taking the Test of Essential Academic Skills for nursing, she started out with prerequisite classes, such as algebra and American history. A lot of her challenges were cultural in nature, having to relearn terminology in American English versus the British English she was used to, using computers on a daily basis, and adjusting to a different learning system.

"We don't do multiple choice questions," she explained. "In our country, when you're taking exams they can say 'draw and label the heart'."

Due to a lack of physicians, nurses in Zimbabwe also carry more responsibilities which include diagnosing patients and prescribing medications.

"I used to deliver five children a day," she added. "I knew that area very well."

Sister Mugore enjoyed the small school atmosphere at UC. "Everyone was so excited," she said. "Some of the teachers were saying, 'This is the first time we have a nun at our school,' and some stu-



Martina Hart Photo

**Sister Placexedece Mugore, SJI, recently graduated from the School of Nursing at the University of Charleston.**

dents, they had no clue what a nun is."

She was grateful for the scholarships she received to cover her tuition, including those from UC and the Charleston Area Medical Center with whom she has an agreement to continue to work for another three years. She also received a stipend from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to purchase textbooks.

"I'm also grateful to Father Don (Higgs, rector of the basilica) who gave me the

opportunity to work part time and go to school," she said. Also, the other sisters in her community had to adjust to her new schedule which affected their daily household routines. While appreciating the support from her superiors and congregation back home as well as the parish and school communities here, she also felt a certain pressure to work hard and persevere in order to pass and not disappoint anyone. Sister Mugore took summer classes in order to finish early—her

class would graduate in May 2021.

The coronavirus pandemic posed another challenge with some of the clinical rotations at local area hospitals being canceled, classes taking place online, and a virtual graduation ceremony on Dec. 12. After visiting her family and congregation in Zimbabwe for two months, she will return to Charleston to take her final board exams and start working at CAMC. One of the goals envisioned for the Sisters of

the Infant Jesus in Charleston was to give some of them an opportunity to further their education, thus enabling them to support their congregation back home and eventually use their skills in their native country.

Sister Mugore has paved the way for other sisters to follow in her footsteps.

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# Msgr. Sadie Celebrates 90th Birthday at His Beloved Former Parish, Basilica Co-Cathedral

By **Martina Hart**

**M**sg. P. Edward Sadie, P.A., V.F., S.T.L., rector emeritus of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, celebrated his 90th birthday on Dec. 15 with Mass at the basilica. Concelebrants were Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector of the basilica; Father Binu Emmanuel, CST, associate rector; and Father Leon Alexander.

Due to current COVID precautions, attendance was restricted to 75 participants, and reservations had filled up quickly. Thanks to Facebook livestream, many others were able to be virtually present including current parishioners, former parishioners who had moved out of state, as well as Msgr. Sadie's extended family, multiple nieces and nephews, in Alabama.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1957, Msgr. Sadie arrived in Charleston in 1969, being assigned first to St. Agnes Parish and then in 1980 to Sacred Heart Parish



**Martina Hart Photo**  
**Msgr. P. Edward Sadie offers his homily for the Mass he celebrated on his 90th birthday at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.**

where he served until his retirement from active priesthood in 2016.

"It's a true blessing for me to celebrate this sacred Mass in the church," Msgr. Sadie said in his

homily. "And for this I want to express my thanks to Father Higgs, Father Binu, Father Leon for coming to concelebrate, the parish staff, my secretary and all those who arranged this wonderful occasion."

He had been celebrating private Masses at home but had been advised not to invite anyone else. "I guess it's not easy to attain the age of 90," he said. "But all I had to do was keep breathing." Since many had asked about his health, he gave an account of the various surgeries and hospital stays since his retirement. "I have been blessed in so many ways," he said. "And I can't tell you how much I appreciate God's graces in my own life."

He was most grateful for the healthcare system in Charleston and for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in providing good health insurance to their priests.

"Prayer has sustained me these last few months," Msgr. Sadie continued. He acknowledged that he

had never thought much of Jesus' saying to "pray without ceasing" but now is using any time he is free of activity to pray.

"I pray the Angelus three times a day," he said. "Partly as a penance for my past sins and also in gratitude to God, his Blessed Mother and all the saints."

He invited the congregation "amid the trials and tribulations" to think of the many blessings they experience day in and day out and recognizing "the risen Christ who comes to us through those around us."

After Communion, the Sisters of the Infant Jesus sang the Magnificat in Shona, their native Zimbabwean language. Upon Msgr. Sadie's invitation, their congregation had opened a convent in Charleston in 2013. Mass concluded with the final blessing and everyone singing Happy Birthday.

"I do appreciate your prayers and support," Msgr. Sadie said. "And be assured of my continued prayers."

## Princeton Parish's Michael Mills Releases First Piano Album

*Faith Has Inspired His Music*

By **Joyce Bibey**

**PRINCETON**—Michael Mills is proud of his roots which are grounded in faith and led him to his first piano solo album, *Reflections of Home*.

The role his faith has played in his music and creative drive may be indescribable with words but is felt through his music.

"One of the songs on the album—*Past*—was beautifully inspired by Father Elpidio Geneta, a former priest at our church," said Gina Boggess, faith formation director of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton. "Father 'El' had shared with the congregation one Sunday that his brother had passed away and he could not attend his funeral in the Philippines. That day Michael composed a song based on the grief and emotions of the priest."

Mills was an altar server and active in both the parish music ministry and youth group.

Sacred Heart Parish proudly boasts of Mills' "tremendous talents." They have kept tabs on him through his years at Virginia Tech, where he majored in music composition and technology, and applauded him from afar, when he performed his music throughout Europe, Boggess noted.

"We can all be inspired by Mills and see how young people from our diocese are "doing great things in the world," Boggess said.

Mills is living in Blacksburg, Virginia, and since graduation from Virginia Tech in 2019 has founded his own publishing company, Tom's



**Courtesy Photo**  
**Pictured is Michael Mills, who released his first solo piano album.**

Creek Publishing, LLC. He is also sharing his love of music by teaching piano and giving composition lessons.

He developed Tom's Creek Publishing as a way of self-publishing his original music and aims to expand it "to provide opportunities for composers at the beginning of their career and composers from underrepresented communities," he said. In addition, he has his sights on obtaining a Doctor of Musical Arts degree or Ph.D. in Music Composition.

The song that was inspired by Father Geneta did not even have a title when Mills played it at a church. However, it ended up as the foundation of what was to be an impressive production

for the young musician.

"It was originally just the arpeggio and melody," Mills said. "There was a sadness to it, but I also wanted there to be a bit of hope as well. A few years later, I used aspects of that same music for a short film as part of a film scoring competition (and named it 'Past'). I loved the melody and really wanted to find a way to use it more. Flash forward a few more years, and I finally found the opportunity to fully write out and develop the song for the album *Reflections of Home*."

When our world shut down in March of 2020 due to the pandemic, Mills became serious about putting his compositions together in an album. His composed his final pieces by August and polished all the recordings and sheet music by November.

"I believe deeply in the idea that my entire personhood informs my art," Mills said. "Since my faith is an integral part of who I am as a person, it makes sense that it has a large role in the music I compose. Sometimes this influence is clear. *Silent Adoration* was written for a church service and even has many references to some of the church songs I loved hearing on Sundays as a child.

"*Memento Mori* for flute and cello was composed as an actual practice of *Memento Mori* and was inspired by the writings of Sister Aletheia Noble (of the Daughters of St. Paul and founder of the *Memento Mori* project)," Mills said. "In other instances, the influence may be less clear but nonetheless present. Since my faith informs my perspective on life it makes

**See "Mills" on Page 15**





# Spreading Christmas Cheer

**By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist**

While this year has looked a little different, the spirit of giving at Christmas-time remained the same.

In addition to the continuum of services Catholic Charities West Virginia provides across the state, several of our offices also provided special Christmas distributions.

We are grateful to all who volunteered

or donated to help make other families' holidays a little brighter!

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

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



Courtesy Photo

The Catholic Charities West Virginia Princeton Office partnered with 80's Toys of Princeton and J&J News to provide Christmas toys to families in need. Matthew Collins (left), owner of 80's Toys stands with Matt Atwood (right), Catholic Charities West Virginia Southern Regional director.



Courtesy Photo

Catholic Charities West Virginia staff and volunteers, pictured above, prepared holiday food bags for seniors who are homebound in the Romney area. The bags provide easy to prepare food for days when weather prohibits hot meal deliveries.

## Students ...

Cont'd from Page 7

additional logistical challenges due to COVID, I couldn't imagine not doing it. We work hard at Charleston Catholic to instill in young people the importance of serving our neighbors and doing our part to make the world a better place. Need is even greater this year because of the economic impacts of the pandemic, and our community was committed to participating. It is important for our students to be aware of the need in West Virginia and recognizing how they can use their gifts and blessings to help meet the needs in our state." The students were assisted by faculty and staff volunteers who met the trucks (donated by Buzz Food Service) at the church on Saturday morning to unpack and organize.

Meeting the CCHS entourage each year at Risen Lord is parishioner Kathi Linkenogger. She has been involved in this partnership since it started all those years ago and knows the positive impact it has.

"If this annual event had not occurred, 135 families would not have been blessed," she said, noting that the students also brought extra food for the food pantry which serves more than 200 families monthly. "They complete this all in less than two hours, and then hop back in their cars back home," she said.

Linkenogger said she and the community appreciate what the students do each year, calling Charleston Catholic a synchronized team using their time, talents and treasure. "We are truly blessed because they are providing Christmas to many," she said. "They have passed this through generations of helping on their end and Clay receiving the

blessing. We thank them and look forward to next year."

Risen Lord's food pantry also serves more than 100 children from Clay Elementary School with food and emergency assistance. With the only grocery store in the county closing more than a year ago, the food pantry's presence has become vital.

The pantry also helps people in emergency situations and in need of assistance for utility cut off notice, medical/pharmacy bills, and gasoline.

Those who would like to offer their support as well, should first call Father Thien Duc Nguyen, pastor, at (304) 364-5895 or or e-mail: [tdnguyen@dwc.org](mailto:tdnguyen@dwc.org).

To offer financial support, checks may be made out to and sent to: Risen Lord Catholic Social Concern Fund, c/o: St. Thomas Catholic Church, 624 Kanawha St., Gassaway, WV 26624.

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Joyce Bibey Photo

Above is a screen shot of the Christmas message from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on the diocese's website: [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org).

## Strong Faith Presented in Song

By Joyce Bibey

We are blessed in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with countless parishioners who share their musical talents each week at Mass. Since we are in the midst of a pandemic their voices and instruments have nearly been silenced. However, more than 40 faithful from around the state believe that when you are given a gift from God you know you need to share that gift no matter what. They collaborated with Bishop Mark Brennan to “sing and make music from the heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19).”

This gift of song was presented as a Christmas message video to all the faithful in West Virginia. These individuals and all those who they represent in the music ministries in our parishes epitomize FaithInWV!

“Despite all the challenges everyone has faced this past year, our faith is still strong among Catholics in WV,” Katie Shaffer, of St. Paul Parish in Weirton said. “Being able to ‘come together’ in the Christmas video from all over the state, representing different parishes and age groups, proves we are not alone on this faith journey, even though physical distancing has kept us apart. We are stronger together even if virtually. This year some of us may not be able to perform in parishes like we normally do, as cantors or instrumentalists due to the COVID-19 parish restrictions, but we found a way to make to make beautiful music together despite the pandemic. We are open to new ways of celebrating our faith and not losing faith during difficult times.”

Mark Haas, who helped orchestrate the production and played the timpani (kettle drum), said all who participated were eager to do so for their fellow

parishioners, the state, and Bishop Brennan.

“This video vividly shows the assembly of God’s people – from every walk of life – under the humble leadership of His earthly shepherd, Bishop Brennan,” said Haas, who also serves as the director of music for the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. “My hope is that this video might kindle a fire in many hearts, and perhaps bring some sheep back home.”

He said the video was a chance to live out what God teaches us, especially in Psalm 100: We are His people, the sheep of His flock.

“It’s hard to be Christian in today’s world,” Haas said. “Sometimes I feel like the only one ‘plowing the field.’ This video is a reminder to me that the Church of God has many members, but one body. The eye or the hand can’t say to the body, ‘I don’t need you!’ We need each other. And this video, which demonstrates the active faith in West Virginia, is something we all needed to see this Christmas. Hallelujah!”

Haas’s wife, a music teacher at Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston, eagerly shared her gift of song with the faithful in West Virginia.

“The song is about the story of Jesus coming at Christmas time to bring a renewed hope to the world and how we can give praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of his Son,” she said. “My faith has always been the most important thing in my life. I was brought up in the Church and began singing when I was nine years old at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling. It was there that I started ministering through music which has allowed me to pray openly to my community that I belong to. Just like I tell my students at school using the words of St. Augustine, ‘When you sing you pray twice.’ That has always rung true for me.”

She said making time to be part of the production was important to her to not only bring joy to people in the season of Christmas, but also to encourage them to live like Christ taught us.

“I also believe that as I have become a mother to now five children I have had to lean on God through my ministry to my children. ‘Hallelujah’ is Hebrew for ‘Praise God.’ The song describes the coming Joy and Love that is God himself. ‘With every breath I’m singing, Hallelujah,’ is an action I hope to inspire my own children to take every day of their lives.”

Stephen Pishner, music director for All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, said those in the music ministry take pride in bringing a heightened message from Christ to the people through song during the Mass and special performances outside the Mass.

“We have a unique role to help people and (through this and our parish videos) give them hope,” he said. “It’s a humbling experience. It is our gift to people and God.”

See “Song” on Page 12



Do you know an exceptional Catholic in West Virginia, someone or a group who are shining examples of #Faith InWV? Email Joyce Bibey your feature idea to [jbibey@dwc.org](mailto:jbibey@dwc.org). Visit [FaithInWV.org](http://FaithInWV.org) and every issue of The Catholic Spirit to read more inspiring stories.



# Catholic Crossword Puzzle

Puzzle solution on Page 13

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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61						62				63				
64						65				66				

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- ACROSS**
- 1 "He is seated at the right \_\_\_ of the Father."
  - 5 Samoan capital
  - 9 To do this is forbidden by the seventh commandment
  - 14 Netman Nastase
  - 15 Bugs
  - 16 Madrid museum (with "el")
  - 17 Gone by
  - 18 Car with removable panels
  - 19 Relaxes
  - 20 Author of Ecclesiastes (with "The") (Eccl 1:1)
  - 22 They fed Elijah (1 Kings 17:2-4)
  - 23 15th letter of the Greek alphabet
  - 24 "For our \_\_\_, he was crucified..."
  - 25 Chicken Little, for one
  - 26 "...sittin' in a tree \_\_\_"
  - 30 Dose amt.
  - 33 Thorough view
  - 36 Musical group
  - 37 In front
  - 39 NT epistle
  - 40 Australian acacia
  - 41 Congeal
  - 42 Spanish rice dish
  - 44 Proof ending
  - 45 Pew attachment
  - 47 Maximum (abbr.)
  - 49 Obscene
  - 50 The feast day of St. Teresa of Avila is in this month
  - 54 An epistle
  - 57 Imaginative
  - 58 Look for
  - 59 Nav. officer
  - 60 Summer drinks
  - 61 Italian composer
  - 62 Tied, as a score
  - 63 Liturgical season
  - 64 Ford flop
  - 65 Land of Sts. Brendan and Brigid
  - 66 Former JFK arrivals

- DOWN**
- 1 Augustine was bishop here
  - 2 Fright
  - 3 Japanese-American
  - 4 Disengage
  - 5 Saint of Padua
  - 6 Saucer for the Eucharist
  - 7 Composer Stravinsky
  - 8 Cleopatra's demise
  - 9 Talks
  - 10 Grotesque likeness
  - 11 Relaxation
  - 12 Capital of Yemen
  - 13 Setback cause
  - 21 Statement of belief
  - 22 Altar balustrade
  - 24 Place of the \_\_\_ (Mt 27:33)
  - 27 The Garden of Eden might have been in this modern-day state
  - 28 Moses was floated down this river in a basket
  - 29 A gift of the wise men
  - 30 Short nail
  - 31 Keep away from
  - 32 Paris pop
  - 34 americangreetings.com product
  - 35 One of them?
  - 38 This archdiocese is found in South Australia
  - 40 Paul was shipwrecked here
  - 42 They fill the church
  - 43 Alfalfa
  - 46 Legume
  - 48 Sums
  - 50 Group of religious
  - 51 Waits
  - 52 Incident
  - 53 Reposes
  - 54 Talk irrationally
  - 55 Had bills to pay
  - 56 Fourth of eight, now
  - 57 906, in the Roman Empire
  - 59 Gentleman's grade

## Song ...

Cont'd from Page 11

Sharing the gift of music is always special, but in this case, it was a spiritually moving experience, according to Shaffer.

"To be able to collaborate with musicians from across the state who I don't get to perform with regularly was a great experience and I was happy to be asked to be a part of it," she said. "I've been playing flute for Masses since I was in grade school. Sadly, this was the first year since grade school which I haven't been able to play at Mass (due to the pandemic), so to be able to come together this way and share my talent in this video was uplifting to me.

"The video illustrates that we are all one in God's eyes," she said and added. "From Bishop Brennan playing the piano to the children singing, we are all children of God, no matter what our earthly status is. We are all on this journey of faith together."

Shaffer's thoughts may summarize the spirit of all those involved, when she said, "Even though the 'world' may have stopped this year....our faith never stops. God never stops being there for us no matter what we are experiencing. Even though some feel there isn't much to celebrate about this past year, this video reminds me to not lose faith, especially during the difficult times, and to focus on the positive things that have hap-

pened in my life as a result of the pandemic."

Those involved in the video include: Mark Haas (Cross Lanes), Chris Cendana (Ona), Joey Carter (Wheeling), Robert Phipps (Morgantown), Audrey Blust (Huntington), children from Sacred Heart Grade School (Charleston), Hannah Dieffenbaugher (Wheeling), Patty Frame (South Charleston), Carla Guthrie (Charleston), Renae Haas (Cross Lanes), Kevin Harris (Shepherdstown), Brian Kaltenbaugh (Martinsburg), Brandon Leroy (Bridgeport), Nancy McLaughlin (South Charleston), Mary Odin (South Charleston), Carrie Oliver-Shultz (Weirton), Gabby Payne (Wheeling), Stephen Pishner (Bridgeport), Jeanie Walter (South Charleston), Bishop Mark Brennan (Wheeling), Matthew Berher (Wheeling), Chad Carter (Wheeling), John Dever (South Charleston), Ashley Driscoll (Bridgeport), Christine Hummer (Beckley), Phil Wyatt (Stonewood), Tim Bishop (Wheeling), Julia Pinn (Morgantown), and the St. Francis De Sales Parish Handbell Choir (Morgantown), which includes Pinn, Donna Kinsey, Nicholas Blumish, Natalie Buckley, Mary Hayward, Emily Raque, Maggie Raque, Steve Raque, Diane Raque, Ariana Romito, Andreas Schmid, and Karen Stratton.

The video can be viewed on the diocesan website [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), and social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).

## Frogmeyer



**A shooting star? No, that's 2020 being kicked to the curb!!! Happy NEW year!**

By Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer

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# All Saints Parish Unveils St. Corona Icon

## Praying for Her Intercession in the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

By Colleen Rowan

The image of a powerful intercessor in troubling times has been added to the many likenesses of saints that grace the interior walls of the Bridgeport church named in their honor. The image is of St. Corona, who is invoked against plagues and viruses.

During Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, Father Walter Jagela, pastor of All Saints Parish, blessed and dedicated the icon. He and the congregation prayed for light, peace and healing to come to the world, parish, and all affected by the coronavirus.

“The icon will be gracing our space until we as a people are safely moving about again in our world, free from or at least under control from this virus,” Father Jagela said. “Then, and only then, will she be placed among the Holy Ones to adorn our walls here at All Saints where all can ‘walk the journey’ down the halls and be blessed.”

Father Jagela also developed prayer cards for parishioners and placed them on their seats prior to the Mass so they could pray the prayer together after the blessing of the icon. They were then encouraged to take the prayer cards home to pray often during the pandemic.

Pastoral staff along with parishioners were looking for a way to respond in faith to the pandemic, Father Jagela said. As they discussed and prayerfully considered various ways to do this, he said they took one of the traditions from years of summer vacation Bible school and developed the large hanging image of St. Corona.

“We believe that the image, gracing our worship space, assists us in prayerfully responding to the pandemic by drawing us closer to someone who lived her faith and assisted those who were in need during troubled times,” Father Jagela said. “We believe as Catholics that the saints, our sisters and brothers who lived like us and now experience the glory of the Lord, can and do intercede for us to God through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The large image, created by 16-year-old parishioner Naomi Brown, hangs at left in the worship space. Father Jagela said she is an up-and-coming artist, who quietly worked from a picture to draw and paint the icon of St. Corona for her faith community.

“She spent countless hours drawing and painting St. Corona and, as any good artist, she put a few of her own touches to the image,” he said. “We are most thankful to Naomi for her talents, gifts and above all her faith that encourages our own faith during these challenging times.”

Since the pandemic began, Father Jagela has anointed several Catholics and visited non-Catholics who have

had COVID-19 in the hospital and nursing homes. Gratitude, he said, goes out to all the medical personnel, especially nurses and doctors who are on the front lines of the pandemic.

“Without them and the science they live and breathe; where would we be?” he asked. “To all the families who have loved ones with the virus, who have lost loved ones to the virus; we offer our prayers, support, and continued efforts on behalf of the church for healing, consolation, and peace.”

The following, “A Gospel response to the Corona Pandemic,” was given to those who attended the Mass at which the blessing of the image was held:

“As our world is in the grip of a pandemic called Covid-19, many people are discovering and turning to various ways of dealing with, understanding and, coming to terms with isolation and distance.

“As a faith community of All Saints; we have chosen through prayer, study and the arts to respond to this world Pandemic by creating an icon (a window into the holy) of Saint Corona. While little is known about the life of Saint Corona, it is generally accepted that she was martyred during the reign of Emperor Antoninus in the year 165A.D. in Damascus.

The most common pious legend around St. Corona involves another saint, St. Victor, a Roman soldier of Italian ancestry, who was in Damascus. St. Victor was tortured for refusing to renounce his faith—including having his eyes gouged out, before ultimately being beheaded.

“While Victor was being tortured, the sixteen-year-old St. Corona comforted and prayed for him. Because of this, she was arrested and interrogated by the Romans and found to be a Christian. According to some accounts, St. Corona, was tied between two bent palm trees and torn apart as the trunks were released.

“Corona means Crown in Latin, which is also where the coronavirus gets its name, from the spikes of protein that form a crown around the virus. In Catholicism, the crown is a widely used emblem for martyrdom, particularly for female saints.

“Saint Corona is invoked against plagues and viruses. Her Feast Day is May 14.

“Let us pray to St. Corona for all those sickened by the virus, our medical personnel, scientists advancing their knowledge and bringing us relief and, all those who have died from the virus.

“We believe that everything is a teacher thus, maybe what we glean from this pandemic is one about viral misinformation, which just like a plague, spreads unless we isolate it!

“St. Corona, Pray for Us.”



Courtesy Photo  
Pictured is the new icon of St. Corona at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport.

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**Crossword  
Puzzle  
Solution**  
Puzzle on Page 12

H	A	N	D	A	P	I	A	S	T	E	A	L
I	L	I	E	N	A	G	S	P	R	A	D	O
P	A	S	T	T	O	P	E	A	S	E	S	
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V	E	R	D	I	E	V	E	N	L	E	N	T
E	D	S	E	L	E	I	R	E	S	S	T	S

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# Una carta del obispo Brennan

21 de diciembre de 2020

Queridos fieles de la diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston,

Tenemos motivos para estar agradecidos con Dios porque ahora se están poniendo a disposición algunas vacunas para varios segmentos de nuestra población estadounidense y, eventualmente, para todos los que viven aquí para inocularlas contra el virus COVID-19. Planeo vacunarme cuando sea mi turno e insto encarecidamente a todos los católicos y otros residentes de West Virginia a que hagan lo mismo cuando tengan la oportunidad.

Debemos recordar que al protegernos a nosotros mismos mediante una vacuna eficaz, también protegemos a los demás. Vacunarse, entonces, es una forma de promover el bien común y poner en práctica el mandamiento: Ama al prójimo como a ti mismo.

Han surgido algunas preguntas sobre la conexión entre las vacunas COVID-19 y el aborto. El obispo Kevin Rhoades y el arzobispo Joseph Naumann, quienes presiden los Comités de Doctrina y Actividades Pro-vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU., Respectivamente, emitieron un comunicado declarando que ninguna de las dos vacunas que ahora están disponibles, de Pfizer y Moderna, usaba líneas celulares de fetos abortados en el diseño, desarrollo o producción de sus vacunas. Sin embargo, cada uno utilizó una línea celular de un feto abortado en pruebas de confirmación para determinar la efectividad de la vacuna. Existe una conexión con el aborto, pero es remota. Citando documentos romanos, los obispos concluyen que es moralmente permisible usar cualquiera de estas dos vacunas, especialmente dada la gravedad de la amenaza que representa el virus COVID-19 para nuestra gente y la falta de otros remedios. Puede leer la declaración completa de los obispos en <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>.

Para ilustrar por qué en algunas circunstancias podemos beneficiarnos de una acción moralmente incorrecta en la que no participamos directamente y que no aprobamos, ofrezco una analogía histórica. Las Hermanas Benedictinas que me enseñaron en la escuela secundaria vivían en un convento que, a principios del siglo XIX, era el hogar de una familia esclavista en el noreste de Washington, DC. En el sótano había cadenas e instrumentos para castigar a los esclavos que trabajaban en la granja de la familia. ¿Las Hermanas estaban dando su aprobación a la esclavitud o al maltrato de esclavos porque vivían en ese hogar? Apenas. Apoyaron los derechos civiles y enseñaron y nutrieron a los descendientes de antiguos esclavos en la escuela secundaria. Pero las Hermanas se beneficiaron de vivir en una casa construida y ocupada por antiguos dueños de esclavos. Existe una conexión con la esclavitud pero muy remota.

Jesús contó una parábola sobre el trigo y la mala hierba (Mateo 13: 24-30). Los sirvientes del amo se acercaron a él para informarle que las malas hierbas crecían entre el trigo. "Un enemigo ha hecho esto", dijo el maestro. ¿Deberían arrancar las malas hierbas? "No", dijo el maestro, "si arrancas la mala hierba, podrías arrancar el trigo con ella. Déjalos crecer juntos hasta la cosecha". Luego se quemarían las malas hierbas y se recogería el trigo en el granero.

Hay sabiduría en esta parábola. Debemos evitar participar en los actos malvados de los demás, pero no podemos aislarnos del resto del mundo. Inevitablemente entraremos en contacto con personas y situaciones que están teñidas de maldad. Nunca debemos dar ayuda material a alguien que está haciendo mal, pero

a veces se nos presenta un hecho consumado: el mal ya se ha hecho y no podemos cambiarlo. Pero debido a que nuestra conexión con el mal hecho no es material (es decir, no ayudó a causar el mal) ni está cerca de nosotros en el tiempo, podemos, si de mala gana, aceptar un beneficio de ello. Recibir una vacuna COVID-19 que se probó utilizando una línea celular moralmente comprometida está en esa categoría.

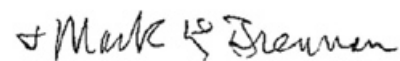
Debido a que el aborto es un acto gravemente incorrecto, siempre debemos oponernos a él y nunca dar la apariencia de que lo aprobamos. Idealmente, evitaríamos incluso una conexión remota con el mal. Los obispos antes mencionados y los jefes de muchas otras organizaciones escribieron al Comisionado de la Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos la primavera pasada para instar a que las vacunas se desarrollen y prueben sin siquiera una conexión remota con el aborto. ¿Por qué no agrega su voz a la de ellos? (Comisionado, FDA, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20993; o llame al 888-463-6332). Afortunadamente, las compañías farmacéuticas pueden utilizar líneas celulares que no provienen de fetos abortados. Algunas vacunas basadas en ellos están en desarrollo, pero aún no están listas para su producción o distribución. Mientras tanto, el uso de las vacunas Pfizer y Moderna es moralmente legítimo, dada la lejanía de su conexión con los bebés abortados y la urgente necesidad de protegernos a nosotros mismos y a los demás de una enfermedad mortal.

Una tercera vacuna, que está siendo desarrollada por AstraZeneca, ha utilizado una línea celular de un bebé abortado en sus fases de diseño, desarrollo y producción, por lo que se vincula más inmediatamente con un aborto. Si es posible, esa vacuna debe evitarse. Sin embargo, como señalan los obispos, es posible que el individuo no pueda elegir qué vacuna recibe, mientras que el peligro para la persona y para otras personas sigue siendo grave si la vacunación se retrasa o rechaza durante mucho tiempo. Debido a que los investigadores y productores de la vacuna AstraZeneca no abortaron al feto, sino que utilizaron la línea celular de ese niño para su trabajo, la suya es una conexión más inmediata con el mal del aborto, pero aún no una cooperación material en él.

Mientras esperamos nuestras vacunas, debemos utilizar las medidas de protección que pueden evitar que nos infectemos con el virus COVID-19 y contagiemos a otros: lavarnos las manos con frecuencia, usar mascarillas, no darnos la mano, mantener un distanciamiento físico adecuado y evitar grandes multitudes.

Sigamos orando por las víctimas de esta enfermedad y sus familias, por nuestro personal sanitario y por otras personas susceptibles al virus por su tipo de trabajo o su edad o debilidad de salud. Ore también por el fin de la pandemia y por un mayor aprecio por la vida de todos los seres humanos, desde los no nacidos hasta los ancianos. Dios nos ha dado vida y aliento. Le pedimos que nos dé buena salud a nosotros y a todas las personas, por eso oramos: ¡Jesús, Divino Médico, ten piedad de tu pueblo!

Sinceramente en Cristo,



+ Mark E. Brennan  
Obispo de Wheeling-Charleston

**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.reportbishop-abuse.org](http://www.reportbishop-abuse.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.reportbishop-abuse.org](http://www.reportbishop-abuse.org).

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352. 6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

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

304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en [www.dwc.org](http://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](http://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.



## Mills ...

**Cont'd from Page 9**

sense to me that it would therefore inform the music I compose which itself is born from my own personal experiences." He noted on the songbook of the album that half of the music on it are revised and expanded versions of a few of his first compositions, and the other half are pieces he composed in honor of his musical roots.

"Reflections of Home is, in many ways, a literal title," Mills noted. "It is impossible for me to compose, play, or hear this music without thinking of my youth, my childhood house, or my family's piano. In fact, the music itself feels like a compositional home. These works are the origins of everything I create today, and no matter how far from these beginnings myself or my artistic interests travel, this music will always be my home."

The song Silent Adoration was composed in 2020 for Very Rev. Paul Wharton, V.F., and his St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley. "Father Paul is another priest I had in Princeton growing up and someone I consider to be deeply in-

fluential to my development as a person and a Catholic," Mills said. "Near the beginning of the Pandemic, Father Paul asked if I would be willing to share any music I had for a virtual adoration service his parish was having. I knew he was asking for music I already had written, but the day before the service I felt a rush of inspiration to compose a new work. I wrote and recorded that entire piece in one day and the whole process along with the style is very similar to my early composing which is why I included it on the album."

Father Wharton said he was overwhelmed when Mills presented him with an original song. "I reached out to him because I wanted my parishioners and anyone joining the virtual Adoration to have a beautiful piece of music to calm them," Father Wharton said. "I knew Michael well and was certain he had something he had already written that would do. I had no idea he would craft such a breathtaking piece just for us and Adoration."

"When I heard (Silent Adoration) for the first time I fell in love with it. It's so inspiring. It stills gives me a great

sense of peace, when I listen to it. What a gift! What a generous thing to do!"

"He is a blessing to the church," Father Wharton said. "He was raised by parents (Gary and Tina), who made sure each member of the family

was involved in parish life. That is reflected in who he has become—a great blessing."

For more information about Mills' music go to <https://www.tcpublish.com/audio-1>.

## Employment Opportunity

**Interim Service Coordinator WV Birth to Three RAU 1**, Catholic Charities has a full time Intake/Interim Services Coordinator position open in the Morgantown office. Will work with families of children with developmental delays or who may be at risk for developmental delays. Will follow-up on child referrals; conduct family interviews to gather child and family information; assist families with initial linkages they may need; assist with eligibility determination and/or IFSP development; coordinate transition procedures as needed for the child and their family. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university in Human Services Field such as social work, early education, special education, elementary education, nursing, psychology, counselling, sociology, speech and language pathology or equivalent field of study; valid driver's license and dependable transportation; ability to work in a team environment. Strong case management, organizational skills and knowledge of child development preferred. Submit a resume, cover letter, and three references by Jan. 4 to: Wendy Miller at [wmiller@ccwva.org](mailto:wmiller@ccwva.org)

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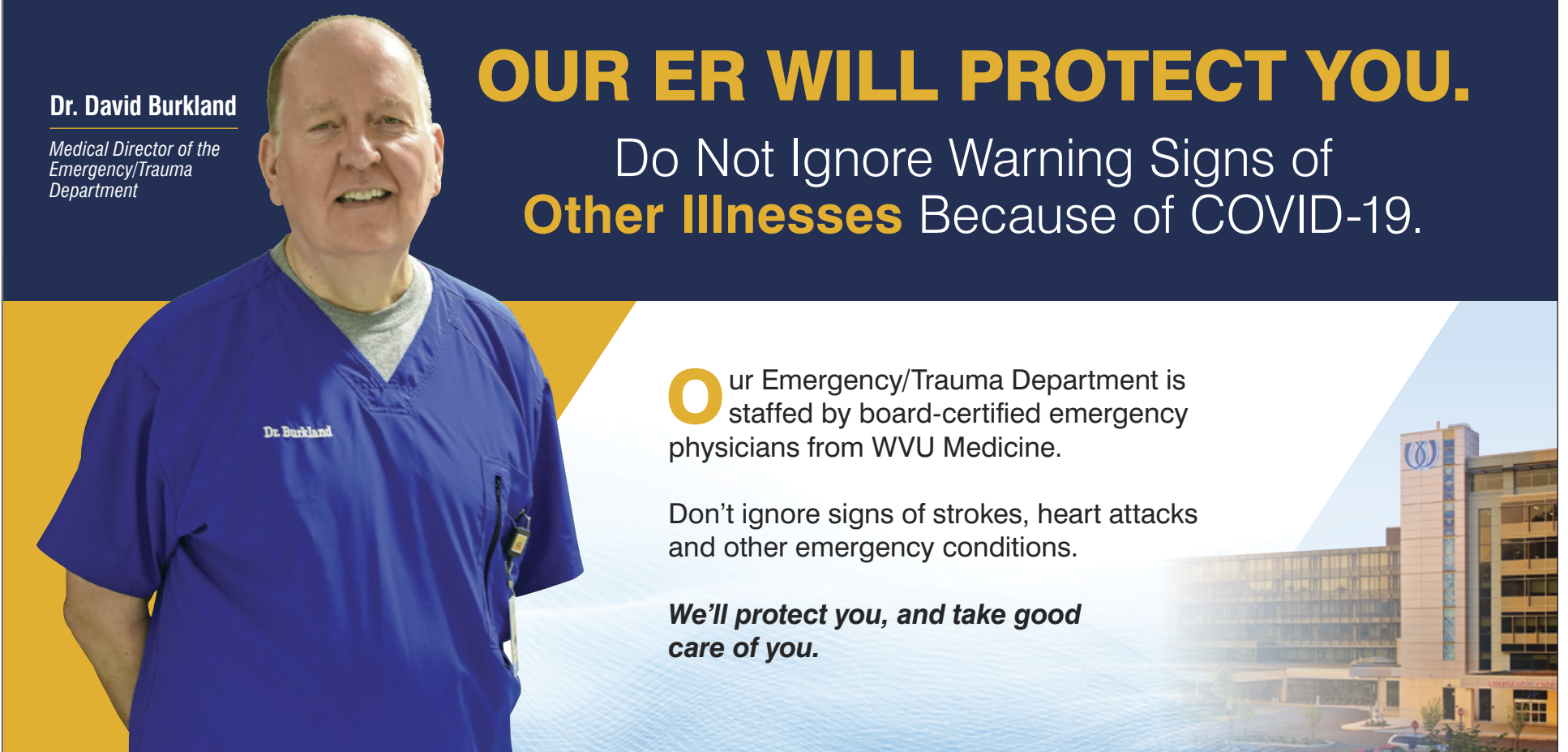
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