

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Wheeling, Charleston Parishes Will Host Presentation by U.S. Attorneys on Human Trafficking

Event Will Also be Held Virtually for Those Who Cannot Attend

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA — January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month and two of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's parishes will be hosting an event offering an in-depth look into and discussion of this crime. "Human Trafficking: Facts, Fiction, and Federal Law" will be presented by the U.S. attorneys of West Virginia Jan. 18 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Michael Parish's Angelus Center in Wheeling and at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. The gatherings are free and will also be available via WebEx for those who cannot attend in person.

"Whether it's sex trafficking, forced labor, or domestic servitude, humans are being exploited for profit right here in West Virginia," said William Ihlenfeld, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia. "The event on Jan. 18 will shed light on a crime that often goes undetected, and help community members to recognize it."

The event is a partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of West Virginia. The U.S. attorney in the Southern District is Will Thompson.

Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the diocese, said the event has speakers specific to religious organizations as well as law enforcement and community members, adding that he hopes all "will be able to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to learn more about this pressing issue."

According to information on the registration website, the agenda for the event includes a look at "Human Trafficking and Federal Law," followed by "Human Trafficking in West Virginia: A Case Study" and "Intersection of Human Trafficking and Substance Use Disorder." A panel discussion will also be held focusing on "Making a Difference Together."

Clergy at the hosting parishes are encouraging the people of their faith communities as well as neighboring parishes to attend the event in person or virtually.

"The basilica is honored to host this important gathering," said Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the basilica. "The information will enlighten about this often-hidden tragedy against the dignity of human persons and provide us with skills to become aware and speak up for the victims."

See "Presentation" on Page 3

Catholics Nationwide Invited to Pray '9 Days for Life' Novena Starting Jan. 16

WASHINGTON — Catholics nationwide are invited to pray "9 Days for Life," an annual Respect Life novena starting Tuesday, Jan. 16.

This particular novena is an opportunity for prayer and reparation in observance

of the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Jan. 22.

Participants may access the novena and also subscribe to receive the daily prayers by e-mail or by text message in English at

9daysforlife.com or in Spanish at respectlife.org/9-dias-por-la-vida.

Sponsored by the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the **See "Novena" on Page 4**



Home for Christmas

“What a joy to have our three seminarians home for Christmas,” officials at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston posted to Facebook. Seminarians Michael Aiello, Michael Tupta, and Timothy Kawash (standing from left) are pictured at the basilica, their home parish, following Christmas Mass at which they served together. They are three of the diocese's 11 seminarians. Tupta is holding his sweet little niece, Maren Morehouse.

Inside:

WV Faithful to be Part of the Eucharistic Revival, Page 6

USCCB Affirms Pope's Description of Surrogacy as Turning a Child into 'an Object of Trafficking,' Page 10

Memo Regarding Mr. Lawrence Tanner Westfall

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Please be advised that, effective immediately, Mr. Lawrence Tanner Westfall is not permitted to serve in any liturgical function or volunteer in any way at parishes, missions, or chapels within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. This is in no way related to the Charter for the Protection of Young People, but rather a matter of teachings incompatible with the faith and harmful to the faithful.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

Please contact Nicholas Chancey, Executive Director of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship, if you have any questions regarding the continuation of formation groups that may have been coordinated by him in your parish.

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.reportbishop-abuse.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.reportbishop-abuse.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; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
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Presentation...

Cont'd from Page 1

I invite the parishioners of the Charleston Vicariate to attend, work and pray for an end to this horrific crime."

Adding to this was St. Michael's

pastor Father Carlos Melocoton, who said: "Child labor, organ trade, abortion, exploitation and prostitution are just some social diseases that come out from human trafficking. For us to be aware and know how to act upon this issue against the dignity of human life must be

part of our participation in the law of loving our neighbor and God who creates and gives us life."

Father Melocoton anticipates this to be a powerful event providing parishioners with necessary information on the crime. "I highly encourage all to come and attend

this event," he said.

Education credits for attorneys, social workers, and law enforcement are pending.

Registration is required. To register, call (304) 234-7743 or use the QR code in the ad below to go to the registration page.



The U.S. Attorneys of West Virginia

present

Human Trafficking Facts, Fiction, and Federal Law

January 18, 2024

8:30 a.m - 11:30 a.m.

This free event will be hosted in person in Wheeling, WV; Charleston, WV; and virtually via WebEx. Registration is required. To register, call 304-234-7743 or use the QR code below to go to the registration page.



Wheeling

St. Michael's Angelus Center
1225 National Road
Wheeling, WV

Charleston

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
1114 Virginia Street E
Charleston, WV

Education credits for attorneys, social workers, and law enforcement are pending.

National Prayer Vigil & Overnight Holy Hours for Life Announced

By Joyce Bibey

The annual opening Mass for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Prayer Vigil for Life will be at 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception's Great Upper Church. The principal celebrant and homilist for the Opening Mass will be Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Immediately following the opening Mass, a National Holy Hour for Life will take place with a Eucharistic Procession, Eucharistic Adoration, Recitation of the Rosary, and Benediction. Both the opening Mass and Holy Hour of the National Prayer Vigil for Life will be broadcast on various Catholic networks and will be

televised on EWTN and livestreamed on the Basilica's website at <https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass/>.

Immediately following the Holy Hour from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception bishops across the country will each lead a National Holy Hour for Life between 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, to 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19.

By Monday, Jan. 15, the USCCB will announce the exact time slot for Bishop Mark Brennan's holy hour. Watch the diocesan Facebook page for that announcement. The holy hour assigned to Bishop Mark will be streamed live from the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling as part of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Prayer Vigil for Life. This

moment will be shared live at <https://dwc.org/home/mass/> and our diocesan Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Dioce-seofWheelingCharleston>.

Bishop Mark never tires of emphasizing our importance of prayer and action, supporting the respect for life.

In his USCCB Pro-life plenary talk to diocesan pro-life directors last year, Bishop Mark said, "Our prayers must not cease. We implore His mercy on us and on our nation so that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We must keep advocating for the lives of the unborn and for the true welfare of their mothers and families. Be fully alive and do great things."

Each holy hour across the country

has its own for that diocese's livestreaming. To follow along go to <https://www.usccb.org/prolife/overnight-holy-hours-january>

The National Prayer Vigil for Life concludes with Mass at 8 a.m., Friday, Jan. 19, celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus.

As Bishop Mark has said repeatedly, "We need to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. We can recite words, but we need to perform deeds in order to live the Word and teachings Christ gave us. Do God's work and not just speak pro-life, pro-baby, and pro-woman. Give our sincere support to those who are in active areas, where we cannot be. Let God move minds and hearts, but we must be the ones who now speak and work for Him."

Novena...

Cont'd from Page 1

novena began in 2013 in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade—the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the United States. While the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization returned the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives at federal and state levels, continuing efforts are needed to protect children and their mothers from the tragedy of abortion.

This is the twelfth year the novena is taking place. Since the novena began, it has reached hundreds of

thousands of people in over one hundred countries spanning six continents.

The overarching intention of the novena is the end to abortion. Each daily prayer intention highlights a related topic and is accompanied by a reflection, educational information, and suggested daily actions. A resource kit is available, featuring the daily prayer intentions and reflections, among other materials. A press kit is also available.

For additional information and updates throughout the novena, please follow United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram.

SAVE THE DATE



RED MASS

The annual Mass, calling on the Holy Spirit to guide members of the local bar association, members of the court, and other civil officials in the administration of justice and good government.

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

6:00 pm

Reception to follow.

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart



Respect life

"Let God move minds and hearts, but we must be the ones who now speak and work for Him."

-Bishop Mark Brennan

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CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

CDU partners with the diocese to offer **free** non-credit continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry.

Visit www.pathlms.com/cdu to browse the courses and register. Use the access code, **CDU20DIOCESEWC** when setting up your account to receive your free tuition! cdu.edu

Remember the Special Collection for the Holy Land Region during Masses This Weekend

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA— At Masses this weekend (Jan. 13-14) the special collection for the Holy Land region will be held in parishes and missions of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Bishop Mark Brennan approved the special collection, making the announcement Dec. 14 to all priests, parishes, and missions of the diocese.

“We are all aware of the current Hamas-Israeli war and the escalation in violence in the Holy Land,” the bishop said in the announcement. “The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of

water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and knows where and what kind of help is needed the most.”

Checks for the collection are to be made payable to one’s respective parish/mission and on the memo line indicate CNEWA Holy Land Collection. The parish/mission will then send one check for all contributions for this collection to the DWC Finance Department.

The bishop is asking parishes to spread the word about the importance of this collection.

“Please continue to pray for peace and for all those who have suffered losses during this war,” the bishop said.

CNEWA was founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as an instrument of

love and a sign of hope for those in need scattered throughout the historic but unstable lands of the ancient Eastern churches — the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe, the organization’s website states.

For nearly 100 years, the site states, CNEWA has walked side by side with those in need.

“We have prayed with them when they were attacked, comforted them when they grieved, fed them when they hungered, bandaged them when they bled, sheltered them when they had no place to call home,” the site states. “We have been there, always, through the arms of the living body of Christ, the church, as they live for others, counseling the despondent, caring for the sick, feeding

the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, teaching the eager and forming the next generation of leaders.”

CNEWA, the site notes, is a network of generous and compassionate people scattered throughout the world, committed to living Jesus’ great command to “love one another” by reaching out to their neighbors in need, regardless of where their neighbor may be.

This network links generous donors with the laity, priests, sisters and bishops of the local churches — CNEWA’s “boots on the ground” — who receive help and touch countless lives in incalculable ways in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

Special collection for the Holy Land

at Masses in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Jan. 13-14

“The money collected will be sent to **The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)**, a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and knows where and what kind of help is needed the most.” — *Bishop Mark Brennan*



Your donation can save a life.

CNEWA’s Emergency Relief Fund to provide the essentials of water, food and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land.

Learn more about CNEWA at <https://cnewa.org>

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WV Faithful to be Part of the Revival

By Joyce Bibey

Will you be one of the 250 people to represent the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at the National Eucharistic Revival in Indianapolis this summer?

Bishop Mark Brennan secured 250 five-day passes for the July 17-21, 2024, event at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. More than 80,000 Catholics from across the country are expected to attend the revival.

Hopefully by now you have heard about the opportunity through your pastor and the Eucharistic Revival point person in your parish. The Office of Worship and Sacraments has been working with them since October to get our delegation ready, emphasizing the importance of having all reaches of the diocese represented.

Registration for the travel package is now open to all official parishioners starting this weekend. The first 250 people from the diocese to sign up to be part of the WV delegation will receive a complimentary five-day pass for the national congress as a gift from the Church in West Virginia.

These tickets are only available with purchase of the travel package through Corporate Travel (a Catholic pilgrimage company). See flyer on the right of this page. The flyer is also available from your pastor/parish office for links and details.

The diocesan travel package includes bus transportation to Indianapolis, hotel, five-day pass to all the NEC events, and shuttle service each day from hotel to the venue. Cost is based on single or double room. Triple and quad are available to those who can coordinate/secure those. A deposit of \$750 is due upon registration.

As Bishop Brennan has mentioned many times, the National Eucharistic Congress will be a life-changing experience for thousands of Catholics seeking an outpouring of grace, joy, hope, peace, unity, and meaning of Eucharistic faith. Additionally, the experience is a great investment for parish life.

"It is going to be invigorating to see the faithful of WV at the National Eucharistic Congress representing their local parishes," he said. "I'm happy we are partnering with Corporate Travel, a Catholic company that

specializes in Catholic pilgrimages, to ease the travel logistics burden for us."

As Bishop Brennan has communicated to our priests, this is an opportunity for the whole parish to benefit from so, "I encourage parishes to work together to find ways to finance the travel package for participants. Ideas such as having a fish fry or spaghetti dinner or some other fundraiser...." With the help of their pastors and Eucharistic Revival point persons, delegates should also seek sponsorships from their Knights of Columbus, Ladies Guild, Rosary groups, etc., to help cover the travel package.

Can more than 250 people from the diocese attend? Yes! After the 250 passes are claimed anyone interested in attending will be responsible for the cost of the ticket (\$360), as well as their own travel and accommodations.

Every day at the Congress is designed to facilitate a personal encounter with Christ. Attendees will select their preferred series of impact sessions for the morning and breakout sessions for the afternoon. Then, gathered together as one, the whole assembly will experience the powerful revival sessions in Lucas Oil Stadium each evening.

A summary of the event includes:

- Liturgies – Mass celebrated in multiple rites and languages.

- Breakout Sessions and Revival Sessions to give you hope, inspiration, and emphasis on God in your life, working through you.

- Expo Hall – Apostolates, ministries, orders, publishers, and vendors of Catholic items to enrich your spirit.

- Eucharistic Procession through downtown Indianapolis. (The monstrance that will be used was blessed by Pope Francis on June 19, 2023, in his words, to mark "a significant moment in the life of the Church in the United States.")

- Eucharistic Adoration.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation opportunities.

- Music and much more.

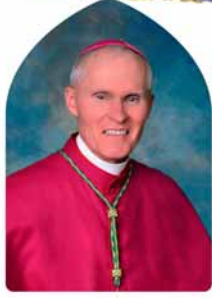
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No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, this moment in the history of the Church is for you!


Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

**INDIANAPOLIS
JULY 17 - 21, 2024**


with Bishop Mark Brennan and
the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code or click Book Now to attend this historic event.



[BOOK NOW!](#)



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

A message from Bishop Mark Brennan on the National Eucharistic Congress

"It is going to be invigorating to see the faithful of WV at the National Eucharistic Congress representing their local parishes. I'm happy we are partnering with Corporate Travel, a Catholic company that specializes in Catholic pilgrimages, to ease the travel logistics burden for us."

-Bishop Brennan

Tour Inclusions

- NEC Congress Pass (5 Days)
- Four (4) nights' accommodations in or near Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily (pending hotel assignment)
- Roundtrip transportation from West Virginia to Indianapolis via deluxe motorcoach
- Daily transportation from hotel to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium
- Gratuities payable to motorcoach drivers

Tour Does Not Include

- Meals and beverages not specifically identified
- Items not specifically mentioned above

3 Step Registration Process (Registration opens Jan. 13-14)

1. Scan the QR Code on the cover of the flyer or click [HERE](#) to access our online registration site.
2. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information, select your rooming configuration, enter payment information, and acknowledge our terms and conditions.
3. Upon completion, you will receive a confirmation email with your diocesan code and a video tutorial providing instructions for finalizing your registration on the official National Eucharistic Congress' website.

Payment Schedule:

\$750 per person deposit due upon registration
Remaining balance due April 17, 2024

All payments are non-refundable. By registering for this tour, you understand and agree to CTS Terms and Conditions and accept our CTS Liability Release. All cancellations must be received in writing.

Travel Insurance: The Archdiocese and CTS strongly encourage passengers to purchase CFAR (Cancel for Any Reason) travel insurance. See Travel Insured link: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47907&p=CTS21



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Voices of the Revival



Bishop Robert Barron



Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers



Sister Josephine Garrett



Scott Hahn



Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT



Father Josh Johnson



Matt Maher



Father Leo Patalinghug



Gloria Purvis



Father Mike Schmitz



Dr. Edward Sri



Chris Stefanick



Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid

By Joyce Bibey

The National Eucharistic Revival in Indianapolis, July 17-21 will feature some dynamic voices of the Church here in the US with compelling topics for adult Catholics, youth, ministry leaders, and families.

Who will be there? Dozens of national and international Catholic speakers so that everyone can choose the experience that will have the greatest impact on them. The content of each series will build throughout the week, creating a cohesive experience for all attendees.

Below we highlight 12. Some you may know already or have read about in FaithInWV.

Bishop Robert Barron, of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, is an acclaimed author and speaker. He is also the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, known on twitter as @onegroovynun, she is an author, and inspirational Catholic speaker featured on EWTN, SEEK Conferences, Steubenville Conferences, Abiding Together podcast, and more.

Father Mike Schmitz, who is most recently

known for Ascension podcasts' Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year. He is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth and chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota – Duluth, (BuilldogCatholic.org).

Gloria Purvis, host of The Gloria Purvis Podcast, is a Catholic voice for religious liberty and racial justice with a video series entitled Racism, Human Dignity, and the Catholic Church through Word on Fire Institute. Currently she is the Inaugural Pastoral Fellow at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Josh Johnson is featured on many productions through Ascension Presents/Media, the Ask Father Josh podcast, author of Broken & Blessed, vocation director for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and School in Baton Rouge.

Scott Hahn is a professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, founder and president of the St. Paul Center, an apostolate dedicated to teaching Catholics to read Scripture from the heart of the Church;

and author of Rome Sweet Rome, Hail, Holy Queen, and Holy is His Name.

Sister Josephine Garrett is a board member of the Laboure Society and Life Teen; author of Hope: An Invitation; and host of Hope Stories podcast.

Father Leo Patalinghug is the founder of Plating Grace, an international food and faith movement, and is also a bestselling author and host of the EWTN show Savoring Our Faith. Father Leo's background as a chef, black belt martial arts instructor, and award-winning break dancer and choreographer caught the eye of the Food Network, where he won Throwdown! with Bobby Flay.

Dr. Edward Sri is a noted Catholic speaker, who presents to tens of thousands of people internationally each year. He has written several bestselling books, including A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, The Art of Living, Walking with Mary, and Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple. Dr. Sri is also the presenter of several Ascension Press faith formation film series and is the host of the podcast All Things Catholic.

Matt Maher is one of North America's top Catho-

lic/Christian recording artists with hits like Your Grace is Enough; All the People Said Amen; and Lord, I Need You the latter he performed for Pope Francis and 4-million people at World Youth Day 2013 in Brazil.

Chris Stefanick is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville and founder of Real Life Catholic. He is described by Church leaders as "one of the most engaging defenders of the Christian faith on the scene today."

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers an internationally renowned speaker, author, and preacher. He has ap-

peared as a guest on numerous Catholic radio and television programs, and is the host or co-host of several popular series on EWTN. Deacon Harold is the award-winning author of five books, including Behold the Man: A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality and Building a Civilization of Love: A Catholic Response to Racism.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid is a familiar face at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling as a featured speaker for the Eucharistic Revival, Infant of Prague Novena, and Lenten Mission.

Honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Catholic Social Teaching Our Call to Act

By Joyce Bibey

On Monday we celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who clearly articulated social justice, nonviolence, and mutual respect for all creation so equality, freedom, and justice would prevail for the common good. Let his legacy remind us that we all have a role in working to end divisions, violence, and injustice. We have a call to act — a responsibility to live up to our Catholic Social Teaching.

King emphasized with his words and actions to meet hate with love, and to show respect towards self, our fellow community members, and to our world, even in the face of differences, challenges, or darkness.

Catholic Social Teaching goes hand in hand with that mindset. It is central to how we are to live Christ's call to love our neighbor as ourselves and become the light of Jesus to seek an end to racism, religious persecution, and all forms of disrespect of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be simplified with seven themes:

1. Life and Dignity – The most fundamental right is the right to life - God made each one of us and all are important and should be protected.
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation – Have a servant leader mindset, by sharing

and helping each other.

3. Rights and Responsibilities – Have an active role in making sure others are safe and healthy.

4. Care for the Poor and Vulnerable – Like Christ be a giver and support however you can those marginalized in our communities.

5. Dignity and Rights of Workers – Approaching work as a gift back to God and for a better community; and ensuring just wage and respect for work completed.

6. Solidarity – We are all brothers and sisters in God's family – purposefully and wonderfully made!

7. Care for God's Creation – It is our duty to care for our world – all creation – made by God.

It's one thing to be able to identify our Catholic Social Teaching and honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, but it is most important to take this moment to examine how we are answering God's call to action.

Prayerfully consider how to support service organizations in our parishes and communities with time, treasure, talents, and prayer.

When praying, pray for peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, and genuine empathy.

"I give you a new commandment – love one another! As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." – Jesus Christ (John 13:34)

Bishop Brennan Participating in Wheeling's MLK events

Bishop Mark Brennan will be one of 12 clergy to participate in the Wheeling Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Interfaith Service set for Sunday. The public is welcome to attend.

- The MLK March will begin at 2:15 p.m. at the Windmill atop Martin Luther King Boulevard/Stone Road and proceed to West Virginia Northern Community College, 1704 Market Street, Wheeling.

- At 3 p.m. there will be an MLK and Rosa Parks Awards presentation at WVNCC's B&O Auditorium. A community banquet will be held immediately following (\$5 suggested donation).

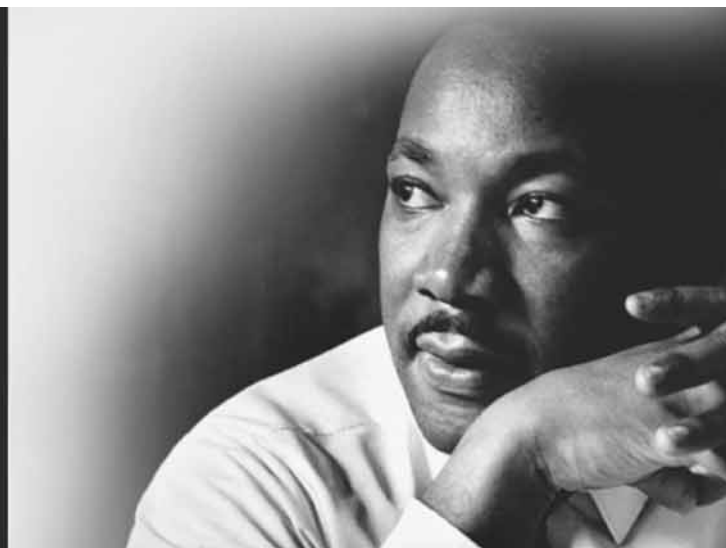
- The prayer service and special presentation will begin at 6 p.m., at Wayman AME Church, 1136 Eoff Street.

- MLK festivities continue on Monday, Jan. 15 in Wheeling with an MLK Breakfast at Laughlin Memorial Chapel, 129 18th Street. A special children's program is at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 5-12 at the chapel.

All attending the events are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to donate to the House of the Carpenter.

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-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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with Fr. Chapin

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6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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USCCB Affirms Pope's Description of Surrogacy as Turning a Child into 'an Object of Trafficking'

By **Maria Wiering**

(OSV News) — Pope Francis told diplomats Jan. 8 that he finds surrogacy “deplorable” and would like to see the practice universally banned.

“I deem deplorable the practice of so-called surrogate motherhood, which represents a grave violation of the dignity of the woman and the child, based on the exploitation of situations of the mother’s material needs. A child is always a gift and never the basis of a commercial contract,” he said in an annual New Year’s meeting with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See. “Consequently, I express my hope for an effort by the international community to prohibit this practice universally.”

The remarks made headlines among major U.S. secular news outlets, prompting calls to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the conference’s spokesperson and Executive Director of Public Affairs Chieko Noguchi told OSV News.

“As Pope Francis stated, with surrogacy, an unborn child is turned into ‘an object of trafficking’ because it exploits the birth mother’s material needs and makes the child the product of a commercial contract. This is why the Catholic Church teaches that the practice of surrogacy is not morally permissible. Instead, we should pray for, and work towards, a world that upholds the profound dignity of every person, at every stage and in every circumstance of life,” Noguchi said in a Jan. 8 media statement.

Gestational surrogacy is the practice in which a woman carries and delivers a baby for an individual or couple, sometimes for compensation. The gestational carrier is impregnated through in vitro fertilization, a practice the church also proscribes.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are

gravely immoral. These techniques (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) infringe the child’s right to be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each other by marriage. They betray the spouses’ ‘right to become a father and a mother only through each other.’”

Pope Francis has denounced surrogacy before, including in a 2022 meeting with members of the Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe, during which he said, “The dignity of men and women is also threatened by the inhumane and increasingly widespread practice of ‘womb renting,’ in which women, almost always poor, are exploited, and children are treated as commodities.”

In 2016, Pope Francis briefly reflected on surrogacy in “Amoris Laetitia” (“The Joy of Love”), a post-synodal apostolic exhortation that followed the 2014-2015 synods of bishops on the family, noting, “History is burdened by the excesses of patriarchal cultures that considered women inferior, yet in our own day, we cannot overlook the use of surrogate mothers and the ‘exploitation and commercialization of the female body in the current media culture,’” citing a catechesis he gave at a general audience in April 2015.

The commercial surrogacy industry was valued at \$14 billion globally in 2022, and is projected to reach an estimated value of \$129 billion by 2032, according to a November 2022 Global Market Insights report. Surrogacy laws vary by country.

Surrogacy was just one of many topics Pope Francis touched on in his Jan. 8 meeting with members of the diplomatic corps. After thanking them for their “efforts to foster good relations between the Holy See and your respective countries,” he reflected on areas of war and political tension throughout the world, including Israel and Palestine and Russia and Ukraine.

(Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.)



40 Hours of Devotion

January 12-14, 2024
St. Patrick Church, Weston WV

All are welcome to join us!

Friday, January 12:

6:00 PM—Exposition and Vespers with Preached Homily
9:30 PM—Chanted Compline followed by Simple Reposition

Saturday, January 13:

7:00 AM Exposition
8:00 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds
8:30 AM—Votive Mass of The Most Holy Eucharist
12:00 PM—Recitation of the Angelus and the Most Holy Rosary
5:00 PM—Vespers followed by Simple Reposition
5:30 PM—Saturday Vigil Mass
9:30 PM—Chanted Compline

Sunday, January 14

9:30 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds followed by Simple Reposition
10:30 AM—Solemn Mass
6:00 PM—Solemn Vespers and Benediction with Preached Sermon

Sign up in the back of Church for your hour(s) to be with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.
You may also sign up via email Mike Brumley at brumleyma@gmail.com.

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May 20	Blessed Virgin Mary – TBD
June 24	Marcellin Champagnat – Brother John Byrd, FMS
July 29	St. Ignatius of Loyola – Lou Volpe
August 26	St. Dominic – Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP
September 30	St. Lorenzo Ruiz – Fr. Carlos Melocoton
October 28	Jesuit Martyrs – TBD
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December 16	St. Stephan – Deacon John Yaquinta

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Nigeria's Sorrow is 'Overflowing,' Bishop Says after Christians Massacred over Christmas

By Ngala Killian Chimton

(OSV News) — Gov. Caleb Mutfwang of Nigeria's Plateau state declared a week of mourning Jan. 1-8 to honor the deaths of at least 200 Christians killed over Christmas by Fulani Muslim herders, targeting Christians in the country. Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto, Nigeria, said the attackers are "children of darkness" and come "from the deepest pit of hell."

The Dec. 23-28 killings also have led to thousands of people being forced to flee their homes.

As many as 80 villages in the Plateau state were attacked, Christian aid group Release International reported Dec. 30. Bodies continue to be discovered, and attacks are expected to continue, the aid group said.

"I urge all citizens to use these days for intense prayers to seek the intervention of the almighty God in defending our territories against wicked men that have risen against us," Mutfwang said in a video statement released Jan. 2.

The local leader asked that Friday Muslim prayers Jan. 5 and Sunday Masses Jan. 7 be dedicated "as special prayer days for lasting peace to return to the Plateau (region)," he said.

In a three-page New Year's message, called "Blood and crucifixion on the Plateau," a copy of which OSV News obtained, Bishop Kukah strongly condemned the killers as "sons of Satan."

"Those invisible men came to the Plateau again, bearing their gifts of death and destruction," he said, adding that Fulani herders "came from the deepest pit of hell, the habitat of the devils that they are."

Calling the killers "children of darkness," he said they snatched "the light of the joy of Christmas from thousands of people on the Plateau."

"They imagined they would ignite an orgy of blood, seduce the ordinary peace-loving people of the Plateau and set them on a mission of mindless murder of fellow citizens in the name of retaliation," he said.

Bishop Kukah said he was appalled by the violence and killings in the northern states of Nigeria and blamed the country's government and security agencies for failing to protect the citizens.

"Over the years, these murderers have left their footprints of blood and tears across the length and breadth of the entire northern states, indiscriminately wrecking destruction across large swaths of land and communities," Bishop

Kukah said. "In all this, the Nigerian state and its security agencies are blindsided."

He added that "funerals" and "coffins" are now part of "our landscape."

He voiced the hopelessness and despair of Nigerians, who he said are losing faith in their government and their religious leaders.

"While we religious leaders have continued to use our moral authority to encourage our people not to take the laws into their hands, we risk being swept away by the anger and frustration of our people," he said, adding that Nigeria's "cups of sorrow" are "overflowing."

"We have cried enough tears. We may pretend that we are not at war, but truly, a war is being waged against the Nigerian state and its people. God forbid, but we could snap anytime, anywhere and for any reason," Bishop Kukah wrote.

The semi-nomadic Fulani herders have been attacking Christian and Muslim Hausa farmers for years, claiming that farmers are taking over grazing lands crucial to their survival, but Christian groups reject that claim as they appeal for protection from the group that is radicalized as thousands have been killed in recent years.

Nigeria has continued to lead with regard to Christian persecution. According to the Vatican's latest statistics, four of the nine missionaries killed in Africa in 2023 were recorded in Nigeria. The killers "do not respect the boundaries of religion, region or ethnicity," Bishop Kukah said.

Open Doors reported that 90% of the more than 5,600 Christians killed for their faith last year were from Nigeria, with the total number of Christians killed in 2023 up 80% from five years ago.

The latest annual report of Aid to the Church in Need, a pontifical foundation dedicated to serving Christians around the world, noted that more than 7,600 Nigerian Christians were killed between January 2021 and June 2022.

Nigeria's leading human rights advocacy group, Intersociety, observed the latest killings with "deepest shock, dismay and sadness," saying that the Fulani group — called "jihadist" by Intersociety — "have continued unchecked to slaughter, abduct and disappear thousands of defenseless Nigerians."

The group said that since the beginning of January 2023, 3,500 Christians were killed by the ex-



OSV News Photo/X (formerly Twitter) account of Caleb Mutfwang Gov. Caleb Mutfwang of Nigeria's Plateau state is pictured Dec. 27, 2023, visiting communities affected by the Dec. 23-28 killings. He declared a week of mourning Jan. 1-8 to honor the deaths of at least 200 Christians killed during Christmas by Fulani Muslim herders in the West African country.

tremist group.

In his statement, Bishop Kukah asked: "Who are these killers? Where are they coming from? Who is sponsoring them?"

"Are we condemned to live with this and hand this broken nation to our children? Should we all just become inoculated and sedated to make all this bearable?" he said in

his New Year's appeal.

He noted that "for us as Christians," however, "in the cross, there is salvation."

"May this new year begin the healing of our dear nation," Bishop Kukah said.

(Ngala Killian Chimton writes for OSV News from Yaoundé, Cameroon.)



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U.S. Bishops Asked to Hold New Rounds of Synod on Synodality Listening Sessions

By **Gina Christian**

(OSV News) — Dioceses across the U.S. are asked to hold additional listening sessions in the next few months, following a request from the Vatican’s Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops which is preparing for the second session of the global Synod on Synodality in October.

In a Jan. 2 letter (a copy of which OSV News has obtained), Bishop Daniel E. Flores of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas — who chairs the U.S. bishops’ committee on doctrine and coordinates the U.S. bishops’ synod process — said his team is requesting “each diocese hold 2-3 listening sessions regarding the guiding questions” posed by the synod secretariat.

Those two guiding questions were phrased by Bishop Flores and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Synod Team as fol-

lows: “Where have I seen or experienced successes — and distresses — within the Church’s structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?” and “How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?”

Bishop Flores asked that each diocese summarize responses to those questions in a 3-5 page document and send it to the USCCB by April 8. The diocesan summaries will inform the USCCB’s summary, which is due to the synod secretariat in May.

Bishop Flores noted that in addition to the listening sessions, “we are encouraged to continue ongoing engagement with the People of God in the dynamism of a synodal style.”

To that end, dioceses may also include with their submissions “a two-page testimony of best practices for synodality” they have developed, the bishop explained.

Bishop Flores also wrote that in addition to the diocesan consultations taking place, “the USCCB will be holding additional listening sessions at the national level with a focus on participation, social justice, and vocations.”

Diocesan-level synod leaders “will be invited to participate in a national working group with the permission of the bishop,” he said in his letter.

Bishop Flores said that “we all know time is short, but even modest efforts at the local level can bear much fruit.

“Let us do what we can, as well as we can and trust the Lord to accomplish beyond what we can fore-

see,” he wrote.

Launched by Pope Francis in October 2021, the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, organized on the theme “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission,” took place Oct. 4-29, 2023, in Rome.

The first session of the synod, also known as the “Synod on Synodality,” was summarized in a 41-page report intended to allow the global church to digest, reflect on and give feedback on its contents ahead of the synod’s final session in Rome next October.

Part of that task is figuring out how decisions are made in the church in a way that is faithful to its nature — including discerning how episcopal collegiality is exercised in a synodal church — because the church’s members have “differentiated co-responsibility for the

common mission of evangelization.”

The synod’s report also covers topics such as evangelization as a mandate of baptism, formation in “authentic discipleship” rooted in the Eucharist and Scripture, clerical and lay formation, ministries of pastoral accompaniment, the role of the Eastern Catholic churches in the life of the universal church, ecumenism, ordaining married men to the priesthood, the role of women in the church and the ongoing impact of clerical sex abuse scandals among others.

The synod’s next session in Rome will have the task of making decisions about what concrete proposals to present before the pope.

(Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News. Peter Jesserer Smith, national news and features editor of OSV News, contributed to this report.)



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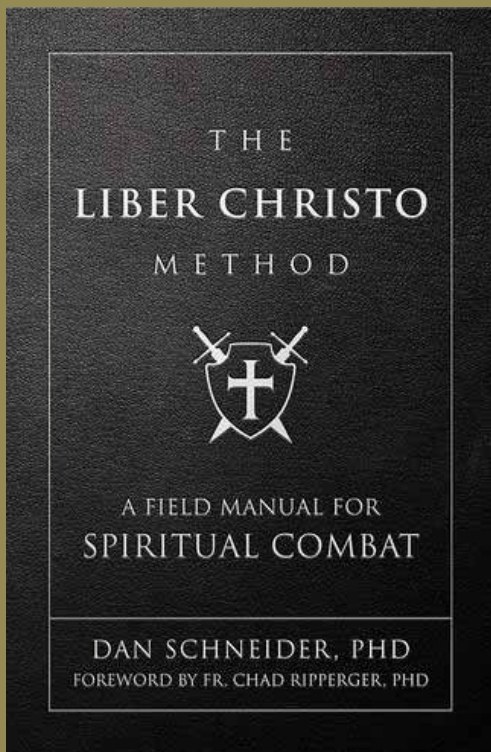
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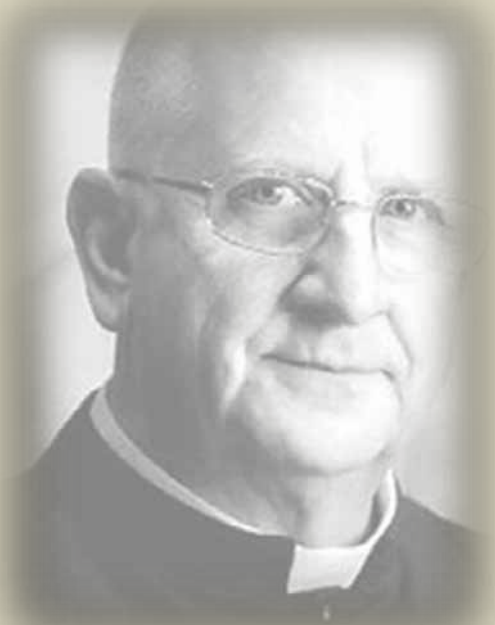


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La conferencia episcopal de EE.UU. confirma que la maternidad subrogada convierte al niño en 'objeto de tráfico'

Por Maria Wiering, OSV News (OSV News) — El Papa Francisco dijo a los diplomáticos el 8 de enero que considera "deplorable" la maternidad subrogada y que le gustaría que esta práctica se prohibiera universalmente.

"Considero deplorable la práctica de la llamada maternidad subrogada, que ofende gravemente la dignidad de la mujer y del niño; y se basa en la explotación de la situación de necesidad material de la madre. Un hijo es siempre un don y nunca el objeto de un contrato", dijo en el encuentro anual de Año Nuevo con los miembros del cuerpo diplomático acreditado ante la Santa Sede.

"Por ello, hago un llamamiento para que la comunidad internacional se comprometa a prohibir universalmente esta práctica", dijo el Santo Padre, quien también dijo que el "camino hacia la paz exige el respeto de la vida, de toda vida humana, empezando por la del niño no nacido en el seno materno, que no puede ser suprimida ni convertirse en un producto comercial".

Los comentarios fueron noticia entre los principales medios de noticias seculares de Estados Unidos, lo que provocó llamadas a la Con-

ferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, dijo a OSV News la portavoz de la conferencia y Directora Ejecutiva de Asuntos Públicos, Chieko Noguchi.

"Como afirma el Papa Francisco, con la maternidad subrogada, un niño no nacido se convierte en 'objeto de tráfico' porque explota las necesidades materiales de la madre biológica y hace del niño el producto de un contrato comercial. Por ello, la Iglesia católica enseña que la práctica de la maternidad subrogada no es moralmente permisible. Por el contrario, debemos rezar y trabajar por un mundo que defienda la profunda dignidad de cada persona, en cada etapa y circunstancia de la vida", afirmó Noguchi en una declaración a los medios de comunicación el 8 de enero.

La gestación subrogada es la práctica en la que una mujer gesta y da a luz a un bebé para un individuo o una pareja, a veces a cambio de una compensación. La portadora gestacional es fecundada in vitro, una práctica que la Iglesia también prohíbe.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica afirma: "Las técnicas que provocan una disociación de la paternidad por intervención de una per-

sona extraña a los cónyuges (donación del esperma o del óvulo, préstamo de útero) son gravemente deshonestas. Estas técnicas (inseminación y fecundación artificiales heterólogas) lesionan el derecho del niño a nacer de un padre y una madre conocidos de él y ligados entre sí por el matrimonio. Quebrantan 'su derecho a llegar a ser padre y madre exclusivamente el uno a través del otro'".

El Papa Francisco ha denunciado la maternidad subrogada anteriormente, incluso en una reunión en 2022 con miembros de la Federación de Asociaciones Familiares Católicas de Europa, durante la cual dijo: "La dignidad del hombre y de la mujer también se ve amenazada por la práctica inhumana y cada vez más extendida del 'vientre de alquiler', en la que las mujeres, casi siempre pobres, son explotadas, y se trata a los niños como mercancías".

En 2016, el Papa Francisco reflexionó brevemente sobre la maternidad subrogada en "Amoris Laetitia" ("La alegría del amor"), una exhortación apostólica postsinodal que siguió a los sínodos de obispos de 2014-2015 sobre la familia, señalando: "La historia lleva las huellas de los excesos

de las culturas patriarcales, donde la mujer era considerada de segunda clase, pero recordemos también el alquiler de vientres o 'la instrumentalización y mercantilización del cuerpo femenino en la actual cultura mediática'", citando una catequesis que pronunció en una audiencia general en abril de 2015.

El sector de la maternidad subrogada comercial se valoró en 14.000 millones de dólares en todo el mundo en 2022, y se prevé que alcance un valor estimado de 129.000 millones de dólares en 2032, según un informe de Global Market Insights de noviembre de 2022. Las leyes sobre maternidad subrogada varían según el país.

La maternidad subrogada fue uno de los muchos temas que el Papa Francisco abordó en su encuentro del 8 de enero con miembros del cuerpo diplomático. Después de agradecerles "su compromiso dedicado a favorecer las relaciones entre la Santa Sede y vuestros países", reflexionó sobre las zonas de guerra y tensión política en todo el mundo, incluyendo Israel y Palestina y Rusia y Ucrania.

(Maria Wiering es redactora sénior de OSV News.)

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades 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; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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

Annual Blessing of Vehicles Held in Follansbee



Courtesy Photo

St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee began the new year with the annual blessing of vehicles following the 9 a.m. Mass Jan. 1. Father Jude Perera, TOR, pastor of the parish, is shown above blessing the first vehicle outside of the church.

Diocese of Wheeling- Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Spring 2024 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 17: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg; 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 6: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 11: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 14: SS Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; 10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 15: Corpus Christi, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood; 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 21: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood; 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 28: St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 5: St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12: Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 13: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 22: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 25: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 25: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 26: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.


Saturday, June 1: St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9: Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 15: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16: St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.







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Hybrid Catechist Courses through University of Dayton's VLCFF Program Available this Month

Two five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the VLCFF. The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, which pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu.

For further information or to register, please contact Stoicoiu at rodica.stoicoiuphd@gmail.com

Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church (Begins Week of Jan. 15)

This is the second in a series of courses on the theology of the Church and builds on the course The Beginnings of the Church. We will continue our exploration of the Church and

how, as a living organism, it both maintains its continuity with Jesus and reshapes its own self-understanding. We will examine questions of authority, community and governance and look at social and political changes in the Church through the 15th century. This will then aid our conversation as we look at Vatican II and its understanding of the episcopal and papal offices and the models of Church presented by the Council. This is a five-week hybrid course offered through the diocese and the VLCFF. You will be able to work online taking quizzes and accessing material, as well as meet once a week via Zoom for class lecture and discussion with the course facilitator, Stoicoiu.

The Zoom sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. for five

weeks. Our first meeting will be on Jan. 15.

Introduction to Scripture (Begins Week of Jan. 15)

If you are new to studying the Bible, have questions about reading the Bible, want to learn more about the Bible but don't know where to start; or, if you are working towards your certification for catechesis, this course is for you!! Learn what the Bible is and where it comes from, understand how Roman Catholics read the Bible and what the differences are between a Catholic Bible and a Protestant Bible, start to build your

Bible vocabulary by learning about the synoptic Gospels, what is inspiration, and much more. This is a five-week hybrid course offered through the diocese and the VLCFF. You will be able to work online taking quizzes and accessing material, as well as meet once a week via Zoom for class lecture and discussion with the course facilitator, Stoicoiu.

The Zoom sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for five weeks. Our first meeting will be on Jan. 17.

This course is part of the course sequence for level one catechist certification.



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The Office of Consecrated Life presents a discernment retreat for single Catholic women ages 18 and over. In a world that lacks moments of silence and reflection it can be easy for us to ignore our callings. Join us and take this time to get to know yourself, your heart, and how Christ is working in your life.

- ◆ Retreat is free.
- ◆ Be with other discerning women.
- ◆ Register now - space is limited!

To Register/More Info:
Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, mgomez@dwc.org
Office of Consecrated Life (304)233-0880 ext. 264

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