

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

A Letter from Bishop Brennan on Proposed Death Penalty Legislation in West Virginia

Friday, January 19, 2024

The Death Penalty in West Virginia

When I address the death penalty, I am no stranger to the issue. On June 8, 2000, a priest and friend, who had welcomed me on my first day in the seminary years earlier, was brutally murdered by a drunken young man who broke into his rectory in Germantown, Maryland, looking for money. The state prosecutor wanted

to seek the death penalty but the priest's family urged him not to, citing the priest's opposition to capital punishment. After the murderer's conviction, the judge imposed a 42 ½ year sentence on him. I agree with the priest's family: a long prison sentence but not death.

Why not put to death a vicious criminal? After all, in the Bible we read: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand and foot for

foot [Deuteronomy 19:21]. But, in the same Bible, when God punished King David for contriving to have his soldier, Uriah, killed so he would not discover that David had committed adultery with his wife, God did not condemn the king to death but rather confronted him through the prophet Nathan and gave the king the opportunity to repent and be forgiven.

See "Letter" on Page 2

Pro-Lifers Will March until Abortion is 'Unthinkable,' Says Head of March for Life

By Kate Scanlon

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Thousands of pro-life advocates descended upon the nation's capital for the 51st annual March for Life Jan. 19, undeterred by several inches of snow that accumulated in Washington leading up to — and during — the event.

The 2024 march was just the second to take place since the U.S. Supreme Court reversed its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that initially prompted the annual pro-life demonstration.

"We will keep marching every year at the national level, as well as in our states, until our nation's laws reflect the basic truth that all human life is created equal and is worthy of protection," Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life Education and Defense Fund, told rallygoers.

Mancini said the group plans to hold marches not only in the District of Columbia but in all 50 states in the coming years.

See "March" on Page 3



The group from St. John University Parish and Mountaineer Catholic in Morgantown is pictured at the March for Life in Washington. Courtesy Photo

National Catholic Schools Week Begins Sunday, Jan. 28

By Joyce Bibey

WEST VIRGINIA — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is proud to celebrate National Catholic Schools week January 28-February 2, 2024, in all 24 Catholic schools across the state. Beginning in 1974,

this year marks the 50th annual celebration of Catholic education. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Schools will focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contribu-

tions to our church, our communities, and our nation during this week. All WV Catholic schools and students have created a week full of events that celebrate students, faculty, community & vocations.

Jennifer Hornyak, in-

terim superintendent of WV Catholic schools, looks forward to this opportunity to connect with families, donors, educators, and community members and to showcase the many gifts of a Catholic education.

"Our school commu-

nities are blessed to be a blessing," said Hornyak. "We have been blessed by the gift of our Catholic faith. Catholic education is one important way we can share that gift with the world," she said. "Our

See "Schools" on Page 4

Inside: 'Holy Communion: Contemporary Questions,' Theme of LARCUM 2024, Page 6

Spiritual Oasis: Year of Prayer a Needed Rest Stop on Journey to Jubilee, Page 8

Letter...

Cont'd from Page 1

Jesus urges us to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you [Matthew 5:44]. It is a struggle for most people to embrace this teaching, although many eventually do. But Jesus' words raise a fair question: can the state, charged with maintaining civil order, forego the retribution of life for life and take another approach in punishing vicious criminals?

In 1965 the legislators of West Virginia found another way. They abolished the death penalty in the Mountain State. Perhaps it bothered them that, in exacting a life for a life, the state was committing deadly violence, just as the criminal had done. There was no compelling evidence then, as there is none now, that capital punishment deterred violent crime. Some undoubtedly thought that a long prison sentence might give the convicted criminal time to reform. That can happen.

Chuck Colson, a White House counselor to President Richard Nixon, spent a year in prison

for his role in the Watergate scandal. While there he converted to Christ and, after his release, founded Prison Fellowship to aid prisoners and their families. Stephen Richards spent nine years in prison for drug dealing but used his time there to earn a college degree and, after prison, an MA and a Ph.D. He now teaches criminal justice at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Kevin Metrick spent seven years in prison for hacking into the software of Digital Equipment Co. Now, fittingly, he heads a firm that helps companies fill gaps in their security system. None of these men were sentenced to death for their crimes but they illustrate the truth that prisoners can reform.

Some of our legislators are understandably frustrated with crime and want to reinstate the death penalty to punish perpetrators. I have been robbed twice, so I'm no friend of crime. But is capital punishment the right approach to curbing serious crime? Before making such a drastic decision, is it not prudent to remember why we abolished capital punishment many decades ago? A death sentence serves only to ex-

press the anger of the state and aggrieved families; it does not prevent future violent crimes; it is inflicted disproportionately on the poor and on racial minorities and it wastes taxpayers' money.

On November 3, 2023, the City of Philadelphia settled a lawsuit with Walter Osgood for \$9,100,000 after he was exonerated of a murder it was later discovered he did not commit. He had spent twenty-three years on death row. He escaped execution but Philadelphia is paying a big price for its miscarriage of justice. Since 1973 many dozens of death row inmates across the country have been exonerated and released. Is it worth the risk of putting to death an innocent Walter Osgood to bring back a practice that has no real benefit to the citizens of our state and which West Virginia previously abolished?

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Arul Anthony is appointed pastor of Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Moorefield, St. Mary Parish in Petersburg, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Franklin with residence at the parish rectory in Moorefield, effective February 1, 2024.

Father L.J. Asantha Jude Perera, T.O.R., is appointed priest in residence at St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee with residence at the parish rectory, effective February 1, 2024.

In consultation with Bishop Augustine Ukwuoma of the Diocese of Orlu, Nigeria, **Father Gerald Muoka** is appointed administrator of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee with residence at the parish rectory, effective February 1, 2024. Father Muoka is also appointed chaplain to Hilltop Campus Ministry, which serves students from West Liberty University and Bethany College.

In consultation with Very Rev. Jaya Raj Battula, H.G.N., provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Kotaiah Dharelli, H.G.N.**, is appointed parochial vicar of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley with residence at the parish rectory, effective immediately.

In consultation with Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Kalariparambil, provincial superior of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, South-West India Province, **Father Abraham Puthiarampil Schariah, M.S.F.S.**, is appointed parochial vicar of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town with residence at the parish rectory, effective December 13, 2023.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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."

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 Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. 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.



Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444
Fax: (304) 233-8551
Web site: www.thecatholicspiritwv.org
Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
January 26, 2024, Vol. 55, No. 4

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



Print edition publishes on the first Friday of each month. Electronic edition is delivered by e-mail every Friday. All print issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

March...

Cont'd from Page 1

"We will march until abortion is unthinkable," she added.

The March for Life rally took place on the National Mall by the Smithsonian Castle, between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. Afterward, the march headed up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who spoke at the rally, told attendees that the notion that all people are created equal is a bedrock principle of America, written into the nation's founding documents.

"Every single person has inestimable dignity and value," Johnson said. "Your value is not related in any way to the color of your skin, or what ZIP code you live in, how good you were in sports, where you went to high school, it's irrelevant, your value is inherent because it is given to you by your creator."

Johnson was himself the "product of an unplanned pregnancy," he said.

"My parents, who were just teenagers at the time, chose life. And I am very profoundly grateful that they did," he said.

Johnson said after the reversal of Roe, it is a "critical time" to "build a culture that encourages and assists more and more people to make that same decision."

He argued the movement should learn from crucial figures in American history such as "Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony."

"They challenged the prevailing narratives of their day, and they succeeded," Johnson said, adding, "Their success was grounded in our nation's creed that we just spoke about. And they reminded their fellow Americans about our founding principles. And as Lincoln said, in his famous first inaugural, the better angels of our nature. We should do the same thing today."

The 2024 event's theme was "With Every Woman, For Every Child" and sought to highlight the work of pregnancy care centers and maternity homes. Jean Marie Davis, executive director of



John Sherwood Photo

Because of snow, the St. James Pro-Life bus trip to the March for Life in Washington was canceled. Instead, a day of prayer was held at St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town which included the recitation of three rosaries in The Fatima Garden outside.

Branches Pregnancy Resource Center in Brattleboro, Vermont, said that she herself was helped by a pregnancy resource center after she was a victim of human trafficking.

Davis told OSV News, "I'm doing something to give back to the community and fighting for something not just for my son's sake, because this is a personal thing, but also for other women to know, I have a voice and I can actually stand up and say something," Davis said.

Davis said she decided to become more vocal in favor of the pro-life cause after legislation in Vermont passed in which the state can fine pregnancy centers if it determines its services are "misleading," something Davis said hers does not do.

"The government has no right of steering women from life-affirming health," Davis said. "And so it became a very personal thing because if it wasn't for the pregnancy center, I would have been a dead woman."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic and longtime lawmaker, said at the rally, "There are more than 2,700 pregnancy resource centers throughout the United States."

"Each and every one of them is an oasis of love, compassion, empathy, respect, and care for both mothers and their children," Smith said.

Smith said work remains to be done at the federal level, including blocking passage of the Women's Health Protection Act, legislation supported by the White House, which would prohibit restrictions on abortion prior to viability, setting a national standard critics say goes beyond the Roe standard.

"Yeah, we'll have a setback here and there. Every human rights trouble does. But we are undeterred. We will not give up," he said.

The rally opened with a

prayer from Bishop John Abdalah of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, who was joined onstage by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and former chair of the USCCB pro-life committee, and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, who is the current chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee.

Benjamin Watson, a former NFL tight end, and Michigan football coach

Jim Harbaugh also spoke at the rally, with the latter celebrating that day's "football weather."

Harbaugh also praised rallygoers for demonstrating "bold conviction with kindness."

Watson said pro-lifers must embark on "a new fight for life."

"Roe is done, but we still live in a culture that knows not how to care for life," Watson said.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

Daily Living

with Fr. Chapin

Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
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)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube



Courtesy Photo

Students in the 4-H Club at St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans thank veterans for serving our country.

Schools...

Cont'd from Page 1

schools are committed to providing a top-quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students. We partner with families to live our shared mission to help our students recognize, challenge, develop, and share their God-given gifts and talents. We have so many things to celebrate about our students and schools! With

overall increased enrollment, academic achievements, high attendance rates, and high expectations for accountability and responsibility; our schools are an excellent choice for parents looking for a challenging and nurturing Christ-centered learning environment for their children."

The Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has 18 grade schools and six high schools with a 100% grad-

uation rate.

Three of the Catholic high schools — Charleston Catholic High School, Notre Dame High School (Clarksburg), and Central Catholic High School (Wheeling) — are among only seven high schools in the state to earn the AP (Advanced Placement) School Honor Roll Award, a recognition for the best of the best in outstanding achievements for college readiness.

See "Schools" on Page 5

CSW Prayerful Reflection:

Catholic Schools Week A Time for All Faithful to Reflect

By Joyce Bibey

At baptism parents accept the responsibility to be the first teachers of their child's faith, and God parents step forward to share that obligation.

When the child reaches school age that responsibility is then shared by the parish through the parish school of religion and parish(s) Catholic school.

Our Catholic schools are a gift from generation to generation to pass on the faith, weaving Christ and the Church's teachings across all subjects, activities, and service learning.

Just as St. John Bosco believed education is a matter of the heart, so do our Catholic Schools. He believed if you want to do a good deed – teach a child. If you want to do something holy – teach a child. "Truly, now and for the future, among holy things, this is the holiest."

Let us reflect this week on our responsibility as the faithful in our parishes.

*Lord, light my heart on fire,
so, I make time to pray for our young people,
our Catholic schools,
and the future of the Church.
Help me to willingly and naturally
sacrifice for the good of educating
youth in the truth -Your ways,
to find joy in doing good deeds
for the future of the Church,
and to be more responsible
as a life-long learner in faith,
like a child of God
always growing and learning.
May I be inspired
by St. John Bosco - always
grateful for my faith
and those who strengthen
it with their very lives
and in their vocations.
AMEN!*



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW)

January 28 – February 3, 2024

Schools...

Cont'd from Page 4

Hornyak said the accolade reflects dedicated staff, student work ethic, accountability, and mission of the Catholic Schools in West Virginia.

"We are so proud of this distinction for our students, their families, and our teachers," Hornyak said. "When you are a member of our Catholic schools you are an important part of our team that works hard to remain focused on living our united mission."

There are 4,575 students attending Catholic schools in 13 counties of West Virginia. More than 40% of students are non-Catholic.

Overall, the Catholic schools in the state offer a 11:1 professional staff to student ratio.

Hornyak said the Catholic schools in West Virginia will gather with their parishes, alumni, families, friends, and prospective families this week for Masses, open houses, and other activities to honor the mission of Catholic education, what our schools provide for our young people, and their contributions to our church, our communities, and our nation.

Catholic schools are faith-based communities where our belief and faith in God is part of the everyday environment, prioritizing the development of positive character traits such as responsibility, accountability, empathy, and generosity, she said.

"Our parish communities, staff, parents, and grandparents value the academic excellence of a Catholic school education and the respect shown in our schools for Catholic beliefs, virtues, and a higher sense of purpose," Hornyak said.

Academic achievement, as well as both college and career readiness are priorities for WV Catholic schools, Hornyak said, but that's not all. "We are also focused on developing life and leadership skills to instill confidence, self-awareness, and emotional well-being. Add to that athletics, fine arts, STEM, and community service opportunities students in WV Catholic schools are in our environment to work hard and exceed their own expectation," she said.

Building administrators, teachers, secretaries, advancement directors, custodians, pastors, and school advisory boards, each play a significant role in carrying out the mission of Catholic education, she said. "So, yes, we the Catholic schools of WV are blessed to be a blessing," she said.

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



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan visits students at St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans.



Courtesy Photos

Students at Our Lady of Peace School in Wheeling participate in the Peace Pal program (left) and serve at school Mass (right).

Bishop Mark Brennan and Interim Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak (left) visit with staff at St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans.
Courtesy Photo



THE GIFT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Catholic education is one important way we share the gift of our faith with the world.



SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

18 Elementary Schools | 6 High Schools | 7.5% Minorities

482 Professional Staff | 100% Graduation Rate

13 Counties served by Catholic Schools

4,579 Elementary & Secondary Students

43% of Catholic School Students are non-Catholic

Enrollment has increased over the last three academic years

2021-2022



4,259 Students

2022-2023



4,422 Students

2023-2024



4,579 Students



DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

www.WVCatholicSchools.org



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



Have You Heard?

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW—AND HE IS CALLING YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!

We are in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival. Why? Because the Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.

Scan the code to learn more about the exciting journey ahead, and sign up for weekly updates on what's happening in this unprecedented national movement!

eucharisticrevival.org



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



Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:

Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (304) 233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org



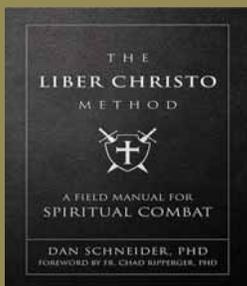
AJ Emery Photo

William Ihlenfeld, U.S. attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, speaks at “Human Trafficking: Facts, Fiction, and Federal Law,” presented by the U.S. attorneys of West Virginia Jan. 18 at St. Michael Parish’s Angelus Center in Wheeling. The event was held simultaneously at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

St. Joseph the Worker Church, Weirton
Click here to register

St. Joe’s Parish Lenten Mission
With Dr. Dan Schneider
(personal assistant to world renowned exorcist Fr. Chad Ripperger & author of the Liber Christo Method!)
Feb. 19-21, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 PM: TALK
8:00 PM – TBD: CONFESSION, MEET & GREET, BOOK SALES, ETC.



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Learn from one of the very best experts serving on the front lines of today’s spiritual combat!
All Are Welcome

Refreshments available



DIocese of Wheeling-Charleston

PRIESTHOOD Discernment Retreat

- FOR MEN 18 AND OLDER
- PRAY, SHARE MEALS, AND ATTEND SEMINARY CLASSES WITH WV SEMINARIANS
- HEAR TALKS ABOUT PRIESTLY LIFE AND DISCERNMENT

MOUNT ST. MARY’S SEMINARY
16300 OLD EMMITSBURG RD, EMMITSBURG, MD 21727

SUNDAY MARCH 10 12:30PM → **MONDAY MARCH 11** 10:00PM

TO APPLY, CONTACT FR. PHILLIP SZABO AT pszabo@dwc.org TO ARRANGE A TIME FOR A BRIEF PHONE INTERVIEW.

Spiritual Oasis: Year of Prayer a Needed Rest Stop on Journey to Jubilee

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With little fanfare, Pope Francis officially opened the Year of Prayer after Mass for the church's celebration of Sunday of the Word of God.

"Today we begin the Year of Prayer; that is, a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the church and in the world," he said, after praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square Jan. 21.

The pope called for the special year last February to help prepare Catholics worldwide for the Holy Year, which begins with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 24.

Preparing for the jubilee is not just about the huge construction projects underway throughout Rome to help welcome and facilitate the flow of an estimated 35 million pilgrims expected for the Holy Year 2025.

The year 2024 also should be about rebuilding and renewing spiritual pathways and practices so that the spiritual significance of the jubilee can "emerge more clearly, something which goes far beyond the necessary and urgent forms of structural organization," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section for new evangelization, which is coordinating the Holy Year.

Speaking at a news conference Jan. 23 about the Year of Prayer, the archbishop said 2024 is about preparing the groundwork so the jubilee "spiritually enriches the life of the church and of the entire people of God, becoming a concrete sign of hope."

The jubilee must be "prepared for and lived in individual communities with that spirit of expectation which is typical of Christian hope," he said, unveiling several resources the dicastery is providing to help bishops, dioceses, parishes, families and religious communities rediscover the value of and need for daily prayer.

Unlike other years designated by the pope, "this is not a year marked with particular initiatives," Archbishop Fisichella said. Rather it is a time to get back to basics: to discover how to pray and how to educate people in prayer "so that prayer can be effective and fruitful."

"It will not be a year which hinders initiatives of the local churches; rather it should be seen as a period in which every planned initiative is supported effectively, precisely because it has prayer as its foundation," he said.

When asked how the year can complement the U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival underway, Msgr. Graham Bell, undersecretary of the dicastery's section for new evangelization,



CNS Photo/Lola Gomez

Pope Francis prays as he celebrates Mass for Sunday of the Word of God in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Jan. 21.

told Catholic News Service, "We are well pleased that the American bishops want to call attention to what Vatican II calls the source and summit of Christian life because it must be the foundation of every renewal."

Therefore, the revival initiative "is very appropriate in view of the 2025 jubilee," he said.

The dicastery will release ideas, suggestions and resources as the year continues, starting with an eight-volume series of booklets titled, "Notes on Prayer," that "delve into the various dimensions of the Christian act of praying, signed by authors of international renown," Msgr. Bell said at the news conference.

As the translations are done, the series will be made available to the world's bishops' conferences, the archbishop said.

The first volume, titled "Praying Today. A Challenge to Be Overcome," was released Jan. 23 and was written by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, retired archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, with a preface by Pope Francis.

"Prayer is the breath of faith, it is its most proper expression. Like a silent cry that comes forth from the heart of those who believe and entrust themselves to God," the pope wrote.

The other texts, to be released over the next three months, will carry titles such as "Praying with the Psalms," "The Prayer of Jesus," "Praying with Saints and Sinners," and "The Prayer Jesus Taught Us: The 'Our Father.'"

The dicastery also will send out texts and guides digitally for dioceses to integrate, modify and distribute as they see fit, Archbishop Fisichella said. The different texts will cover many possible aspects of a Christian's prayer life, including spiritual retreats, shrines and

the priesthood.

In addition, he noted, Pope Francis' 38 general audience talks on prayer, given from May 6, 2020, to June 16, 2021, are available online, reflect on the various forms of prayer and contain many useful suggestions.

Pope Francis will set up a "school of prayer" for 2024, he said. It will be similar to the pope's "Fridays of Mercy" initiative during the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016, when he visited people on the "peripheries," including babies in a neonatal unit, a center for the blind and a housing project.

"This will be a series of moments of encounter with specific groups of people to pray together and better understand the various forms of prayer: from thanksgiving to intercession; from contemplative prayer to the prayer of consolation; from adoration to supplication," the archbishop said.

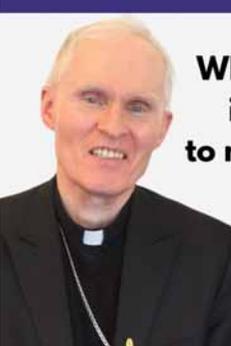
There is "a profound need for spirituality," he said. And the Year of Prayer is meant to be "a way of fostering the relationship with the Lord, offering moments of genuine spiritual rest."

"It is like an oasis sheltered from daily stress where prayer becomes nourishment for the Christian life of faith, hope and charity," the archbishop said.



*Join Bishop Mark
this summer!*

National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024



**WILL YOU BE ONE OF 250
in the WV delegation
to receive a complimentary
5-day event pass?
Sign up now
for our travel package
today!**

dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist

REGISTER NOW >



We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

We Also Specialize in Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Do It Best

Lou W. Nau, Inc.

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

louwnau.doitbest.com

Jarvis-Williams Funeral Homes

Weldon P. Williams, FD & LIC

"Boots" Jarvis, Co-Owner & Sec

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

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

**JOHNSON
BOILER WORKS, INC**

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

Survivors of Abuse Deeply Troubled by Vatican Doctrinal Head's Resurfaced Book on Sex

By **Gina Christian**

(OSV News) — Two sexual abuse survivors told OSV News they are deeply troubled by a recently resurfaced book on mysticism written several years ago by the Vatican's doctrinal head that includes graphic descriptions of sexuality.

"La pasión mística: espiritualidad y sensualidad" ("Mystical Passion: Spirituality and Sensuality") -- written in 1998 by then-Father and now Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, head of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith -- bills itself as "an invitation to the world of passionate love that hides in the depths of our being."

In a Jan. 8 interview with Crux, the cardinal — who has also come under fire for his 1995 book "Heal Me with Your Mouth: The Art of Kissing" — dismissed "La pasión mística" as a naive effort "that I certainly would not write now," and said the book was no longer available in print, having been canceled shortly after publication.

But clerical abuse survivor Faith Hakesley, author of "Glimmers of Grace: Moments of Peace and Healing Following Sexual Abuse," told OSV News that reading passages from the book — translated from the original Spanish into English and posted online — nonetheless proved distressing.

"It was absolutely nauseating. That's the only word I can think of to describe it," she said. "It brought a lot back from my own abuse, because some of the things I read were similar to what my rapist would

say — sort of combining abuse with things of a spiritual nature."

Hakesley stressed that she was "not suggesting Cardinal Fernández is a predator" or that "he's ever abused anyone."

At the same time, she pointed out that what she read from the cardinal's book "does suggest both spiritual and sexual grooming, especially when you consider who his audience was intended to be."

OSV News has reached out to Cardinal Fernández by email regarding the survivors' specific concerns and is awaiting a response.

Three of the book's chapters explicitly discuss orgasms, with the final chapter titled "God and the couple's orgasm." Another passage recounts a 16-year-old girl's "passionate encounter with Jesus" that includes caressing him on the beach and kissing his mouth.

Published while then-Father Fernández was an adviser to the Argentine bishops' faith and culture commission, the 94-page volume — published by Mexico-based Ediciones Dabar — explores what the author calls "the sublime paths of mystical union, until reaching a point in which we seem to touch the impossible."

In a January 2024 interview with Crux, Cardinal Fernández said that he wrote the book after speaking with young couples "who wanted to better understand the spiritual meaning of their relationships." However, shortly after its release he feared

the book "could be misinterpreted."

Hakesley said "this sort of spiritual mysticism ... is common among abusers where they use spirituality to kind of explain away what they're doing, (saying), 'This is beautiful, this is of God.'"

L'Arche communities founder and Catholic social activist Jean Vanier was found after his death to have abused several women under the guise of a "sexual mysticism" he had embraced under his mentor, the late Dominican Father Thomas Philippe. Both Vanier and Father Philippe — along with Father Thomas' biological brother, also a Dominican Friar, Father Marie-Dominique Philippe — were the subject of an independent investigation commissioned by L'Arche International, which revealed in a January 2023 report totaling almost 900 pages how they invoked Jesus, Mary and union with the divine as a means of justifying sexual abuse.

Clinical psychologist Elizabeth Jeglic of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice told OSV News that as part of the grooming process, sexual abusers "desensitize" victims "to sexual content and physical touch." After committing abuse, perpetrators "engage in what's called post-abuse maintenance," or "gaslighting," in which "they make the person feel responsible for the abuse, (saying), 'You wanted this all along.'"

Jeglic — who has not read Fernández's book and did not comment directly on the text — noted that while more empirical data is needed, adult grooming behaviors indicate several similarities with those employed by child sexual abusers.

Hakesley told OSV News that Cardinal Fernández disavowals of the book in his Crux interview are "another red flag."

"He has never come out and said, 'I shouldn't have written this,' or 'this was wrong,'" she said. "He's just more concerned ... that everyone else is going to misinterpret it. It's more like he's gaslighting and saying, 'Well, everyone else is the problem.'"

Teresa Pitt Green of Spirit Fire, a Christian restorative justice network that works with the Catholic Church, told OSV News that she was troubled by Cardinal Fernández's account of the unnamed teen in his book.

"To see that level of inquiry of an adult priest, (who was about) 36 when he wrote the book, and let's say a 16 year old girl ... there's a level of impropriety that is very disturbing," said Pitt Green, a survivor of clergy abuse.

Like Hakesley, Pitt Green said that she was not implying "the cardinal is an abuser" — but "it's not where we want priests to be with minors."

Pitt Green also said when she heard that the cardinal had written the

book to "help people who were in his counsel," she was "really uncomfortable."

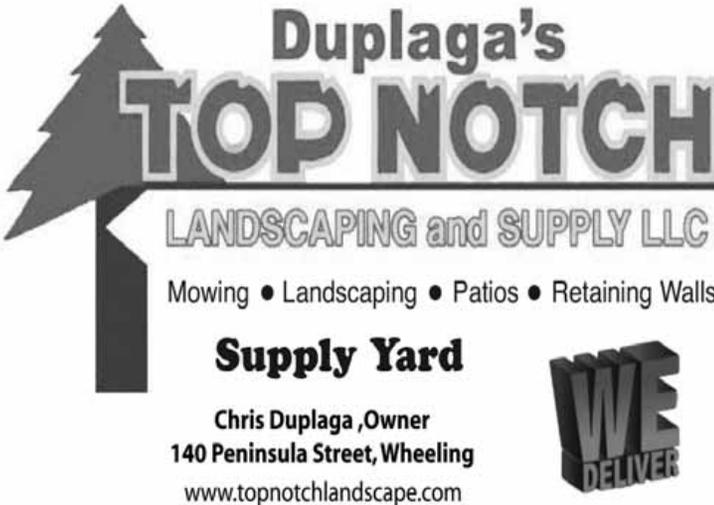
"Even if they weren't minors ... they were still vulnerable adults in his care," she said, adding that "abuse of power" is central to the dynamics of sexual abuse.

"I see this (book) as (from) somebody who seems unaware of a crucial power imbalance," said Pitt Green. "Priests that present themselves as being celibate, who bring us sacraments, who set themselves apart from the world, bringing this forward to groups of young people? ... The boundary violations are staggering ... psychologically, potentially physically, certainly from an intellectual point of view, normalizing certain things for people that probably don't even know it."

She said that the book would likely clash with the abuse prevention standards adopted by the U.S. Catholic bishops in their 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

"John Paul II's theology of the body would sail through," given the late pope's intentional discretion in discussing human sexuality, said Pitt Green, while "this book would get tangled up," with the author being asked, "Why are you talking to a 16-year-old girl in this depth about these things?"

(Gina Christian is the multimedia reporter for OSV News.)



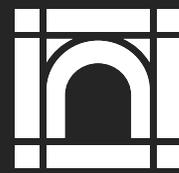
Duplaga's
TOP NOTCH
LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC

Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls

Supply Yard

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

office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332



MILLS GROUP

ARCHITECTURE ■ PLANNING ■ PRESERVATION

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

DWC PARISHIONERS VICTOR GRECO, JULIE DOERR AND ALEXIS BEHRENS

VISIT US @ MILLSGROUPONLINE.COM

Achieving your dreams requires goals and a plan!

For your New Year's resolution, contact us to receive a complimentary financial needs analysis.



© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510



Knights of Columbus®

The Abbate Agency

www.abbatekofc.com – 866-868-1492

Knights of Columbus (KofC) offers life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products. For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent directly or the KofC office at 1-800-380-9995. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions are available to eligible KofC members in the U.S. and Canada. Knights of Columbus is located at: One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510. No purchase necessary to receive complimentary financial needs analysis. 1026.NewYearTAAAd

'Holy Communion: Contemporary Questions,' Theme of LARCUM 2024

CHARLESTON — The LARCUM (Lutheran — Anglican — Roman Catholic — United Methodist) Conference of West Virginia Planning Team has been meeting in anticipation of LARCUM 2024.

"We will gather under the theme, 'Holy Communion: Contemporary Questions,'" planning officials said.

The event will be held at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston May 20-22. Rather than rehashing past conversations, the attendees of LARCUM 2023 asked for a conversation about Holy Communion that looked at recent questions, thought, and practice.

LARCUM planners are at work on the details for the event. Expect them to be posted here in the spring. In the meantime, please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Be sure

to spread the word and invite your local ecumenical partners.

Social media users, there is a Facebook event for Holy Communion: Contemporary Questions. RSVPing on the FB event is a great way to be kept abreast of developments. Sharing the FB event (and inviting people through the FB event) is a great way to spread the word.

LARCUM WV is a four-partner conference held

annually (except when there is a pandemic) in WV. The partners are Lutheran — West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Anglican — The Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, The Episcopal Church; Roman Catholic — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Roman Catholic Church; United Methodist — The West Virginia Conference, United Methodist Church

It's origins are rooted in the ARC (Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue) in West Virginia more than four decades ago. The Lutherans were invited to join, making it LARC, the longest

running LARC at that time in the USA, at three decades. Roughly ten years ago, the United Methodist were invited to join.

LARCUM planning is a joint activity of the four traditions. The topic for each LARCUM Conference is selected by the participants of the preceding LARCUM Conference.

One does not need to be a member of the participating judicatories nor even the traditions more generally. If you are interested in the topic, want to enjoy conversation with folks from different traditions, or look forward to experiencing another tradition's worship, you are most

welcome. LARCUM is open to laity and clergy. LARCUM is also open to folks from outside West Virginia.



MJT
MICHAEL J. TUPTA, D.D.S.
 Dentistry That Makes You Smile
 1701 Oakhurst Drive
 Charleston, WV 25314
 304-744-4150
 MyDentistInCharleston.com
 Accepting New Patients



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

Now is the time to Talk!



304.232.5110 | KepnerFuneral.com
 James B. Kepner President | Melissa Hill COIC

Foodservice Equipment, Supplies, Disposables, Janitorial and more



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

RICH & SHIRLEY'S QUICKPRINT



PRINT & DESIGN
(304) 233-7433
 92 16th Street,
 Wheeling, WV



N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors
 Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community
 Since 1945
 Three Generations of Family Management
 116 Wood Street
 Martins Ferry OH 43935
 740-633-7320



***Drycleaning *Shirt Laundry*
 Alterations
 Wedding Gowns
 Household Items
 * Wash, Dry & Fold Laundry Service**

Coin Laundromats In Both Locations

Wheeling Locations:

2221 National Road
 (304)242-4770
 116 Edgington Lane
 (304) 242-6697

Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive a Success again in Greenbrier, Meadow River Area

The annual Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive, providing new toys as gifts for children in the Meadow River and Greenbrier Valley area, once again has been very successful.

Davis, who grew up in the Rainelle area, spent his working career in the District of Columbia and would, each Christmas season, bring a pickup truck loaded with toys for the children in the Western Greenbrier and Eastern Fayette counties area.

Upon his untimely death, relatives and friends of Davis have continued his mission with the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive which distributes toys to area children who might not otherwise have a gift on Christmas morning.

With the support of the parishioners of Sacred Heart in Rainelle, St. Catherine of Siena in Ronceverte, St. Charles Borromeo in White Sulphur Springs, the Greenbrier Valley Council of the Knights of Columbus, the relatives and friends were able to collect over 100 toys.

In addition, the Greenbrier Valley Knights of Columbus distributed 98 new coats for children in need through the local elementary age children in Rainelle, Rupert,

Alderson and Meadow Bridge areas in cooperation with the Donald Davis Memorial Toy distribution as well as in cooperation with the Frankford and Ronceverte elementary schools, St. John Neuman Parish in Marlinton, Family Resource Network in Pocahontas County and the Family Resource Network in Monroe County.

Gently used winter gear for all ages was also collected by the knights and distributed to those in need through the Wellspring of Western Greenbrier; Lewisburg/Fairlea Food Locker, and the Family Resource Network in Monroe County.

Proceeds from the Lenten fish dinners sponsored by the Knights of Columbus fund the distribution of the new and used winter clothing and gear and toys by the Knights.

The Greenbrier Valley Council of the Knights of Columbus is composed of Catholic men in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe and eastern Fayette counties and is assisted by members of the Auxiliary of the Knights.

For information on the knights, contact Mike Williams (304) 645-1373 or the office of the Catholic Churches in the Greenbrier Valley (304) 536-1813.



Courtesy Photo

Toys collected for the Donald Davis Memorial Toy Drive are shown.

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg Offering Group Tours to Prospective Families

MARTINSBURG — St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is offering group tours to prospective families.

“We are excited to announce group tours for families interested in sending their children to SJS!” school officials said.

Those considering grades K-8 are invited to visit on:

Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 20, at 9 a.m.

If those options don't work, scheduling can be adjusted by e-mailing mpartington@sjsvw.org to set up another time to visit.

Those interested in the Early Childhood Education Program (for those ages 4 and younger) may stop by:

Thursday, Feb. 8, at 9 a.m.

Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m.

If those dates aren't convenient, please email kmackinnon@sjsvw.org to schedule another time to visit.

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year begins Feb. 2 for families whose children already attend St. Joseph School and for their siblings who do not currently attend.

Catholic families who are active in local parishes may start the application process on Feb. 9, and the general public can apply starting Feb. 16.

To apply, please click on the “apply” tab at sjsvw.org.

For more information, please email mpartington@sjsvw.org or call the school office at (304) 267-6447.



**DISCOVER YOUR MISSION.
BECOME A KNIGHT.**

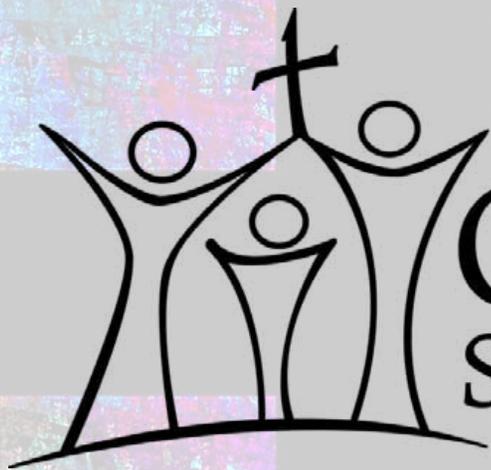
Empowering men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their communities.



Knights of Columbus
West Virginia State Council

For more information visit:
kofc.org/join





CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

Give Generously. Pray Purposefully. Serve Joyfully.



Click the Link to Donate Today!
dwc.org/CSA

Catholic Universities Must be More Than a Business, Pope Says

By **Cindy Wooden**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— Respect for the dignity of every person and for his or her values is as much a part of the identity of a Catholic university as faith is, Pope Francis said. “This is perhaps the most beautiful and greatest thing about your universities,” the pope told university chancellors, rectors and other leaders of Catholic institutions belonging to the International Federation of Catholic Universities Jan. 19.

Explaining that he had “a long speech to read, but my breathing is a bit labored,” the pope made only brief remarks to members of the group before greeting each of them individually. “This cold won’t go away,” he complained.

In an age when many universities have become businesses, Catholic universities “must take a stand,” helping students discover their vocations to contribute to peace and the betterment of society, Pope Francis wrote in his prepared text, which was distributed to participants. “A Catholic university must make choices, choices that reflect the Gospel,” he wrote to members of the federation of more than 225 Catholic universities and institutes of higher education.

Pope Pius XII formally recognized the federation in 1949, noting it “was established ‘in the wake of a horrendous war’ to be a means of fostering ‘reconciliation and the growth of peace and charity among peoples,’” Pope Francis wrote.

In the midst of “a third world war fought piecemeal,” the pope said, it is even more essential that “Catholic universities be in the forefront of efforts to build the culture of peace, in all its facets, which need to be addressed in an interdisciplinary vision.”

Pope Francis drew their attention to St. John Paul II’s 1990 apostolic constitution “*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*,” providing general norms for Catholic universities, and how its title “from the heart of the church” insists that Catholic universities “cannot fail to be an expression of the love that inspires every activity of the church, namely, God’s love for the human person.”

Catholic universities, the pope said, must assist the church in engaging “confidently in dialogue on the great issues of our time.” “Help us to translate culturally, in a language open to new generations and new times, the richness of the Christian tradition; to identify the new frontiers of thought, science and technology and to approach them with bal-

ance and wisdom,” he said. “Help us to build intergenerational and intercultural covenants for the protection and care of our common home, within a vision of integral ecology, and in this way respond effectively to the cry of the earth and the plea of the poor.”

“At a time when, unfortunately, education itself is becoming a ‘business,’ and great impersonal economic systems are investing in schools and universities as they do in the stock market,” he said, the church’s institutions must show that they are of a different nature and act in accordance with a different mindset. The goal for Catholic universities cannot be limited to improved programs, facilities and income, the pope said. “A greater passion must animate the university, as evidenced in a shared search for truth, a greater horizon of meaning, lived out in a community of knowledge where the liberality of love is palpable,” Pope Francis said. St. Augustine, as the philosopher Hannah Arendt noted, “described love with the word ‘appetitus,’ understood as inclination, desire, striving,” he wrote. “My advice to you, then, is this: Don’t lose your ‘appetitus.’”

“It is not enough to award academic degrees,” the pope said. “It is necessary to awaken and cherish in each person the desire to ‘be.’ It is not enough to prepare students for competitive careers: It is necessary to help them discover fruitful vocations, to inspire pathways of authentic existence and to integrate the contribution of each individual within the creative dynamics of the larger community.”

Pope Francis’ text also cautioned the universities against letting fear guide their decisions, something which “happens more often than we think.”

“The temptation to hide behind walls, in a safe social bubble, avoiding risks or cultural challenges, turning our backs on the complexity of reality may seem the safest course,” he said. “But this is sheer illusion. Fear devours the soul.”

And, he said, “don’t let a Catholic university merely replicate the walls typical of the societies in which we live: those of inequality, dehumanization, intolerance and indifference, or models aimed at promoting individualism rather than investing in fraternity.”

“We must always ask ourselves: What is the purpose of the learning we impart? What is the transformative potential of the knowledge we produce? What and whom do we serve?” Pope Francis said.

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.



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

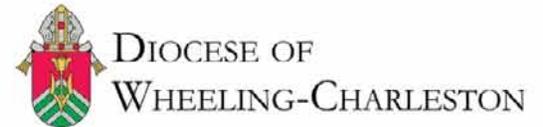


TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™ CONFERENCE SERIES

A CATHOLIC MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | 10:45 AM - 6:00 PM
ST. JAMES THE GREATER | CHARLES TOWN, WV

PRESENTED BY



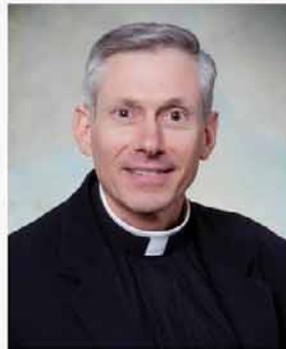
SPEAKERS



JOSHUA P. BITTING, Ph.D.
Program Director, St. John Paul II Foundation



RENZO AND MONICA ORTEGA
Co-founders of Two Become Family



VERY REV. TIMOTHY J. GRASSI
Pastor, St. James the Greater Catholic Church



JOHN AND ANNIE DEJAK
Parishioners of St. John the Baptist, Front Royal

Click here to register

JOSHUA P. BITTING, PHD PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ST. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

Joshua P. Bitting, Ph.D., serves as Program Director at the St. John Paul II Foundation where he oversees the Together in Holiness Formation series, a year-round marriage enrichment for small communities of spouses. Born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Joshua came into full communion with the Catholic Church on June 22nd, 2003, the Feast of Corpus Christi while completing his B.A. in philosophy at Southwestern College (Winfield, Kansas). Joshua attended Franciscan University of Steubenville where he earned his M.A. in theology. Afterwards, he had the opportunity to study at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce) in Rome, Italy. Since then, he has served the Church in various capacities at both the parish and diocesan levels. He recently completed his Ph.D. in theology and catechetics from the University of Notre Dame, Australia. Joshua and his beautiful wife, Amanda, have seven children, and enjoy sharing the Gospel of the family in their primary vocation as spouses and parents.

Los defensores de la vida marcharán hasta que el aborto sea 'impensable', dice líder de la Marcha por la Vida

Por Kate Scanlon, OSV News

WASHINGTON (OSV News)— Miles de defensores pro vida llegaron a la capital de la nación para la 51ª Marcha anual por la Vida el 19 de enero, sin inmutarse por varias pulgadas de nieve que se acumularon en Washington antes y durante el evento.

La marcha de 2024 fue apenas la segunda que tuvo lugar desde que la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos revocó su decisión Roe vs. Wade de 1973 que inicialmente provocó la manifestación pro vida anual.

"Seguiremos marchando cada año a nivel nacional, así como en nuestros estados, hasta que las leyes de nuestra nación reflejen la verdad básica de que toda vida humana es creada igual y es digna de protección", Jeanne Mancini, presidenta de of March for Life Education and Defense Fund, dijo a los asistentes al mitin.

Mancini dijo que el grupo planea realizar marchas no sólo en el Distrito de Columbia sino en los 50 estados en los próximos años.

"Marcharemos hasta que el aborto sea impensable", añadió.

La manifestación de la Marcha por la Vida tuvo lugar en el National Mall junto al Castillo Smithsonian, entre el Monumento a Washington y el Capitolio de los Estados Unidos. Posteriormente, la marcha se dirigió por la Avenida Constitución hasta la Corte Suprema.

El presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, Mike Johnson, republicano por Luisiana, quien habló en la manifestación, dijo a los asistentes que la noción de que todas las personas son creadas

iguales es un principio fundamental de Estados Unidos, escrito en los documentos fundacionales de la nación.

"Cada persona tiene una dignidad y un valor inestimables", dijo Johnson. "Tu valor no está relacionado de ninguna manera con el color de tu piel, ni en qué código postal vives, qué tan bueno eras en los deportes, dónde fuiste a la escuela secundaria, es irrelevante, tu valor es inherente porque se da a ti por tu creador."

El propio Johnson fue "producto de un embarazo no planificado", dijo.

"Mis padres, que en ese momento eran apenas adolescentes, eligieron la vida. Y estoy profundamente agradecido de que lo hicieran", dijo.

Johnson dijo que después de la revocación de Roe, es un "momento crítico" para "construir una cultura que aliente y ayude a más y más personas a tomar la misma decisión".

Sostuvo que el movimiento debería aprender de figuras cruciales de la historia estadounidense como "Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass y Susan B. Anthony".

"Desafiaron las narrativas predominantes de su época y tuvieron éxito", dijo Johnson, y agregó: "Su éxito se basó en el credo de nuestra nación del que acabamos de hablar. Y recordaron a sus compatriotas estadounidenses nuestros principios fundacionales. Y como dijo Lincoln, en su famosa primera toma de posesión, los mejores ángeles de nuestra naturaleza. Deberíamos hacer lo mismo hoy".

El tema del evento de 2024 fue "Con cada mujer, para cada niño" y

buscó resaltar el trabajo de los centros de atención al embarazo y las casas de maternidad. Jean Marie Davis, directora ejecutiva del Centro de Recursos para el Embarazo de Branches en Brattleboro, Vermont, dijo que ella misma recibió ayuda de un centro de recursos para el embarazo después de ser víctima de trata de personas.

Davis dijo a OSV News: "Estoy haciendo algo para retribuir a la comunidad y luchando por algo, no sólo por el bien de mi hijo, porque esto es algo personal, sino también para que otras mujeres lo sepan. Tengo voz y puedo ponerme de pie y decir algo", dijo Davis.

Davis dijo que decidió expresarse más a favor de la causa pro vida después de que se aprobara una legislación en Vermont en la que el estado puede multar a los centros de embarazo si determina que sus servicios son "engañosos", algo que Davis dijo que el suyo no hace.

"El gobierno no tiene derecho a alejar a las mujeres de una salud que afirma la vida", afirmó Davis. "Y entonces se convirtió en algo muy personal porque si no fuera por el centro de embarazo, habría sido una mujer muerta".

El representante Chris Smith, republicano por Nueva Jersey, católico y legislador desde hace mucho tiempo, dijo en la manifestación: "Hay más de 2.700 centros de recursos para el embarazo en todo Estados Unidos".

"Todos y cada uno de ellos son un oasis de amor, compasión, empatía, respeto y cuidado tanto para las madres como para sus hijos", dijo Smith.

Smith dijo que aún queda tra-

bajo por hacer a nivel federal, incluido el bloqueo de la aprobación de la Ley de Protección de la Salud de la Mujer, legislación apoyada por la Casa Blanca, que prohibiría las restricciones al aborto antes de la viabilidad, estableciendo un estándar nacional que, según los críticos, va más allá del estándar Roe.

"Sí, tendremos un revés aquí y allá. Todos los problemas de derechos humanos los sufren. Pero no nos dejamos intimidar. No nos rendiremos", afirmó.

La manifestación comenzó con una oración del obispo John Abdallah de la Arquidiócesis Cristiana Ortodoxa de Antioquía, a quien se unió en el escenario el arzobispo William E. Lori de Baltimore, vicepresidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos y ex presidente del comité pro vida de la USCCB y el obispo Michael F. Burbidge de Arlington, Virginia, actual presidente del comité pro vida de los obispos de Estados Unidos.

Benjamin Watson, ex ala cerrada de la NFL, y el entrenador de fútbol de Michigan, Jim Harbaugh, también hablaron en el mitin, y este último celebró el "clima de fútbol" de ese día.

Harbaugh también elogió a los asistentes a la manifestación por demostrar "una convicción audaz con amabilidad".

Watson dijo que los pro vida deben embarcarse en "una nueva lucha por la vida".

"Roe está acabado, pero todavía vivimos en una cultura que no sabe cómo cuidar la vida", dijo Watson.

(Kate Scanlon es reportera nacional de OSV News que cubre Washington.)

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.

Ask your doctor to refer you to Good Shepherd for:



- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy



GOOD SHEPHERD
NURSING HOME 304.242.1093
www.weltyhome.org

The higher level of care I need... and everyone is so kind.



304-242-5233
www.weltyhome.org

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVU Heart & Vascular Institute