

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

West Virginia Catholics Stand for Life at Home and in Nation's Capital



Courtesy Photo

Some of the more than 30 students from St. Joseph School in Martinsburg and their parents and school staff gather in Washington for the March for Life Jan. 20.

By Colleen Rowan

Here at home and in the nation's capital, West Virginia Catholics made their message clear: "The Future is Anti-Abortion."

Seven hours before the March

for Life in Washington began on Jan. 20, a National Prayer Vigil for Life Holy Hour was held with clergy, religious, and lay faithful throughout the country, "praying before the Blessed Sacrament for an end to the scourge of abortion and

a greater respect for human life," the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling posted on Facebook. At 6 a.m. that morning, Bishop Mark Brennan led the holy hour at the cathedral.

"We regret the lives already lost

through abortion and pray for their eternal happiness," Bishop Brennan said at the holy hour, "but we can and must try to convince our family members, friends and neighbors that abortion is unfair to

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Obituary

Peggy Maher Engler

December 7, 1935 - January 21, 2023

Peggy Engler was a devoted wife, mother, nana, sister, and friend. She passed away peacefully in her home on January 21, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Engler. She is survived by her four children David, Kathleen, Father Chapin, and Steven; their spouses Petra, Jason, and Leigh; and her eight grandchildren Brandon, Emily, Ezra, Mamie, Sophie, Ava, John, and Lake.

Peggy graduated from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame where she met the love of her life, John. Peggy also had a love of music and theater. She brought her talents and "perfect pitch" to many stages through both performances and musical composition. While living in Chicago, Peggy wrote and starred in her own children's television show called "Peggy's Magic Train."

After moving to Charlotte, N.C., with her family, Peggy enjoyed playing golf, tennis, bridge, and was an avid reader. She also loved vacationing at the beach in Litchfield, S.C. and the mountains in Linville, N.C. with her family. Peggy will be remembered as being the life of every party. She was often found leading group singalongs as she played along on the piano. Peggy will be sadly missed but it is a great comfort to her family that she has rejoined her husband, John, in heaven. John has no doubt been awaiting her arrival.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on January 26, 2023 at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte. The family has designated Crisis Assistance Ministry (crisisassistance.org) for memorial contributions.

Let Us Pray,
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 SHOW ME HOW TO GIVE GENEROUSLY,
 PRAY PURPOSEFULLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY
 FOR A PURPOSE GREATER THAN MYSELF.
Amen.

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CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

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

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

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

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
 Mailing: PO Box 230
 Wheeling, WV 26003
 (304) 232-0444
 Fax: (304) 233-8551
 Web site: www.thecatholicspiritwv.org
 Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
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Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
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Life...

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the unborn child and most cruel, so that future children may leave the womb and be born and loved and cared for."

Joining the bishop for the holy hour was Deacon Doug Breiding of the cathedral and Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.

Catholics from the area were present for the holy hour, which was livestreamed on the diocese's website for those who were unable to attend.

"May the witness of those in our nation's capital today and ours testify to the dignity and sanctity of every human life, the worth of each person from conception to natural death, and the belief that we are created in the image and likeness of God! Lord of Life, hear our prayer!" cathedral officials posted on Facebook Jan. 20.

Later that day in Wheeling, Central Catholic High School students joined St. Michael Parish School students for All Day Eucharistic Adoration held in conjunction with the March for Life. Students also braved the cold temperatures to stand for life in front of St. Michael Church. As community members traveled along National Road, they could see the students' signs that read "The Future is Anti-Abortion," "I am the Post-Roe Generation," and "After Roe There is Life."

It was a historic March for Life in Washington that afternoon as it was the first one to celebrate the overturning of Roe v. Wade. This year also marked the 50th March for Life in the nation's capital. The theme was "Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America."

Groups from all over the diocese participated in the march in Washington, including the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's seminarians. Many of the groups go every year to stand for life with people of all faiths from across the U.S. One of those West Virginia groups is from St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town. This year, roughly 60 parishioners loaded two buses and traveled to Washington to be part of the march. Also representing the Eastern Panhandle of the state was a group of 30 students from St. Joseph School in Martinsburg along with their parents and school staff. Before boarding a bus, the group attended Mass at St. James and a breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus.

The Mountaineer Catholic group of students from West Virginia University in Morgantown had a large group again this year. The group was led by Father Brian Crenwelge, pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown and director of Campus Ministry for WVU; Father Phillip Szabo, parochial vicar of the parish; and Colleen Criste, director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry for WVU.

The bus filled up quickly and even had a waitlist, Criste said.

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Tyler J. Greenwood Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan (right) incenses the Blessed Sacrament at the Vigil for Life Holy Hour at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Jan. 20. The holy hour was held in conjunction with the National Vigil for Life Holy Hour. With the bishop is Deacon Paul Lim, vice president of Mission Integration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.



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“It was awesome to be in a crowd of tens of thousands standing on the National Mall and to see such a strong showing from West Virginia! We stood beside a group from WV Teens for Life, Mountaineers for Life, St. James in Charles Town, and our W.Va. seminarians attending Mount St. Mary’s! It made me feel so proud of our state and proud to be pro-life!”

—Colleen Criste, director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry for WVU

Life...

Cont’d from Page 3

“It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm especially in the wake of Roe v. Wade being overturned!” she added. “I think it was an expression of the hope and joy we were all experiencing after so many years of marching and seeing no change.”

The Mountaineer Catholic group had 52 on the bus, Criste said, a blend of students and parishioners from St. John’s, as well as friends from surrounding parishes. Many others, she said, traveled by car.

“It was awesome to be in a crowd of tens of thousands standing on the National Mall and to see such a strong showing from West Virginia!” Criste said. “We stood beside a group from WV Teens for Life, Mountaineers for Life, St. James in Charles Town, and our W.Va. seminarians attending Mount St. Mary’s! It made me feel so proud of our state and proud to be pro-life!”



Courtesy Photo
Central Catholic High School seniors Anna Hester, left, and Abie Riedel join in the life chain in front of St. Michael Church in Wheeling Jan. 20.



Courtesy Photo
Mountaineer Catholic students from West Virginia University and parishioners from St. John University Parish in Morgantown are pictured before the March for Life in Washington Jan. 20.

MAP Assessments Give Students in W.Va. Catholic Schools Clear Roadmap

By Joyce Bibey

Backed by assessments that are given three times a year, the Catholic Schools of West Virginia provide educators, families, and the students the opportunity to identify any learning gaps, as well as identify areas where the student can be challenged at a higher level.

The diocesan schools partner with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for their state-aligned, online Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments.

“Our MAP assessments truly serve as a roadmap for us for grade level aptitude, and college and career readiness,” Associate Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak said.

“The NWEA tests are adaptive, meaning students are measured where they are across grade levels instead of just at their grade level,” she said and added, “The on-line test adjusts during the assessment based on the student’s right or wrong answers. A right answer challenges the student to a harder question. A wrong answer bumps down a level to identify where the student’s ability is in the subject area, resulting in an identification marker of what the child’s needs may be to grow in this subject area. The teacher then can adapt their lesson plan to help the student attain individual goals, grade level goals, and cross grade level goals.”

The MAP testing also identifies college and career readiness.

“That is another asset of the assessment model, providing us a clear look at what opportunities would be best for our students to help them be the best version of themselves after their educational career with us,” Hornyak said.

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

Intentional Growth Model Insures Accountability and Vitality

By Joyce Bibey

The Intentional Growth Planning (IGP) model adds additional level of accountability and vitality for the Catholic Schools of West Virginia.

Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., said the school system must constantly evaluate its operations to not only a key to maintaining a vibrant community of schools, but also a key to the overall success of the students.

“Just as we expect our students to be better than yesterday in every way, we look at ourselves as a whole system to do the same,” she said, noting the system’s IGP – a four-year roadmap of accountability for stronger Catholic grade and high schools in the state.

“In collaboration with our principals, pastors, parishes, parents, alumni, and diocesan staff we work to continually improve and grow in our Catholic Identity, leadership, academic excellence, enrollment, and operational vitality. Hand in hand with our Cognia accreditation process we continue to evaluate our performance not only in the classroom, but also across the board and then aim higher.”

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

St. Joseph Catholic Student Wins Cabell County Spelling Bee

Courtesy Photo
Annelise V., an eighth-grader at St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington, won the Cabell County Spelling Bee, private school division. Fourth-Grader Mia H. also competed. Annelise will represent the county at the regional Scripps Spelling Bee later this spring. She is pictured with Dr. Carol Templeton, principal.



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Bishop Brennan Celebrates Red Mass at Basilica Co-Cathedral

By **Martina Hart**

CHARLESTON – Bishop Mark Brennan celebrated the Red Mass for members of the legal profession at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston on Jan. 25. The red color of the vestments worn by the celebrant symbolizes the tongues of fire representing the Holy Spirit, the source of wisdom.

“It is so important to remember the role of those who create law, who administer justice, and really promote the welfare of our society,” Bishop Brennan said to those gathered. “We need to pray for you in those different roles and also you need to pray, ask God’s guidance and strength.”

Invited had been lawyers, judges, and elected government officials, regardless of their religious affiliation.

“Law should foster justice in the relations of persons and groups,” Bishop Brennan said in his homily. “Fostering social order and ensuring justice are two of its most fundamental services to us.”

He pointed out that this Mass was celebrated on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul who had been trained in Jewish law which embraces all aspects of civil and religious life. Paul, at first, persecuted followers of Christ for violating Jewish law. After his conversion, however, his view of law changed, so that in his letter to the Romans he recognizes that any authority can only be established by God, the ultimate authority, Bishop Brennan said. St. Paul, he said, encourages good behavior not just because of punishment but because of conscience.

“Paul shows his respect for the role of civil law,” Bishop Brennan said, explaining that ultimately love of neighbor is the fulfillment of the law. “Murder, theft, fraud and other such things, forbidden by God, are also condemned and punished by civil law,” Bishop Brennan added. “Governments should be eager to promote their citizens to love one another, care for one another, look out for one another,” he said. “Paul is aware that those who exercise authority in our societies need God’s help,” Bishop Brennan continued. “Paul



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates the Red Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston Jan. 25.

knows that those who make laws and those who implement them need God’s help to rule rightly.”

He referred to St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy which states that prayers and thanksgiving should be offered for all in authority to ensure a quiet and tranquil life for everyone. Bishop Brennan also described scenes from the movie “A Man for all Seasons” about Sir Thomas More, a lawyer and High Lord Chancellor of England, whose strong faith was at the basis of all his work.

“God’s commandments surpass what civil authorities can require, because God’s law, fulfilled in the commandment of love, is designed to bring us to heaven, which is beyond the competence of civil authorities,” Bishop Brennan said. “Yet good laws can truly help people as they journey towards eternity.”

Bishop Brennan commended the recently established West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program which recognizes parents or guard-

ians as the primary educators of their children and provides funds, especially helpful to those of modest means, to choose the education they believe is best for their children.

In contrast, Bishop Brennan pointed out, the restoration of the death penalty would not help anyone but just be a cry for vengeance, extinguishing the hope for the criminal to repent and be rehabilitated.

“Legislators can help keep God’s law and civil law in balance by running proposed laws through the filter of the common good; judges, by tempering retributive justice with mercy; lawyers, by remembering that strict attention to the truth is necessary for their work to serve the larger goal of justice, on which a stable and peaceful society must be built,” he concluded. “May you turn to God often for the strength

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U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops President Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and chancellor of CDU, said: "The University's pursuit of excellence and the search

for truth coupled with a pioneer spirit in the world of distance learning make this educational community a model. Mindful of the confusion in today's society, I give thanks for this instrument enabled to deepen knowledge of the Catholic Faith in order to promote the New Evangelization."

Ute Eble, who earned an MA in Theology and Educational Ministry through CDU, said: "My intellectual growth in the field of theology is indisputable after completing this program. I have also grown from a person who was just interested in the faith into a person who is able to invite and accompany others on their faith journeys to more fully live Christ's mandate to become missionary disciples. This is mostly due to my spiritual progress."

Shawn Davila, earned a BA in Theology from CDU.

"Professor Harvey's class, ENG 111, was perhaps one of the best college classes I have taken in my life," Davila said. "The reading selection was outstanding, and not only did it make me further appreciate some classics I already loved, his class introduced me to new and beautiful works. Professor Harvey set up the class in a way that bridged the distance between classmates and teachers. It's because of great teachers like him and schools like this that I feel truly blessed."

Learn more about CDU at <https://cdu.edu>.

Mass...

Cont'd from Page 6

you need, because your service to justice, good order and the common good is essential to the health and peace of this great state."

Concelebrating the Mass were Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the basilica; and Father Dominic Athishu, vice rector. Rev. Mr. Dennis Nesser, JCL, served as deacon.

Following the Mass, a light reception was held in the Basilica Gathering Space.

"I am grateful to Bishop Brennan for his interest in restarting the annual celebration of the Red Mass and to all those from the diocese and the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart who helped to organize and participate in the Mass," said Matthew Bowles, a member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Society of Charleston who helped to promote the event. Bowles also serves as director of the Catholic Conference of West Virginia which strives to give witness to spiritual values and Catholic teaching in public affairs and to shape public policy.

"It was great to be able to pray for our legislators and leaders in government – particularly during the legislative session. The Red Mass presented an opportunity to ask that the Holy Spirit might shine through these public servants such that their work to shape civil and administrative law might order our communities toward the common good and promote human flourishing," he said. "It is my hope that this year's Red Mass nurtured a growing interest in restarting the (St. Thomas More) Society so that Catholic lawyers have a place to recognize, in the practice of our work, the ordinary encounters that we can have with God," Bowles added.

The Red Mass traces its roots back to the 13th century when it was celebrated in many European countries as well as the Sacred Roman Rota, the tribunal of the Holy See, to officially open the term of the respective courts. The first Red Mass in West Virginia was celebrated at the Co-Cathedral in Charleston in 1995.



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Celebrate those Called to Consecrated Life

Pray for All Called to Serve and Be the Light of Christ

By Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, Delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Chalreston

As we celebrate the “World Day for Consecrated Life” the Church, let us recognize the gift that a consecrated person is not only for the life of the Church, but also for the well-being of humanity. This celebration is typically attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Candlemas (February 2)—the day the Catholic Church has the ritual of the blessings of candles that are used during the liturgical year as a “symbol of Christ the Light of the World.”

The Church will also celebrate all those who have responded to the call for Consecrated Life at the weekend Masses in our parishes on February 4-5, 2023.

We consecrated men and women continue to celebrate God’s call to serve the Church in this time and place in many ways. We do our best to listen to God in the silence of our hearts and place Him ahead of all our endeavors and desires. We humbly asked to be worthy of bringing His light to others. “You are the light for the world.” Says the Lord. Mt. 5:1416

We have just left behind the

beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas, and it is still resounding in my heart the richness of the readings we have heard. The Prophets in the Old Testament invited us “O house of Jacob, come let us walk in the light of the Lord!” Isaiah 2:5 In the past God spoke to our ancestors the prophets; in these days, he has spoken to us through His Son. The Entrance Antiphon of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Mass at Dawn) gave us the Great News “Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.” Isaiah 9:6 The Gospel acclamation on Christmas Day culminates this promise “A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.” Isaiah 60.

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we heard the Magi saying “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Mt 2:12 “We also see the His star in those who suffer persecution, displacement, and poverty.

The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the na-



Joyce Bibey Photo
Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, Delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Chalreston

tions will walk by its light. Revelations 21:23. We want to also walk in the light by doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

“Every nation on earth will adore you.” Psalm 72:17. We join our brothers and sisters all over the world to reach out to those who are

in need.

The Celebration of the Baptism of the Lord brings us to the end of the Christmas season and introduces us to the second manifestation which occurs on His Baptism in the Jordan. “The heavens were opened, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.” Mt. 3:13-17. In the Baptism of the Lord, we were given the gift of been united with Christ Priest, Prophet, and King. The call to serve others. To heal the broken hearted.

The liturgy wisely directs us to the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. On this day I would like to invite all of you to let your light shine for all the world to see by spreading kindness to all we meet on our life journey.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all who consecrate their life to God, and to those who extend their support and words of encouragement, but most importantly by their fervent prayers.

I also would like to take this opportunity to invite you—young adults—to think of becoming a brother or a sister or a Consecrated Virgin (person), for the Glory of God, and the good of all.

Blessings!



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Vatican Rejects Proposed Governing Council of Bishops and Laity in Germany

By Justin McLellan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Germany’s bishops do not have the authority to establish a permanent decision-making body of bishops and laypeople that top Vatican officials said would supersede the authority of the country’s bishops’ conference, according to a letter from the officials published Jan. 23.

In their message to Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops’ conference, the Vatican officials addressed questions surrounding the establishment of a “Synodal Council” to advise the church in Germany “on major developments in the church and in society” and “take fundamental decisions” on matters that go beyond the diocesan level.

The council was approved in September by bishops and lay members of the country’s Synodal Assembly. The assembly is responsible for discussing, amending and voting on documents related to concerns addressed by Germany’s Synodal Path, which was launched in 2019 in response to the country’s clerical abuse scandal.

“We wish to make it clear that neither the Synodal (Path), nor any body established by it, nor any episcopal conference has the competence to establish the ‘Synodal Council’ at the national, diocesan or parish level,” said the letter signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.

The three cardinals said the letter was approved by Pope Francis.

“The most weighty doctrinal concern” raised by the approval of the Synodal Council, the three Vatican officials said, is how it relates to a bishop’s responsibility for teaching and governance, which “can be exercised only in hierarchical communion” with the pope and the whole college of bishops, as taught by the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

In response to the letter, Bishop Bätzing issued a statement Jan. 23 declaring the Vatican’s concerns “unfounded,” and explaining that the

Synodal Council would not “stand over the bishops’ conference or undermine the authority of individual bishops.”

“No one questions the authority of the episcopate,” he wrote.

Bishop Bätzing added that while “the Holy See sees the danger of a weakening of the episcopal office,” he instead sees “synodal consultation almost as a strengthening of this office.”

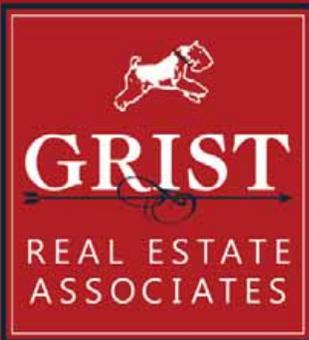
During their “ad limina” visits to Rome in November, Germany’s bishops had a joint meeting with the heads of Vatican dicasteries. At that meeting, the three cardinals expressed concerns that the German bishops were allowing participants in the Synodal Path to adopt positions in contrast to the faith of the universal church, particularly regarding sexuality and women’s ordination.

Responding to what Bishop Bätzing called “legitimate and necessary” questions from German bishops about their participation in the Synodal Council, the Vatican reiterated a message it sent to the

bishops in July 2022, stating that Germany’s Synodal Path “is not empowered to oblige the bishops and the faithful to adopt new forms of governance.”

The president of the German bishops’ conference said the letter from the Vatican will prompt Germany’s Synodal Path to “think much more intensively about the forms and possibilities of synodal consultation and decision making,” but he insisted the letter ultimately does not call into question the formation of the Synodal Council.

The three cardinals said they wrote after the heads of five German dioceses — Cologne, Eichstätt, Augsburg, Passau and Regensburg — wrote to the Vatican in December asking if they could be compelled by other German bishops to participate in the Synodal Committee that is organizing the Synodal Council. The Vatican officials said they do not have to participate since decisions of the Synodal Assembly “cannot limit the authority of the bishops’ conference and are not binding on individual bishops.”



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After California Shooting, Pope Says World is 'Obsessed' with Guns

By Justin McLellan

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After the shooting Jan. 21 in Monterey Park, California, that killed 11 people and injured nine others, Pope Francis said that “the world is obsessed with having guns.”

In an interview with the Associated Press published Jan. 25, the pope said that growth of the arms industry in recent years shows how rather than making efforts to promote life, society currently works “to help us kill each other.”

On legal gun ownership, the pope said that

“when people must defend themselves there is no other (option) but to have the tools for defense. It’s another thing when that need to defend gets extended, expanded, and it becomes a habit,” he said.

In a telegram to Archbishop José Gómez of Los Angeles, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said Pope Francis was “saddened” to learn of the Monterey Park shooting and assured the pope’s spiritual closeness “to those affected by this tragedy.”

“His Holiness joins the entire community in

commending the souls of those who died to almighty God’s loving mercy, and he implores the divine gifts of healing and consolation upon the injured and bereaved,” wrote Cardinal Parolin.

A gunman attacked a dance hall in Monterey Park, just outside of Los Angeles Jan. 21 after a day of celebrations in the heavily Asian-American city for the Lunar New Year. California police said the gun used by the shooter, a semi-automatic MAC-10 assault weapon, is illegal to buy or sell in the state. Authorities do not yet know where the gunman acquired the weapon.

Archbishop Cordileone on Recent Mass Shootings: ‘We Need to Reclaim God at the Center of Our Lives’

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. (OSV News) — Less than 48 hours after 11 people were killed and nine more injured at a dance hall Jan. 21 in Monterey Park, California, seven more people were shot and killed at two different landscaping nurseries Jan. 23 near Half Moon Bay, California, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

The suspect, 67-year-old Chunli Zhao, was taken into custody after he was found in his car in the parking lot of the Half Moon Bay sheriff’s office substation. He is believed to have acted alone.

“The recent shootings in Monterey Park and now in Half Moon Bay remind us of how fragile human life is, but also how precious human life is,” said San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone in a statement late Monday. “We must never take human life for granted. We must

never take out our aggressions and our frustrations on others, especially in any form of violence.”

Just before 2:30 p.m. local time deputies were dispatched to Cabrillo Highway (U.S. Route 1) upon the report of a multiple-victim shooting. Upon arrival, the deputies found four people deceased with gunshot wounds and another with life-threatening injuries. At a separate scene nearby, three additional victims were found deceased with gunshot wounds. All victims are believed to have been workers at the nurseries. The suspect also is believed to be a worker at one of the farms.

“It’s a big rural location so people are working, it’s spread out,” San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said. “There’s people that live at the location as well, so it was in the afternoon

when kids were out of school. For children to witness this is unspeakable.”

In his statement, Archbishop Cordileone called for prayer for the victims, their families and the perpetrator — but he also called for prayer at all times, “not just during these moments of great tragedy.”

“We need to reclaim God at the center of our lives,” he said. “He is the one who will grant us his peace.”

The incident at Half Moon Bay took place less than 48 hours after a mass shooting that left 11 people dead and at least nine more wounded at a dance studio nearly 400 miles south in Monterey Park, California. “We pray for those killed and injured in this shooting, and we ask that God stay close to their families and loved ones,” said Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez in his Sunday Mass homily

at St. Bridget Chinese Church Jan. 22.

In a separate statement, Archbishop Gomez prayed for God to give “wisdom and prudence to law enforcement and public officials working to make sense of the violence and keep our communities safe.”

The archbishop said they were also praying for peace: “Peace in the hearts of those who are troubled. Peace in the hearts of those who are afraid and hurting today, and peace for those whose faith has been shaken.”

“We pray also for peace in our own hearts,” he said. “We pray that we might feel God’s love and know that he will deliver us from every evil.”

Archbishop Gomez concluded by asking for the intercession of Mary, the Blessed Mother, “to be a mother to us in this hour of pain and uncertainty.”



Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, pastoral effort led by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to encourage increased outreach to pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

For more information and assistance on starting Walking with Moms in need in your parish:

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Director of Social Ministry
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kbarton@dwc.org



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Catholic Organizations Applaud, Express Concerns about New Private Sponsorship Program for Refugees

By Nicholas Wolfram Smith (OSV News) — Catholic organizations applauded the announcement Jan. 19 of a new State Department program that allows groups of private individuals to directly support refugees resettling in the U.S.

The Welcome Corps allows applications from private groups formed by five or more people to sponsor refugees for their first 90 days in the country. The groups would be responsible for raising at least \$2,275 per refugee, greeting them at the airport, arranging housing, enrolling children in school and finding jobs for adults.

"It's a bold innovation that is really harnessing the community's efforts," said Rachel Pollock, director of resettlement services at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services department, told OSV News. "This is going to be a really good opportunity for parishes across the U.S. to engage in this life-saving work."

The Welcome Corps builds off earlier sponsorship programs for Afghans and Ukrainians and is helmed by a consortium of nonprofits with previous experience in community-based resettlement. The nonprofits will be responsible for vetting, certifying and training private sponsors, and monitoring the program to ensure refugees receive adequate support.

The State Department said in a news release that "by tapping into the goodwill of American communities, the Welcome Corps will expand our country's capacity to provide a warm welcome to higher numbers of refugees." The department hopes 10,000 Americans will join the Welcome Corps in its first year to help at least 5,000 refugees.

At first, sponsor groups may fund refugees who are already in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Later in the year, groups will be able to directly sponsor refugees they identify and refer to USRAP for resettlement. Refugees arriving through the Welcome Corps will go through the same screening process as other refugees arriving in the U.S.

Sponsor groups are not required

to support refugees beyond 90 days. After that period, refugees are eligible for other federal programs, but a State Department official said the goal was for refugees to become "self-reliant as quickly as possible."

Pollock anticipated parishes would be interested in forming Welcome Corps groups, especially once direct referrals of refugees to USRAP becomes available, since that will assist with family reunification.

"Parishes have long served as sponsors of refugees. There are so many of those stories in our history, so I think this is something people will be eager to do," she said.

Ed Langlois, spokesman for Catholic Charities of Oregon in Portland, said the prospect of partnerships with more citizens is exciting.

"This kind of cooperation has worked well in Canada and other countries, and we suspect that the goodwill of Oregonians will make it work here as well," Langlois told OSV News. "When it comes to resettling refugees, we should have all hands on deck."

Claire McIlwain, refugee services program coordinator for Catholic Charities of Oregon, said it was too early to say how private sponsorship groups would interact with existing resettlement agencies like hers.

"We're waiting to see what our role will be and how we will get to support this new program going forward," she said. "It's going to be interesting to see how it rolls out. I'm excited and hope it's successful in bringing in more folks."

Resettlement agencies, which receive only 90 days of federal funding to support refugees, and private sponsorship groups should offer identical services during that time frame.

The key difference will be in long-term support. A state program in Oregon offers additional funding for two years of case management for refugees, which McIlwain said was critical because "90 days is not really sufficient in adjusting to a new environment."

At least one group expressed concern about the program. Anna Rossi, chair of the refugee accompaniment ministry in the Alameda

Deanery of the Diocese of Oakland, California, said the Welcome Corps' "intentions are good and the basic idea is wonderful, but it's very naive." Rossi said 90 days of support is too little, the work involved in helping new arrivals could lead to burnout in small groups, and finding landlords willing to rent to refugees can often be "a horribly difficult task."

Rossi said her parish-based ministry has no plans to change to a Welcome Corps group, since it enjoys strong parish and community support and has connections to local refugee service organizations. However, because several of the refugee families they've helped still have relatives overseas, "a pathway with this new law to help family reunification could be something we're interested in," she said.

President Joe Biden set a target of 125,000 refugee admissions to the U.S. during the 2023 fiscal year, which started in October. Just 6,750 refugees have arrived in the fiscal year's first quarter.

(Nicholas Wolfram Smith writes for OSV News from California.)



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Mission Talk*

*8 - 9 PM
Confession/Meet+Greet*

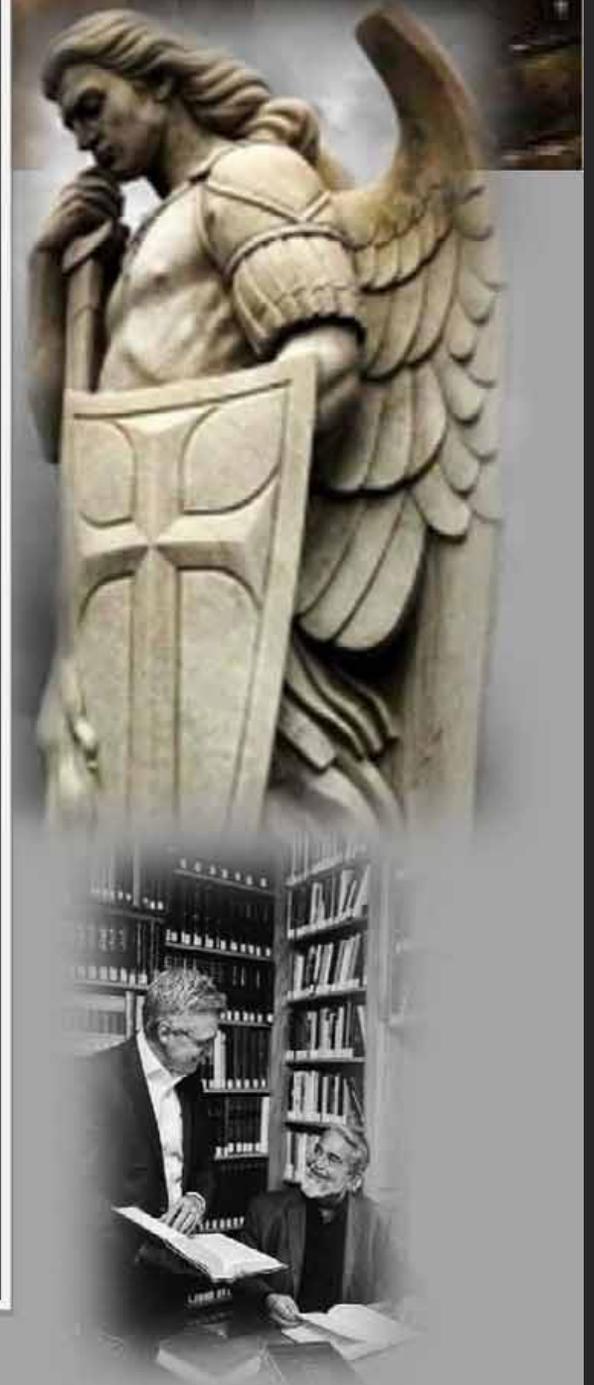
*Talk #1 (Monday)
Confession as
Spiritual Warfare*

*Talk #2 (Tuesday)
Eucharistic
Testimony*

*Talk #3 (Weds.)
Spiritual Discipline
in Spiritual Warfare*

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Logan turned to drugs, and quickly, things spiraled out of control.

Logan knew he needed to make changes to his life. His sister told him about the Mullens Opportunity Center (MOC) and the Adult Education classes offered by CCWVa's McDowell Learning Center.

In addition to enrolling in the High School Equivalency class offered by Catholic Charities' Adult Education Instructor Michelle

Montz, Logan entered an addiction treatment program with Southern Highlands.

"I was amazed about how easy it was to get back into the flow of learning," Logan said.

When Logan earned his High School Equivalency, he was thrilled. He enrolled in the WV Transition Jobs Program (formerly the WV Empowered Employment Program), which helps people in recovery gain employment and on-the-job training by assisting employers in paying wages.

Logan started his new job in January.

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To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

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Courtesy Photo
Logan Holdren enrolled in adult education classes at Catholic Charities West Virginia to better his circumstances.

ing and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



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Arzobispo Cordileone sobre tiroteos masivos recientes: 'Necesitamos recuperar a Dios en el centro de nuestras vidas'

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. (OSV News) — Menos de 48 horas después de que 11 personas murieran y nueve más resultaran heridas en un salón de baile el 21 de enero en Monterey Park, California, siete personas más fueron asesinadas a tiros en dos viveros de Half Moon Bay, California, el 23 de enero cerca según la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de San Mateo.

El sospechoso, Chunli Zhao, de 67 años, fue detenido después de que lo encontraran en su automóvil en el estacionamiento de la subestación de la oficina del alguacil de Half Moon Bay. Se cree que actuó solo.

"Los tiroteos recientes en Monterey Park y ahora en Half Moon Bay nos recuerdan cuán frágil es la vida humana, pero también cuán preciosa es la vida humana", dijo el Arzobispo de San Francisco Salvatore J. Cordileone en un comunicado el lunes por la noche. "Nunca debemos dar por sentada la vida humana. Nunca debemos descargar nuestras agresiones y nuestras frustraciones en los demás, especialmente en cualquier forma de violencia".

Justo antes de las 2:30 p.m. hora local, los agentes de la fueron enviados a Cabrillo Highway (Ruta 1 de EE.UU.) tras el informe de un tiroteo con múltiples víctimas. Al llegar, los diputados encontraron a cuatro personas fallecidas con heridas de bala y otra con lesiones que ponen en riesgo su vida. En una escena separada cerca de allí, se encontraron tres víctimas adicionales fallecidas con heridas de bala. Se cree que todas las víctimas eran trabajadores de los viveros. También se cree que el sospechoso es un trabajador de una de las granjas.

"Es una gran área rural, por lo que la gente está trabajando, está dispersa", dijo la Alguacil del Condado de San Mateo Christina Corpus. "También hay personas que viven en el lugar,

por lo que fue en la tarde cuando los niños no estaban en la escuela. Que niños hayan sido testigos de esto es indescriptible".

En su declaración, el Arzobispo Cordileone pidió oración por las víctimas, sus familias y el perpetrador, pero también pidió oración en todo momento, "no solo durante estos momentos de gran tragedia.

"Necesitamos recuperar a Dios en el centro de nuestras vidas", dijo. "Él es quien nos concederá su paz".

El incidente en Half Moon Bay tuvo lugar a menos de 48 horas después de un tiroteo masivo que dejó 11 muertos y al menos otros nueve heridos en un estudio de baile a casi 400 millas al sur en Monterey Park, California. "Oramos por los muertos y heridos en este tiroteo, y le pedimos a Dios que permanezca cerca de sus familias y seres queridos", dijo el Arzobispo de Los Ángeles José H. Gómez en su homilía de la Misa dominical en St. Bridget Chinese Church el 22 de enero.

En otra declaración, el Arzobispo Gomez oró para que Dios dé "sabiduría y prudencia a las fuerzas del orden y a los funcionarios públicos que trabajan para dar sentido a la violencia y mantener nuestras comunidades a salvo".

El arzobispo dijo que también estaban rezando por la paz: "Paz en los corazones de los que están atribulados. Paz en los corazones de aquellos que hoy tienen miedo y están heridos, y paz para aquellos cuya fe ha sido quebrantada".

"Oramos también por la paz en nuestros propios corazones", dijo. "Oramos para que podamos sentir el amor de Dios y saber que él nos librará de todo mal".

El arzobispo concluyó pidiendo la intercesión de María, la Santísima Madre, "para que sea una madre para nosotros en esta hora de dolor e incertidumbre".

Horario de Confirmación de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston Primavera 2023

Obispo Mark E. Brennan, Celebrante

Domingo 19 de marzo: Catedral de St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a. m.

Domingo 26 de marzo: Santa Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p. m.

Sábado 15 de abril: Santo Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a. m.

Sábado 15 de abril: Santo Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p. m.

Domingo 16 de abril: Santo Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a. m. Martes 18 de abril: Santo John, Benwood, 6:30 p. m.

Lunes 24 de abril: Santo Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p. m.

Martes 25 de abril: Santo Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p. m.

Domingo 30 de abril: Santo Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p. m.

Sábado 6 de mayo: Santa Mary, Star City, 11:00 a. m.

Sábado 6 de mayo: Santo John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p. m.

Jueves 11 de mayo: San Francisco de Asís, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.

Sábado 13 de mayo: Basílica de la Concatedral del Sagrado Corazón, Charleston, 5:30 p. m.

Domingo 14 de mayo: Nuestra Señora de Fátima, Huntington, 11:00 a. m.

Domingo 14 de mayo: Santo Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p. m.

Miércoles 17 de mayo: Santo Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p. m.

Viernes 19 de mayo: Santo Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p. m.

Sábado 20 de mayo: Santa Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.

Sábado 20 de mayo: Santo James, Charles Town, 5:00 p. m.

Domingo 21 de mayo: Santo Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a. m.

Domingo 21 de mayo: Santo Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p. m.

Lunes 22 de mayo: Asunción, Keyser, 18:00 h.

Domingo 28 de mayo: Santo Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p. m.

Jueves 1 de junio: Santa Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p. m.

Domingo 11 de junio: Sagrado Corazón, Princeton, 11:00 a. m.

Domingo 18 de junio: Inmaculada Concepción, Fairmont, 11:00 a. m.

Sábado, 10 de junio: Santo Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 pm.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede lla-

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

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

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

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule Spring 2023 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 19: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday, March 26: St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.
 Saturday, April 15: St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
 Saturday, April 15: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
 Sunday, April 16: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
 Tuesday, April 18: St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, April 24: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, April 25: St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
 Sunday, April 30: St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
 Saturday, May 6: St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
 Saturday, May 6: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
 Thursday, May 11: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, May 13: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart,
 Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 14: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday, May 14: St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 17: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 19: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, May 20: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday, May 20: St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, May 21: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday, May 21: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
 Monday, May 22: Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday, May 28: St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
 Thursday, June 1: St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday, June 11: Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday, June 18: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
 Saturday, June 10: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.

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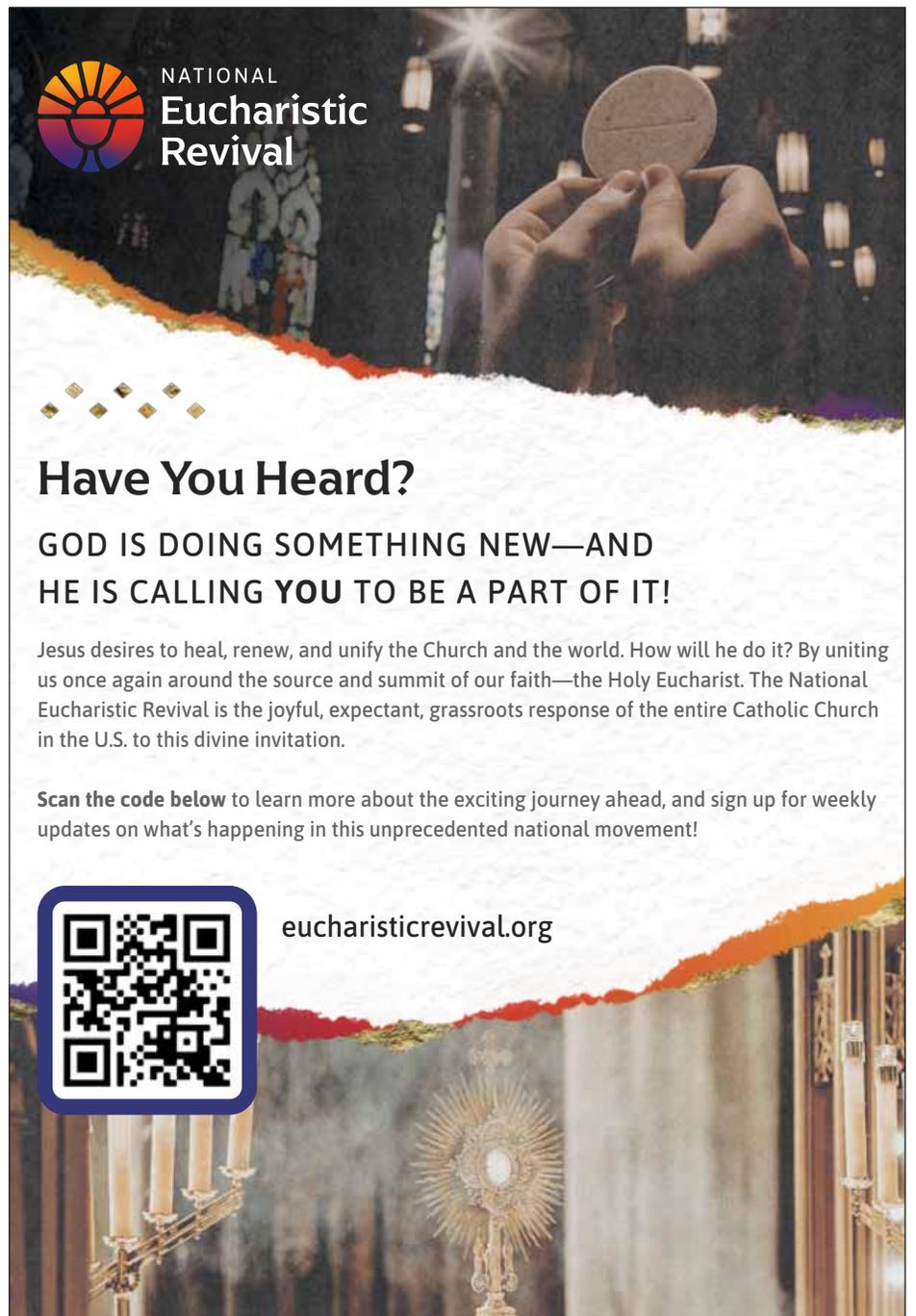
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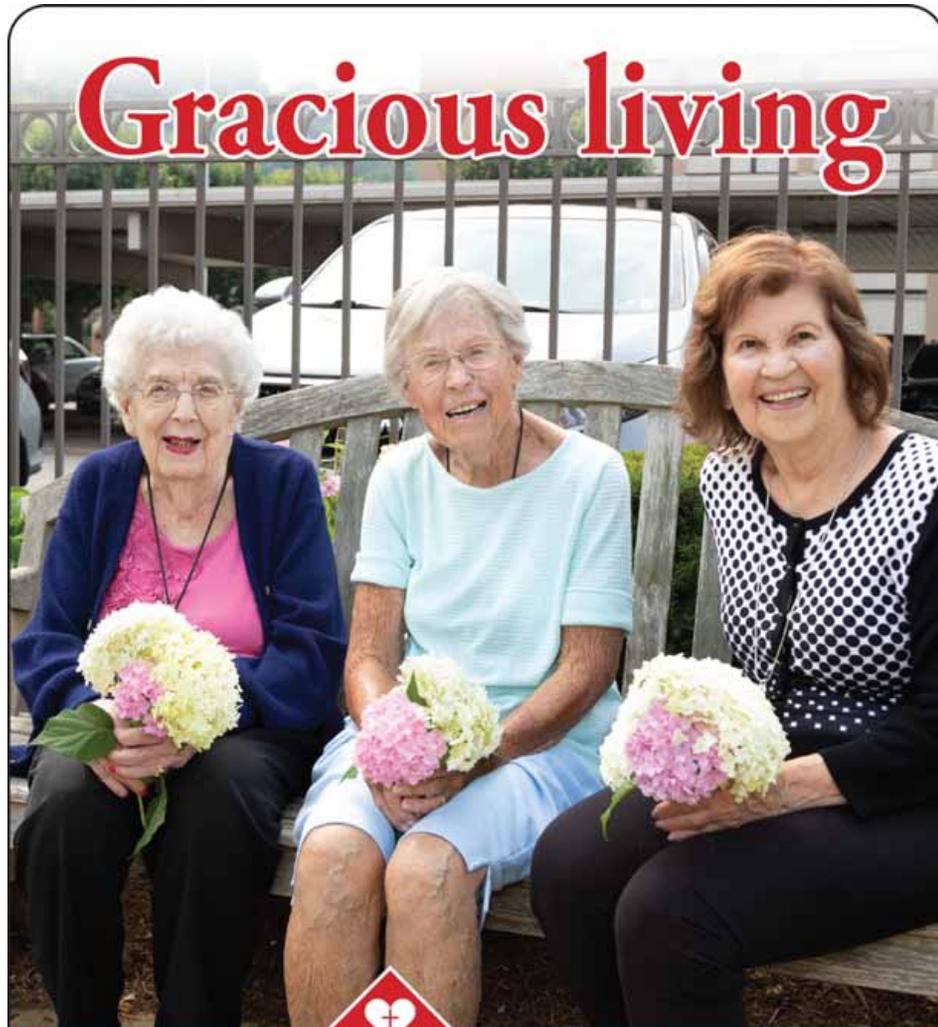
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8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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6:30 WOAY TV 4	Beckley & Bluefield

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WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Thanks Its Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists for National CRNA Week



Courtesy Photo
For National CRNA Week, WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital thanked and celebrated its certified registered nurse anesthetists. Hospital officials posted on Facebook that the hospital's "CRNAs are highly skilled and trusted experts on the frontlines of health-care, who work tirelessly to deliver safe anesthetics and advocate for effective anesthesia care for all patients." CRNAs pictured in front row, from left, are: Karen Yocum, Colby McIlvaine, Claire Caruso, Sherrie Miara, and Julie McGary. Back row, from left, are: CRNAs David Carpenter, Tony Lasica, Taylor Sargent, and Jenna Jafrate.

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Cardiology

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Wheeling, WV
Phone: 304-242-4800



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Cardiology

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Triadelphia, WV
Phone: 855-WVU-CARE



Sushant Sharma, MD
Cardiology

20 Medical Park | Suite 105
Wheeling, WV
Phone: 304-242-4800



Walid Gharib, MD
Cardiology

10 Medical Park | Tower 1
Wheeling, WV
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George Sokos, DO
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10 Medical Park | Tower 1
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Wheeling, WV
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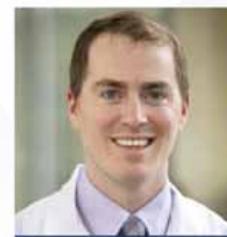
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Vascular Surgery

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Wheeling, WV
Phone: 304-242-4800



Ganga Prabhakar, MD
Cardiac Surgery

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Thoracic Surgery

10 Medical Park | Suite 104
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