

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

U.S. Bishops Call for Prayer after Deadly D.C. Air Collision

By Gina Christian and Kate Scanlon

(OSV News) — U.S. Catholic bishops — joined by Pope Francis — are calling for prayer after a deadly aviation crash in the nation’s capital claimed dozens of lives.

“Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Washington today join men and women of good will here and around the world in praying for those who perished in last night’s heart-breaking accident,” Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, the retired archbishop and current apostolic administrator of the archdiocese, said in a Jan. 30 statement.

The Jan. 29 midair collision between a regional jet operated by American Airlines and a U.S. military helicopter took place over the Potomac River at approximately 9 p.m.

All on both aircraft are presumed dead.

American Eagle Flight 5342 — which originated in Wichita, Kansas — had been preparing to land at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and carried 60 passengers and four crew members on board. The helicopter involved in the collision, a UH-60 Black Hawk assigned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, contained three troops on a routine training flight.

The initial rescue operation was soon declared a recovery effort, with first responders and dive crews battling the Potomac’s icy waters to retrieve the bodies. The incident remains under investigation by multiple agencies led by the National

See “Prayer” on Page 3

Deadline Extended for DMI Survey

Learn Where You Can Take the Survey and How Your Input Will Help Create an Evangelization Plan for the Diocese

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—The deadline has been extended for the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey to help make sure that all of West Virginia’s Catholic faithful are afforded the opportunity to share their input in creating a three-year evangelization plan for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The DMI takes just 10 to 15 minutes to complete and is now

available through Feb. 11. The diocese’s website provides a listing of each parish with a link to each one’s survey. Click here to find and take your parish’s survey.

“It was very simple,” Sara Struemke said of the survey. “I did it from my iPhone.”

Sara and her husband Billy Struemke are the DMI parish point persons at their Parish of St. Bernadette’s in Hedgesville, which

has a high percentage of Mass goers that have taken the survey.

“We put a lot of work into it,” Sara said. “Father (Aloysius) Boh, our parish priest, has included it several times in his homily.”

The husband-and-wife team also did extensive advertising of the DMI in the parish bulletin and spoke about its importance at Masses in December. But they also

See “DMI” on Page 3

‘I Love My Catholic School’

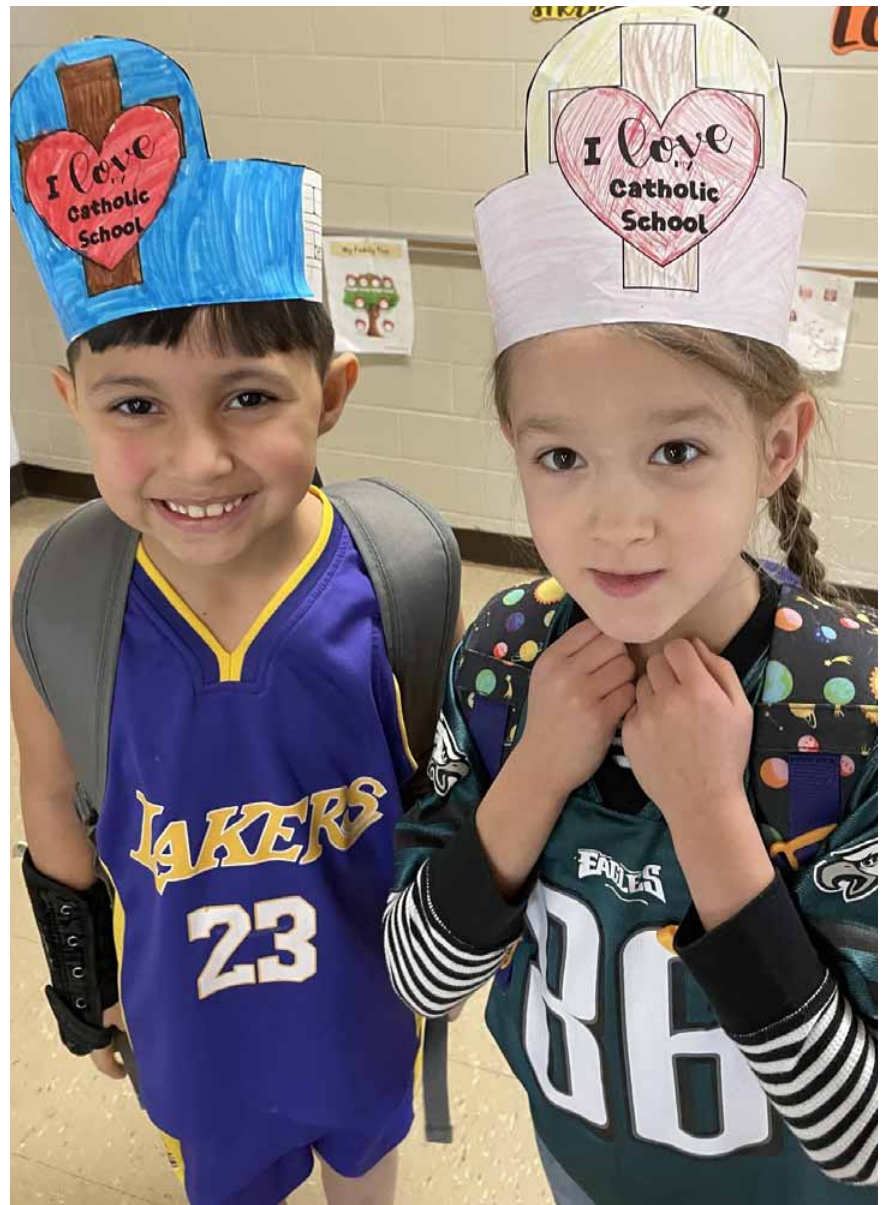
By Colleen Rowan

On Tuesday’s celebration of Catholic Schools Week, first-graders Isaac Quintero and Olive Lewis proudly wore their “I Love My Catholic School” hats. They and their classmates at Our Lady of Fatima Parish School in Huntington along with kindergartners created

See a Snapshot of the Diocese’s 24 Catholic Schools on Pages 4-7

their colorful hats especially for this annual celebration of Catholic education. The kids at OLOF, who love their Catholic school so much, were not alone in the celebration this week. They were among 4,673 students enrolled in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s 18 Catholic elementary schools and six Catholic high schools across West Virginia celebrating Catholic Schools Week, which began on Sunday. The theme of the annual celebration is “United in Faith and Community.”

See “School” on Page 4



Courtesy photo
At Our Lady of Fatima Parish School in Huntington, first-graders Isaac Quintero and Olive Lewis proudly wear their “I Love My Catholic School” hats they made for Catholic Schools Week.

Inside:

March for Life Puts Pro-Life Vision That Welcomes Babies, Supports Families in Focus, Page 8

Catholic Charities Announces 2025 Charity in Action Award Honoree for 15th Annual Hope Gala, Page 13



**We love having you
as part of our flock!**

*Keep in touch with us via email and
text*

To join our communications list, text

DWC1850 TO 84576



Or signup online at:

DWC.FLOCKNOTE.COM

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help.
There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates
may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2025 Issues and Print Dates:

Month of the Holy Family, February 7

Lent, March 7

Easter, April 18

Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23

Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15

Triumph of the Cross, September 12

Month of the Rosary, October 3

Advent, November 21

Christmas, December 19

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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint 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 requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



January 31,
2025
Vol. 56, No. 5

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444

thecatholic
spiritwv.org
dwc.org

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.



Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule, at left). All 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.

Prayer...

Cont'd from Page 1

Transportation Safety Board and including the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Army.

"We praise God for the generous assistance of our courageous first responders," Cardinal Gregory said in his statement. "May this disaster serve as an impetus to strengthen our unity and collaboration."

In a Jan. 30 post on the X social media platform, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, asked people to be "united in prayer for all those tragically impacted by the accident."

"May we be united in prayer for all those tragically impacted by the accident near Reagan airport," Bishop Burbidge, whose diocese borders the Potomac, said in his post. "We ask God to embrace them in his love; to grant strength to their families; and to watch over all first responders."

According to the Arlington Diocese, Bishop Burbidge scheduled a 12:05 p.m. liturgy — carried also via livestream — at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington to pray for the victims.

Shortly after the crash, Bishop Carl A. Kemme of Wichita, Kansas, posted on Facebook that he was "praying for all involved" in the disaster.

"It is sobering to think that I and two other priests were on this very flight one week ago on our way to DC for the ... March for life," Bishop Kemme said. "May God bring divine assistance to everyone involved."

In Jan. 30 comments at the White House, President Donald Trump said the country is in mourning and acknowledged the incident has left many people shaken.

"This was a dark and excruciating night in our nation's capital and in our nation's history, and a tragedy of terrible proportions," he said.

"As one nation, we grieve for every precious soul that has been taken from us, so suddenly," he said.

In a Jan. 30 telegram to Trump, Pope Francis expressed his "spiritual closeness" to victims



OSV News photo/Carlos Barria, Reuters

Emergency personnel and divers work Jan. 30 in a search-and-rescue mission on the Potomac River in Washington after American Eagle flight 5342 collided with a Black Hawk Army helicopter late Jan. 29 while on approach to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport for landing and crashed into the river. Sixty passengers and four crew members were aboard the jet, and three soldiers were on the helicopter.

and their families and commended the souls of the departed to God's loving mercy.

"I likewise pray for those involved in the recovery efforts, and invoke upon all in the nation the divine blessings of consolation and strength," he said.

During a Jan. 30 media briefing, Wichita Mayor Lily Wu thanked local faith leaders who "showed up last night and prayed over" the city's council after the disaster. Her voice choked with emotion as Wu shared that city officials confirmed there were no survivors.

"This is a terrible tragedy that will unite those in Washington, D.C., and Wichita, Kansas, forever," she said.

Local media, citing a statement from the city, reported the Greater Wichita Ministerial League organized a prayer service at Wichita's City Hall on Jan. 30 at noon.

While the victims' names have not yet been revealed, U.S. Figure Skating, the sport's governing body, told media that several passengers on the commercial aircraft were young figure skaters returning from a training camp in Wichita. Russian state media reported that several of the skaters were Russian nationals.

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News. Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News based in Washington.)

DMI...

Cont'd from Page 1

have gone the extra mile to help their fellow parishioners.

"We have had computers and tablets in the back of our church and the parish hall after every Mass on the weekends, and then we're there to help them," Sara said.

Many of those who have taken the survey, Sara said, have remarked, "That was really simple."

Another parish that has reported a great response to the survey is St. Michael's in Vienna. The people there see participation not only as an opportunity but a responsibility in helping to grow the church in West Virginia.

"By participating in the survey, we join other parishes in helping the bishop develop a plan of evangelization for the diocese," said Father John Gal-

lagher, pastor of St. Michael's. "It's our way of fulfilling Jesus' command to go out and proclaim the good news."

St. Michael's has more than 150 surveys submitted, which is about 50 percent of a typical weekend Mass attendance.

"Many have used the online source with only a handful doing the paper version," Father Gallagher said. Yet other parishes reported a higher response through the paper survey. Either form of the DMI offers the faithful a chance to contribute.

"We look forward to seeing the compiled results and appreciate the bishop asking us to participate in helping him lead our diocese to a plan for evangelizing our brothers and sisters in West Virginia," Father Gallagher said.

Other elements of the initiative included one-on-one interviews with a small number of parishioners and focus groups which are coming to an end.

Click here to find and take your parish's survey

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX

SHARE YOUR VOICE



DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

www.dwc.org
f @ t

School...

Cont'd from Page 1

"Catholic Schools Week is always an exciting time to celebrate our schools and Catholic education not only in the diocese but the whole nation," said Superintendent of Catholic Schools Jennifer Hornyak, who

has been visiting many of the schools this week to join students, teachers, and administration in the celebration.

"I am so proud of our schools," she said, noting that "We are partners with our parents ... as they are the first educators of their children."

Throughout the week, students

participated in service projects in their communities; gathered to pray the rosary and attend Mass; and enjoyed fun activities such as pizza parties and crazy hat days. Specific daily themes of CSW were dedicated to celebrating the parish; the community; students; the nation; vocations; and faculty, staff, and volunteers.

The diocese's Department of Catholic Schools has released its latest snapshot which offers a look at its 24 Catholic schools in West Virginia that offer students the opportunity to achieve academic success in a Christ-centered environment. The snapshot begins below and continues through Page 7.



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

West Virginia Catholic Schools



A Snapshot of Catholic Schools Faith, Tradition, and Excellence

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to providing excellent Catholic schools with strong academics while nurturing responsibility, accountability, citizenship, and empathy in a Christ-centered learning environment.

2024-2025

SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

18 Elementary Schools | 6 High Schools | 487 Professional Staff
12 Counties served by Catholic Schools | 11:1 Professional Staff to Student Ratio
43% of Catholic School students are non-Catholic

GROWING ENROLLMENT

Enrollment has increased across our WV Catholic schools over the last three academic years.



Shaping Futures through Faith, Tradition, and Excellence

From our youngest learners to our graduating seniors, we recognize the relationship between intellectual development and growth as a Christian. We provide a holistic education that is academically rigorous and infused with Catholic faith and traditions. We work collaboratively with each of our school communities across the state to make our schools the best they can be and our students the best versions of themselves.

Our Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of our schools to envelop the family as integral partners in our mission. Our school communities continue to grow in academic achievement, spiritual formation, and enrollment. To learn more about our schools, please visit us at WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG! Thank you for being part of our school community!

Jennifer Hornyak
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, WV will be expanding to include 9th and 10th grades.

Strong Foundations



Nurturing Environment

Gospel Values



13 of 18 Elementary and Middle Schools have a waiting list for at least one or more grades.

Faith & Tradition

Our mission includes ensuring that students are educated in the basic truths of the Catholic faith and that Gospel values permeate all subjects and are practiced by the entire school community. We provide a holistic curriculum to assist our youth in seeing and understanding the role of faith in one's daily life and in the larger society. Combining our focus on faith along with Catholic traditions, we provide many opportunities for our students to grow academically and spiritually.



- ✚ Supporting the development of a genuine community of faith, steeped in a Catholic worldview, among students, faculty, and the whole school community
- ✚ Daily prayer, weekly and monthly masses, and retreats
- ✚ Participation in the annual Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) to build on our strengths and provide direction in our teachings and programs
- ✚ Fostering awareness and missionary discipleship of peace and justice issues by encouraging Christian service
- ✚ Preparing students to receive sacraments including First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation



DWC Average Student Score

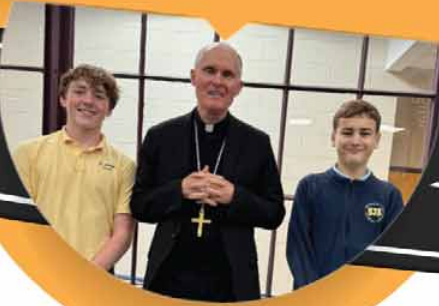


Excellence

Excellence is the hallmark of a Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic School, and the proof is in our faith formation and academic achievements. As part of our mission to integrate lessons and build students' knowledge of the Catholic faith, we have partnered with **ARK** to assess the religious knowledge and beliefs of students in grades 2-12. This assessment helps us focus on strengths as well as growth opportunities. Students respond to questions on the following domains: creed and salvation history, living discipleship, morality, prayer, sacraments and liturgy, and virtue. Based on the 2023-2024 assessments, our students scored above the national percentile ranges overall, with **PRAYER** as our strongest domain performance.

Tuition Assistance is available for both Catholic and non-Catholic families in need.

Faith



Success



Service

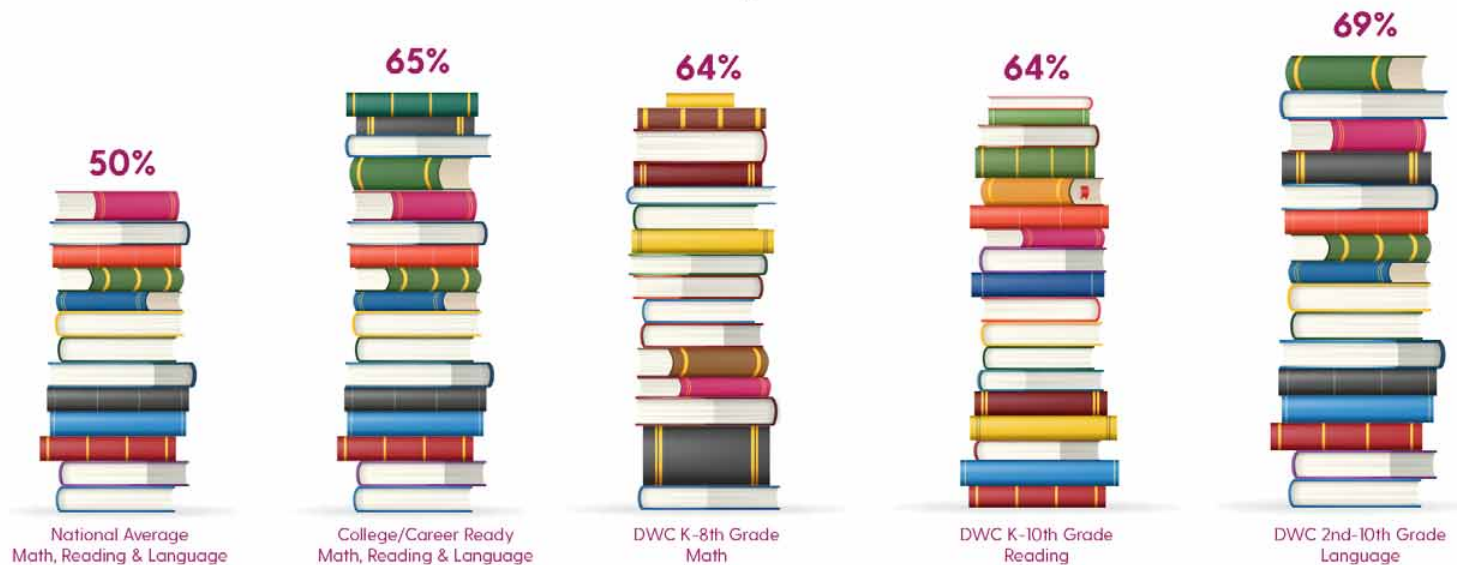


Our students participate in the NWEA MAP Growth assessments three times per year to help schools monitor student achievement and growth in reading, language, and mathematics. Performance data indicates performance scores in the high average range and show growth across all schools, grade levels, and subjects.

Secondary students also participate in college preparatory examinations including the SAT, ACT, and PSAT. Our average ACT and SAT scores exceed WV and national averages.

NWEA MAP 2023-2024

- *Average Range (41-60th percentile)
- *High Average Range (61-80th percentile)
- *High Range (81-100th percentile)



CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

across the United States of America

The infographic features a central circular logo with the text "Catholic Schools United in Faith and Community" and a graphic of a cross surrounded by hands. Surrounding this are 12 numbered segments, each with a descriptive statement:

- 1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
- 2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
- 3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
- 4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
- 5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
- 6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
- 7. We teach children respect of self and others.
- 8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
- 9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
- 10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
- 11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
- 12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
NCEA.org/csw

Department of Catholic Schools

Jennifer Hornyak, M.E.T. - Superintendent
 Rhonda Combs, PhD - Director of Curriculum & Instruction
 Julie Link - Office Manager



Learn more about West Virginia Catholic Schools by scanning the QR Code or by visiting WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG



Courtesy Photo

The group from St. John University Parish and Mountaineer Catholic in Morgantown is pictured at the March for Life in Washington Jan. 24.

March for Life Puts Pro-Life Vision That Welcomes Babies, Supports Families in Focus

By Maria Wiering, OSV News

(OSV News) — “Let me say very simply: I want more babies in the United States of America,” Vice President JD Vance told a cheering crowd at the 52nd National March for Life Jan. 24.

“I want more happy children in our country, and I want beautiful young men and women who are eager to welcome them into the world and eager to raise them,” he said. “And it is the task of our government to make it easier for young moms and dads to afford to have kids, to bring them into the world, and to welcome them as the blessings that we know they are, here at the March for Life.”

In his first public appearance following Inauguration Day, Vance was the final speaker at the annual march’s two-hour rally preceding attendees’ walk from the Washington Monument grounds to the U.S. Supreme Court Building. Other speakers included Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La. It is the first time both leaders of Congress’s chambers attended a March for Life.

While most speakers — policy-makers and pro-life advocates — spoke specifically about making abortion “illegal and unthinkable” in post-Dobbs America, Vance championed a pro-family vision that not only rejected abortion, but also supported raising children.

Noting his own three young children, Vance, who is Catholic, said, “The task of our movement is to protect innocent life. It’s to defend the unborn; and it’s also to be pro-family and pro-life in the fullest sense of that word possible.”

As in years past, the march drew tens of thousands, many of them young adults. Some traveled more than a day on buses, missing high school and college classes to join others along the National Mall in the mid-Atlantic cold. They held signs reading

“Love them Both,” “Life is our Revolution” and “Defund Planned Parenthood,” the largest U.S. abortion provider.

The 2025 march also commemorated a leadership change for the event’s organization, with longtime president Jeanne Mancini handing off her role to March for Life’s incoming president, Jennie Bradley Lichter. While Mancini emceed the 2025 march, both women spoke, with Bradley Lichter also introducing Vance.

The march was founded to protest *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states. That decision was overturned in 2022 with the court’s *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision, thus returning abortion policy to lawmakers. At the rally, March for Life leaders addressed the march’s role in the changed abortion landscape, with abortion laws now varying widely by state. The march, they insisted, must continue.

“Today we affirm that the pro-life generation will not rest until every single abortion facility in our nation closes its door for good. We will march until every child is protected by federal law, until abortion is unthinkable, and until every pregnant woman receives excellent prenatal care,” said Hannah Lape, president of Wheaton College Voice for Life. Her group carried the 2025 march’s iconic banner.

“With the new administration and the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, the next four years of America’s history will be defined either by courage or by cowardice,” she said. “Abortion is not a state’s rights issue to be ignored. It is a fundamental human rights crisis weighing on America’s shoulders. Our country cannot be great until the preborn are protected, and are protected (with) the right to life.”

The march came four days after President Donald Trump was sworn in for his second term, following a campaign that disappointed many pro-life

advocates in certain respects. Trump was hailed for pro-life actions during his first term. Since then, he reversed support for a federal abortion ban, stating he believes U.S. states should determine their own abortion laws. He also posted on social media positively about “reproductive rights,” and indicated he would not restrict access to mifepristone. The drug, while it is prescribed in some miscarriage care protocols, is widely used for nearly two-thirds of abortions in the U.S.

How Trump’s campaign statements on abortion affect policy-making remain to be seen. But many pro-life leaders appear optimistic about the new administration. The day before the March for Life, Trump pardoned 23 pro-life activists convicted of violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinics (FACE) Act. The activists, many of whom Trump said were elderly, had been convicted for blocking access to abortion clinics. An executive order on gender Trump issued earlier in the week also defined life as beginning at conception, a point House Speaker Johnson noted at the march rally.

Johnson was among House members who passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act Jan. 23, the day after Democrats blocked a companion bill in the Senate.

In a video played at the march, Trump touted his pro-life record and said that in his second term “we will again stand proudly for families and for life.”

“We will protect the historic gains we have made and stop the radical Democrat push for a federal right to unlimited abortion on demand, up to the moment of birth and even after birth,” he said.

A majority of Americans support some legal limits on abortion, while keeping the practice largely intact, according to a Knights of Columbus-Marist poll released Jan. 23. The annual survey found that 83% of Americans supported pregnancy resource centers

and 67% of Americans support some legal limits for abortion. But 60% support limiting abortions to the first three months of pregnancy — a limit that would leave most abortions legal as nine out of 10 abortions occur in the first trimester.

“All of you here — all of you — have the power to change minds,” Lila Rose, a Catholic and longtime pro-life advocate, told the crowd during the march rally. “You are the voice for those who have no voice. Remember, science is on our side. The truth is on our side. We must simply have the courage to speak the truth with love.”

The March for Life was preceded by Life Fest 2025 at EagleBank Arena in Fairfax, Va., the evening before and the morning of the march; and the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

The Sisters of Life, the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, united to present the two-day Life Fest event, which drew almost 8,000. At the national shrine, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, was the main celebrant and homilist at the prayer vigil’s opening Mass Jan. 23, with Bishop Robert J. Brennan of Brooklyn, New York, the main celebrant of the closing liturgy Jan. 24. Archbishop Naumann also gave an opening prayer at the March for Life.

Marcela Rojas, who lives in the Archdiocese of New York, said that she attended the march with a group of 75 people, many of them mothers who brought their small children. “Within our being, in our womb, there is a life,” she said of pregnant mothers. “It is a life that we cannot choose for. It is already another life that does not belong to us, and we are not the ones to decide whether it lives or not.”

(Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News. Contributing to this story was OSV News correspondent Marietha Góngora V. in Washington.)

Human Dignity ‘Not Dependent’ on Legal Status, Say Catholic Leaders

By **Gina Christian**

(OSV News) — Several Catholic leaders are speaking out against the Trump administration’s reversal of a longstanding policy limiting where immigration officials could make arrests.

On Jan. 21, the Department of Homeland Security announced that previously designated “sensitive locations” such as churches and schools would no longer be off-limits for such arrests. The agency said in a statement that “criminals will no longer be able to hide in America’s schools and churches” to evade law enforcement.

The move followed several executive orders on immigration issued by President Donald Trump hours after his Jan. 20 inauguration, based on campaign pledges to tighten border security and ensure mass deportations of undocumented migrants.

But allowing for immigration arrests at houses of worship and other previously protected locations threatens human dignity, religious liberty and society itself, said several Catholic leaders in a joint statement issued Jan. 23 by Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration; Sister Mary Haddad, a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and president and CEO of Catholic Health Association of the United States;

and Kerry Alys Robinson, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA.

“We recognize the need for just immigration enforcement and affirm the government’s obligation to carry it out in a targeted, proportional, and humane way,” they said. “However, non-emergency immigration enforcement in schools, places of worship, social service agencies, healthcare facilities, or other sensitive settings where people receive essential services would be contrary to the common good.”

The three said that they were “already witnessing reticence among immigrants to engage in daily life, including sending children to school and attending religious services.”

“All people have a right to fulfill their duty to God without fear,” they said.

According to Pew Research Center, Christians “are the largest religious group in the world among both migrants and nonmigrants,” and are “overrepresented among international migrants, accounting for 30% of the world’s overall population and 47% of all people living outside their country of birth, as of

2020.”

In their statement, Bishop Seitz, Sister Mary and Robinson said, “Through our parishes, shelters, hospitals, schools, and other Church institutions, we recognize that this dignity is not dependent on a person’s citizenship or immigration status.”

“Catholic health care, Catholic Charities agencies, and the Church’s other social service ministries work daily to feed, house, heal, educate, and meet people’s needs in communities across our nation,” they said. “Through these ministries — together with the Church’s responsibility to

proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the sacraments — we uphold the belief that all people are conceived with inherent dignity, reflecting the image of God.”

“The charitable services we provide are fundamental to who we are as Christians,” they added, quoting Pope Benedict XVI’s 2005 encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est”: “For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.”

The policy of “turning places of care, healing, and

solace into places of fear and uncertainty for those in need, while endangering the trust between pastors, providers, educators and the people they serve, will not make our communities safer,” they said.

“Our organizations stand ready to work on a better path forward that protects the dignity of all those we serve, upholds the sacred duty of our providers, and ensures our borders and immigration system are governed with mercy and justice,” they said.

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

**Food service
Equipment, Supplies,
Disposables,
Janitorial and
more**



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

**Now is the
time to
Talk!**



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

20/20 Vision Series for 2025

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

“THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME” (1975)
“AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE” (1995)
“THE TELLING TAKES US HOME” (2015)

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 27	OUR HOME, OUR HISTORY – Bishop Mark Brennan
February 24	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART I – Tom Breiding
March 31	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART II
April 28	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART III
May 19	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART I – Beth Collins
June 23	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
July 28	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
August 25	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART I – Rodica Stoicoiu
September 22	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART II
October 27	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART III
November 24	AN EVENING OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC – Tom Breiding
December 15	WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? – Bishop Mark Brennan

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.
RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org



St. Joseph
RETREAT CENTER



**DIocese of
WHEELING-CHARLESTON**
Office of Consecrated Life
Sr. Martha Gomez, RGS

Trump Order Against Youth Gender Transition Hailed by U.S. Bishops' Family Life Head

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — In a move welcomed by the U.S. bishops' chair on family life, President Donald Trump Jan. 28 signed an executive order stating his administration would seek to prohibit certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender.

"I welcome the President's Executive Order prohibiting the promotion and federal funding of procedures that, based on a false understanding of human nature, attempt to change a child's sex," said Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, the chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage,

Family Life and Youth, in a Jan. 29 statement praising the president's directive.

"Helping young people accept their bodies and their vocation as women and men is the true path of freedom and happiness," he added, referencing "Dignitas Infinita," a teaching document promulgated last April by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Trump's executive order directed that the government "will not fund, sponsor, promote, assist, or support the so-called 'transition' of a child from one sex to another, and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures."

"Across the country today, medical profes-

sionals are maiming and sterilizing a growing number of impressionable children under the radical and false claim that adults can change a child's sex through a series of irreversible medical interventions," the order stated. "This dangerous trend will be a stain on our Nation's history, and it must end."

At least 25 Republican-led states have adopted laws restricting or banning gender reassignment surgery or related hormonal treatments for minors.

A still-pending ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Skrmetti*, a challenge to one such law in Tennessee, could potentially have a significant impact on the future of those laws.

"So many young people

who have been victims of this ideological crusade have profound regrets over its life-altering consequences, such as infertility and lifelong dependence on costly hormone therapies that have significant side effects," Bishop Barron said in his statement. "It is unacceptable that our children are encouraged to undergo destructive medical interventions instead of receiving access to authentic and bodily-unitive care."

Bishop Barron also applauded the order's aim "to identify and develop research-based therapies to aid young people struggling with gender dysphoria." Young people, he said, "deserve care that heals rather than harms."

In guidance on health care policy and practices re-

leased in March 2023, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine stated the church's opposition to interventions that "involve the use of surgical or chemical techniques that aim to exchange the sex characteristics of a patient's body for those of the opposite sex or for simulations thereof."

"Any technological intervention that does not accord with the fundamental order of the human person as a unity of body and soul, including the sexual difference inscribed in the body, ultimately does not help but, rather, harms the human person," the document states.

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

U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Chair Welcomes Restoration of Protections for Preborn Children

WASHINGTON — "We gratefully applaud the decision to end taxpayer-funded abortion," said Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee for Pro-Life Activities, responding to an executive order and a memorandum issued by President Trump on Jan. 24. The order reverses several policies of the prior administration that promoted and facilitated abortion with taxpayer resources. The memorandum restores and expands the Mexico City Policy, which prevents taxpayer resources from going to certain organizations that perform or promote abortion overseas.

Bishop Thomas continued, "A significant majority of Americans oppose being forced to support abortion through their tax dollars. I am grateful for the strengthening of policies that protect us from being compelled to participate in a culture of death, and that help us to restore a culture of life at home and abroad."

The same day, the United States announced rejoining the Geneva Consensus Declaration, an international statement to strengthen women's health, the right to life for the preborn, and the role of the family. Bishop Thomas observed, "It is important and encouraging to see the United States again taking leadership in affirming the right to life and fundamental place of the

family on the global stage where many pressures can be arrayed against these values." Reflecting on pardons issued for pro-life activists earlier in the week, he further added, "Pro-life Americans have a right to pray in public, to counsel women who are considering abortion, and to peacefully protest. We welcome support for men and women who are exercising these rights to witness to a culture of life, and, at the same time, we absolutely reject resorting to force or violence."

A recently released Marist Poll found that 57% of respondents oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, and 73% oppose taxpayer funding of abortion abroad.

The Mexico City Policy was first adopted in 1984 and has been consistently supported by the USCCB. As expanded in 2019 and renamed the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy (PLGHA) at the time, it prevents U.S. foreign health assistance from funding foreign, non-governmental organizations that perform or promote abortion abroad.

JOHNSON BOILER WORKS, INC

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



Knights of Columbus®

Carroll Council 504
OF WHEELING, W.VA.

— Since 1900, West Virginia's first Knights of Columbus Council — Carroll Council 504 — has been committed to *Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.*

Guided by these Principles, we will continue to serve the parishioners of St. Michael, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Alphonsus, and the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and the Wheeling community today and tomorrow. —

To learn more and to join us,
[click here](#)

U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Chair Praises House for Voting to Protect Babies Who Survive Abortion

By Simone Orendain, OSV News (OSV News) — The pro-life chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops lauded U.S. House passage of a bill Jan. 23 that would require life-saving medical attention for babies who survive abortion attempts.

But Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, who chairs the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, also decried the U.S. Senate's "stunning failure" to pass a similar bill the day before.

House Bill 21, called the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, states that "If an abortion results in the live birth of an infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of the United States, and entitled to all the protections of such laws."

The bill says health care professionals are obligated to give survivors of an attempted abortion the same medical care as any other infant born through regular childbirth. They are required to immediately transport and admit such children to hospitals. And medical personnel are mandated to inform federal or state authorities if they have knowledge of anyone failing to comply with the stipulations of the bill.

"The House of Representatives took decisive action to protect innocent babies from infanticide," Bishop Thomas said in a Jan. 23 statement.

"Babies are being left to die after failed abortions — denied care and basic human compassion. It is a stunning failure of the Senate to reject this necessary, common-sense legislation — which, in reality, does not even limit abortion but protects infants who are born alive," he said.

In a Jan. 21 letter urging lawmakers to vote in favor of the protective legislation, Bishop Thomas

pleaded the case of the infants who survived attempted abortions but did not get medical attention.

"The tragic risks are not theoretical. Years of testimonies before legislatures, candid recordings, and more have painted a gruesome picture of children, trying to live, being left to die in bags or closets," he stated.

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic who is chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said during debate prior to the vote, "This is humane, pro-child, pro-human rights legislation, and I hope my colleagues on the other side realize these children have great value and they should not be treated like junk."

The House measure passed 217-204 after two roll calls. On Jan. 22, Senate Democrats blocked that chamber's version of the bill, which includes penalties of fines and up to five years in prison, for failing to follow the measure's requirements. It will not advance further because it failed in a 52-47 vote. A 60-vote majority is needed to pass.

Senate Democrats voiced opposition to the bill at a press conference. The senators cited statistics from the Centers for Disease Control showing 143 deaths that resulted from failed abortion attempts between 2003 and 2014.

Bishop Thomas noted the same stats in his letter but also said that the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics said this number was likely underestimated due to "vague" language in the cause of death descriptions reported.

A study in Canada published in the American Journal of Obstetric Gynecology in 2024 found over a 22-year period (1989-2021) that out of 13,777 abortions performed during the 15th through 29th weeks of pregnancy, 11% led to live births.

(Simone Orendain writes for OSV News from Chicago.)

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

Men today need a band of brothers — other Catholic men to share in that call, who walk together on the journey towards something better.

You are invited to put your **faith in action**

kofc.org/joinus



Knights of Columbus

The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

Become a Knight.

Click here

Panhandle 800.504.7054
 CLEANING & RESTORATION
 Wheeling • Morgantown • Charleston
 Pittsburgh • Sarasota
 FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER PanhandleCR.com
 "CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY THE MOUNTAINEERS CALL"

COLEMAN'S FISH MKT.
 Established 1914
 Centre Wheeling Market House
 304-232-8510
 111 Years

Celebrating Consecrated Life & the Jubilee Year of Hope

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

During the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis is inviting us to embark on pilgrimages of repentance, forgiveness, and renewal of spiritual life.

Each new Jubilee is designated as a special time of grace, offering

an opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

In this Jubilee of "Hope", remember what St. Paul wrote "hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5).

So, let this year be our opportunity like the prophet Elijah when he heard that the Lord will be passing by, and he knew that the true God was about to speak.

Author and theologian Howard

Thurman, wrote how to journey mindfully through the year, "In the stillness of quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair."

If Elijah could hear the tiny, whispering sound of God's voice; so, do we in the pains and challenges of our world if we have faith and hope we hear the tiny whisper-

ing of God.

Today we hear so many voices promising us joy, peace, and success. They are so loud that it makes it almost impossible for us to hear anything else. But to us the only voice that matters is the whispering sound of our conscience, that will speak loud and clear if we become another Elijah, another man or woman of God.



Courtesy photos

Women religious are shown in the photos above. Bishop Mark Brennan and Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, visit with them in the photo at right.

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is Feb. 2

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

Our parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston join fellow Catholics around the globe at Mass this weekend raising our prayers and praise for Consecrated Life!

Instituted by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997, World Day for Consecrated Life is a day of prayer for consecrated men and women who share their love of Jesus Christ through their unique witness of selfless service, such as caring for the poor and elderly, teaching children in our schools, dedicating their life to prayer, and other servant leadership through their professional careers.

Just as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Candlemas remind us of the light of Christ in the world, let us honor and pray for the men and women who reflect Christ's Light as brothers, sisters, consecrated virgins, hermits, and members of apostolic life and secular institutes.



Courtesy photo

Brother John Byrd, FMS, reads at Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. They lead us to Heaven through their service, example, and prayers!

Show your gratitude.

- ✓ Be dedicated in your prayers for vocations to consecrated life.

- ✓ Pray for our families to be stronger in our faith.

- ✓ Nurture, encourage, and support religious vocations.

For more information about Consecrated Life and the call to religious life, contact the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of the Delegate for Consecrated Life - Sister Martha Gomez at mgomez@dwc.org.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



PRIESTHOOD
Discernment
Retreat

- Open to men 18 and older
- Pray, share meals, and meet with current WV seminarians
- Hear talks about priestly life and discernment

ST. JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER
100 Hodges Rd, Charleston, WV 25314

FRIDAY MARCH 7 → SATURDAY MARCH 8

Apply today! 

Catholic Charities Announces 2025 Charity in Action Award Honoree for 15th Annual Hope Gala

WHEELING—Catholic Charities West Virginia is honored to announce the recipient of the 2025 Charity in Action Award: the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley (CFOV). This esteemed award recognizes individuals and organizations whose dedicated commitment to service and partnership profoundly impacts our communities.

"Charity is love in action. We seek organizations that truly reflect that love for our neighbors, and CFOV exemplifies this. Their impact spans from human services and health to recreation, disaster response, and supporting first responders," stated Mark Phillips, CCWVa CEO.

Established in 1972, CFOV has been a cornerstone of philanthropy in the Upper Ohio Valley for over five decades. With assets totaling \$75 million, the foundation has distributed more than \$30 million in grants and scholarships since its inception, including over \$3 million in the past fiscal year alone. These contributions have significantly bolstered local organizations and initiatives, fostering a more vibrant and resilient community.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley for their dedicated service to our community. Their ongoing efforts to connect people with causes that matter truly embody the spirit of the Charity in Action Award," stated CCWVa Chief Mission Officer, Katie Klug.

CCWVa will recognize the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley at its 15th Annual Hope Gala on Saturday, March 1, at 6



Courtesy photo
From left are Mark Phillips, CEO of CCWVa; Susie Nelson, Executive Director at CFOV; Katie Hinerman Klug, Chief Mission Officer of CCWVa.

p.m. at the White Palace at Wheeling Park in Wheeling, West Virginia. This unforgettable event aims to inspire and highlight the hope we bring to those we serve while honoring the dedication, passion, and resources of individuals committed to improving the lives of people in Wheeling and the surrounding com-

munities.

Enjoy an elegant evening of dinner, drinks, dancing, and celebrating those we serve. Tickets for the event are \$125 per person and can be purchased at www.ccwva.org/event/gala. Funds raised through the event support CCWVa's programs and services in northern West Virginia.

304-232-0330


ALTMAYER
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

"THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"

Wheeling Chapel
1400 Ediff Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-0330

South Wheeling Chapel
3828 Jacob Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-5444

Elm Grove Chapel
154 Kruger Street
Elm Grove, WV
304-242-0330



www.altmeyer.com

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

WE DELIVER

office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

We Also Specialize n Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Do it Best
Lou W. Nau, Inc.

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

louwnau.doitbest.com

La Marcha por la Vida comparte una visión provida que acoge a los bebés y apoya a las familias

Por Maria Wiering, OSV News

(OSV News) -- "Permítanme decir muy sencillamente: Quiero más bebés en los Estados Unidos de América", dijo el vicepresidente JD Vance a una multitud que lo aclamaba en la 52ª Marcha Nacional por la Vida el 24 de enero.

"Quiero más niños felices en nuestro país, y quiero hermosos hombres y mujeres jóvenes que estén ansiosos por darles la bienvenida al mundo y ansiosos por criarlos", dijo. "Y es tarea de nuestro gobierno facilitar que las madres y padres jóvenes puedan permitirse tener hijos, traerlos al mundo y darles la bienvenida como las bendiciones que sabemos que son, aquí, en la Marcha por la Vida".

En su primera aparición pública tras el Día de la Toma de Posesión, Vance fue el último orador en la manifestación anual de dos horas que precedió a la caminata de los asistentes desde los terrenos del Monumento a Washington hasta el edificio de la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos. Otros oradores incluyeron al gobernador de Florida, Ron DeSantis, el líder de la mayoría del Senado, John Thune, republicano de Dakota del Sur, y el presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, Mike Johnson, republicano de Louisiana. Es la primera vez que ambos líderes de las cámaras del Congreso asisten a una Marcha por la Vida.

Mientras que la mayoría de los oradores -- políticos y defensores de la vida -- hablaron específicamente de hacer que el aborto sea "ilegal e impensable" en un Estados Unidos post-Dobbs, Vance defendió una visión pro-familia que no sólo rechazaba el aborto, sino que también apoyaba la crianza de los hijos.

Refiriéndose a sus tres hijos pequeños, Vance, que es católico, dijo: "La tarea de nuestro movimiento es proteger la vida inocente. Es defender a los no nacidos; y también es estar a favor de la familia y de la vida en el sentido más amplio posible de esa palabra".

Como en años anteriores, la marcha atrajo a decenas de miles de personas, muchas de ellas jóvenes. Algunos viajaron más de un día en autobús, faltando a clase en institutos y universidades para unirse a otros a lo largo del National Mall en medio del frío. Llevaban carteles en los que se leía "Amenlos a ambos", "La vida es nuestra revolución" y "Desfinancien a Planned Parenthood", el mayor proveedor de abortos de Estados Unidos.

La Marcha 2025 también conmemoró un cambio en la dirección de la organización del evento, ya que su presidenta Jeanne Mancini le paso las riendas de la organización a la presidenta entrante de Marcha por la Vida, Jennie Bradley Lichter. Mancini fue la presentadora de la marcha de 2025, y ambas tomaron la palabra, mientras que Bradley Lichter presentó a Vance.

La marcha se fundó para protestar contra el caso Roe vs. Wade, la decisión de la Corte Suprema de 1973 que legalizó el aborto en los 50 estados. Esa decisión fue anulada en 2022 con el fallo del tribunal en el caso Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, devolviendo así la habilidad de tomar decisiones sobre la política abortista a los legisladores y estados. En la manifestación, los líderes de la Marcha por la Vida abordaron el papel de la marcha en el cambiante panorama del aborto, con leyes que ahora varían ampliamente de un estado a otro. La marcha, insistieron, debe continuar.

"Hoy afirmamos que la generación provida no descansará hasta que todos y cada uno de los centros abortistas de nuestro país cierren sus puertas para siempre. Marcharemos hasta que todos los niños estén protegidos por la ley federal, hasta que el aborto sea impensable y hasta que todas las mujeres embarazadas reciban una excelente atención prenatal", dijo Hannah Lape, presidenta de Wheaton College Voice for Life. Su grupo portaba la emblemática pancarta de la marcha de 2025.

"Con la nueva administración y la caída del caso Roe contra Wade, los próximos cuatro años de la historia de Estados Unidos se definirán por la valentía o por la cobardía", afirmó. "El aborto no es una cuestión de derechos estatales que deba ignorarse. Es una crisis de derechos humanos fundamentales que pesa sobre los hombros de Estados Unidos. Nuestro país no puede ser grande hasta que los prematuros estén protegidos, y estén protegidos (con) el derecho a la vida."

La marcha tuvo lugar cuatro días después de que el presidente Donald Trump jurara su segundo mandato, tras una campaña que decepcionó a muchos defensores provida en ciertos aspectos. Trump fue aclamado por sus acciones provida durante su primer mandato. Desde entonces, ha retrocedido en su apoyo a la prohibición federal del aborto, declarando que cree que los estados de EE.UU. deben determinar sus propias leyes sobre el aborto. También publicó en las redes sociales comentarios positivos sobre los "derechos reproductivos" e indicó que no restringiría el acceso a la mifepristona. Este fármaco, aunque se prescribe en algunos protocolos de atención al aborto espontáneo, se utiliza ampliamente en casi dos tercios de los abortos que se practican en Estados Unidos.

Aún está por ver cómo afectarán las declaraciones de campaña de Trump sobre el aborto a la formulación de políticas. Pero muchos líderes provida parecen optimistas sobre la nueva administración. El día antes de la Marcha por la Vida, Trump indultó a 23 activistas provida condenados por violar la Ley federal de Libertad de Acceso a las Clínicas (FACE, por sus siglas en inglés). Los activistas, muchos de los cuales, según Trump, eran personas de la tercera edad, habían sido condenados por bloquear el acceso a clínicas abortistas. Una orden ejecutiva sobre género que Trump emitió a principios de semana también definía la vida como el co-

mienzo en la concepción, un punto que el presidente de la Cámara Johnson señaló en la manifestación de la marcha.

Johnson fue uno de los miembros de la Cámara que aprobó la ley Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection el 23 de enero, un día después de que los demócratas bloquearan un proyecto de ley similar en el Senado.

En un video mostrado frente a los participantes de la marcha, Trump promocionó su historial provida y dijo que en su segundo mandato "volveremos a defender con orgullo a las familias y la vida."

"Protegeremos los logros históricos que hemos conseguido y detendremos la presión demócrata radical a favor de un derecho federal al aborto ilimitado a demanda, hasta el momento del nacimiento e incluso después del nacimiento", dijo

La mayoría de los estadounidenses apoyan algunos límites legales al aborto, mientras que mantienen la práctica en gran medida intacta, según una encuesta de Caballeros de Colón-Maristas publicada el 23 de enero. La encuesta anual reveló que el 83% de los estadounidenses apoyan los centros de recursos para el embarazo y el 67% de los estadounidenses apoyan algunos límites legales para el aborto. Sin embargo, el 60% apoya limitar los abortos a los tres primeros meses de embarazo, un límite que mantendría la legalidad de la mayoría de los abortos, ya que nueve de cada 10 abortos se producen en el primer trimestre, según los datos de salud disponibles.

"Todos los que están aquí, todos ustedes, tienen el poder de cambiar las mentalidades", dijo a la multitud Lila Rose, católica y defensora de la vida desde hace mucho tiempo. "Son la voz de los que no tienen voz. Recuerden que la ciencia está de nuestro lado. La verdad está de nuestro lado. Simplemente debemos tener el valor de decir la verdad con amor".

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 varían 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 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.

Employment Opportunities

Principal, St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School Morgantown, W.Va.

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School (SFdSCCS) in Morgantown is seeking applicants for the anticipated vacancy of Principal for the 2025-26 school year.

Beginning July 1, 2025 SFdSCCS will transition to a President/Principal leadership model. At that time, Mr. Arthur Moore, currently serving in his thirteenth year as Principal of SFdSCCS, will shift from his current role to that of President. In today's world, Catholic school leaders must focus not only on academic leadership but also prioritize the advancement functions of the school such as: enrollment, strategic planning, projects, fundraising, public relations, and marketing. Separating these two roles will allow for a better focus on day-to-day responsibilities at the building level (i.e. Principal), as well as the handling of long-term management and overall strength of the school from a strategic planning standpoint (i.e. President). Though the new Principal and President will work in separate capacities to oversee the comprehensive administrative aspects of managing the school, they will have a shared duty of ensuring the mission and philosophy of the school remain at the forefront. The ideal candidate for Principal must have a strong commitment to their faith life, including a passion for Catholic education. He or she should demonstrate the ability to lead faculty/staff members in a Christ-like fashion and remain professional in all circumstances. The candidate will foster a positive culture within the building, promote academic growth, act with purpose in his or her decision-making, and have a keen attention to detail. He or she will be one who understands that teaching is an art and can inspire and direct teachers to reach their full potential. The candidate will exhibit good administrative and social skills to interact with parents and students, and the ability to communicate with the School Pastor and President. The candidate needs an understanding of what it means to be a good steward of resources entrusted to the school, and ensure that building, facilities, and grounds remain in top shape. Lastly, the candidate understands that this is a ministerial position at a religious institution and that there are officially taught and

commonly accepted beliefs in our program. The communication of which is a fundamental purpose and mission of a Catholic school, and its students and staff have a right to expect such communication implicitly and explicitly from its principal.

Requirements:

- Practicing Catholic with a strong commitment to Catholic education
- Master's Degree (or higher) in Educational Leadership or School Administration
- Valid Educational Leadership Certification from the state of West Virginia or from a state that has reciprocity with West Virginia
- Minimum of 5+ years of successful teaching experience
- Minimum of 2+ years in the field of school administration

Preferred Skill Set:

- Excellent administrative, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Strong leadership skills and initiative
- Keen attention to detail
- Superior ability to manage multiple functional areas and set clear expectations
- Experience in curriculum and professional staff development
- Authentic role model for the teachers, students, and parents
- Role Model for Faith-Based Leadership
- High Emotional Intelligence (EQ)
- Interpersonal Effectiveness
- Collaborative Leadership
- Conflict Prevention and Resolution Skills
- Strong Organizational and Personnel Management
- Ability to Motivate and Establish Trust
- Creative and Effective Problem Solver
- Work with people beyond giving and receiving instructions. Must be adaptable to performing under stress and when confronted with emergency situations

About Our School: We are a thriving central school that serves four Catholic parishes in Morgantown, WV. For more than a century, dat-

ing back to 1915, SFdSCCS has consistently remained a beacon of Catholic education in the Morgantown community. Rooted in its mission statement, "Here to serve, not to be served", SFdSCCS strives to produce well-rounded students who go forth with a firm foundation in faith and academics. Conveniently located at the intersection of two major interstates (I-68 and I-79), SFdSCCS sits just above St. Francis de Sales Parish on a picturesque exquisitely maintained 53-acre campus. Our PK2-8th program has a strong enrollment of 450 and is served by a competent, passionate, and nurturing faculty and staff. SFdSCCS is a resource rich community, with West Virginia University and Ruby Memorial Hospital (West Virginia's largest) at the epicenter of jobs. By all standards, our school is well-positioned for success into the foreseeable future and has built a strong reputation for academic excellence over its long history. Our commitment to quality education has made us a leading Catholic school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the entire state of West Virginia. We continuously strive to maintain this distinction by upgrading our facilities and instructional programs, while offering enriching extracurricular activities to complement our academic curriculum. Graduates of our program regularly transition to Honors and AP courses in high school and are consistently inducted into the National Honor Society with many graduates ultimately becoming Valedictorian or Salutatorian in their respective high schools. We maintain two classrooms per grade level and offer a comprehensive preschool program for children 2 years of age until kindergarten. Our strong enrollment fortifies our financial position, allowing us to make strategic investments and to provide competitive salaries for our teachers and staff.

Person To Contact: All interested candidates should email a letter of interest, updated resume, and three reference letters to Principal Arthur Moore at amoore@sfccs.org or call at (304) 291-5070. Applications will be accepted through Friday, February 21, 2024. Additional details about this job vacancy can be provided upon request.

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests. The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions. Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function. Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area. Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service. For more information, see the diocesan website: <https://dwc.org/diocese/administrative/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at (304) 342-0507.

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Maintenance Worker

The Maintenance Worker at St John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests. The Maintenance worker is responsible for the physical condition of the Center facilities including the grounds. This position involves responsibility for general maintenance and repairs of buildings, all equipment and vehicles, operation and maintenance of water treatment & waste disposal, groundskeeping and physical preparation of areas used by groups. Responsibility includes being proactive to troubleshoot and resolve issues with the building, equipment and grounds. Some of the required qualifications include mechanical, plumbing, electrical, multi-tasker, problem solver & self-starter, detail oriented, team player and welcoming & respectful to all guests. Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays when needed. Helps in kitchen & housekeeping when needed.

For more information, please see the diocesan website at the following web address: <https://dwc.org/diocese/administrative/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Employment Opportunities

Coordinator, Northern Panhandle Continuum of Care

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

The Northern Panhandle Continuum of Care (NPCOC) Coordinator is responsible for the general administration of the NPCOC. The coordinator is responsible for collaborating and coordinating with homeless and housing resources across the five counties of the Northern Panhandle service area. The coordinator administers entitlement funds from HUD and other financial resources, oversees special projects and existing services with the NPCOC and makes recommendations involving strategic planning. The coordinator acts as an advisor to the Board.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Ensure compliance with laws, regulations, program guidelines, and contractual obligations of all NPCOC funded entities. Provide regular communication with existing and new applicants for NPCOC funding. Engage with stakeholders through the entire NPCOC. Assist in writing and submission of the NPCOC Collaborative Application in partnership with the Executive Team and others selected to participate.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The require-

ments listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

Bachelor's degree in social work, education, or related field. Master's degree preferred. Licensed Social Worker preferred. Two (2) to five (5) years of progressive experience in similar position completing related tasks. Knowledge of issues related to homelessness. Highly organized, initiative-taking and ability to work with little supervision. Excellent interpersonal communication skills and computer skills. Ability to multi-task. Excellent oral and written community skills.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

- Hybrid position with office available in Weirton, Wheeling, or New Martinsville.
- Must reside in Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, or Wetzel counties.
- The position will have travel required as needed. Mileage will be reimbursed.
- The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. Click here to apply.

Principal, Parkersburg Catholic High School

Parkersburg Catholic High School, located in Parkersburg, West Virginia is seeking a 6-12th Grade Principal.

We are searching for a dynamic, mission-driven, forward thinking high school principal for Parkersburg Catholic High School.

The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

The ideal candidate would have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments to Father Rice: jrice@dwc.org

Resumes will be accepted until March 4th, 2025.

Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker, Wheeling

Mt. Calvary is seeking cemetery worker. This is a full time position. The cemetery worker is responsible for opening and closing grave, crypts or niches.

Performs all general maintenance on grounds, snow removal, grass cutting, digging, sodding, mulching, leaf collection etc.

Operate equipment as needs and assigned.

Must have a valid driver's license, experience with using a dump truck, excavators such as backhoe and mini, fork lift and riding mower.

Please send resume to Deacon Doug Breiding, dbreiding@dwc.org.



Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville
 7:30 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)
 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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



Quo Vadis Retreat

Middle School Discernment Retreat

Boys in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are invited!

11 am on June 30 through 1pm on July 3
 Priest Field Pastoral Center
 Kearneysville, WV

Campers will enjoy outdoor activities including:
**Prayer • Kayaking • Discernment
 Camp Fire • Games**

Opportunities for Charitable and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The camp is staffed by laypeople, priests and seminarians from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

RETREAT IS FREE!!!

To Register, scan the QR code or visit WVPriests.org





Spotlight
YOUR Talent!

AT THE FIRST-EVER
ST. LEO VARIETY SHOW


Sunday, April 27th, 2025 at the St. Leo Parish Hall, 2109 Sulphur Springs Road, Inwood WV

AUDITIONS:
Friday, February 7th, from 6 to 8 p.m.

at the
St. Leo Parish Hall, 2109 Sulphur Springs Road, Inwood, WV
CALL DAVE LASKO 540-533-9828 FOR MORE INFO

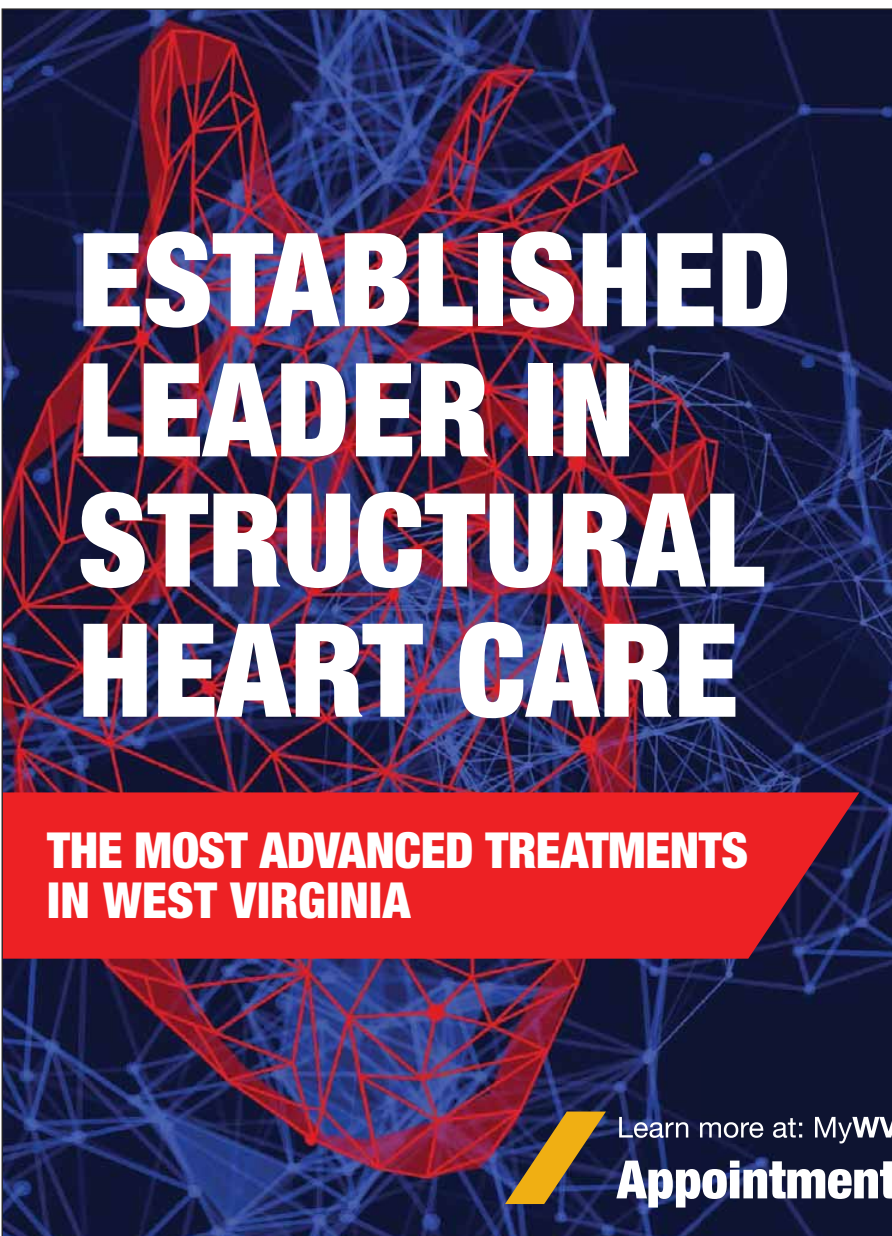
Ask your doctor to refer you to Good Shepherd for:

- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy



WELTY
Home for the Aged

GOOD SHEPHERD 304.242.1093
NURSING HOME www.weltyhome.org



ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com
Appointments: 304-243-8362

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