

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Catholic Sharing Appeal Raises \$2.3 Million for Parishes, Catholic Schools, and Ministries

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Through the generosity of Wheeling-Charleston's faithful from across West Virginia, \$2.3 million has been raised for the 2021 Catholic Sharing Appeal.

"I couldn't be happier with the results..." said Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the diocese. "After suspending the appeal in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, we came back

strong this year thanks to almost 4,700 generous donors."

These donors have provided support to sustain diocesan parishes and Catholic schools, Catholic Charities West Virginia, and vocations as well as ministries and programs in evangelization and for youth.

"It is the passion and care of people like our donors that make it possible for our parishes, missions,

Catholic schools and outreach offices to strive and spread the Good News," Sforza said. "Their gifts enable programs like Teens Encounter Christ and Camp Carlo to flourish and encourage young people to fall in love with Christ."

Sforza also noted a new addition to this year's campaign, "We were able to offer technology grants to all of our parishes and Catholic schools," she

said. "Almost \$40,000 was already awarded to Catholic schools across the state and parish grant applications are currently under review and will be awarded soon," Sforza added.

In a year where everything was so uncertain, the generosity of parishioners throughout the state was unwavering, said Krissie Benson, director of Stewardship & Development

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Hinton Parishioners Collect and Deliver Provisions to Tornado Victims in Kentucky

By Colleen Rowan

After learning of the devastation left by tornadoes that tore through Western Kentucky late Dec. 10 and early Dec. 11, parishioners of St. Patrick Parish in Hinton knew they had to do something to help. And with the support of others in their community they did that and so much more.

Philip Peplowski, husband and wife Pat and Pat Hanifin, and Richard Knop helped lead the parish's response effort. The parish spent a week gathering water, clothing, non-perishable food items, household goods, pillows, blankets, cleaning equipment, Christmas gifts for children, and even medical supplies for the tornado victims.

"We wanted to help because we witnessed the great tragedy that happened in Kentucky," said St. Patrick's administrator Father Romeo Bacalso, SVD. "We saw people needed immediate help."

Peplowski reached out to



Pat Hanifin of St. Patrick Parish in Hinton prepares to drive donations of wheelchairs, walkers, and other medical supplies to tornado victims in Kentucky Dec. 17.

Courtesy Photo

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Obituary—Father John Campbell McGinnity

Father John Campbell McGinnity, 88, of Hot Springs, Virginia passed away Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at Bath Community Hospital in Hot Springs.

He was born January 30, 1933, in Managhan, Ireland, the son of the late John McGinnity and Mary Brady McGinnity.

He was the second son of John and Mary McGinnity. He was one of eight children, seven boys and one girl. He was educated in Managhan at primary and secondary. He gave up teaching in 1970 to join the priesthood. Father McGinnity was ordained on June 15, 1975, in All Hallows Seminary, Dublin. After serving as associate pastor at St. Peter Parish in Fairmont, he was appointed pastor of St. Peter Parish in Welch and Christ the King Parish in War. He served as Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Point Pleasant, St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley, and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ronceverte and its missions at Lewisburg and Union until retirement from the diocese in West Virginia.

Father received a calling to come out of retirement and pastor at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Hot Springs, where he would faithfully serve for an additional 17 years. He made many friends over the years and loved playing golf and scrabble. He had a unique sense of humor and infectious smile!

He is survived by a sister, Margaret Frances Connor of Wexford, Ireland; two brothers, Celestine McGinnity, and David Brendan McGinnity both of England.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Patrick McGinnity, James Sylvester McGinnity, Joseph Anthony McGinnity, and Edmund Ignatius McGinnity.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 15 at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Hot Springs with Father Tom Collins, Father Jim Dorsan as celebrant. Interment will be in Warm Springs Cemetery at a later date.

Pallbearers will be David Judah, Jeff Wilson, Lex Eley, Michael Wilson, Clifford Williams, Herb Godchalk, and Pete Pitard. Honorary Pallbearers will be Peter Judah, David Powell, William Huff, and Johnny "Moe" Gazzola.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, P.O. Box B, Hot Springs, Virginia 24445.

Arrangements are being handled by McLaughlin & Young Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.com.



To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org 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."

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Catholic Schools Gear up for Application/ Re-enrollment Period

Hope Scholarship Program Creates Opportunity for New Families

By Joyce Bibey

WEST VIRGINIA—As a new calendar year begins, the Catholic schools of West Virginia are gearing up for a busy winter with Catholic Schools Week at the end of this month and their common application and re-enrollment period beginning in February.

“This is always an exciting time of year for our school communities,” said the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S. “It’s time to honor our past, celebrate our present, and make plans for our future. It’s the time of year, when we open our doors of our six high schools and 18 grade schools for new students to shadow our classes. It’s also the time when we invite parents and grandparents to tour our buildings to see if our Catholic schools are the right fit for them.”

Deschaine is confident this winter and spring will be busier than past years, with the Hope Scholarship application period set to open by March 2022.

The Hope Scholarship, formerly House Bill 2013, was passed last spring by the West Virginia Legislature. Hope Scholarship is set up to provide funds for families enrolling in private school, alternative instruction programs, or home schools. This education savings account is managed through the West Virginia Treasure Riley Moore’s office.

As families learn about the Hope Scholarship, they will be more apt to want to learn about the Catholic

schools, Deschaine said. “Our Catholic schools provide a strong foundation for our students’ future – spiritually, academically, and socially. Our Christ-centered environment is both nurturing and challenging.”

“We need to be clear that this scholarship is not run, managed, or determined by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston or the Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese,” she said. “We are learning about the Hope Scholarship right along with the rest of the families in the state. Everything we know about the program is what Treasurer Moore has shared on his website – hopescholarship.wv.com.”

The FAQs for the program on the website note students are eligible for the program if they are:

- A resident of West Virginia
- Entering kindergarten for the first time in the fall of 2022
- Current K-11 student enrolled full time (or at least 45 days during the time of application) in a public elementary or secondary school in West Virginia in 2021-2022

The FAQs on the scholarship’s website note that current Catholic, Christian, private, and home school students may eventually be eligible for the program, “If the participation rate of the combined number of students in the Hope Scholarship Program and students eligible who have applied to participate in the Hope Scholarship program in 2024 is less than five percent of net public school enrollment adjusted for state aid

purposes for the previous school year, then, effective July 1, 2026, all students will be eligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program.”

According to Moore, under the current school aid formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,600 annually that can be used toward private school, alternative instruction programs, or home school. He has noted that the amount a family receives will vary from year to year based on that formula. The West Virginia School Aid Formula is not to be confused with the average cost per pupil. Currently, it is estimated the cost per pupil is \$11,757 for PK-12 in West Virginia, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The state lawmakers have stipulated that money in the Hope Scholarship education savings account will be administered through a third party. The treasurer’s office reports that each family awarded would have access to an account for each eligible student in their household. All purchases would be pre-approved by the state. The funds awarded can only be spent on education expenses such as tuition and fees, extracurriculars, tutoring, materials, supplies, textbooks, transportation, etc.

Moore’s office noted that there is not an opening date or deadline set yet for when families can apply for the Hope Scholarship. However, the website notes that applications are to be made

available no later than March 1, 2022.

While the Catholic schools of West Virginia continue to learn about the Hope Scholarship, Deschaine said she hopes current public school and young families contact the Catholic schools near them to see if “we are the right fit for their children.”

“When you walk into our schools there is no doubt that God is the center of who we are,” she said. “From the top down the choices and plans we make are prayerfully made with the best intentions of our students’ success. While our students outperform their peers academically, the social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental well-being of each child is just as important to us as academic achievement. We are unapologetically Catholic.”

The application and re-enrollment period for the 24 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston begins in February:

- Feb. 4 (first Friday of Catholic Schools Week) — Re-enrollment for current families begins.
- Feb. 11 — Application period opens for parishioners new to the school begins.
- Feb. 18 — General public application period begins.

If you haven’t already done so, schedule a tour or shadow day for your child or grandchild, Deschaine said. For information or to find a school in your area go to WVCatholicSchools.org.



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Bishop Brennan to Speak at Wheeling's Martin Luther King Celebration Prayer Service

WHEELING—Bishop Mark E. Brennan will speak at the annual Interfaith Prayer Service, a centerpiece of Wheeling's Martin Luther King celebration. The service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, at the Fourth Street United Methodist Church, 1060 Chapline Street in Wheeling.

Other clergy slated to participate are Rev. Chris Figaretti, pastor of The Vineyard Church; Rev. Kenny Hardway, pastor of the First Christian Church; Rev. Erica Harley, pastor of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church; Rev. Neil Leftwich, Northern District Area Superintendent, United Methodist Church; Rabbi Joshua Lief, Temple Shalom; Rev. Paul Schafer, pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church; Rev. Jake Steele, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church.

A brief reception will follow the prayer service. All are welcome. Masks are strongly recommended.

For more information about Wheeling's MLK celebration, visit https://www.facebook.com/mlkjr_wheeling/.

Zoom Conference 'God and Domestic Violence' to be Presented by Sister Carole Riley

WEST VIRGINIA—“God and Domestic Violence,” a Zoom conference will be presented by Sister Carole Riley, CDP, Ph.D., on Saturday, March 12, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sister Carole is a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence Congregation. She is also the spiritual director of the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality (WVIS) in Charleston.

According to information about the conference provided by WVIS, “Research shows that many religious people abuse their partners while quoting God or misinterpreting the Chris-

tian scriptures. Through film excerpts, case studies, and lectures, this program develops and clarifies the role of non-violent communication, conflict management, and the concepts of God.”

CEUs (Continuing Education Units) will be offered for social workers, registered nurses, and licensed professional counselors. Offering for the conference is \$50 which includes materials and certificate.

For more information and to register for the Zoom conference, contact wvisreg@aol.com or call (304) 345-0926.

Appeal ...

Cont'd from Page 1

for the diocese.

“I think people resonated with the needs of their parish and the diocese because they saw the effects of the pandemic first-hand,” she said. “So many of our parishes immediately jumped into action to respond to the restrictions and changes required because of Covid. From parishioners volunteering to clean the pews between Masses, to those who made phone calls to check in on parishioners, and to those who donated supplies and monetary support, the faithful of West Virginia, once again, offered their hands and hearts in gratitude.”

“If there is anything we have learned over the last year,” she continued, “it is that we are a resilient people, who respond generously to the needs of our local parishes.”

The CSA kicked off in April and since then, the faithful have been pledging their support for the appeal and all it makes possible. A great response to the CSA was seen on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30, as \$359,499 was raised for parishes.

For the 2021 CSA, many parishes soared past their fundraising goals reaching percentages not seen before. As of Jan. 6, progress reported on the CSA website showed that Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton went 1,540 percent

above goal, Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield went 849 percent above goal, while St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale went 430 percent over goal. Additionally, St. Monica Mission in Lubeck went 429 percent passed its goal, St. Anthony Parish in Charleston was at 365 percent, St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown was at 288 percent, St. Boniface Parish in Camden was at 264 percent, St. Peter Parish in Welch reached 261 percent, St. Patrick Parish in Mannington was at 255 percent, and St. Michael Parish in Wheeling was at 251 percent.

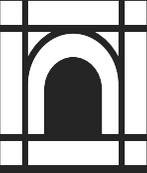
The site also showed on Jan. 6 the following parishes raised the most funds for the CSA: Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, \$273,415.63; St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown, \$191,647; Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, \$188,411; St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, \$145,833.54; the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, \$86,275; St. Michael Parish in Vienna, \$63,380; St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg, \$52,853; St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg, \$47,580; Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington, \$45,795; and St. Leo Parish in Inwood, \$45,410.50.

Updated totals may be found at <https://csa.dwcministries.org/goal-progress/>.

For more information about the 2021 appeal, visit <https://csa.dwcministries.org>.

Let us Pray,
Use me God,
show me how to give generously,
pray purposefully, and serve joyfully
for a purpose greater than myself.
Amen.

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Courtesy Photo

Donations for tornado victims in Kentucky begin to pile up in the basement at St. Patrick Parish in Hinton.



Courtesy Photo

Members of the youth group at Long Oak Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., unload trucks full of donations from St. Patrick Parish in Hinton.

Kentucky ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Father Bacalso and said, "We need to do something," after hearing about the tornadoes. Peplowski remembered when the southern part of West Virginia was ravaged by historic flooding in 2016. It was community-led efforts, he said, and "good-hearted Christian folks stepping up to help their neighbors that got people back on their feet."

He recalled the support and help that came to the Mountain State from all over the country. "I felt like it was time for Southern West Virginia to step up and return the favor," he said.

Hanifin, a lifelong member of St. Patrick's who serves on the parish's pastoral council, remembered this as well. "Back when we had flooding in this part of West Virginia we got help without asking for it from folks in Kentucky and in Virginia and other places surrounding the state," he said. "They came to help us."

Knop said it was devastating to hear about the tornadoes, which killed 77 people in Kentucky and destroyed the town of Mayfield, Ky. "It's hard. We're in southern West Virginia and we've seen damage" from storms, Knop said. "Just to be able to reach out and help other people in the same situation

is a good thing to do."

This spirit of caring for one's neighbor in need went beyond the parish throughout the Hinton area as word spread of the effort.

"Truck and trailer loads have poured from the parish into the Kentucky area," officials from the parish said. "One man, whose name we do not know, walked into the church and handed the team 10, \$100 bills and said, 'I want to do something to help your efforts.'"

Knop, who also serves on the parish's pastoral council, said it was amazing to see the response from his community. "Especially for a small community like ours that is really not wealthy to find people that dig deep for people they've never met," he said. "It was unbelievable."

Dr. Steven Richman, who operates Hinton Health Right, donated wheelchairs, walkers, bed lifts and other medical supplies at the request of Hanifin who volunteers at the clinic. On Dec. 17, Hanifin then drove a truck and trailer loaded with the donations to the Red Cross in Paintsville, Ky., which was handling the distribution of such items to tornado victims in the state.

Other Hinton-area businesses and people from everywhere gave all they could to the parish's effort. "I think there were people from

four or five counties dropping things off," Peplowski said.

"On Wednesday (Dec. 15) we had four bags," he said. "By Friday morning half the church basement was full."

Once provisions were collected, the team of four made the more than 16-hour round trip Dec. 18 to bring what they could to the tornado victims. Hanifin drove a truck with a 16-foot box trailer "loaded to the max" with provisions. His wife made the trip with him. Also making the trip that day were Peplowski and Knop, whose truck and trailer were filled almost completely with water.

Peplowski said when the team came into Kentucky, they stopped for gas. It was then that a man approached them asking where they were going. After they told him, the man gave a handful of cash to Peplowski to help fund the effort. At a Kentucky McDonald's, they learned that their cashier just moved out of Mayfield. And when she found out where they were going, they're meals were free.

Out of respect for the privacy of the people suffering, the team drove the provisions from St. Patrick's to Long Oak Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., near Mayfield, which was serving as a distribution center. "It's one thing for a neighbor or somebody in your commu-

nity to bring you something when you've lost everything. It's totally different for an outsider to come in to see you at your worst," Knop said.

Upon their arrival, the church's youth group came out and unloaded the trucks. The church also provided the group with a meal.

Although they were 10 or 15 miles from Mayfield, Knop said the devastation in the surrounding area was evident with "snapped trees, like you cut them with a chainsaw 20 feet in the air. There was a camper in the trees."

Hanifin and his wife previously lived in Florida for a time. They saw similar devastation after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, he said.

After retirement in 2001, the Hanifins moved back to his hometown of Hinton. Knop has been a member of St. Patrick's for three years, and his wife Kimberly and her mother Karen have belonged to the parish all their lives. Peplowski lives outside of Hinton and attends St. Patrick's. They and all who helped with the effort are ordinary people who went above and beyond for a community and people who have lost everything.

Hanifin, who choked up when talking about the people of Kentucky who are still suffering, said his only wish is that they could have done more.

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Harrisville Church Destroyed by Fire Will Not be Forgotten

By Colleen Rowan

Christ Our Hope Church in Harrisville was destroyed by a fire just three months ago, but it will never be forgotten by its members.

“One of the hardest parts of losing our church building is driving by the empty lot,” said Georgette Healy, a parishioner.

The people of the faith community and many friends gathered to place a permanent memorial for their beloved church on All Souls Day, Nov. 2. Following Mass that morning at St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro, where the people of Christ Our Hope now attend Mass, religious items from the church that could not be saved after the fire were buried.

“The items could not be burned or restored, and the ashes from the wooden altar and tabernacle were placed in the hole around the box containing the artifacts, as required by the church,” Healy said. “Included in the box was an expla-

nation of the contents, and a copy of the article printed in The Catholic Spirit (Oct. 8, 2021) describing the devastating fire.”

The white-painted box had a small cross on top and was buried at the base of St. Joseph Chapel.

“We said ‘good-bye’ with sadness to Christ Our Hope Church, and now we say ‘hello’ to the burial site as we climb the steps to St. Joseph Chapel,” Healy said.

Gathered with the community was Father Shinto Mathew, administrator of the churches, who blessed the cemetery at St. Joseph’s that day. A description for the memorial states: “These religious articles were salvaged from Christ Our Hope Catholic Mission after an electrical fire destroyed the building on October 2, 2021. The remains of the building were raised leaving a large empty space in the town of Harrisville, West Virginia, and in the hearts of the congregation and the community at large.”



Courtesy Photo

Parishioners and friends of Christ Our Hope Church gather with Father Shinto Mathew at the site where religious items, found after the fire that destroyed the church, were buried at St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro.

Esther Crumbley Fund Distributes Holiday Meals to 425 New Martinsville-Area Families



Courtesy Photos

On Dec. 17, the Esther Crumbley Fund distributed a holiday meal of ham and all that completes a Christmas dinner to 425 families. Above, some of the 50 volunteers for the effort bag and organize the food at St. Vincent de Paul Church in New Martinsville the night before the distribution.

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On New Year's, Pope Says a Mature Faith is Realistic, but Hope-Filled

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Catholics begin a new year contemplating the motherhood of Mary, they should be inspired not to let problems weaken their faith or prevent them from helping others grow, Pope Francis said.

"In her heart, in her prayer," he said, Mary "binds together the beautiful things and the unpleasant things," and learns to discern God's plan in them.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass Jan. 1, the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and World Peace Day, in St. Peter's Basilica and then led the recitation of the Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square with thousands of people, including dozens who held signs with the names of countries at war.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis pleaded for an end to violence against women.

"Enough," he said. "To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity."

And, in his Angelus address, Pope Francis insisted peace is a gift from God that requires human action.

"We can truly build peace only if we have peace in our hearts, only if we receive it from the prince of peace," he said. "But peace is also our commitment: it asks us to take the first step, it demands concrete actions. It is built by being attentive to the least, by promoting justice, with the courage to forgive, thus extinguishing the fire of hatred."

Peace also requires "a positive outlook as well, one that always sees, in the church as well as in society, not the evil that divides us, but the good that unites us," the pope said. "Getting depressed or complaining is useless. We need to roll up our sleeves to build peace."

Pope Francis said he could not look at Mary holding the baby Jesus in her arms without thinking of "young mothers and their children fleeing wars and famine or waiting in refugee camps. And there are many of them."

"Contemplating Mary who lays Jesus in the manger, making him available to everyone, let's remember that the world can change, and everyone's life can improve only if we make ourselves available to others, without expecting them to begin," he said. "If we become artisans of fraternity, we will be able to mend the threads of a world torn apart by war and violence."

In his homily earlier at the Mass, Pope Francis asked people to consider what it must have been like for

Mary, who had been told by the angel that her son would be great, to give birth in an animals' stall and to lay her baby in a manger instead of a cradle.

"His poverty is good news for everyone, especially the marginalized, the rejected and those who do not count in the eyes of the world," the pope said. "For that is how God comes: not on a fast track and lacking even a cradle! That is what is beautiful about seeing him there, laid in a manger."

But for Mary, a mother, it must have been painful to see her son in such poverty, the pope said.

Pope Francis contrasted the amazement and enthusiasm of the shepherds with the quiet, pensive reaction of Mary.

"The shepherds tell everyone about what they had seen," he said. "The story told by the shepherds, and their own amazement, remind us of the beginnings of faith, when everything seems easy and straightforward."

"Mary's pensiveness, on the other hand, is the expression of a mature, adult faith," he said. Hers is "not a newborn faith, but a faith that now gives birth. For spiritual fruitfulness is born of trials and testing."

Mary "gives God to the world" in a dark stable in Bethlehem, he said. "Others, before the scandal of the manger, might feel deeply troubled. She does not: she keeps those things, pondering them in her heart."

And through faith, he said, "in her mother's heart, Mary comes to realize that the glory of the Most High appears in humility; she welcomes the plan of salvation whereby God must lie in a manger. She sees the divine child frail and shivering, and she accepts the wondrous divine interplay between grandeur and littleness."

Mary, like most mothers, knew how "to hold together the various threads of life," the glorious and the worrisome, the pope said. "We need such people, capable of weaving the threads of communion in place of the barbed wire of conflict and division."

Departing from his prepared text, Pope Francis said the church itself is "mother and woman," and while women could and should have greater positions in the church, they are "secondary" to the role all Catholic women have of giving life, including figuratively, and in combining "dreams and aspirations with concrete reality, without drifting into abstraction and sterile pragmatism."



CNS Photo/Romano Siciliani, pool
Pope Francis walks near a figurine of the baby Jesus as he leaves in procession after celebrating Mass marking the feast of Mary, Mother of God, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 1.

"At the beginning of the New Year," he said, "let us place ourselves under the protection of this woman, the mother of God, who is also our mother. May she help us to

keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials and with the joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and can transform every cross into a resurrection."

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Doctors: Advances Since Roe Confirm Abortion ‘Takes Life of Unborn Child’

By Jodi Marlin, Catholic News Service

At 15 weeks' gestation, a fetus responds to touch. The neurotransmitters and nerves needed to process and transmit pain signals have formed, and most of the spinal column has hardened into bone. As early as 21 weeks, the fetus can survive outside the womb.

None of these realities were known in 1971, when a case came before the Supreme Court that would ultimately give a mother the right to abort her unborn child.

During the past 50 years, advances regarding the biological genesis of humans have disproven the basis on which the court, in *Roe v. Wade*, presumed a lack of justifiability of a ban on abortions — except to save the life of the mother — that was in place in the defendant's home state of Texas.

The court's 1973 decision legalizing abortion nationwide rested on the use of the word "person" in the 14th Amendment, which protects the mother's privacy.

Notably, there was great disagreement over when an unborn child becomes a living being whose rights compete with those of the mother.

Since then, techniques in research tools and prenatal surgery, advancements in viability and the proliferation of support options for mothers with unexpected pregnancies have conspired to erode many of the arguments offered then and now for the right to terminate life in the womb.

The many layers to comprehending the humanity of an early gestation fetus begins with the "absolutely critical" advancements in science over the last five decades, according to Dr. Tara Sander Lee, senior fellow and director of life sciences for the Charlotte Lozier Institute, an organization that brings the power of science, medicine and research to bear in pro-life policies and public awareness.

Fifty years ago, expectant parents

could barely see their unborn child in the womb because ultrasound technology was fairly new and rudimentary, Sander Lee explained.

Now, ultrasound technology gives physicians better and faster diagnostics and new tools that can not only detect, but when appropriate, even treat malformations of the unborn.

"So, there's this whole development of what we call the perinatal revolution, where you can actually perform surgery on the unborn while still in the womb," she told Catholic News Service.

While the original ultrasound images were static and black and white, 3D, 4D and real-time images are the norm today.

"We can see in real time the baby move, and with absolute clarity," said Sander Lee. As early as 15 weeks, even whether the fetus is favoring their right or left hand can be observed.

Dr. Kathleen Raviele, past president of the Catholic Medical Association and an OB-GYN, added that mothers and their physicians can see the fetal heartbeat by six weeks, observe the movements of the baby, assess the anatomy and determine his or her sex far earlier than could be done just two generations ago could do.

"So those involved in abortion cannot say this is a 'blob of tissue' — they know this is a baby, and that abortion takes the life of an unborn child," she said.

If an early ultrasound or test determines the presence of a malformation in the fetus, the most severe ones — including spina bifida and twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, which can result in the death of both babies — has been done as early as 15 weeks in these pregnancies. In the latter situation, it proven to be a lifesaving procedure for one, if not both babies.

"This ability to be able to better visualize inside the womb has really allowed us to be able to then treat some of these conditions early on. And even for those that are untreatable, we can

give the parents and physicians time to plan for a meaningful and rich life," said Sander Lee.

In terms of viability, it was known at the time of *Roe v. Wade* that it was only possible to save premature babies born between 24 and 28 weeks: That clock has been moved up as well.

"We know now that we can save babies routinely at 22 weeks, and sometimes even younger as early as 21 weeks," said Sander Lee. "That means about just 19 weeks after fertilization." The world's most premature baby, born last year at just 21 weeks, celebrated his first birthday this summer.

The Catholic Medical Association argues that the 24- to 28-week criterion for viability is unworkable, demonstrating the flaws in predicting viability, especially if the person responsible for such a prediction is the abortion provider, whose interest is not in protecting life.

"The viability standard for protecting human life is arbitrary," said Dr. Marie Hilliard, co-chairperson of the association's ethics committee.

"Much is based on access to prenatal and high quality post-natal care," she told CNS. "Current technology available to diagnose prenatal conditions, and treat the most complex neonatal conditions, were unimagined in 1973 (when the *Roe* decision was handed down), easily moving viability to as early as 22 weeks' gestation.

"These facts are irrefutable, indicating that even earlier that 22 weeks' gestation there is the presence of 'potential' human life. ... Science now clearly demonstrates that from the moment of conception the unborn baby is a human being, not a 'potential' human being."

Fifty years of research also has provided a much deeper understanding of fetal pain and suffering.

For Mississippi, the point at which fetal pain is possible is 15 weeks; the state's law banning abortions after 15 weeks is currently under review by the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard oral arguments in the case — *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* — Dec. 1.

But sometimes the fetus feels pain earlier. "It's incredible, but they may feel pain from as early as 12 weeks' gestation — and definitely by 18 weeks," said Sander Lee. "This is just a phenomenal amount of information that we didn't have at the time of *Roe*. We didn't really understand how much suf-

fering these babies could go through inside the womb."

A growing body of research suggests that the cortex is not absolutely necessary for the perception of pain. So, if the cortex is not fully developed in the unborn, that doesn't mean that they're they can't perceive pain.

"But I think the more compelling piece of research is, when they go in through the uterus and inject a baby with anesthesia, you can see the baby's facial pain expression," said Sander Lee.

"It's absolutely remarkable," she said. "There are bodies of scientific evidence, studies done that show there is actually a pain response and suffering. There have also been a lot of studies showing that they release stress hormones as well."

In an amicus brief filed in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Catholic Medical Association and co-filers expressed the opinion that the court should "extricate itself from the arbitrary line-drawing that *Roe* and *Casey* engaged in while attempting to settle the abortion controversy. ... Any arbitrary line that the court might seek to replace the viability cut-off with would simply amount to yet another act of judicial legislating."

Viability is complex and it's understanding of it was flawed and incomplete in 1971, the brief states.

"*Casey*" referenced in the brief is *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, the high court's 1992 decision that affirmed *Roe* and also stressed that a state regulation on abortion could not impose an "undue burden" on a woman "seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability."

The culmination of five decades of medical and research advancements rests in the simple truth that during pregnancy, there are two patients, said Sander Lee. "We have the unborn child, who is a separate patient from the mother," she said. "So we need to treat both patients, and our ability to do that has come miles since *Roe*."

After nearly 50 years of legalized abortion in the U.S., the emotional scars and the hardened hearts of all the mothers and fathers, grandparents and siblings of those aborted children have had a devastating effect on families and society, said Raviele.

"Our only hope for recovering our humanity as a country is to stop taking innocent unborn lives and provide the pregnant woman with the support she needs to carry her child to term."

Google Pulling Ads on Abortion Reversal and Links to Videos Called 'Unjust'

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Abortion pill reversal facts," said the Google ad from the pro-life group Live Action. "We may be able to help you." The ad, which had run since July 21 and on which Live Action had spent more than \$56,000, was yanked by Google in September for "unreliable claims."

Another series of ads, targeted to Google users in Texas and costing Live Action more than \$24,000, was launched in August and linked to a series of videos, one of which showed the development of a fetus in the mother's womb. Google rejected these, too, in September. On Dec. 8, two dozen

members of Congress from both the House and Senate submitted a letter, hand-delivered to Google CEO Sundar Pichai by Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., demanding Google reverse its decision. "Google pretty much shut down all the ads we had running. So hopefully they're feeling some pressure and they will reverse their unjust move," Noah Brandt, director of government affairs for the Arlington, Virginia-based Live Action, told Catholic News Service.

"It is anti-choice and morally wrong," Lila Rose, the founder of Live Action, said in a statement about the Google decision. Google did not respond to a CNS query for comment.

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THE YEAR OF
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St. Joseph Teaches Fatherly Love in 'Orphaned' World, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

As the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph is an example of the need for loving fathers and mothers in "an age of notorious orphanhood," Pope Francis said.

The "demographic winter" in many Western countries, due in part to couples unwilling to have children, "diminishes us, it takes away our humanity," the pope said Jan. 5 during his weekly general audience.

There are "many couples do not have children because they do not want to, or they have just one, but they have two dogs, two cats. Yes, dogs and cats take the place of children," the pope said, eliciting laughter. "Yes, it's funny, I understand, but it is the reality."

"In this way, civilization becomes aged and without humanity because it loses the richness of fatherhood and motherhood. And our homelands suffer because they do not have children," he added.

Among those present at the audience, which was held in the Paul VI audience hall, were members of Rome's Rony Roller Circus troupe, including jugglers, acrobats, dancers and clowns, who performed for the pope and the pilgrims present.

"I thank the young men and women who have performed this show," the pope said. "It is a show that puts us in contact with beauty, and beauty always lifts us up, beauty makes us go beyond. And beauty is a path to the Lord."

In his main talk, Pope Francis continued his series on St. Joseph, reflecting on his role as Jesus' foster father.

In recognizing Jesus as his son, St. Joseph shows that "a man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child."

St. Joseph, he continued, also teaches the value of fatherhood

and motherhood, especially by those who "welcome life by way of adoption," and "shows us that this type of bond is not secondary; it is not an afterthought."

"This kind of choice is among the highest forms of love, and of fatherhood and motherhood," the pope said. "How many children in the world are waiting for someone to take care of them! And how many spouses wish to be fathers and mothers but are unable to do so for biological reasons; or, although they already have children, they want to share their family's affection with those who have been left without."

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said that the example of fatherhood and motherhood was an important value to think about because "our civilization is something of an orphan."

Pope Francis encouraged couples, especially newlyweds to "think about having children, giving life, because they will be the ones who will close your eyes (at death), who will care for you in the future."

"And if you cannot have children, think about adoption. It is a risk; yes, having a child is always a risk, either naturally or by adoption. But it is riskier not to have them. It is riskier to deny fatherhood or to deny motherhood, be it real or spiritual," the pope said.

As he has been doing since beginning his series on St. Joseph, Pope Francis read a prayer he had written.

He asked St. Joseph to "be close to the many children who have no family and who long for a daddy and mommy," and to "support couples who are unable to have children."

"Make sure that no one lacks a home, a bond, a person to take care of him or her," he prayed. "And heal the selfishness of those who close themselves off from life, that they may open their hearts to love."

SYNOD Listening Sessions

Check updates at <http://dwc.org/synod-sessions/>

Ascension, Hurricane: Jan. 9, 5 p.m. – Middle / Senior High Youth; Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m. – Parish Women; Jan. 17, 7 p.m. – Parish Pastoral Council; Jan. 25, 7 p.m. – Parish Men

Corpus Christi, Wheeling: Jan. 12, 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

Holy Rosary, Buckhannon: Third Session—Jan. 11, 1 p.m.; Fourth Session—Jan. 13, 1 p.m.

Holy Trinity, Nitro:

First Session—Jan. 8 after Mass; Second Session—Jan. 9 after Mass; Third Session—Jan. 13, 6 p.m.; Fourth Session—Jan. 15 after Mass; Fifth Session—Jan. 16 after Mass

Immaculate Conception, Fairmont

Jan. 17, 1 p.m.; Jan. 20, 7 p.m.; Jan. 22, 10 a.m.; and Jan. 23, noon

Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling: First Session—Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; Second Session—Inclement weather date, Feb. 24.

Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton: First Session—Jan. 13, 1-2:30 p.m.; Second Session—Jan. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.; Third Session—Feb. 9, 1-2:30 p.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 9, 6-8:30 p.m.

St. Anthony, Fairmont: First Session—Feb. 1, 1 p.m.; Second Session, Feb. 6, 6 p.m. after Mass; Third Session—Feb. 5, 7 p.m. after Mass; Fourth Session—Feb. 6, noon after Mass; Fifth Session—Feb. 7, 10 a.m.

St. Anthony, Follansbee: First Session—Jan. 31, 7 p.m.

St. Augustine, Grafton: First Session—March 27, 10 a.m.-noon

St. Brendan, Elkins: First Session—Jan. 30, noon after the 11 a.m. Mass

St. Elizabeth, Phillipi: First Session—April 3, 2022, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Beckley: Second Session—Jan. 9, after 11 a.m. Mass; Third Session—Jan. 18 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown: First Session—Jan. 9 after Mass; Second Session—Feb. 19 after 5:15 p.m. Mass; Third Session—March 8, 10 a.m.

St. Francis of Assis, St. Albans: First Session—Jan. 9, 1 p.m.; Second Session—Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.

St. John, St. Marys: First Session—Jan. 25; Second Session—Inclement weather date, Feb. 1

St. Michael, Wheeling: Second Session—Jan. 9, 6 p.m.; Third Session—Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.

St. Patrick, Coalton: First Session—Feb. 6, after 8:30 a.m. Mass

St. Patrick, Hinton: First Session—Feb. 9, 1-3 p.m.; Second Session—Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m.

St. Peter, Farmington: First Session—March 20 following Sunday Mass

St. Peter Claver, Huntington: First Session—Jan. 9 after 11 a.m. Mass

St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton: Second Session—Jan. 12, 6:30-9 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs: Third Session—Jan. 22, 10 a.m.; Fourth Session—Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m.; Fifth Session—Feb. 23, 2 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling: First Session—Feb. 6; Second Session—Feb. 16; Third Session Inclement weather date, Feb. 20

FaithInWV.org Refreshed and Redesigned for the Faithful

Creators Hope to Inspire Visitors to Find Time and the Will to Pray

By Joyce Bibey

As FaithInWV.org celebrates its second anniversary the creators of the site are excited to announce a new look and extended focus for the website.

Head to the site and you will not only find the feature stories published here in The Catholic Spirit, the FaithInWV e-bulletins emailed each week to the faithful, but you will also find a concentrated focus on prayer to encourage all to pray every day.

As the site says, "God invites us into a relationship with Him built on faith and trust. We can draw closer to Him through prayer. Go to Him with all of our joys, sorrows, fears, anger, worry, and gratitude."

So, whether you are a cradle Catholic, just getting started in the Church, or somewhere in between, FaithInWV.org hopes to inspire and refresh you and your prayer life. The site was developed and created by the Office of Communications and Marketing in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

While tabs on the page take you to the more than 30 FaithInWV feature stories highlighting inspiring Catholics from all six vicariates around the state, and the more than 90 editions of the FaithInWV weekly e-bulletin, four categories are showcased to deepen your prayer life.

With headings as Family Devotions; Finding Peace; Catholic Tradition; and Resources each provide opportunities for us to be the best version of ourselves, keeping focused and balanced.

Family Devotions is a section developed to help families make the most of their time together. Whether at mealtime, in the car, or a random moment, visitors can use this platform to share traditional and contemporary prayers to grow in faith together. As the site notes, when adults love God our children see and live the faith through witnessing that love. Families who pray together can grow stronger in faith, bringing each member closer to God.

Finding Peace is a section for all, quoting James 5:13, "Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise." The purpose of this area is to encourage and remind us we are not alone. It is important to note words of a prayer from the heart with sincerity, emotion, and love are never wrong. The prayers on this page are to guide you in your prayer for yourself or those suffering.



Courtesy Photo

The newly redesigned FaithInWV.org is shown above.

The new Catholic Tradition page is dedicated to the most familiar Catholic prayers across generations. These are treasured prayers that are part of a daily routine. The prayers presented are just a few of those in our cherished traditions.

The Resources option is just that, a sample of online resources to enrich your prayer life. This page features a few of our creators' favorites which include: Catholic Inspired (for families with younger children) <https://www.catholicinspired.site>; Catholic Icing by Lacy Lynch (for families with children preschool and up) <https://www.catholicicing.com>; Pray More Novenas (website puts

prayers right in your inbox) <https://www.praymorenovenas.com>; and Catholic All Year by Kendra Tierney (for families of all ages) <https://catholicallyear.com>.

An important tab on the page is the Contact Us link. Creators of the site hope to keep the page evolving and refreshed. The hope

is that visitors not only continue to share their FaithInWV feature story ideas, but also their own prayers and favorite Catholic enrichment websites through the Contact Us link at the top of the main page.

Faith is a lifelong journey. It starts with prayer. #FaithInWV

#FaithInWV

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



Following the Gospel: Matthew 25 Bags Help Neighbors in Need

Happy New Year! This is the time when many of us are making New Year's resolutions. Years ago, Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., resolved to learn a new skill. "I sat next to a woman in a Greyhound station and was mesmerized at how easy crochet looked," he said. "In the time we waited for our bus, she had completed a scarf. I was 'hooked.' I bought a How-To book, yarn, and a hook and struggled to master a technique."



Father Dean committed to learning this craft, and now he uses his skill to bless his sisters and brothers in the community. He donates scarves and afghans to provide warmth to people experiencing homelessness in the Huntington area.

Now Father Dean says, "Give me a skein of yarn and an H-size hook, and I am a content man! I have made MANY afghans and scarves over the years. The bear pattern is my favorite... I hope the scarves will be of great comfort to those who will be receiving one."

Father Dean's creations are a beautiful complement to the Matthew 25 tote bags we distribute in the Catholic Charities West Virginia Western Re-

Courtesy Photo
Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., shows one of the crochet pieces he created for the Matthew 25 tote bags distributed in the Catholic Charities West Virginia Western Region.

gion. In this 16-county region that includes Charleston and Huntington, volunteers and donors work together to pro-

vide personal care supplies to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Because of these supplies, our community can also dream, make plans, and look forward to a fresh start.

People need these supplies year-round. To that end, we are searching for parishes and schools to partner with us in supporting this vital program. If you are interested in donating or volunteering for this

ministry of love, please contact our Western Region Director, Bill Hagy: bhagy@ccwva.org.

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

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Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan

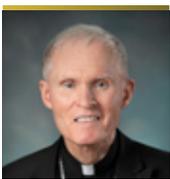
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Administración de Biden revela cambios en política de 'Quédate en México'

Por Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El 3 de enero, funcionarios del gobierno de Joe Biden anunciaron que ofrecerán ayuda legal adicional a migrantes que buscan asilo en Estados Unidos, quienes se ven obligados a permanecer en México bajo una política de la era de Donald Trump que ha sido difícil de revocar.

Aun cuando la administración busca, a su manera, mejorar los Protocolos de Protección al Migrante (MPP por sus siglas en inglés) -- también conocida como la política "Quédate en México" -- los funcionarios del gobierno han pedido a la Corte Suprema que intervenga y le ponga fin. Dicha política mantiene a solicitantes de asilo esperando al otro lado de la frontera sur hasta que sus casos puedan ser escu-

chados por los tribunales de inmigración de Estados Unidos.

Defensores de los inmigrantes se han quejado durante mucho tiempo del peligro y las condiciones que enfrentan los migrantes mientras esperan en las peligrosas ciudades fronterizas.

Sin embargo, funcionarios del gobierno de Estados Unidos dijeron que ahora tienen un sistema para transportar a los migrantes a refugios de manera segura y brindarles acceso a representación legal -- dos de las principales quejas sobre esta política.

En 2018, con la cooperación de México, la administración de Trump implementó la política con el objetivo de disuadir a solicitantes de asilo de ingresar a Estados Unidos.

El presidente Joe Biden puso la política "Quédate en México" en pausa tan pronto como asumió el cargo en 2020,

y meses después la terminó formalmente. Sin embargo, a principios de diciembre de 2020, su administración se vio obligada a implementarla nuevamente después de que un tribunal dijera que los funcionarios no la habían terminado adecuadamente. La Corte Suprema estuvo de acuerdo. El 13 de diciembre, la Corte de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de Estados Unidos bloqueó la más reciente apelación de la administración para ponerle fin.

Desde que la administración de Biden restableció la política en un punto de entrada fronterizo en El Paso, Texas, a principios de diciembre, más de 200 migrantes y solicitantes de asilo se vieron obligados a permanecer del otro lado de la frontera, según cifras del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional.

Desde entonces, la política se ha expandido a varios puntos de entrada a lo

largo de la frontera y la administración ha estado tratando de presentarla como más humanitaria que antes, sosteniendo que ha involucrado a funcionarios mexicanos para brindar condiciones más seguras para los migrantes.

El jefe del Comité de Migración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, el obispo auxiliar Mario E. Dorsonville de Washington, dijo en diciembre que la manera de mejorar la política era poniéndole fin.

"Estamos profundamente consternados por la re implementación del MPP", expresó. "Desafortunadamente, los intentos de la administración (de Biden) de hacer que este programa sea 'más humano', por bien intencionado que sea, no curarán sus fallas inherentes, ni aliviarán su inevitable costo en vidas humanas".

Editorial anuncia podcast 'Biblia en un año' a partir de enero 1

Por Catholic News Service

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (CNS) -- El 31 de diciembre, casi medio millón de personas cumplirán un año de haber recorrido las escrituras de la Biblia católica completa de la mano del podcast "La Biblia en un año".

El 1 de enero, el padre dominico Sergio Serrano y el padre Dempsey Acosta duplicarán este recorrido con la versión en español de dicho podcast.

"Como hispanohablantes, nos atraen continuamente las historias que nuestros abuelos y familiares nos transmiten oralmente", expresó el padre Serrano en un comunicado de prensa de Ascensión, una editorial multimedia católica con sede en West Chester, Pensilvania, que hizo el anuncio de la nueva versión del podcast "La Biblia en un año".

"Podremos escuchar todos los días la gran historia que Dios quiere contarnos; la hermosa historia que nos cautivará. Muchos de nosotros lle-

vamos mucho tiempo esperando que se cuente de esta manera", manifestó el sacerdote, quien es director del Apostolado Hispano de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva Orleans.

Ascensión es la productora del podcast en inglés y ahora está trabajando con Juan Diego Network en la producción de su versión en español para que el público de habla hispana pueda ser parte de esta experiencia.

El padre Serrano será el anfitrión de cada episodio diario de "La Biblia en un año" y narrará todas las lecturas bíblicas. El padre Acosta, profesor asociado de teología en la Universidad de St. Thomas en Houston, aparecerá como invitado destacado en 16 episodios especiales, que marcarán puntos clave en el recorrido bíblico.

La versión en español de "La Biblia en un año" utilizará el mismo formato popular y plan de lectura que su contraparte en inglés, en el que el conocido sacerdote de YouTube, el padre Mike Schmitz, leyó todos los versículos de la Biblia ca-

tólica completa en 365 días, utilizando un plan de lectura basado en Great Adventure Bible Timeline (Cronología de la Biblia de la Gran Aventura) del erudito bíblico Jeff Cavins.

Este plan de lectura organiza los 14 libros narrativos de la Biblia en 12 períodos para ayudar a los lectores a comprender cómo se relacionan entre sí y cómo se relacionan con el plan de Dios para la salvación.

Fue el padre Schmitz — sacerdote de la Diócesis de Duluth, Minnesota, y un popular orador y autor católico — y Cavins quienes crearon el podcast original con el respaldo de Ascensión.

El plan de lectura gratuito para la versión en español de "La Biblia en un año" estará disponible en www.AscensionPress.com/LaBiblia; el mismo recurso en inglés está disponible en www.AscensionPress.com/BibleInAYear.

Todos los episodios del podcast son gratuitos y están disponibles en el sitio web de Ascensión y en las principales plataformas de podcasts.

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 Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504.

También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, 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.

Register for January TEC



TEC stands for Teens Encounter Christ. TEC is an international, spiritual-renewal movement in the Catholic Church that strives to bring young people and adults into close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. TEC is a community, led by the Holy Spirit, that gathers people into Christian groups of faith, while attempting to incorporate its ministry into the overall ministry of their members' dioceses and parishes.

The next TEC retreat that will take place in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be held from Friday, January 14th to Monday, January 17th, at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, West Virginia.

It will be free for all teens who are in their junior year of high school through first year of college.

You can register to attend or volunteer at this retreat on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's website (dwc.org) and clicking Events at the top right of the home page.

Resister

<https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/tec/>

Job Opening: Accounts Payable Clerk

The Accounts Payable Clerk, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Accounts Payable Clerk is responsible for preparing and processing all payments for the Finance Office and for accurately recording and maintaining all ledgers related to the accounts payable function.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Maintains all files for accounts payable and all related reports; Receives, reviews, prepares and processes vouchers for payment; enters into the computer, data for accounts payable as well as vouchers and invoices for payment; checks all vouchers for information and accuracy; compares all vouchers to the appropriate invoice; reviews pre-check register; prepares, prints and distributes checks for payment to vendors; verifies and proofs payable ledger to general ledger; schedules cash disbursements; distributes expense, charges to proper entry in the chart of accounts; interacts with persons by various means of communication and correspondence in matters related to accounts payable of the Diocese; becomes knowledgeable and familiar with the process of Automatic Clearing House (ACH) transactions; maintains master list of vendors.

QUALIFICATIONS: High School Graduate or GED; at least two years experience with bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable functions; must be understanding of the accrual accounting method as used with accounts payable; have knowledge and prior work experience using spreadsheet applications such as Lotus, Microsoft, and Excel.

Interested party please send resume, cover letter and references to cprascik@dwc.org no later than Jan. 18, 2022.

Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

6:30 WOWK 13	Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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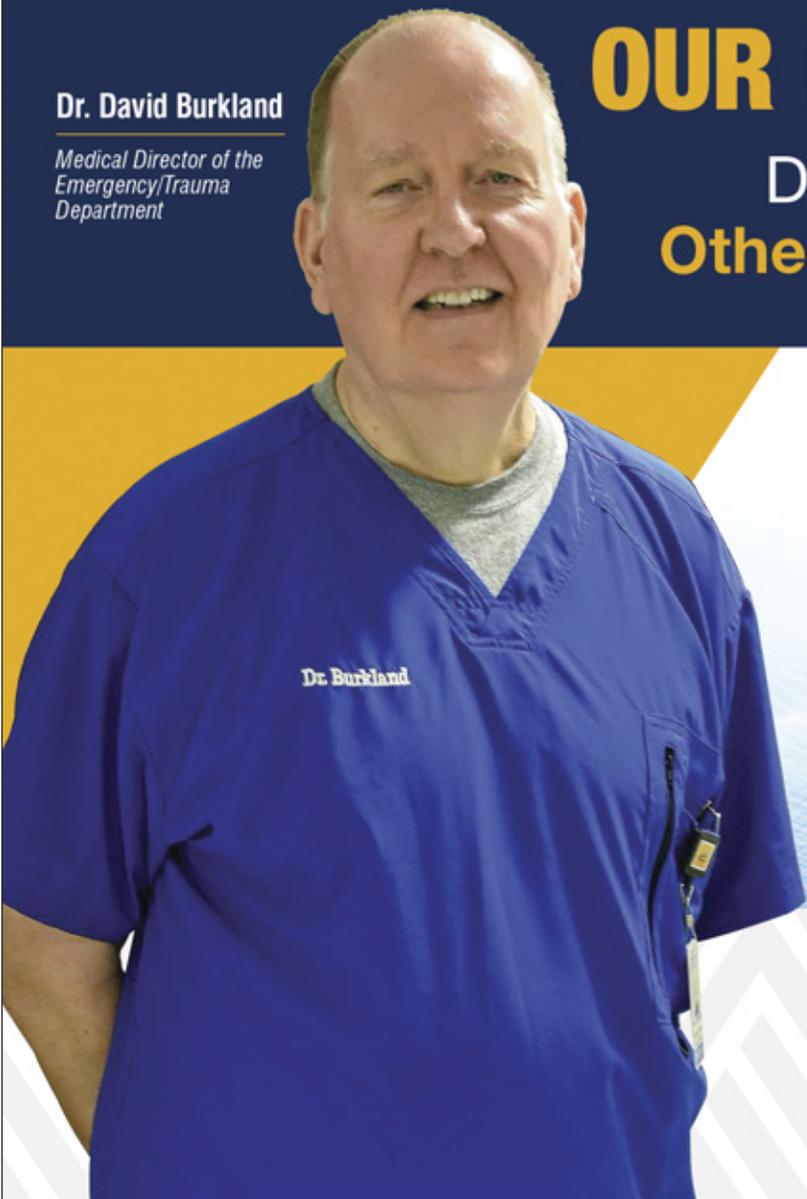
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