January 9, 2026 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Vol. 56, No. 2

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Christians Must Resist Allure of Power, Serve Humanity, Pope Says at End of Holy Year

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The powerful and violent cannot control, suppress or commodify God's grace, friendship and will to usher in a new dawn, Pope Leo XIV said.

"Around us, a distorted economy tries to profit from everything. We see how the marketplace can turn human yearnings of seeking, traveling and beginning again into a mere business," he said, celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, and officially closing the celebration of the Holy Year dedicated to hope.

"Let us ask ourselves: has the Jubilee taught us to flee from this type of efficiency that reduces everything to a product and human beings to consumers?" he asked. "After this year, will we be better able to recognize a pilgrim in the visitor, a seeker in the stranger, a neighbor in the foreigner and fellow travelers in those who are different?"

Before the Mass, the pope, cardinals and bishops present in Rome, gathered in the atrium of the basilica and gave thanks to God for the gifts received during the Holy Year. Dozens of the world's cardinals were in Rome to attend the pope's first extraordinary consistory Jan. 7-8, to pray, support and advise the pope on the life and mission of the church.

Pope Leo went to the threshold of the Holy Door and pulled each side shut. The door will be sealed until the next Holy Year, which is likely to be 2033, the 2000th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV closes the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6 at the Vatican, marking the official end of the Jubilee Year.

While the last of the Holy Doors in the city was closing, "the gate" of God's mercy will never be shut, Pope Leo said before shutting the door. God "will always sustain the weary, raise up those who have fallen" and offer "good things" to those who place their trust in him.

In his homily, Pope Leo compared the millions of men and women who came to Rome on pilgrimage to modern-day Magi, "who left palace and temple behind" in search of a new "king," which they found in the baby Jesus in a humble grotto in Bethlehem.

"Yes, the Magi still exist today. They are the people who sense the need to go out and search, accepting the risks associated with their journey, especially in a troubled world like ours that may be unpleasant and dangerous in many ways," he said.

However, Pope Leo cautioned, today's seekers must encounter in today's churches and sacred places the same humble source of life, hope and joy that the Magi encountered in Bethlehem.

"How important it is that those who pass through the doors of the church perceive therein that the Messiah has just been born, that a community gathers in which hope springs forth and that a story of life is unfolding!" he said.

"Jesus encountered and allowed himself to be approached by all people," he said, because "the Lord wants his presence to grow among us as God-with-us."

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THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

Pope ...

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"No one can sell this to us. The child whom the Magi adore is a priceless and immeasurable good," the pope said, criticizing "a distorted economy," which even tries to exploit and commodify the human desire for freedom and true fulfillment.

God revealing himself to humanity as man is "a gift," Pope Leo said. "He reveals himself and lets himself be found."

"His ways are not our ways, and the violent do not succeed in controlling them, nor can the powers of the world block them," he said, recalling the great joy the Magi felt upon finding the Messiah and despite Herod's efforts to destroy what had been promised.

The fear and violence unleashed by King Herod "make us think of the many conflicts by which people resist and even damage the new things that God has in store for everyone," he said. "Loving and seeking peace means protecting what is holy and, consequently, that which is newly born like a small, vulnerable, fragile baby."

"God challenges the existing order," the pope said. "God is determined to rescue us from both old and new forms of slavery. He involves young and old, poor and rich, men and women, saints and sinners in his works of mercy and in the wonders of his justice."

"Let us ask ourselves: is there life in our church? Is there space for something new to be born? Do we love and proclaim a God who sets us on a journey?" Pope Leo asked.

"Fear does indeed blind us. Conversely, the joy of the Gospel liberates us. It makes us prudent, yes, but also bold, attentive and creative; it beckons us along ways that are different from those already traveled," he said.

"It is wonderful to become pilgrims of hope," who journey together and are amazed by God's faithfulness, he said.

"If we do not reduce our churches to monuments, if our communities are homes, if we stand united and resist the flattery and seduction of those in power, then we will be the generation of a new dawn," he said. In Jesus, "we will contemplate and serve an extraordinary humanity, transformed not by the delusions of the all-powerful, but by God who became flesh out of love."

Outside on a cold, rainy winter morning, St. Peter's Square was filled with thousands of people watching the Mass on big screens and awaiting the pope to recite the Angelus at noon.

Hundreds of people dressed in traditional and festive costumes took part in an annual folkloric Epiphany procession along the main boulevard in front of the basilica. Marching bands and people in Renaissance costumes paraded up the street behind the Three Kings on horseback.

Before reciting the Angelus from the balcony of the basilica's loggia, the pope prayed that God's words "come to fulfillment in us, may strangers and enemies become brothers and sisters."

"In the place of inequality, may there be fairness, and may the industry of war be replaced by the craft of peace," he said. "As weavers of hope, let us journey together toward the future by another road."

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://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx 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."

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. 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.

2026 Print Dates:
Month of the Holy Family, February 20
Lent, March 13
Easter, April 10
Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 15
Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 12
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
Triumph of the Cross, September 11
Month of the Rosary, October 9
Advent, November 20
Christmas, December 18

Cathedral of St. Joseph Sponsoring 100th Anniversary Art Contest

Open to All Catholic Students in the Diocese in Grades 6-12

WEST VIRGINIA—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of its dedication (April 21, 2026) is sponsoring a contest for all Catholic students in the Diocese, in grades 6-12.

In celebration of its 100th anniversary, the Cathedral will be producing prayer cards to provide to Catholics around the Diocese. On one side of the prayer card will be a special prayer composed to celebrate the 100th anniversary. On the reverse side, the Cathedral will produce 8 different designs.

There will be two age group categories: Middle (grades 6-8) and High (grades 9-12). Four winners will be chosen from each category, and those winners' submissions will appear on the prayer cards.

"We hope that this will be an opportunity for students around the Diocese to learn a bit about the Cathedral and for their work to be shared as a part of the 100th anniversary celebrations," said Deacon Jacob Manning, permanent deacon at the Cathedral and St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling.

The Cathedral's volunteers will be available to give a tour of the Cathedral at any time during the 2025-26 school year to educate students about the Cathedral, its art, history, and architecture. It is recommended that Diocesan schools arrange a tour by contacting Deacon Manning (jmanning@dwc.org). During the tour, students are invited to photograph or view an aspect of the Cathedral that they wish to use for the focus of their submission. Students who are unable to attend a tour may find images of the Cathedral on its social media and webpages. Students are invited to select any aspect of the Cathedral to recreate in their work.

Submissions will be due to the Cathedral by February 1, 2026. Late submissions cannot be accepted. Winners will be chosen by March 1, 2026, and the winners will be notified thereafter. Winners will be invited to review the prayer card featuring their submission before final production, to ensure that prayer cards are printed by the opening Mass on April 21, 2026. Winners will be invited to attend the Mass and will be recognized throughout the year-long anniversary celebration. Students will receive a commemorative version of their own design and prayer.

Submission Rules

1. All work submitted must be the student's original work. Student work may include drawings, paintings, or digital work. Students may not use generative AI for this project.
2. The student's artwork should be no larger than standard 8.5" x 11" paper. Students' original work may not be returned.
3. Students must include all of the following information on their projects: full name, school, grade level, parent's or guardian's telephone number and email.
4. Diocesan schools should submit all students' work in one packet, mailed or delivered to: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Attn: 100th Anniversary Art Contest, 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Students who do not attend Diocesan schools are invited to submit their own work to the same address.
5. No work received after February 1, 2026 will be considered. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.
6. The Cathedral's 100th Anniversary Committee's decision as to winning projects will be final.
7. Any questions should be directed to Deacon Jacob Manning at (jmanning@dwc.org).

THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

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Eastern, Western Faiths Unite in Weirton

Emmanuel Molebens Highlight Pre-Nativity Season

Courtesy photo

Father Luke Iyengar, pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton (left), is pictured with Father Binu Sebastian, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Weirton.

By Gregg Miliote & Mike Garan

WEIRTON—St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton hosted a special five-week series of Emmanuel Molebens during its pre-Nativity Phillipian Fast (Advent). Beginning Nov. 19 and running through Dec. 17, the molebens featured poetic hymns, incense, candlelight and meditations on the coming of the Messiah.

The services granted worshippers the opportunity to slow down, lean into silence and contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation as they declared Christ as "Emmanuel – God with us," drawing themselves into joyful expectation.

"During a season often marked by rushing and noise, the Emmanuel Moleben invites us to return to the heart of Christmas," Father Luke Iyengar, St. Mary's pastor, said. "We offered this service as a gift to the entire community – Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic or anyone who longed for a deeper spiritual experience as Christmas approached."

Each week also featured a guest priest from the region, either Roman Catholic or Byzantine Catholic, who shared a homily to help the faithful prepare their hearts for the birth of Christ. St. Mary's treated parishioners and visitors to a candlelit church, rich Carpathian chant and preaching that drew from the wisdom and spiritual heritage of both Eastern and Western Catholic traditions.

After the gospel readings, guest Catholic homilists offered reflections on God's gift to humanity. They included Father Ryan Liebhaber, St. Michael (Byzantine) Church, Pleasant City, Ohio; Father Dennis Schuelkens Jr., St. Joseph the Worker (Roman) Church, Weirton; Father David Bosnich, St. Joseph (Byzantine) Church, Toronto, Ohio, and St. John the Baptist (Byzantine) Church, Mingo Junction, Ohio; and Father Binu Sebastian, St. Paul (Roman) Church, Weirton.

Father Liebhaber said when Jesus Christ was born, he came to us as the new covenant and gave that covenant to us, the Church, the unbroken continuation of the Old Testament tradition. "He has given us the Church, has given us the sacraments and gives us Himself in the Eucharist."

"Salvation is a free gift in Jesus Christ," Father Schuelkens noted. "Everything that has unfolded before us is justice tempered with the mercy of God. Sometimes it's a lot of justice with a little mercy. And sometimes it's a little justice with a lot of mercy. That's where prudence and charity unfold."

Father Bosnich addressed the Lord's kingship as we await his entry into our hearts. "We must recognize Christ as the true king … He is truth and justice … So let us try in this upcoming year to obey Jesus Christ completely not just some of the time. Then we will be true followers."

In his homily, Father Sebastian spoke about the communion of Catholic Churches within the Eastern and Western rites yet explained their unity does not mean sameness. "God allows the Gospel to take flesh in different languages, different music, different symbols and different traditions." Yet the Church, while diverse, remains united in its beautiful traditions, he continued. "May this season renew our faith, strengthen our unity and fill us with hope."

Courtesy photo

Father Luke Iyengar, pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Weirton (right), is pictured with Father Dennis Schuelkens Jr., pastor of St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart of Mary parishes in Weirton.

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Center for Dominican Studies
2025–26 Events

Celebrations of Dominican Saints

ODU and The Center for Dominican Studies invite students, faculty, staff, and community members to join us for our annual three-part series of Dominican Saints lectures. Please mark your calendars.

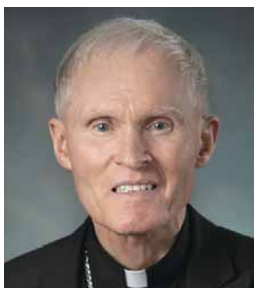
St. Albert the Great Lecture

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025 | 11 a.m.

Erskine Hall's Sr. Mary Andrew Matesich, OP Theatre

"Thinking Outside The Panel: How Solar Panel Orientation and Location Influence Power Production, The Local Environment and Economic Value"

Presented by Dr. Rydge Mulford



St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 | 11 a.m.

Erskine Hall's Sr. Mary Andrew Matesich, OP Theatre

"Today's Immigration: Friend or Foe?"

Presented by Bishop Mark Brennan

St. Catherine of Siena Lecture

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.

Sansbury Hall's Colonial Room

"We Each Have a Part to Play: Discerning Your Role in Promoting the Common Good"

Presented by Sr. Julia Walsh, FSPA

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Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities for Winter 2026 Announced

Catechesis is central to evangelization and mission in the Church and core to catechesis are the Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church. Whether you are active as a catechist or are interested in learning more about your faith, the courses and seminars offered by the University of Dayton's VLCFF through the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith and tradition. Courses are offered in person, online and hybrid. Below are three hybrid courses being offered beginning Jan. 19. All courses are free but registration is required. The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston offers Catechetical Certification and recognizes VLCFF courses for various levels of certification. Certain courses are especially designed for volunteer catechists, Catholic school religion teachers, members of OCIA teams and all those who would be enriched by formal training in this field. For further information regarding the VLCFF certification program please contact Dr. Stoicoiu or Shirley Carter at scarter@dwc.org.

There are six required courses for level one certification including the Roman Catholic Catechesis for Faith Formation class below. Both classes are open to ALL adults interested in deepening their faith and growing in their understanding of the theology and tradition of the Church.

Roman Catholic Catechesis for Faith Formation—a five-week course, begins the week of Jan. 19. This course is part of the Certificate in Catechesis series. This course explores the tasks of catechesis as presented in the Directory for Catechesis (2020). These tasks, focused on our relationship with Jesus Christ, guide our mission to "go forth and make disciples of all nations" (Mt.28:19). This course is part of the Certificate in Catechesis and will be especially helpful for catechists, members of OCIA teams, and all those interested in deepening their faith. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings on Zoom at 7 p.m. beginning on Jan 21. To register or for further information, please contact Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com.

Advanced Catholic Social Teaching—a five-week course, begins the week of Jan 19. It has been said that the social justice teachings of the Church are some of its best kept secrets! This course is designed to deepen our understanding of the basis or social justice and builds on background that students bring from other social justice courses or life experience. This course is part of the Certificate in Social Justice series and is open to everyone. The class will meet on Thursday afternoons at 4 p.m. on Zoom beginning on Jan. 22. To register or for further information, please contact Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com.

This Land Is Home To Me: The Cry of Appalachia—a special three-week seminar beginning the week of Jan. 19. It was developed especially for the 175th anniversary of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The people of Appalachia have a special story to tell about their relationship with the land, with one another and with God. As part of the ongoing celebrations, the Church in West Virginia is invited to participate in this seminar focused on the Pastoral Letter: "This Land is Home to Me". We will study and discuss the pastoral in light of the Appalachian experiences of poverty, powerlessness and suffering today. The current scheduled seminar meets via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. with our first meeting on Monday, Jan 19. To register or for further information, please contact Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

We are called throughout our lives to turn and re-turn to God. This is the process of ongoing conversion. Deepening our understanding of faith, growing in our relationship with God and one another includes learning about that faith, the Scriptures and our Tradition. Take time this year to meet other Catholics, learn, discuss and deepen your faith.

Understanding the Sacraments Will be the Focus of a Parish Retreat in Star City

STAR CITY — St. Mary Parish in Star City will host a parish retreat, "Grace in Our Midst: Understanding the Sacraments," a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. All are welcome.

"God meets us in ordinary moments through extraordinary grace," retreat organizers said.

Included will be guided reflections and Eucharistic Adoration. Confession will be available and lunch will be provided.

Grace in Our Midst is an adult-focused retreat, offering time for reflection, discussion, and prayer. Because of the depth of the topics and format, it is intended for adults.

Catholic Charities West Virginia Mission Moment: Restoring Hope through Community

When a nine-year-old girl grew worried for her family, she turned to someone she trusted, Hannah Cooper. Hannah is a volunteer at the local girls' dance company and also serves as a Service Specialist with Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa).

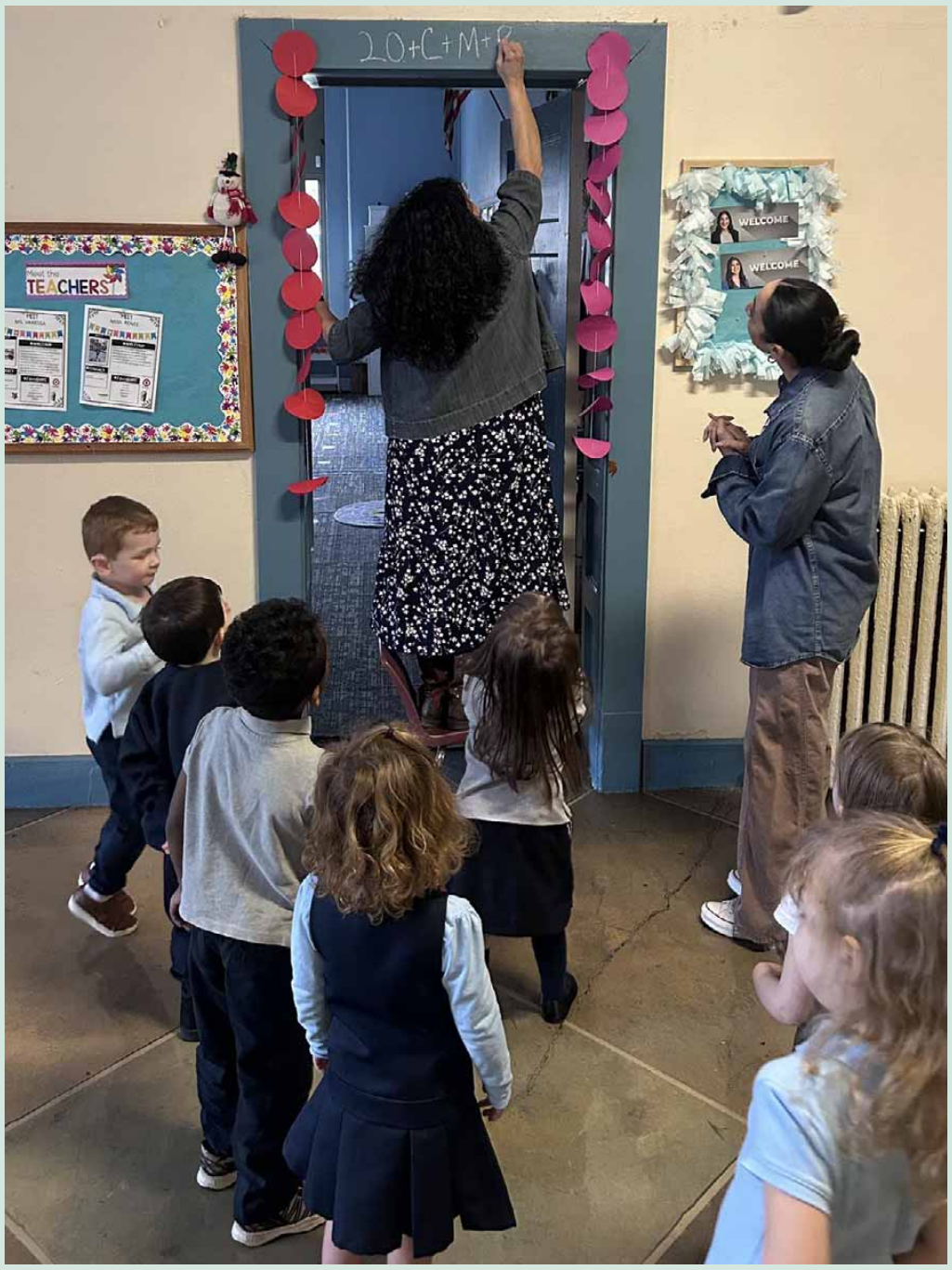
Hannah reached out to the child's 86-year-old great-grandmother, Sandra, who leads their four-generation household. Their electricity had been shut off in the heat of summer, and with a baby in the home, the situation required immediate attention.

In less than a day, Hannah met with Sandra, listened to the family's concerns, and brought together support from three funding partners to restore their power. When the lights came back on, relief filled the home. Sandra shared through tears, "You made a miracle happen."

This moment reflects the strength of our community and the hope that grows when caring people work together to support families in need, CCWVa officials said.

For more information about Catholic Charities West Virginia or how to donate, visit https://www.ccwva.org.

'May Christ Bless the House'



Courtesy photo

Students at St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg look on as their teacher chalks the door, welcoming God's blessings into their classroom. EWTN states that traditionally on the feast of Epiphany, Catholics bless their homes by writing on the door the letters C, M, and B and the numbers of the year on either side — so this year it would look like "20+C+M+B+26." The numbers represent the new year (2026), the letters represent both the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchoir, and Bathasar) and the phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which is Latin for "May Christ Bless the House."

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ENCOUNTER - Camp Carlo 2026!

By Joyce Bibey, courtesy of FaithInWV

Summer Adventure for Catholic Youth awaits! Imagine a place where your child's summer is filled not just with fun and adventure, but faith, friendship, and growth in Christ. That place is Camp Carlo — the St. Carlo Acutis Youth Camp — set in the beautiful hills of Huttonsville, West Virginia.

Camp Carlo isn't just another summer camp — it's a life-changing encounter with Christ. Named for St. Carlo Acutis, a young Catholic whose deep love for the Eucharist and technology inspired a generation, the camp invites youth to grow closer to Jesus in an environment filled with prayer, joy, and authentic community.

"Camp Carlo is community – an extended family," said Gregory Gust, Assistant Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

He noted the theme for this year is "ENCOUNTER" - "Friendships are forged, faith is enflamed, and Christ is present at Camp Carlo – Encounter God in the mountains."

What Makes Camp Carlo Special?

Camp Carlo couples faith formation with outdoor adventure. Campers can:

- Backpack through scenic mountain trails
- Horseback ride through hidden paths
- Make a splash into the pool from the waterslide
- Try high-ropes courses, archery, canoeing, fishing, and more
- Learn about Christ and his Church

These activities not only build courage and confidence but also help youth appreciate God's beautiful creation.

Camp Carlo brings together Catholic youth from all over West Virginia and beyond — an opportunity to spend a week with peers who share the same love of faith, fun, and new friendships. Many campers return year after year because of the deep bonds formed in a supportive, joyful Catholic environment.

At the heart of Camp Carlo is the Gospel. Woven into the schedule are daily Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, inspiring talks, and prayerful reflection. Campers are given space to grow in their relationship with Christ. The camp is drawing young hearts into encounter with Jesus just as Peter, James, and John did on Mount Tabor.

"We see that God has used the mountains for significant moments in history," Gust said. "ENCOUNTER God with us this summer at Camp Carlo."

Many of the counselors at Camp Carlo were campers when they were younger. The whole team will lead by witness and example, showing campers what it looks like to live confidently, naturally, and joyfully for Christ.

2026 Camp Sessions

Camp Carlo's 2026 summer schedule is set:
High School Week: June 28 – July 4
Week 1: July 5 – 11
Week 2: July 12 – 18
Week 3: July 19 – 25

Whether your child is entering 3rd grade or completing high school, there's a week for them to grow in faith, courage, and Christian friendship.

Register now to be part of a summer that could change your life as we walk together with Christ. Go to: https://campcarlowv.org to register today!

Saint Carlo Acutis, pray for us — may all young hearts be drawn to ENCOUNTER Jesus this summer!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR STARS!
ENERGIZE! EVANGELIZE! ENCOUNTER!

If you're committed to growing in faith, modeling faithful Catholic community life to young people, and living the adventure of His Creation, we want YOU at Camp Carlo for Summer 2026!

Named in honor of St. Carlo Acutis, our Catholic youth adventure camp is accepting applications for counselors. Positions will be filled by May 1st, 2026.

For information about Camp Carlo go to https://campcarlowv.org OR EMAIL Gregory Gust at ggust@dwc.org, subject line: "COUNSELOR APPLICATION – [YOUR NAME]"

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After Ice Shooting of U.S. Citizen, Minneapolis Archbishop Pleads for Prayers, Calm

MINNEAPOLIS (CNA)—Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda on Jan. 7 pleaded for prayers and calm after a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer shot and killed a U.S. citizen in Minneapolis.

Officials said the ICE officer shot and killed 37-year-old Renee Good after what was reported as an altercation in the street in south Minneapolis. The officer reportedly fired into Good's vehicle after she apparently attempted to drive away while surrounded by agents.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem alleged on Jan. 7 that Good was "harassing and impeding" agents prior to the shooting. Law enforcement including the FBI and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension are investigating the incident.

Archbishop Hebda in his statement pleaded for "all people of goodwill to join me in prayer for the person who was killed, for their loved ones, and for our community."

"We continue to be at a time in this country when we need to lower the temperature of rhetoric, stop fear-filled speculation, and start seeing all people as created in the image and likeness of God," the prelate said.

"That is as true for our immigrant sisters and brothers as it is for our elected officials and those who are responsible for enforcing our laws," he continued. "I echo today the repeated call of the U.S. Catholic bishops that we come together as a nation and pass meaningful immigration reform that does justice to all parties."

"The longer we refuse to grapple with this issue in the political arena, the more divisive and violent it becomes," Hebda added.

The archbishop was referencing a November 2025 statement from the U.S. bishops urging immigration reform and opposing the indiscriminate mass deportation of immigrants who lack legal status.

"We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement," the bishops said at the time. "We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials."

Officials in Minnesota responded with criticism to the shooting on Jan. 7. State Gov. Tim Walz in a post on X decried what he called the "propaganda machine" surrounding the incident, while Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said officials were "demanding ICE to leave the city immediately."

Archbishop Hebda, meanwhile, said in his statement: "It is only by working together — with God's help — that we will have peace in our communities, state, and world."

(Daniel Payne is a senior editor at Catholic News Agency.)

Catholic Governor Signs Historic Personhood Law for the Unborn in Puerto Rico

By Marietha Góngora V.

(OSV News) — On Dec. 21, Puerto Rico's Gov. Jenniffer González-Colón approved Law 183-2025, which amends the Civil Code of Puerto Rico and recognizes the unborn child or "nasciturus" — a Latin legal term referring to "conceived but not born" — as a natural person from conception.

Father Carlos Pérez Toro, pastor of Santa Rosa de Lima Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and civil lawyer graduate of Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law, explained to OSV News the implications of this new law, which marks a milestone in the history of pro-life advocacy in the U.S. territory.

Father Pérez Toro participated as a legal advisor in the drafting of the new Civil Code of Puerto Rico, which came into force at the end of 2020, and has served as a legal advisor in the legislative debate on issues such as the dignity of the human being during pregnancy and religious freedom. A renowned pro-life advocate on the island, he has presented bills to the Senate of Puerto Rico and participated in numerous academic conferences.

The priest pointed out that thanks to this law, "It is recognized that the human being in gestation is a natural person from the first moment of conception; using a legal term that only applied when a human being was born, it is said that he or she has legal personality and capacity from the first moment of conception."

"Thank God we have achieved clear recognition in Puerto Rico that the human being in gestation is a natural person with all rights, as if he or she had been born. Imagine what that means for the mother who now has a new instrument to defend her child," said Father Pérez Toro, who explained that every pregnant woman in Puerto Rico can now designate her unborn child as an heir.

"What this law does is equate the child in the womb with a child who has been born. The future prospects that this law will have for a human being in gestation and the mother are unimaginable," said the priest. He indicated that, for example, in tax matters, a child in the womb can be claimed as a new dependent when it comes to paying taxes in Puerto Rico.

Father Pérez Toro explained that the Civil Code "regulates relations between private parties, private citizens, property relations, personal rights relations, etc."

He added that Article 74 of the Civil Code of Puerto Rico, "Enjoyment of Essential Rights," recognizes "essential rights of personality, dignity and honor, freedom of thought, conscience or religion, freedom of action, privacy, inviolability of his/her home, physical and moral integrity, and intellectual creation."

"All of this applies to the human being in gestation," said the priest and jurist, who also addressed the cultural implications that this law will have among islanders. "That is not a fetus. That is a 'nene,' as women in Puerto Rico call the human being in gestation, the child in the womb. They say, 'That is my 'nene,' and they celebrate when they see the first ultrasound of the 'nene' in the first weeks when it has a little head, etc. This Civil Code does justice to that Puerto Rican cultural expression that there is not a 'cell,' not a 'zygote,' but a human being, a 'nene' like the 'nenes' who walk the streets."

This priest also celebrated and expressed his gratitude that — despite pressure from various sectors, public letters from law and medical schools, and the silence of some institutions — the evangelical churches "fought the good fight, and they fought it with passion."

For her part, Kelsey Pritchard, communications director for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, told OSV News that this new law in Puerto Rico "is a historic victory for babies and moms across the island and a powerful example for lawmakers throughout the United States."

"Science is clear that a new, distinct human life begins at conception, and this law reflects that reality. It sends a clear and hopeful message: Every single person has value and deserves a chance at life," said Pritchard. She added the pro-life organization "applauds Puerto Rico's leaders for choosing compassion, human dignity, and protection for the most vulnerable among us."

(Marietha Góngora V. is an OSV News correspondent. She writes from Maryland.)

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Pope Leo, Bishops React to U.S. Capture of Maduro with Concern for Venezuela

By Junno Arocho Esteves, OSV News

(OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV expressed "deep concern" following the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, by the United States in a large-scale attack.

After reciting the Angelus prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square Jan. 4, the pope said the "well-being of the beloved Venezuelan people must prevail over all other considerations and lead to overcoming violence and pursuing paths of justice and peace."

Entrusting Venezuela to its patroness, Our Lady of Coromoto, as well as the country's recently canonized saints — Sts. José Gregorio Hernández and Carmen Rendiles — Pope Leo called on Catholics to pray and highlighted the need to respect Venezuela's right to autonomy and self-determination.

"This must guarantee the country's sovereignty, ensure the rule of law enshrined in the Constitution, respect the human and civil rights of all, and work to build together a serene future of collaboration, stability, and harmony, with special attention to the poorest who suffer due to the difficult economic situation," he said.

After months of tension, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the nighttime military operation Jan. 3, capturing Maduro and his wife, and transporting them to New York to face narco-terrorism conspiracy charges, The Associated Press reported.

According to AP, Venezuelan officials said some people were killed in the U.S. attack but did not disclose the number of casualties.

Reactions from around the world have been mixed, with many, particularly Venezuelans in the diaspora, hailing Maduro's capture, while others expressed concerns that the U.S. attack violated international law.

The country's bishops issued a brief "message of accompaniment and closeness with the People of God" via Instagram and X that did not comment directly on the capture of the Venezuelan president and his wife, but instead urged for "prayer for the unity of our people."

"In light of the events that our country is experiencing today, let us ask God to grant all Venezuelans serenity, wisdom, and strength," the bishops said. "We express our solidarity with those who were wounded and the families of those who died."

Less than an hour later, the bishops issued a second brief statement calling on the people of Venezuela "to live more intensely in hope and fervent prayer for peace in our hearts and in society, rejecting any type of violence."

"May our hands open for encounter and mutual aid, and may the decisions that are taken always be made for the well-being of our people," the bishops wrote.

The statement was shared by other Latin American bishops' conferences, including the bishops of Argentina and Mexico.

The Mexican bishops' conference said it was "united in prayer with the bishops of Venezuela to ask God for serenity, wisdom, and strength for the Venezuelan people."

OSV News photo/Andres Galeano, Reuters

Venezuelans living in Colombia hold Venezuelan flags as they gather at Plaza de Bolivar to celebrate in Bogota, Jan. 3 after U.S. President Donald Trump said the U.S. has struck Venezuela and captured its President Nicolas Maduro.

In a brief comment to SIR, the news agency of the Italian bishops' conference, Archbishop Jesús González de Zárate of Valencia, Venezuela, president of the country's bishops conference, said he had been "awake since 2 a.m. to follow what was happening" and that he was accompanying "our people with prayer."

While Venezuelans are still in shock, Archbishop Zarate said, "the facts are still in development to properly assess" the situation and emphasized his "trust in God and the values of our people."

Bishop Juan Carlos Bravo Salazar of Petare, a diocese located east of the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, issued a statement Jan. 3 on the diocese's Instagram account acknowledging that the people of Venezuela "are living through moments of confusion, uncertainty, and pain, in which we do not see clearly what is happening."

"Our strength and hope are in the Lord of life and peace," Bishop Bravo said, urging the need "to maintain serenity, peace, and above all a climate of prayer."

He also urged caution, asking people to "take shelter and not go out."

"For the good of our people, do not make calls to (take to) the streets, nor disseminate unverified and unconfirmed information, nor from sources that are not reliable or official. Let us stay in communication among ourselves, between pastoral zones, and with our closest collaborators," he said.

(Junno Arocho Esteves writes for OSV News from Malmö, Sweden.)

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Pope to Cardinals: You are Not Experts Promoting Agendas, but a Community of Faith

By Paulina Guzik

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV gathered cardinals present for the extraordinary consistory this week for an early morning Mass Jan. 8 in St. Peter's Basilica, telling them they're together not to promote "agendas," but to take part in a "discernment" that "comes from the Lord."

In the afternoon of Jan. 7, as the consistory started, the cardinals chose two themes to discuss during the gathering — the missionary nature of the church based on Pope Francis' "Evangelii Gaudium," and synodality as a means of effective collaboration with the pope. Because of time constraints, they were limited to two of the four initially proposed topics, which meant setting aside liturgy — "the source and summit of the Christian life," in the pontiff's own words — and governance of the Roman Curia for this meeting.

Though those two items were not being discussed this week, Pope Leo made clear in his remarks to the cardinals Jan. 7 that liturgy and governance of the Roman Curia were not going to be forgotten. "The other themes are not lost," he said, as reported by Vatican News. "There are very concrete, specific issues that we still need to address."

Pope Leo told the cardinals gathered in St. Peter's for 7:30 a.m. Mass that they are at the consistory "not to promote personal or group 'agendas,' but to entrust our plans and inspirations to a discernment that transcends us ... and which comes only from the Lord," encouraging 170 cardinals present to "place each of our hopes and ideas upon the altar."

"Our College, while rich in many skills and remarkable gifts, is not called primarily to be a mere group of experts, but a community of faith," the pope said. "Only when the gifts that each person brings are offered to the Lord and returned by him, will they bear the greatest fruit according to his providence."

Encouraging the cardinals in their service, the pope reminded them that what they offer to the Church, at every level, "is something profound and very personal, unique to each of you and precious to all. The responsibility you share with the Successor of Peter is indeed weighty and demanding."

After the Mass, the cardinals moved to the nearby Paul VI Audience Hall for a full day of discussions.

Reflecting on the meaning of the consistory, the pope said during the morning Mass that the world consistory — "consistorium" in Latin, or assembly — "can be understood through the root of the verb consistere, meaning "to stand still," highlighting how the cardinals paused their busy daily schedules "in order to be here."

"We have set aside our activities for a time, and even canceled important commitments, so as to discern together what the Lord is asking of us for the good of his people," Pope Leo said. "This itself is already a highly significant and prophetic gesture, particularly in the context of the frenetic society in which we live."

"It reminds us of the importance, in every aspect of life, of stopping to pray, listen and reflect. In doing so, we refocus our attention ever more clearly on our goal," the pope emphasized.

Through this pause, the pope said, the cardinals manifest "a profound act of love for God, for the Church and for the men and women of the whole world," allowing themselves "to be formed by the Spirit: primarily in prayer and silence, but also by facing one another and listening to one another."

Pope Leo stressed that the cardinals "may feel inadequate," faced with the pressing challenges of the contemporary world "where satisfaction and hunger, abundance and suffering, and the struggle for survival together with a desperate existential emptiness continue to divide and wound individuals, communities and nations."

But in this, Pope Leo said, the cardinals, along with the pope, "may not always find immediate solutions to the problems we face, yet in every place and circumstance, we will be able to help one another," and in particular, to help the pope, he said, "to find the 'five loaves and two fish' that providence never fails to provide wherever his children ask for help."

(Paulina Guzik is international editor for OSV News.)

Papa León al término del Jubileo: Sirvamos a una humanidad transformada 'por el Dios que se hizo carne por amor'

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) -- Los poderosos y los violentos no pueden controlar, suprimir o mercantilizar la gracia, la amistad y la voluntad de Dios de dar paso a un nuevo amanecer, afirmó el Papa León XIV.

"A nuestro alrededor, una economía deformada intenta sacar provecho de todo. Lo vemos: el mercado transforma en negocios incluso la sed humana de buscar, de viajar y de recomenzar", dijo, celebrando la Misa en la Basílica de San Pedro el 6 de enero, la solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor, y clausurando oficialmente la celebración del Año Santo dedicado a la esperanza.

"Preguntémonos: ¿nos ha educado el Jubileo a huir de este tipo de eficiencia que reduce cualquier cosa a producto y al ser humano a consumidor?", preguntó.

"Después de este año, ¿seremos más capaces de reconocer en el visitante a un peregrino, en el desconocido a un buscador, en el lejano a un vecino, en el diferente a un compañero de viaje?".

Antes de la Misa, el Papa, los cardenales y los obispos presentes en Roma se reunieron en el atrio de la basílica y dieron gracias a Dios por los dones recibidos durante el Año Jubilar. Decenas de cardenales de todo el mundo se encontraban en Roma para asistir al primer consistorio extraordinario del Papa León, celebrado los días 7 y 8 de enero, para rezar, apoyar y asesorar al Santo Padre sobre la vida y la misión de la Iglesia.

El Papa León se dirigió al umbral de la Puerta Santa y cerró cada uno de los lados. La puerta permanecerá sellada hasta el próximo Año Santo, que probablemente será en 2033, el 2.000 aniversario de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús.

Mientras se cerraba la última de las Puertas Santas de la ciudad, "la puerta" de la misericordia de Dios nunca se cerrará, dijo el Papa León antes de cerrar la puerta en la basílica. Dios siempre sostendrá a aquellos que están cansados, levantará a los caídos y ofrecerá "cosas buenas" a quienes depositen su confianza en él.

En su homilía, el Papa León comparó a los millones de hombres y mujeres que acudieron a Roma en peregrinación con los Reyes Magos de hoy en día, "que dejaron atrás el palacio y el templo" en busca de un nuevo "rey", al que encontraron en el niño Jesús en una humilde gruta de Belén.

"Sí, los (reyes) magos aún existen. Son personas que aceptan el desafío de arriesgar cada uno su propio viaje; que en un mundo complicado como el nuestro --en muchos aspectos excluyente y peligroso-- sienten la exigencia de ponerse en camino, en búsqueda", dijo.

Sin embargo, advirtió el Papa León, los "buscadores" de hoy deben encontrar en las iglesias y lugares sagrados actuales la misma humilde fuente de vida, esperanza y alegría que encontraron los tres reyes en Belén.

"Qué importante es que, el que cruza la puerta de la Iglesia, se percate de que el Mesías recién ha nacido allí, que allí se reúne una comunidad donde ha surgido la esperanza, que allí se está realizando una historia de vida", dijo.

"Jesús salió al encuentro de todos y dejó que todos se le acercaran", dijo, porque "el Señor quiere crecer entre nosotros, quiere ser el Dios-con-nosotros".

"Nadie puede vendernos esto. El Niño que los magos adoran es un Bien que no tiene precio ni medida", dijo el Papa, criticando "una economía deformad", que incluso trata de explotar y mercantilizar el deseo humano de libertad y verdadera realización.

Dios que se revela a la humanidad como hombre es un don, dijo el Papa León. Él se revela y "se deja encontrar".

"Sus caminos no son nuestros caminos, y los violentos no consiguen dominarlos, ni los poderes del mundo los pueden obstruir", dijo, recordando la gran alegría que sintieron los Reyes Magos al encontrar al Mesías y a pesar de los esfuerzos de Herodes por destruir lo que se había prometido.

El miedo y la violencia desatados por el rey Herodes "nos hace pensar en los numerosos conflictos con los que los hombres pueden resistirse e incluso atacar la Novedad que Dios ha reservado para todos", dijo. "Amar la paz, buscar la paz, significa proteger lo que es santo y que precisamente por eso está naciendo: pequeño, delicado y frágil como un niño".

"Dios cuestiona el orden existente", dijo el Papa. "Está decidido a rescatarnos de antiguas y nuevas esclavitudes; en sus obras de misericordia, en las maravillas de su justicia, involucra a jóvenes y ancianos, a pobres y ricos, a hombres y mujeres, a santos y pecadores".

"Preguntémonos: ¿hay vida en nuestra Iglesia? ¿Hay espacio para aquello que nace? ¿Amamos y anunciamos a un Dios que nos pone en camino?", dijo el Papa León.

"El miedo, en efecto, enceguece. La alegría del Evangelio, en cambio, libera; nos hace prudentes, sí, pero también audaces, atentos y creativos; sugiere caminos distintos de los ya recorridos", afirmó.

"Es hermoso convertirse en peregrinos de la esperanza", que caminan juntos y se maravillan de la fidelidad de Dios, expresó.

"Si no reducimos nuestras iglesias a monumentos, si nuestras comunidades se convierten en hogares, si rechazamos unidos los halagos de los poderosos, entonces seremos la generación de la aurora", afirmó.

En Jesús, "contemplaremos y serviremos a una humanidad magnífica, transformada no por delirios de omnipotencia, sino por el Dios que se hizo carne por amor", dijo.

Afuera, en una fría y lluviosa mañana de invierno, la plaza de San Pedro se llenó de miles de personas que veían la Misa en pantallas gigantes y esperaban que el Papa recitara el Ángelus al mediodía.

Cientos de personas vestidas con trajes tradicionales y festivos participaron en la procesión folclórica anual de la Epifanía a lo largo de la avenida principal frente a la basílica. Grupos musicales y personas con trajes renacentistas desfilaban por la calle detrás de los Reyes Magos a caballo.

Antes del rezo del Ángelus, desde el balcón de la logia de la basílica, el Papa rezó para que "se cumplan en nosotros Sus palabras, que los extraños y los adversarios se conviertan en hermanos y hermanas".

"Que en lugar de las desigualdades haya equidad, que en vez de la industria de la guerra se afirme la artesanía de la paz", dijo. Como "Artesanos de esperanza, caminemos hacia el futuro por otro camino".

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La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

School Nurse

The Diocese of Wheeling -Charleston is looking to fill the position of School Nurse for its School Based Health Program. This is a full-time position requiring 40 hours per week for 40 weeks. The position is located at St. Vincent de Paul School, St. Michael Parish School, Central Catholic High School and Our Lady of Peace School.

The school nurse is responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating school health services within the context of the School Based Health Program. The nurse serves in the roles of program manager, case manager, direct care provider, collaborator, advocate, educator and counselor to students, parents, faculty, and the community as appropriate.

The successful candidate will possess a current valid WV Nursing License with a BSN. Pediatric, adolescent or public health experience is desired. The individual must be able to function independently within scope of practice. Interested persons should submit a resume to Erin McFarland, School Based Health Coordinator at emcfarland@stvincentschool.org

Provider Support Specialist

Full Time, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa.) The Provider Support Specialist of the Child Care Resource Center is responsible for assisting child care providers in the West Virginia CARES system, WV STARS Career Pathway system, providing support in person or on the phone as needed, participating in community outreach events, and relieving the Supervisor of clerical duties and minor administrative business details.

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required; bachelor's degree in human services or related field or early care and education or child development. The definition of related fields includes social work, sociology, psychology, counseling, interpersonal communications, elementary or special education, and behavioral science; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment as well as independently; ability to follow directions and work well with others; ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks simultaneously; knowledge of office equipment and understanding of sound basic office procedures; prior use and understanding of computers, word processing and spread sheet application. Have a good understanding of how to use technology such as internet, Microsoft Office programs, and other programs as needed; good typing and editing skills; ability to work with persons from varied socio-economic backgrounds; willingness to work with people of cultural, ethnic and racial diversity; ability to maintain confidentiality, good written and oral communication skills; must hold a valid driver's license and able to drive throughout the covered region and state. Click here to apply.

HR Generalist, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

The Human Resources Generalist 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 Human Resources Generalist will work as part of the HR team with a focus on supporting the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese. The generalist will also serve to drive the onboarding process within the Diocese.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Performs all onboarding for Diocese, including schools and parishes; works directly with school administration and staff to ensure accuracy and proper use of entire HRIS system; supports person for Family Medical Leave and Short Term Disability; ensures all ACA reporting and maintains file accuracy in the payroll system; assists with open enrollment for all benefit platforms; helps maintain organizational guidelines; maintain employee files and records electronically; monitors HR Help Desk; backup for Diocesan Pension Plans.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate; Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources or Business; five (5) years' experience in human resources; firm knowledge and understanding of human resources best practices; knowledge and experience working with payroll and HRIS applications. Labor relations and policy experience a plus; ability to maintain confidentiality; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and current resume to: Debbie Turziano, Director of Human Resources at dturziano@dwc.org.

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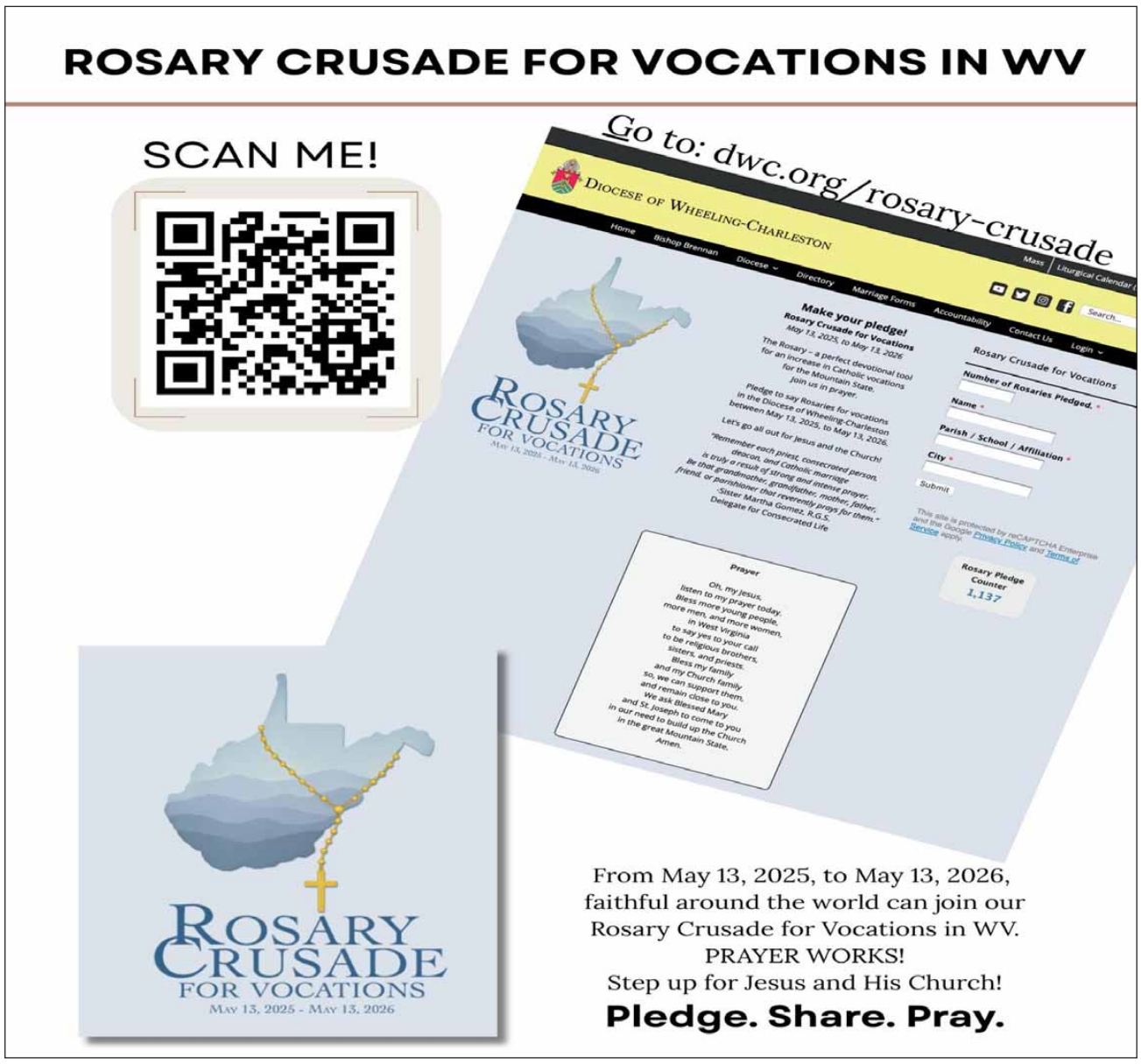

Employment Opportunities

Saint Joseph School Elementary/Middle School Principal

Saint Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking a principal who understands that this is a ministerial position at a religious institution and that there is within the Catholic Church a body of officially taught and commonly accepted beliefs, the communication of which is a fundamental purpose and mission of a Catholic school and that its students and staff have a right to expect such communication implicitly and explicitly from its president, principal and teachers, regardless of the subject areas, grades or courses being taught.

Reports to: Head of Schools

Job Description: According to Policy 2212.3 of Diocesan policy for Catholic Schools, the principal will serve as administrator, spiritual leader, financial manager and chief academic officer. The principal's responsibilities include, but are not limited to: curriculum, staff development, facilities, sports, finances and all day-to-day operations of the school. The principal reports to the pastor/designated pastor of the school.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

Performance Responsibilities:

General Duties: Chief Academic Officer

As the chief academic officer, the principal will fulfill administrative duties including, but not limited to, those required as the leader of the school:

Spiritual Leader: Ensures a strong Catholic identity in the school, working with teachers, students and their families to continually build the faith community.

Instructional Leader: Ensures academic excellence driven by a variety of teaching and learning strategies.

Guides teachers to use data to make instructional decisions.

Is the chief communicator of the school to families.

Managerial Leader: Manages the school staff, including teachers and other school personnel.

Ensures staff is continually focused on school improvement through the accreditation process.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

Facility Manager: Oversees the management of the school facility

Financial Manager: Oversees the management of finances

Day-to-day school decisions will be the responsibility of the school principal. Regular meetings with the pastor/designated pastor must occur. Working as a team is essential to the success of the impact that the leadership will have on the school community.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Practicing Catholic; Committed to Catholic education and the core values of Catholic schools; Committed to the leadership capacity within Catholic schools; Should be certified or eligible for certification in the state of West Virginia; Master's degree or related work experience preferred.

Please send a letter of introduction and resume to Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

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Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology

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