

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Three Churches Close Due to COVID-19 Concerns

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Three of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s churches are closed due to COVID-19 concerns. Sacred Heart parishes in Bluefield and Princeton announced July 6 the temporary closure of the churches after the pastor, Father Sebastian Devasya, was exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. Just three days before, St. Brendan Parish in Elkins announced the closure of its church after a parishioner tested positive for COVID-19.

Father Devasya has not been diagnosed with COVID-19. He took a rapid test, and the results were negative. As a precautionary measure, he also received a nasal test and is awaiting the results.

All three churches are closed for two weeks. Officials of the parishes said the decision to close was made with the advice of health officials and the diocese.

On St. Brendan’s Facebook page and website July 3, it was announced in a statement that the parishioner who tested positive for COVID-19, who is showing no signs of illness, attended Mass the previous weekend.

“According to health officials, with the wearing of masks, social distancing during Mass, hand sanitizing, and the short amount of time people were gathered, the chances of other parishioners getting the virus is small,” the statement said. “However, in an overabundance of caution, the diocese’s chancery has advised us to cancel all Masses for the next two weeks, both weekend and daily Masses.”

Those who would like to be tested, should contact Davis Medical Center in Elkins, the statement said. Meanwhile, weekend Masses are being posted on the parish’s Facebook page.

In a July 7 letter to his parishioners in Bluefield and Princeton, Father Devasya said that when he received the call informing him that he was exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, he immediately contacted the diocese. “It is under their guidance, the local health department guidelines, and with a desire to proceed with what is best for everyone that I am self-quarantining for 14 days,” he said. “According to our local health department guidelines, anyone who has been exposed to a

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First Holy Communion



Courtesy Photo
Father Jeeson V. Stephan, MCBS, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Chester, distributes first Holy Communion at the church.

INSIDE:

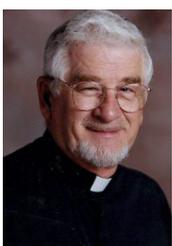
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Obituary

Father James R. LaCrosse, SM

Father James R. "Jim" LaCrosse, S.M., 81, passed away in the early hours of July 7, 2020 at the Continuous Care Center of Wheeling Hospital.



He was born in Toledo, OH, to James F. LaCrosse and Ella Davis LaCrosse on May 19, 1939.

After finishing his elementary education at St. Vincent DePaul, Toledo, OH, Jim decided to pursue a vocation to the holy priesthood. He entered St. Mary's Manor Minor Seminary in Pennel, PA, in 1954, planning to be a missionary priest of the Society of Mary (Marists), and serving in the South Pacific.

Jim professed his first vows as a Marist religious on September 8, 1961 and then went to complete his studies in philosophy and theology at Marist College, Washington, D.C. Jim was ordained to the sacred priesthood in the chapel of Trinity College, Washington, D.C. on February 2, 1967 by Bishop Thomas J. Wade, S.M. Three years later he earned a Master's Degree in History

from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

He served briefly as a parish priest, then as vocation director for the Marists but he found his true love in ministry to young people as teacher, counselor, mentor, and coach. His teaching assignments included St. Peter Chanel High School, Bedford, OH, Immaculata Seminary, Lafayette, LA, and St. Mary's Manor, Pennel, PA. These assignments lasted until 1993 when he was asked to change ministries to be pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling, WV, where he spent the next 27 years finding a home in West Virginia, 15 years at St. Vincent de Paul Church, eight years at Mater Dolorosa Parish, Paden City, and finally retirement.

During his time in Wheeling he found time outside his pastoral duties at St. Vincent's to spend many hours serving the students and staff at Wheeling Central Catholic High School as chaplain, mentor, and coach to several of their teams and became a beloved part of the school community. Father Jim became a popular celebrant to many weddings of his former students. Friends of Father Jim could find their friendship severely compromised if any one dared to say a negative word about his favorite teams: The Cleveland

Browns, The Cleveland Indians, Notre Dame, or Ohio State University.

Father LaCrosse never made it to be a foreign missionary, his youthful dream, but his enthusiasm for sharing his Catholic faith and his love of people certainly made his life truly missionary.

He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Alice "Sue" Minsel, of Defiance, OH, and Mrs. Lois Smith, of Toledo, OH; one brother, Thomas LaCrosse of FL; and his brothers in the Society of Mary.

Visitation will be Friday, July 10, 2020 from 2-4 & 6-8 pm at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 2244 Marshall Avenue, Wheeling. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 10 am at St. Vincent de Paul Church with the Very Rev. Paul Frechette, S.M., Provincial Superior of the Society of Mary, U.S.A to preside and preach. Seating is limited for the

Mass of Christian Burial. Masks are required for those attending the visitation and Mass. If you are unable to attend Father Jim's Mass you can view the Livestreamed services remotely at www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com and clicking on "clicking here" in Father Jim's obituary.

Interment will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery, 1685 National Road, Wheeling, WV.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Fr. LaCrosse's memory are requested to: Marist Community Support Fund, Marist Center, 4408 8th St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017. All gifts are greatly appreciated.

At a later time a memorial Mass and reception will be held when we all can feel safe in a large crowd to remember Fr. LaCrosse.

Arrangements provided by Alt-meyer Funeral Homes.

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 report. 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.

To report to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: The Diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost as well as 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 designees at 304-233-0880. The proper extensions are: Sr. Ellen F. Dunn, O.P., ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Tim Bishop, ext. 353. You may also fill out a confidential "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor" by picking one up at your local parish or requesting one in the mail from Safe Environment Coordinator, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003. The Complaint Form also is available for download on the diocese's web site www.dwc.org, click Diocese on the menu bar, then click Offices, click Safe Environment and click "Download Files and Forms" section. It is listed as "Complaint Form." To report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: Dr. Patricia M. Bailey: 304-242-6988

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children

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."

Diocesan Official Appointments:

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Andrew M. Switzer is appointed pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown and St. Agnes Chapel in Shepherdstown, with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 29, 2020.

In consultation with Bishop Paul Hinder, O.F.M. Cap., the vicar apostolic of southern Arabia, Yemen, **Father Luis Anthony Lacson** is appointed administrator of Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Oak Hill, with residence at the parish rectory, effective July 29, 2020.

Father T. Mathew Rowgh will retire from active ministry, effective July 29, 2020.

In consultation with Very Rev. Quang Duc Dinh, S.V.D., provincial superior of the Society of the Divine Word, Chicago Province, **Father Edward Tetteh, S.V.D.**, is appointed administrator of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon and Sacred Heart Mission in Pickens, with residence at the parish rectory in Buckhannon, effective June 14, 2020. He is also appointed chaplain of St. Joseph Hospital in Buckhannon, effective immediately.

In consultation with Very Rev. Michael Ignatius, H.G.N., superior of the Missionary Society of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Soosai Arpudam Arokiadass, H.G.N.**, is appointed administrator of St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood, St. Zita Mission in Masontown, and St. Edward the Confessor Mission in Terra Alta, with residence at the parish rectory in Kingwood, effective July 20, 2020.



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Court Rules in Favor of Employer Exemptions to Contraceptive Coverage

By **Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a 7-2 decision July 8, the Supreme Court upheld regulations by the Trump administration giving employers more ability to opt out of providing contraceptive coverage in their health plans.

The decision, written by Justice Clarence Thomas, said the administration had “the authority to provide exemptions from the regulatory contraceptive requirements for employers with religious and conscientious objections.”

Dissenting votes were by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor.

“This is a saga that did not need to occur. Contraception is not health care, and the government should never have mandated that employers provide it in the first place,” the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said.

The bishops said they welcomed the decision and hoped it “brings a close to this episode of government discrimination against people of faith. Yet, considering the efforts we have seen to force compliance with this mandate, we must continue to be vigilant for religious freedom,” they said.

The statement was issued by Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the

Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The case examined if the expansion of the conscience exemption from the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate violated the health care law and laws governing federal administrative agencies.

It highlighted — as it has before when the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate has come before the high court — the Little Sisters of the Poor, the order of women religious who care for the elderly poor. The sisters were represented, as they have been previously, by Becket, a religious liberty law firm.

The case before the court combined Little Sisters of the Poor Saints Peter and Paul Home v. Pennsylvania and Trump v. Pennsylvania.

According to government estimates, the Trump administration’s rule changes would prevent 70,000 to 126,000 women from having contraception coverage in their employee health insurance.

Ginsburg, who cited these numbers in her dissent, said the court had previously taken a balanced approach in accommodating claims of religious freedom “one that does not allow the religious beliefs of some to overwhelm the rights and interests of others who do not share those beliefs.” She said that in this decision the court, for the first time, “casts totally aside countervailing rights and interests in its zeal to

secure religious rights to the nth degree.”

The U.S. bishops said there had been “multiple opportunities for government officials to do the right thing and exempt conscientious objectors. Time after time, administrators and attorneys refused to respect the rights of the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Catholic faith they exemplify, to operate in accordance with the truth about sex and the human person. Even after the federal government expanded religious exemptions to the HHS contraceptive mandate, Pennsylvania and other states chose to continue this attack on conscience.”

Thomas, describing the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor and their involvement in this case, wrote: “For over 150 years, the Little Sisters have engaged in faithful service and sacrifice, motivated by a religious calling to surrender all for the sake of their brother But for the past seven years, they — like many other religious objectors who have participated in the litigation and rulemakings leading up to today’s decision — have had to fight for the ability to continue in their noble work without violating their sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Mother Loraine Marie Maguire, the order’s U.S. provincial, said the Little Sisters of the Poor were “overjoyed that, once again, the Supreme Court has protected our right to serve the elderly without violating

our faith. Our life’s work and great joy is serving the elderly poor and we are so grateful that the contraceptive mandate will no longer steal our attention from our calling.”

A recap of the sisters’ involvement in this case goes back to 2013 when religious groups and houses of worship were granted a religious exemption by the Supreme Court from the government’s mandate to include contraceptive coverage in their employee health plans.

Three years later, religious nonprofit groups challenged the requirement to comply with the mandate and the court sent the cases back to the lower courts with instructions for the federal government and the challengers to try to work out an agreeable solution. Then in 2017, religious groups were given further protection from the contraceptive mandate through an executive order issued by President Donald Trump requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to write a comprehensive exemption to benefit religious ministries, including the Little Sisters of the Poor, from the contraceptive mandate. HHS provided this exemption in 2018, but several states challenged it, including California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, saying HHS didn’t have the power to give this exemption.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey obtained a nationwide injunction against the rules protecting religious objectors from the contraceptive mandate; that injunction was then upheld by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Philadelphia. This is where the Little Sisters come back because they appealed the circuit court’s ruling and asked the Supreme Court to step in.

In one of the two consolidated cases, Trump v. Pennsylvania, the administration argued that the exceptions to the contraceptive mandate for religious groups were authorized by the health care law and required by the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, known as RFRA.

Lawyers for Pennsylvania and New Jersey said the administration lacked statutory authority to issue such regulations and said the government did not follow proper administrative procedures.

The second case examines whether the Little Sisters of the Poor had the standing to appeal the 3rd Circuit ruling since a separate court order had already allowed them to refuse to provide contraceptive coverage in their employee health plans. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops filed a friend-of-the-court brief siding with the Little Sisters of the Poor, which stressed that the court needs to set the record straight, particularly with its interpretation of RFRA, which says “governments should not substantially burden religious exercise without compelling justification.”

The brief said there was a compelling need to review this case not only because the 3rd Circuit Court decision conflicts with other Supreme Court rulings on this topic in Hobby Lobby and Zubik decisions, but because its ruling “threatens to reduce one of America’s leading civil rights laws to virtual impotence,” referring to RFRA.

It emphasized that RFRA essentially hangs in the balance because the appeals court “adopted a grudging interpretation of the statute that will, unless reversed, too often deny protection for religious people and institutions.”

Two U.S. Bishops Welcome Court Decision on Catholic Schools

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Two U.S. bishops said they welcomed the Supreme Court’s 7-2 ruling July 8 which said California Catholic schools could not be sued for job discrimination in firing teachers.

The bishops said the decision “rightly acknowledged” the limit on state authority. The decision, written by Justice Samuel Alito, said: “What matters, at bottom, is what an employee does.”

He said that even though the elementary school teachers “were not given the title of ‘minister’ and have less religious training” that the teacher in the previous court case involving the ministerial exception, the court holds

that the same rule applies. “The religious education and formation of students is the very reason for the existence of most private religious schools, and therefore the selection and supervision of the teachers upon whom the schools rely to do this work lie at the core of their mission,” Alito wrote. Dissenting votes were by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor.

“Education is a central aspect of the church’s mission,” the bishops said. “As institutions carrying out a ministry of the church, Catholic schools have a right, recognized by the Constitution, to select people who will perform ministry.”



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Wheeling Hospital Opening Urgent Care Facility in Downtown Wheeling

WHEELING — Wheeling Hospital's new urgent care facility and pharmacy is set to open on July 6, providing those who work, live or travel in downtown Wheeling with a convenient location when suffering sudden sickness or injury.

The 7,141-square-foot facility, located on Market Plaza in the Stone Center at 1025 Market St., will be open on seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Urgent Care facility is equipped with seven exam rooms, radiology, lab draw station and pharmacy. Visitors can be dropped off at the front door, with validated parking available at the 10th Street parking garage for up to 30 minutes. Handicapped parking spots are available on the plaza in front of the building.

Appointments or referrals are not necessary to receive services. The urgent care is ideal for patients seeking treatment for easily treatable issues such as colds, strep throat, urinary tract infections, burns, cuts, limb injuries and allergic reactions. For a major emergencies, however, patients are encouraged to call 9-1-1 and seek medical services from the nearest emergency room.

Douglass Harrison, Wheeling Hospital CEO, said, "We are pleased to be able to offer this service to the Wheeling community and do our part to bring health care back to the downtown market. Our hope is that people will utilize this center for minor acute illness that previously were being seen in the emergency room."

Medical director of the new urgent care is Dr. Rex Lasure, who previously worked for over 20 years in Wheeling Hospital's Emergency Department. He then worked for several years in urgent care with MedExpress. Since 2017 he has worked part time teaching at the Wheeling Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program. For more than 15 years he has also served as the Regional Medical director for Region 10/11 (the Northern Panhandle) of the WV Office of Emergency Medical Services. He is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Also on staff is Dr. Lawrence E. Callahan, an internal medicine specialist with over 40 years of experience. He has worked for several years as an ER physician at regional facilities including MedExpress,

Emergency Resource Management Inc. and Emergency Medicine Physicians.

Others at the urgent care include additional physicians, nurses, LPNs, medical assistants, and personnel in radiology, lab and registration.

"The Urgent Care will serve patients on a walk-in basis for acute conditions including illness, injury, cuts, minor fractures and any acute medical problem for which hospital admission is unlikely," Lasure said. "Other Wheeling Hospital urgent care clinics are planned for the future in order to serve the community and to assist local medical providers by providing service to patients when their doctors' offices may be closed or unable to attend to their problems promptly. The Urgent Care will not replace patients' primary or specialty physicians, nor will it replace the Emergency Department for serious medical issues. Patients needing follow up or prolonged care will be referred for such care, preferably with their own doctor."

Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott said, "We are pleased to see Wheeling Hospital expand its footprint to include a new urgent care

center at the Stone Center. By providing an alternative local option for non-acute medical care, this facility will hopefully reduce wait times and free up capacity at Wheeling Hospital's emergency room. And it will also provide a convenient health care option for the increasing number of people living and/or working in Downtown Wheeling. Kudos to Doug Harrison and his team for realizing the need for this important new facility and working to make it a reality."

The Stone Center Pharmacy, led by pharmacists Mike Young and Kim Baller, will operate on the same schedule as the urgent care facility. It will offer medication synchronization, refill reminders and immunizations for the flu, shingles and other vaccinations approved by the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy. Most insurance plans will be accepted.

The lab draw station will be open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Wheeling Hospital Urgent Care can be contacted by calling 304-231-2100 and the Stone Center Pharmacy can be reached at 304-231-2102.

Close...

Cont'd from Page 1

positive COVID-19 case should self-quarantine for 14 days."

Father Devasya wants to assure parishioners that he will not resume Masses until the quarantine period is over and all retesting has negative results.

"I am very blessed and touched by the overwhelming care and concern you have shown me upon learning of the possible exposure to the coronavirus," he said in his letter to parishioners.

"In closing, we will get through these uncertain times together. Let us continue to pray for those effected by the coronavirus showing them love and compassion. Let us also pray for a vaccine and cure," he said in the letter. "We will focus on the day when we can once again come together to worship freely and offer God our praise and thanksgiving."

Father Devasya will continue to livestream

the Masses from the Day Chapel in Bluefield each evening at 6 p.m. and on Sunday at 10 a.m.

"We ask for your patience and understanding," Kimberly Hickman, parish secretary in Princeton, shared in a message to parishioners July 6. "This is a new disease that we do not fully comprehend to how quickly it can spread. The last thing we wish is for anyone to be infected. We continue to ask for prayers for all who are affected by this virus and for you to wear facial masks, wash your hands often, and follow all safe social distancing guidelines."

The same day the closures of the Bluefield and Princeton churches were announced, West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced that he has issued an executive order that establishes a statewide indoor face covering requirement.

A press release from the governor's office said the order requires all West Virginians age 9 and older to wear a face covering at all indoor public places where six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

The requirement does not apply to anyone

who has trouble breathing or anyone who is otherwise unable to remove their own face covering without assistance.

The governor's announcement came after West Virginia experienced its highest daily total of new COVID-19 cases over that weekend.

"I know it's an inconvenience, but it's not going to be much of an inconvenience," Justice said. "If you don't decide to wear the face covering for yourself, if you don't decide to wear it for one of your loved ones or your friends, do it for the 95 West Virginians that have died, do it for the 95 people that we've lost."

The requirement to wear face coverings does not apply inside residents' homes or vehicles or when consuming food or beverages inside a restaurant.

The requirement does not apply anywhere outside. However, state health leaders still strongly suggest that residents wear a face covering when outside in circumstances where proper social distance is difficult to maintain.

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Mother and Daughter Discover Hidden Blessing of Catholic Charities West Virginia

By Caitlyn Kinsey, Catholic Charities West Virginia Migration and Refugee Services Intern

WEST VIRGINIA—Nancy and Marion, a mother and daughter duo, are two amazingly bright, kind, and hardworking clients whom Catholic Charities West Virginia’s Migration and Refugee Services program has recently had the pleasure to serve.

Despite facing obstacles such as a language barrier and a negative stigma toward immigrants in this country, Nancy and Marion emigrated from the Dominican Republic to pursue a better life and education for themselves and their family in the United States.

The two worked diligently with the Catholic Charities Immigration team to receive their Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR) cards.

With great enthusiasm, Nancy and Marion both shared that they were “so very happy and forever



Mother and daughter, Nancy and Marion, display their newly obtained Lawful Permanent Resident cards.

Courtesy Photo

grateful to Catholic Charities for helping them through this process!”

Both agreed that discovering Catholic Charities was a hidden blessing they were not expecting

when they first moved to the area. Since coming to the United States, Nancy and Marion have worked hard to become fluent in English as a second language, and they have taken action to better themselves and the community.

Nancy graduated from Valley College with several accolades and now works to enrich local communities, one family at a time, in her line of work. Marion has excelled in school, been employed, and is now pursuing her college degree!

Both have been faithful volunteers within the community. In fact, Marion is now a volunteer with Catholic Charities West Virginia! Their next endeavor is to apply for citizenship in the United States!

For more information about the Migration and Refugee Services program or any other services provided by Catholic Charities West Virginia across the state, visit the organization’s website at catholiccharitieswv.org.

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USCCB's 2020 Natural Family Planning Awareness Week Slated for July 19-25

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is slated for July 19-25 this year and has as its theme: "Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love!"

The weeklong observance is a national educational campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that celebrates "God's design for married love and the gift of life and to raise awareness of natural family planning methods," said a USCCB news release.

The week annually highlights the July 25 anniversary of St. Paul VI's 1968 encyclical, "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life"), which affirmed Catholic teaching against artificial contraception and provides clear teaching "about God's plan for married love and the transmission of life." The week also includes the July 26 feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Mother.

Natural family planning, or NFP, involves the monitoring by a married couple of the various biological signs indicating a woman's time of fertility and infertility. It can be used both to avoid pregnancy or to aid in becoming pregnant. St. Paul in "Humanae Vitae" said the only licit means of regulating birth is natural family planning. In the document he asked scientists to improve natural family planning methods "providing a sufficiently secure basis for a regulation of birth founded on the observance of natural rhythms." In the 50-plus years since the encyclical there has been an explosion of research into methods of natural family planning.

"The church's teaching on contraception is not just a doctrine that states what not to do," said Janet E. Smith, who was a professor of moral theology at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit from 2001 until her retirement in 2019. She held the seminary's Father Michael J. McGivney chair of life ethics from 2016-2019.

"Many people would benefit from knowing that it is a doctrine that explains how extraordinarily important is the act of having children," said Smith, who made the comments in an article on natural

family planning included in a package of articles, videos, suggested liturgies and prayers, church teaching, NFP resources, and other features available on the USCCB website at <https://bit.ly/2BFCQfd>.

The USCCB's Natural Family Planning Program is part of its Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

"Those who understand the church's teaching on sexuality know that to a great extent it is shaped by a concern for the well-being of any children who may result from acts of sexual intercourse," Smith said. "Children born into families where their parents are sexually self-controlled, where they are faithful, stable, and desirous of children are predictably much better off than those born to single parents, to the unfaithful, to those open to divorce or divorced."

Sixth-eight percent of children born in the U.S. are born out of wedlock or born into households "that will fragment through divorce," she said. "One out of four pregnancies is aborted." These realities are the result of "our sexually out-of-control culture and divorce culture," she added. Church teaching on contraception also is "shaped by a knowledge that those who become parents generally become much better people; they need to develop quite a set of virtues in order to be good parents. Those virtues also help them be good spouses, good co-workers, good citizens," said Smith, who speaks nationally and internationally on Catholic teaching on sexuality and on bioethics. She has published numerous articles on sexuality and bioethics.

"Those who use natural family planning to plan their family size develop the virtues needed to be good parents; they develop sexual self-control and patience and generosity — and they almost never divorce," according to Smith.

The USCCB materials for Natural Family Planning Awareness Week include stories from couples, like Jennifer and John Campbell, about the role of natural family planning plays in their marriage.

"For a newly engaged couple, learning natural family planning is informative, interesting, at times a little embarrassing, but always enlightening. Living NFP, on the other hand, is a different story," the Campbells wrote. "It is a story about connections, very unique and fulfilling. It involves the use of information learned which we then apply to the reality of everyday married life."

"At the beginning of our married life, we used NFP to avoid pregnancy, as the time was not right for it," they said. "Currently, we are using NFP to achieve pregnancy. We were delighted to find that the two focuses of NFP have made



our young marriage both more focused and more intimate."

They added: "Unlike artificial contraception, which usually places full burden of family planning on the woman, NFP promotes shared responsibility of the fertility of both the husband and wife. It lends a spirit of togetherness to a marriage."

They acknowledged that natural family planning "can be a challenge and a sacrifice at times."

"We're not saying it's always easy, but that is part of true love, a bit of sacrifice for the beloved," the Campbells said. "We find a noble joy in sacrificing ourselves for each other, even in so private a way as withholding intimacy until the time is right; self-sacrifice is an important root element of love, and it builds respect for each other and ourselves."

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Fairmont Catholic's New Principal and Curriculum Director Help Ready Campus



Courtesy Photo

Fairmont Catholic School's new principal, Diane Burnside (right), and its new director of Curriculum and Instruction, Joyce Evans, clean the campus to help prepare for the upcoming school year.

Teaching Position Openings at Charleston Catholic High School

Charleston Catholic High School is seeking qualified candidates for the following teaching positions. Candidates should be able to plan lessons, implement curriculum and assess students at a rigorous level in content that aligns with state standards. Candidates should contribute to the overall success of Charleston Catholic High School and support students in their

academic growth and faith development in a Catholic environment through their enthusiasm, positivity, and love of teaching. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Colleen Hoyer at colleen.hoyer@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

- Middle School English - Sixth grade science and social studies - High school Spanish

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CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Sacred Heart, Chester
Sunday, July 12: 11:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, Fairmont
Friday, July 17: 6:00 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling
Saturday, July 18: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg
Sunday, July 19: 11:00 a.m.

St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton
Wednesday, Aug. 5: 7:00 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans
Saturday, Aug. 8: 11:00 a.m.

St. Agnes, Charleston and St. Anthony, Charleston, at St. Agnes
Saturday, Aug. 8: 5:00 p.m.

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
Sunday, Aug. 9: 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
(4:00 Mass if necessary)

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown
Wednesday, Aug. 12: 7:00 p.m.

St. Leo, Inwood
Saturday, Aug. 15: 10:00 a.m.

St. Agnes, Shepherdstown
Sunday, Aug. 16: 9:00 a.m.

St. Joseph, Martinsburg (to be held at St. James Parish, Charles Town)
Sunday, Aug. 16: 3:30 p.m.

St. Sebastian, Kingwood; St. Zita Mission, Masontown; St. Edward the Confessor, Mission, at St. Sebastian
Friday, Aug. 21: 6:00 p.m.

St. Peter Welch and Sacred Heart Mission, Po-whatan, at Sacred Heart Mission
Saturday, Aug. 22: 5:30 p.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Beckley
Sunday, Aug. 23: 11:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi, Warwood
Saturday, Aug. 29: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

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El papa respalda resolución de la ONU pidiendo alto el fuego global

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco elogió la adopción por parte de las Naciones Unidas de una resolución global de alto el fuego en medio de la pandemia de coronavirus.

“La solicitud de un alto el fuego global e inmediato, que permitiría la paz y la seguridad necesarias para proporcionar la asistencia humanitaria necesaria, es encomiable”, dijo el papa el 5 de julio, después de rezar el Ángelus con los peregrinos reunidos en la Plaza de San Pedro.

“Deseo que tal decisión se implemente de forma efectiva y rápida por el bien de tantas personas que están sufriendo. Que esta resolución pueda convertirse en un primer paso valiente para un futuro de paz”, dijo.

La resolución, que fue propuesta por primera vez a fines de marzo por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Antonio Guterres, fue aprobada por unanimidad el 1 de julio por el Consejo de Seguridad de 15 miembros.

Según la ONU, el consejo exigió

“un cese general e inmediato de las hostilidades en todas las situaciones” para permitir “la entrega segura, continua y sin obstáculos de ayuda vital”.

En su discurso del Ángelus, el papa reflexionó sobre la lectura del Evangelio dominical de San Mateo, en la que Jesús agradece a Dios por haber ocultado el misterio del reino de los cielos “a sabios e inteligentes” pero que fueron revelados “a los pequeños”.

La referencia de Cristo a los sabios e inteligentes explicó el papa, se dijo “con un velo de ironía”

porque aquellos que presumen ser sabios “tienen el corazón cerrado, muchas veces”.

“La verdadera sabiduría entra también en el corazón. Y si tú sabes muchas cosas pero tienes el corazón cerrado, tú no eres sabio”, dijo el papa.

Los “pequeños” a quienes Dios se ha revelado, agregó, son aquellos “que se abren con confianza a su palabra de salvación, abren el corazón a la palabra de salvación, sienten la necesidad de Él y esperan todo de Él. El corazón abierto y confiado hacia el Señor”.

Madre e hija descubren la bendición oculta de las caridades católicas de Virginia Occidental

Por Caitlyn Kinsey

VIRGINIA OCCIDENTAL — Nancy y Marion, un dúo de madres e hijas, son dos clientes increíblemente brillantes, amables y trabajadores a quienes el programa de Servicios de migración y refugiados de caridades católicas Virginia Occidental recientemente tuvo el placer de servir.

A pesar de enfrentar obstáculos como la barrera del idioma y un estigma negativo hacia los inmigrantes en este país, Nancy y Marion emigraron de la República Dominicana para buscar una vida y educación mejores para ellos y sus familias en los Estados Unidos.

Los dos trabajaron diligentemente con el equipo de inmigración de caridades católicas para recibir sus tarjetas de Residencia Permanente Legal (LPR).

Con gran entusiasmo, Nancy y Marion compartieron que estaban “muy felices y siempre agradecidas a caridades católicas por ayudarlos en este proceso”.

Ambos acordaron que descubrir caridades católicas era una bendición oculta que no es-

peraban cuando se mudaron al área. Desde su llegada a los Estados Unidos, Nancy y Marion han trabajado duro para hablar inglés con fluidez como segundo idioma, y han tomado medidas para mejorar su situación y la de la comunidad.

Nancy se graduó de Valley College con varios elogios y ahora trabaja para enriquecer a las comunidades locales, una familia a la vez, en su línea de trabajo. ¡Marion se ha destacado en la escuela, ha trabajado y ahora está estudiando para obtener su título universitario!

Ambos han sido fieles voluntarios dentro de la comunidad. De hecho, ¡Marion ahora es voluntaria en caridades católicas Virginia Occidental! ¡Su próximo esfuerzo es solicitar la ciudadanía en los Estados Unidos! Nancy y Marion muestran sus nuevas tarjetas de Residencia Permanente Legal. Para obtener más información sobre caridades católicas Virginia Occidental, visite catholiccharitieswv.org

(Kinsey es pasante de Servicios de refugiados y migración de caridades católicas Virginia Occidental)



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Para informar a las autoridades civiles: Póngase en contacto con la policía local; Los números variarán según su ubicación. Si crees que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llama al 911. Para reportar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios para la Protección Infantil de la Oficina de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800-352-6513.

Para informar a la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston: La Diócesis alienta a que se informe ante las autoridades civiles apropiadas, en primer lugar, así como a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos

de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los designados al 304-233-0880. Las extensiones adecuadas se enumeran a continuación: Sr. Ellen F. Dunn, O.P., ext.264; Señor. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Rdo. Tim Bishop, ext. 353. También puede completar un “Formulario de Queja por Alegaciones de Abuso Sexual de un Menor” confidencial recogiendo uno en su parroquia local o solicitando uno por correo a la Coordinadora de Ambiente Seguro, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003. El formulario de queja también está disponible para descargar en el sitio web de la diócesis www.dwc.org, haga clic en Diócesis en la barra de menú, luego haga clic en Oficinas, haga clic en Entorno seguro y haga clic en la sección “Descargar archivos y formularios”. . Está listado como “Formulario de Queja”. Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la Diócesis: Dr. Patricia M. Bailey: 304-242-6988

Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp> Policía del Estado de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Delitos contra los Niños, Crímenes de Internet contra los Niños

At Angelus, Pope Backs U.N. Resolution Calling for Global Cease-Fire

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis praised the United Nations' adoption of a global cease-fire resolution amid the coronavirus pandemic that has swept the world.

"The request for a global and immediate cease-fire, which would allow that peace and security necessary to provide the needed humanitarian assistance, is commendable," the pope said July 5, after praying the Angelus with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"I hope that this decision will be implemented effectively and promptly for the good of the many people who are suffering. May this Security Council resolution become a courageous first step toward a peaceful future," he said.

The resolution, which was first proposed in late March by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, was unani-

mously passed July 1 by the 15-member Security Council.

According to the U.N., the council "demanded a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations on its agenda" to allow for "the safe, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance."

In his Angelus address, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. Matthew, in which Jesus thanks God for having hidden the mystery of the kingdom of heaven "from the wise and the learned" and "revealed them to little ones."

Christ's reference of the wise and learned, the pope explained, was said "with a veil of irony" because those who presume to be wise "have a closed heart, very often."

"True wisdom comes also from the heart, it is not only a matter of understanding ideas: True wisdom also enters into the heart. And if you know

many things but have a closed heart, you are not wise," the pope said.

The "little ones" to whom God has revealed himself, he added, are those "who confidently open themselves to his word of salvation, who open their heart to the word of salvation, who feel the need for him and expect everything from him; the heart that is open and trustful toward the Lord."

The pope said Jesus placed himself among those "who labor and are burdened" be-

cause he, too, is "meek and humble of heart."

In doing so, he explained, Christ does not place himself as "a model for the resigned, nor is he simply a victim, but rather he is the man who lives this condition 'from the heart' in full transparency to the love of the Father, that is, to the Holy Spirit."

"He is the model of the 'poor in spirit' and of all the other 'blesseds' of the Gospel, who do the will of God and bear witness to his kingdom,"

Pope Francis said.

"The world exalts those who are rich and powerful, no matter by what means, and at times tramples upon the human being and his or her dignity," the pope said. "And we see this every day, the poor who are trampled underfoot. It is a message for the church, called to live works of mercy and to evangelize the poor, to be meek and humble. This is how the Lord wants his church — that is, us — to be."

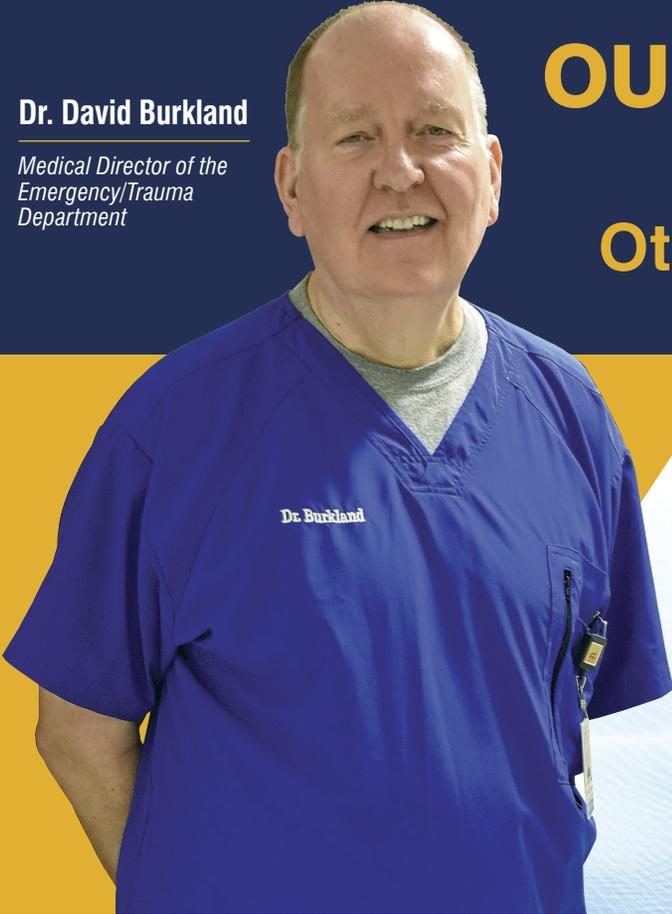
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