

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Catholic Church Holds Firm on Not Taking Stand on Political Candidates, Despite Possible IRS Shift

By **Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News)** —

The Catholic Church “maintains its stance of not endorsing or opposing political candidates,” said U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops spokesperson Chieko Noguchi, following a recent court case in which a long-standing federal ban against such activity appeared to have been partly relaxed.

Noguchi issued the statement July 8, a day after the Internal Revenue Service agreed in a court filing that a house of worship addressing its congregation about electoral politics in the context of religious faith does not violate the Johnson Amendment.

Approved by Congress in 1954, the amendment prohibits 501(c)(3) organizations — a type of tax-exempt nonprofit under U.S. tax code, and the typical corporate structure for churches, worship communities and charities in the nation — from engaging in political campaign activity. In 1987, Congress clarified that the ban includes statements opposing candidates.

In August 2024, the National Religious Broadcasters — which describes itself as a “nonpartisan, international association of Christian communicators” that promotes both members’ free speech rights and professional development — and several other plaintiffs filed suit against the IRS, claiming the Johnson Amendment violated their First and Fifth Amendment rights, as well as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

On July 7, the NRB and the IRS jointly filed with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas for a court-approved settlement, with the motion stating, **See “Shift” on Page 2**



Courtesy photo

The Silver Rose is shown above.

West Virginia Knights of Columbus Sponsor Silver Rose in Honor of Life and Our Lady of Guadalupe

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when

the first rose — a real, live one — was blessed by a bishop in Ontario. The rose then traveled to New York and then to Texas where it was taken across the border into Mexico. The rose ended its pilgrimage at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. To ensure future annual trips, a silver rose was made. Today, due to the popularity of the program throughout the North American continent, eight silver roses travel unique routes.

In 2001, when Carl Anderson, Past Supreme **See “Silver Rose” on Page 3**

Inside:

Mass with Brown Scapular Enrollment, Page 3

Synod Office Provides Guidelines to Help Local Churches, Bishops Implement Synodality, Page 8

Shift ...

Cont'd from Page 1

"When a house of worship in good faith speaks to its congregation, through its customary channels of communication on matters of faith in connection with religious services, concerning electoral politics viewed through the lens of religious faith, it neither 'participate(s)' nor 'intervene(s)' in a 'political campaign,' within the ordinary meaning of those words."

The motion likened such "bona fide communications internal to a house of worship, between the house of worship and its congregation, in connection with religious services," to "a family discussion concerning candidates."

In addition, said the motion, "this interpretation of the Johnson Amendment is in keeping with the IRS's treatment of the Johnson Amendment in practice."

However, said Noguchi, "The IRS was addressing a specific case, and it doesn't change how the Catholic Church engages in public debate."

Roger Colinvaux, a professor of law at The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law and an expert on nonprofit organizations and federal income tax, told OSV News that while the stipulation in this NRB-IRS suit is "obviously binding for the parties," there is uncertainty as to "the legal authority beyond this case."

"All that's been agreed to is that the IRS won't enforce the Johnson Amendment against these plaintiffs," he said. "And they've kind of announced this new standard, but it doesn't appear as a revenue ruling, it doesn't appear as a regulation — it's just part of this consent agreement."

Colinvaux added that "if this really is the IRS's position generally, then they need to follow it up with some guidance, because all we have right now is just this one document, which was filed in this one legal case."

An internal USCCB memo — written by the bishops' general counsel to state Catholic conference directors, and seen by OSV

News — noted that the consent judgment "narrowly resolves a broader request for declaratory relief initially brought before last year's election, which sought to include all 501(c)(3) organizations despite being led by religious groups."

The original request "involved very specific factual scenarios and was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas," said the memo.

The memo also stated that "since the release of this judgment, the IRS has not responded to requests for comment nor issued any additional guidance," although "the agreement appears consistent with the IRS's historical enforcement approach (or lack thereof) in this area."

"While credible First Amendment arguments have long existed regarding the protection of speech from the pulpit, this judgment represents the clearest concession by the IRS, indicating concerns over the constitutionality of the Johnson Amendment," said the memo. "Its decision to concede at this time likely reflects current administration priorities and an evaluation of potential Supreme Court appeals."

The USCCB general counsel also recommended "maintaining our current stance of refraining from endorsing political candidates until additional guidance is provided by the IRS."

The National Council of Nonprofits strongly supports the Johnson Amendment, stating on its website the measure is a means of ensuring "organizations dedicated to the public good in communities remain above the political fray."

"The Church seeks to help Catholics form their conscience in the Gospel so they might discern which candidates and policies would advance the common good," Noguchi said in her statement. "The Catholic Church maintains its stance of not endorsing or opposing political candidates."

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

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

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

2025 Print Issues and Dates: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19



July 11, 2025
Vol. 56, No. 28

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

thecatholicspiritwv.org
dwc.org

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule above). All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!



**We Also Specialize in Plumbing,
Heating & Cooling**

Lou W. Nau, Inc.

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

louwnau.doitbest.com

Mass with Brown Scapular Enrollment

WHEELING—On Wednesday, July 16 at 7 p.m., the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling will celebrate a special evening Mass in honor of the Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. During the Mass, those present will have the opportunity to be enrolled in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular and receive the scapular as a sign of their entrustment to Our Lady’s maternal care. The Brown Scapular is a cherished sacramental in the church, reminding the faithful of Mary’s protection and their call to follow Christ more faithfully under her mantle. All are welcome to attend.

Silver Rose ...

Cont’d from Page 1

Knight of the Knights of Columbus, expanded the Silver Rose Program, he commented: “Through [the Silver Rose Program] we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express the unity of the [Knights of Columbus], but we also reaffirm the order’s dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother that we turn in prayer as we work to end the culture of death that grips our society. As we think in terms of ‘One Life, One Rose,’ it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses.”

The Silver Rose will enter West Virginia from Ohio at Parkersburg on Sunday, July 20. Here are the dates and parishes the Silver Rose will then visit on its route across West Virginia: July 21, St. Matthew, Ravenswood; July 22, Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston; July 23, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; July 24, Ascension, Hurricane; July 25, Immaculate Conception, Montgomery; July 26, SS. Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; July 27, St. Francis De Sales, Beckley; July 28, Sacred Heart, Bluefield; July 30, Holy Rosary, Buckhannon; July 31, St. Brendan, Elkins; Aug. 1, passing through Clarksburg; Aug. 2, Assumption, Keyser; Aug. 3, St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; Aug. 4, St. Leo, Inwood; Aug. 5, St. James the Greater, Charles Town; Aug. 6, St. Joseph, Martinsburg; Aug. 7, St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; Aug. 8, St. John University, Morgantown; and Aug. 9, St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, where Knights of Columbus Council #16530 will then hand off the Silver Rose to a Pennsylvania Knights council.

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage. The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady.

Faithful should contact their parishes for more information.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Holy Mass *with* Brown Scapular Enrollment

Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, WV

Join us for a special Mass celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Attendees will have the opportunity to be enrolled in the Brown Scapular Confraternity and invested with the Scapular. This powerful sign of grace, given by Our Lady to St. Simon Stock in 1251, invites us to a life of prayer, devotion, and Christian witness.

THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

Special Issue to Honor Our Clergy and Religious Celebrating Jubilee Anniversaries in 2025

The Catholic Spirit will honor the clergy and religious of our diocese who are celebrating jubilee anniversaries of 25, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, and 75 years. We are inviting parishes, schools, businesses, and organizations to purchase ads of congratulations and well wishes for them in the The Catholic Spirit’s next print edition — Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15.

This is also a fundraiser for The Catholic Spirit. Please consider purchasing an ad to honor one of our jubilarians while, at the same time, helping to provide The Catholic Spirit print edition free of charge to all Catholics

in West Virginia.

If you would like to purchase an ad, please send an e-mail to Colleen Rowan by August 4 to reserve space. The ad sizes and prices as well as the list of priests and women religious to be honored in this special issue are listed below.

Ad prices and sizes (All ads will be black and white, and we can design the ads for you): Eighth of a Page – \$100; Quarter Page –\$200; Half Page – \$400; Full Page –\$900

2025 Jubilarians:

Please note, there are no deacons or brothers celebrating the jubilee anniversaries listed above in 2025.

Priests

55 Years
 Father Patsy J. Iaquina
 Father James McCafferty, SM

50 Years
 Father Larry W. Dorsch
 Father Paul Morrissey, SM
 Father T. Mathew Rowgh

25 Years
 Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F.
 Father Jojan Joseph, CST
 Father Godwin G. Olugbami
 Father Paul D. Yuenger

Sisters

75 Years
 Sister Joan Hartlaub, CSJ
 Sister Mary Alice McMaster, CSJ
 Sister Eva Marie Schlag, CSJ

70 Years
 Sister Karen Lester, SAC

65 Years
 Sister Barbara Kupchak, CSJ
 Sister Francesca Lowis, SAC
 Sister Marguerite O’Brien, CSJ

60 Years
 Sister Molly Bauer, CSJ
 Sister Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ

San Antonio Archbishop Asks for Prayers, Solidarity Following Texas Flooding Tragedy

By **Lauretta Brown, OSV News**

(OSV News) — As many in Kerrville, Texas, rushed to find news of missing loved ones or grappled with losing their homes following catastrophic flooding, San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller was among the faith leaders present to offer prayers and support.

OSV News spoke with the archbishop July 5 about his efforts to respond to the devastation left by the historic flooding that has left at least 120 dead, including young girls from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp in Hunt, Texas.

The archbishop went to Kerrville July 4 and spoke with families affected by the flooding, including one mother whose 9-year-old daughter was still missing from Camp Mystic. He visited a designated site serving the families searching for their loved ones, and he encountered many people there who were scared and who welcomed prayers as they sought answers.

The archbishop also visited Notre Dame Catholic Church in Kerrville, “one of four sites that the city has selected to be centers for refuge, for care, for help,” he said.

“Catholic Charities was present, bringing food, clothes, hygiene articles, water,” Archbishop García-Siller told OSV News, adding that they “were able to place cots there because families have been evacuated and some families also have lost their house or

their trailer so they will need a place to stay.”

Driving to the area, the archbishop asked himself what God was “asking of me in this situation, so that I would be useful,” to those facing fear and loss, but he said his focus quickly changed when he arrived from wondering how he could best be helpful to simply being present to those who were suffering.

He said in these situations, it’s important to “let yourself be touched with the reality” of the moment and “just to be” with people and attentive to their needs as well as offering prayer.

“In my case, it’s calling upon the Holy Spirit to guide me to know how to be present, not just to them in general, but to this individual,” he said.

“A lot of young parents were there, very young and they were coming from different places too,” he said. “This is not an issue just for the San Antonio Archdiocese, which is part of it, but no, there were people from Houston, from Austin, from other states.”

He added that the flooding will have a long-lasting impact on the community.

“I was very involved with what happened in Uvalde, Texas, with the killing of 19 children and two teachers, three years ago, and we’re still dealing with that,” he said. Following the floods, the archbishop said despite the cause being different, “the fact is the same: lives are missing,” and “the families are going



OSV News photo/Sergio Flores, Reuters
First responders attend to a vehicle pulled from the water in the aftermath of deadly flooding in Kerrville, Texas, July 6. At least 120 people are dead after devastating flash floods slammed the Texas Hill Country, with water rescues taking place along the Guadalupe River, which rose rapidly early July 4 to the height of a two-story building. Among the missing were almost a dozen from Camp Mystic in Kerr County, a children’s summer camp, officials said July 6.

through a lot.”

Archbishop García-Siller celebrated Mass July 6 at Notre Dame Church, which he saw as an opportunity to be with the people and accompany them as they continue to deal with the impact of the lives and homes lost.

In these moments, he said, it is important “to recognize that God wants to work in us, in this very difficult time,” and we should “open ourselves to believe — that will lead us in time to have hope.” In the meantime, he said, that every person wanting to help can “make a choice to

love.”

He said that while the area has plenty of resources for the time being, he encouraged the faithful to empathize with and pray for those who so quickly and unexpectedly lost their homes and family members.

The archbishop said there aren’t easy answers or quick fixes for tragic situations like “the family who loses their child at a young age and especially like this, totally unexpected.”

“That’s why we are called to do something, to be present and we find out with God’s grace how we

are contributing for the well-being of the people,” he said, adding that there are “many other aspects besides the material needs that are being addressed, and we’ll continue addressing.”

Archbishop García-Siller said people “should not be indifferent” when they hear of such tragedies. And he praised those who want to help and asked that people use this as an opportunity to better understand the suffering of others, adding “it is a contribution if they pray.”

(Lauretta Brown is culture editor for OSV News.)

**Established
1914
Centre Wheeling
Market House**

304-232-8510

111 Years

304-232-0330

ALTMAYER
FUNERAL HOMES
& CREMATORY

*“THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT
FUNERAL HOME”*

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

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

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

Benwood-McMechen
214 Marshall Street
McMechen, WV
304-232-1710

Moundsville
118 Grant Avenue
Moundsville, WV
304-845-4560

Back-Altmeier
204 West Main Street
St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-0475

www.altmeyer.com

**ADVERTISE
WITH
THE CATHOLIC
SPIRIT**

**E-mail
crowan@dwc.org**

Supreme Court Takes up Idaho, West Virginia Transgender Sports Bans

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The U.S. Supreme Court said July 3 that it would take up two cases concerning state laws requiring student athletes to compete on sports teams that correspond to their biological sex rather than their gender identity.

The attorneys general of West Virginia and Idaho, alongside attorneys from Alliance Defending Freedom, asked the high court last year to uphold their states' laws, both of which were previously blocked by lower courts.

The Supreme Court, which recently concluded its 2024-2025 term, said it would hear the cases in its 2025-2026 term, which will begin in the fall. The court took up the Idaho and West Virginia cases shortly after it upheld a Tennessee state law banning certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender.

West Virginia Attorney General JB McCuskey said in a statement, "It's a great day, as female athletes in West Virginia will have their voices heard."

"The people of West Virginia know that it's unfair to let male athletes compete against women; that's why we passed this commonsense law preserving women's sports for women," McCuskey said. "We are confident the Supreme Court will uphold the Save Women's Sports Act because it complies with the U.S. Constitution and complies with Title IX. And most

importantly: It protects women and girls by ensuring the playing field is safe and fair."

Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador added, "Women and girls deserve an equal playing field."

"I am thrilled the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear our case. For too long, activists have worked to sideline women and girls in their own sports," Labrador said. "Men and women are biologically different, and we hope the court will allow states to end this injustice and ensure men no longer create a dangerous, unfair environment for women to showcase their incredible talent and pursue the equal opportunities they deserve."

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

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

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

Incomplete ...

Cont'd from Page 5

consultation were later added other documentation, other confidential reports that were also the fruits of other consultations that were received by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith."

In a letter to bishops accompanying the publication of "Traditionis Custodes," Pope Francis wrote that the bishops' responses to the questionnaire "reveal a situation that preoccupies and saddens me, and persuades me of the need to intervene."

While Pope Benedict XVI had granted any Latin-rite Catholic priest permission to celebrate the traditional Latin Mass, Pope Francis' decree granted that authority exclusively to diocesan bishops. It also instructed bishops not to authorize the formation of new groups wishing to celebrate the Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal.

"Ever more plain in the words and attitudes of many is the close connection between the choice of celebrations according to the liturgical books prior to Vatican Council II and the rejection of the church and her institutions in the name of what is called the 'true church,'" the late pope wrote in explaining his rationale for the decision.

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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

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

You are invited
to put your
faith in action

kofc.org/joinus



Knights of
Columbus

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

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

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

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

Become a Knight.

[Click here](#)

Mansuetto
Roofing & Sheet Metal

N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors

Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community
Since 1945
Three Generations of Family Management
116 Wood Street
Martins Ferry OH 43935
740-633-7320



Catholic Charities WEST VIRGINIA

Annual CCHD Collection

Within the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston, Catholic Charities West Virginia and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) have been working for social change across the United States for over 50 years. Created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCHD works with a two-pronged approach. One arm educates Americans about the realities of poverty. The other arm confronts the unique challenges of those living in poverty by funding community and economic development projects. These organizations work in innovative ways to build self-reliance and power for those in poverty.

The annual Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston collection for CCHD is the weekend of July 19th and 20th.



HOH-Share a project of the House of Hagar, empowers those who are most vulnerable, the homeless and poor, with a proactive approach to community organizing.

Your support for this collection makes a difference in the lives of West Virginians living in poverty.



**CATHOLIC
CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT**

In partnership with



**Diocese
of
Wheeling-Charleston**

Synod Office Provides Guidelines to Help Local Churches, Bishops Implement Synodality

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Local churches and bishops worldwide will be instrumental in helping implement the proposals and foster the spirit of the 2024 final document of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, the Vatican synod office said.

To more effectively carry out the mission of evangelization, the implementation phase of the synod “aims to examine new practices and structures that will make the life of the church more synodal,” the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops said in a new set of guidelines released July 7.

“Concretely, the priority is to offer the people of God new opportunities to walk together and reflect on these experiences in order to reap their fruits for the mission and share them,” the text said.

The 24-page text, titled “Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod,” is a guide for bishops and synodal teams, and an invitation to them to share their initiatives as they apply the synod on synodality’s final proposals locally. It also seeks to answer some key questions the office received recently. The text was released in multiple languages at synod.va.

Divided into four chapters, the document offers responses to: What is the implementation phase and what are its objectives?; Who will participate in the implementation phase and what are their tasks and responsibilities?; How to engage with the 2024 synod assembly’s final document during the implementation phase?; And what method and tools can help shape the implementation phase?

The guidelines underline how the local churches must play an active role in this phase, including by reaching out to diverse communities such as the marginalized, young people and those resistant to the synodal process, because, “in order to truly walk together, we cannot lose the contribution of their point of view.”

Engagement should extend beyond the parish to include schools, hospitals, prisons and digital platforms, it said, and relations with religious communities, movements and associations should be strengthened to further exchange the variety of gifts toward mission.

Synodality “cannot be a path limited to a core group of ‘supporters,’” it said.

“On the contrary, it is important

that this new process contribute concretely ‘to expand possibilities for participation and for the exercise of differentiated co-responsibility by all the baptized, men and women’ in a spirit of reciprocity,” it said. “Moreover, it is crucial that it aims to involve those who have so far remained on the margins of the ecclesial renewal process established by the synod.”

The diocesan or eparchial bishop is the first person responsible for the implementation phase, the guidelines said. “It is his responsibility to initiate it, officially indicate its duration, methods and objectives, accompany its progress and conclude it, validating its results.”

This phase “will be an appropriate opportunity to exercise authority in a synodal way,” it said, reminding bishops they are not alone and should encourage all members of the church to share the journey together.

Synodal teams and participatory bodies “will be essential in the implementation phase as well,” the guidelines said, so “existing teams should be valued and, where necessary, renewed; those that have been suspended should be reactivated and appropriately integrated; and new teams should be formed where they have not been established previously.”

Every diocese or eparchy also needs to register its synodal team with the synod office by requesting a link to its database at synodus@synod.va to aid communication and effective coordination, it said.

The implementation phase of the synod was opened by Pope Francis in November 2024 when he called upon local churches, bishops’ conferences and others to implement “the authoritative proposals contained in the document through the processes of discernment and decision-making provided for by law and by the document itself,” the late pope wrote.

The three-year period of implementation and evaluation on the local, national, regional and international levels will culminate in a “celebration of the ecclesial assembly” in October 2028 at the Vatican “to share the fruits of the implementation phase and to have a kind of evaluation,” Xavière Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, said.

“The best way to start the implementation phase is really to read

the final document of the synod. That is the reference for this implementation phase,” she said in an interview with Vatican News July 7.

The new guidelines then “are a kind of tool to help to dive into the final document of the synod and to take it up in a discerning way, to see how to implement it at the local level, also with this creativity that is coming from the Holy Spirit, because you can’t have just one way for everybody all over the world,” she added.

The synod’s final document “is the point of reference for the implementation phase,” the guidelines said.

The mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God “constitutes the backbone” and final goal of the synod’s final document, the text said. “Reflections on the tools to be adopted or the reforms to be implemented should always be placed within the perspective of the mission.”

The final document “firmly promotes a church that is increasingly courageous in its outreach,” it said,

and “it embraces the conciliar vision of a church in the world, in dialogue with everyone, with other religious traditions and with the entire community.”

“Growing as a synodal church capable of dialogue has a prophetic value that includes a commitment to social justice and integral ecology. These dimensions cannot be neglected in the implementation phase, leading to the creation of opportunities for dialogue based on the concrete needs of the territories and societies in which we live,” the text said.

Sister Becquart said the guidelines and the implementation phase are a prime opportunity for the “exchange of gifts” between the local churches, which is “a core notion of the final document, a core notion of a synodal church.”

“We all have something to give and something to receive,” she said. “This document is also really to highlight that you can’t just do your synodal conversion alone, but it’s very important to work together as different local churches.”

Ask your doctor to refer you to Good Shepherd for:

- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy



Welty
Home for the Aged

GOOD SHEPHERD
NURSING HOME

304.242.1093
www.weltyhome.org

'Help us Escape, We Can't Live Here,' Pleads Damascus Priest after Deadly Attack

By Dale Gavlak, OSV News

AMMAN, Jordan (OSV News) — Fears mount for Syrian Christians about whether the new Islamist government is committed to their protection following the recent deadly church suicide bombing in Damascus.

Religious freedom advocates say the United States should have furthered its ending of sanctions on Syria to respect for minority rights in the country.

"We feel that we are alone," said Father Fadi Azar. "Christians in Syria are feeling a great pain," the Syrian Franciscan priest said, recalling the deaths of 30 parishioners and 54 wounded in the St. Elias Greek Orthodox Church shooting and bomb attack on June 22 that has left many traumatized.

"We have faith, we are not afraid. The persecution of Christians in the Middle East, in the Holy Land, has always existed. There has been persecution for 2,000 years," the Catholic priest told the pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need on June 26.

"Christians have the right to live in a country where there is security, so they can go to church and pray in peace," Father Azar said of the historic Christian community that traces its spiritual roots to the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus and the early church.

Worldwide revulsion and condemnation of the horrific attack was swift from political and religious leaders, including the Vatican. Yet, Christians and others in Syria's rich reli-

gious and ethnic mosaic say they feel vulnerable because the new Islamist-led government of Ahmad al-Sharaa, formerly of al-Qaida and Hayat Tahrir Sham terrorist groups, has placed Syrian and foreign jihadists in key security roles.

Despite the government claim that the Islamic State was behind the attack, observers say questions remain about the real identity of the suicide bomber.

"Every time the church speaks with the government, they say it's an isolated incident," Father Azar said of sectarian attacks. "Until this serious moment arrived that has 'touched' all of Syria," he said.

Nadine Maenza, president of the Washington-based International Religious Freedom Secretariat, called the church bombing a stark reminder of the threat that Christians and other minorities face in Syria: "There hadn't been an attack on a church in Syria since 1860."

Following the suicide bombing, "we heard there were threats to a church in Homs and other places," Maenza told The Greek Current podcast. "Christians and religious minorities are all on edge, but especially the Christians." They're asking the government "to be stronger in support of the churches," she said.

"This attack has created serious problems, not only from the standpoint of social and economic stability, but also from the perspective of the faithful," said Syrian Bishop Hanna Jallouf, the apostolic vicar of



OSV News photo/The White Helmets/Handout via Reuters

Civil defense members inspect the damage after a blast rocked the Mar Elias Church according to witnesses, in the Dweila neighborhood of Damascus, Syria, June 22.

Aleppo in remarks to Vatican News. Bishop Jallouf acknowledged that "if 20% of the population was considering leaving the country before the terrorist attack, the percentage has now risen to 90%: People are increasingly afraid."

Deadly violence against Alawites and Druze and now the church bombing make Syrians doubt the government's ability and resolve to provide security to all of Syria's citizens.

A Reuters news agency investigation released June 30 found "1,479 Syrian Alawites were killed, and dozens were missing from revenge killings, rampages and looting," in attacks carried out by Syrian government forces and foreign jihadists in March.

U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on June 30 ending most U.S. economic sanctions on Syria, although Washington still designates

Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism and the Hayat Tahrir Sham, the group once led by al-Sharaa, as a foreign terrorist organization, now under review. But religious freedom advocates question the move at this time.

"It's shocking that the U.S. announced an end to sanctions on Syria and is legitimizing its self-appointed government less than a week after that government's involvement in a massacre of worshipping Christians and the same day a report was issued tying it to Alawite massacres," international lawyer Lauren Homer told OSV News.

"Thousands of Syrian religious minorities are dead and threatened with more violence," said Homer, who is the Middle East chair of the International Religious Freedom Roundtable, which is convened by the IRF Secretariat. The roundtable advocates for reli-

gious freedom for all people.

Before the 13-year civil war, Christians made up about 10% of the 22 million population in Syria, but an analysis estimated there could be not more than 300,000 Syrian Christians in the country at the moment. The civil war witnessed thousands of Christians forced to flee their homes due to threats from Islamist and jihadist groups, like the Islamic State.

"We are asking for the intervention of the Vatican, of the European Community," said Father Azar, the Franciscan priest. "People are now telling us, 'Father, we don't want aid, we don't want food, medicine, nothing. Help us escape. We can't live here. We are afraid for our lives; we are afraid for the future of our children.'"

(Dale Gavlak writes for OSV News from Amman, Jordan.)

'Glory' Women's Conference Kicks Off Historic Summer of Steubenville Conferences

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—Franciscan University of Steubenville kicked off its landmark 50th summer of Steubenville Conferences with *Glory: Women's Gathering* on June 6–8. The three-day event welcomed more than 500 women from across North America to encounter the presence of God, rediscover their identity as beloved daughters of the Father, and enter into deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ.

Steubenville Conferences was hosted in partnership with Life Restoration Ministries and its co-founder Heather Khym, who also co-hosts the *Abiding Together* podcast. Speakers included Khym; Michelle Benzinger, *Abiding Together* podcast co-host; Debbie Herbeck, founder of Pine Hills Girls' Camp and *Be Love Revolution*; Sarah Kaczmarek, director of Pastoral Ministry at Encounter Ministries; and Monica Richards, full-time missionary and director at Damascus. Worship was led by GMA Dove Award-nominated artist Sarah Kroger Quaglia.

The weekend focused on renewing hearts through sisterhood, worship, testimony, and powerful encounters with the Holy Spirit. It included daily Mass, eucharistic adoration, keynote talks, worship music, breakout sessions, prayer ministry, and a new Catholic marketplace.

Kaczmarek called women to deeper intimacy with Christ the Bridegroom. "He goes first," she said. "On the cross, arms stretched wide, he was infinitely vulnerable. And now he says, 'Will you come close?'"

Herbeck led attendees in a powerful reflection on covenant love. "You are here as the bride," she said. "You are not the friend, the guest, or the plus-one. You are the one he chooses. You are his beautiful bride."

Benzinger said she does not remember another time in history when women have been so tired and weary. She urged women to come together more often to strengthen one another in their faith.

"There is something just so powerful when women gather," Benzinger said. "The Spirit and the bride say, come ... Come as you are. Come with all your disappointments. Come with all your weariness."

Richards echoed Benzinger, saying "The power of unity among you is so significant. When you all galvanize together, there is something so attractive that not only other women want to come join. But guess what? The men want to join, too."

Khym, who led the weekend with numerous impactful reflections, said she felt honored to be at the forefront of the conference and to witness the Holy Spirit move so powerfully.

"We experienced an incredible outpouring of God's presence, and it

was especially meaningful that it happened on Pentecost weekend. More than 500 women, ranging in age from 18 to 90, showed up hungry and open-hearted, and I watched in awe as they encountered the Living God in powerful, life-changing ways," Khym said. "The stories of freedom, healing, and renewal have continued to pour in ever since."

The *Glory* Conference is part of Steubenville Conferences' summer lineup that includes five other adult conferences and 19 youth conferences hosted by Franciscan University or in partnership with dioceses across North America. These events are part of Franciscan University's 50-year conference tradition of evangelization and renewal.

Additional conferences include:

**St. John Bosco Conference,
July 14-17**

**Applied Biblical Studies
Conference,
July 30-Aug. 1**

**Defending the
Faith Conference,
Aug. 1-3**

Featured speakers include Noelle Mering, author of *Awake, Not Woke*; Dr. Scott Hahn, professor of biblical theology at Franciscan University; Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, president of Franciscan University; Dr. Mary Healy, professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit; Deacon Bob Rice, Franciscan University catechetics professor; Karlo Broussard, author and staff apologist for Catholic Answers; Dr. John Bergsma, theology professor at Franciscan University; Father John Riccardo, founder of *Acts XXIX*; Dr. Shane Owens, assistant professor of theology at Franciscan University; Kimberly Hahn, author and podcast host; Katie Prejean McGrady, host of *The Katie McGrady Show* on Sirius XM; and many others.

In addition to all the adult offerings, Steubenville Conferences is sponsoring 19 summer conferences for teens in dioceses throughout the United States and Canada. This summer's Youth Conferences will include four events at Franciscan University, a new conference in Joliet, Illinois, featuring Father Mike Schmitz, and the return of Steubenville Youth Conferences to San Diego, California.

For more information on the Steubenville Conferences, visit www.steubenvilleconferences.com. One of only 17 faithfully Catholic universities endorsed by the Cardinal

Newman Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville continues to lead the renaissance of Catholic higher education called for in *Ex corde Ecclesiae*.

Franciscan University, founded in 1946 by friars of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, integrates excellent academic programs with a dynamic faith environment to serve over 3,977 students—2,845 on campus and 1,132 online from all 50 states and 17 countries.

Franciscan's 89 percent first-year retention rate shows that when students come to Franciscan they stay, drawn to its Christ-centered campus culture and integration of faith and reason in the classroom.

Ranked in the top tier of Midwest universities by U.S. News & World Report since 1998, Franciscan offers over 100 programs of study including 45 undergraduate programs all grounded in Franciscan's acclaimed Catholic core curriculum, 2 doctoral programs, 10 graduate programs, and 14 online programs.

Franciscan was instrumental in Steubenville making the 2023 list of "10 of the Best Cities in America to Raise a Catholic Family" in *Crisis* magazine. The University was also

awarded four stars in *Money* magazine's "The Best Colleges in America 2023," based on quality, affordability, graduation rates, financial aid, and alumni salaries.

Home to the largest undergraduate Theology Program in the U.S., Franciscan also has a well-regarded Priestly Discernment Program, which has seen over 250 members ordained to the priesthood since 1985.

The University's newest academic programs include mechanical engineering, software engineering, criminal justice, biochemistry, cybersecurity, a master's in Catholic studies, and an entrepreneurship program that combines business best practices, leadership formation, and Catholic social teaching.

A study abroad program in a beautifully restored 14th-century Carthusian monastery in Austria attracts up to 200 students each semester, broadening their horizons intellectually and spiritually through pilgrimages to historic and sacred sites.

For more about Franciscan University of Steubenville and its mission to educate, evangelize, and send forth Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, visit Franciscan.edu or connect with Franciscan on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

**Missionary Sisters
Servants of the
Word**

*Discernment
Retreat*
for Women
18-30 years old

August 29th - 30th

*Priestfield Pastoral
Center*
4030 Middleway Pike
Kearneysville WV,
25430
Diocese of
Wheeling-Charleston

To sign up:
WestVirginiaMission@hmsp.org

**What is
God
asking of
You?**

Wheeling University Upgrades WIFI throughout Campus

WHEELING—Wheeling University students will find faster internet access around campus when they return in August. New WIFI access points are being installed.

More than 100 high speed access hubs are being installed this summer in academic buildings, the Benedum Room, the Chapel of Mary and Joseph, the CET, the McDonough Center and Swint Hall, said Ron Magers, director of Information Technology.

“The new ports we are installing will allow students and staff faster connection to the internet,” Magers said. “Many of the new access points are enterprise class, which will increase the strength and speed of the signal inside those buildings.”

In places, such as Performance Gym and Troy Theater, Magers said the connectivity will increase significantly. Inside Troy, he said the system will be able to handle up to 1,000 devices.

“Students and staff are using more than one device in class or while studying, so having the ability to use all those devices and being able to access a strong internet signal is vital to their learning experience,” Magers added.

Wheeling University President Dr. Dianna Vargo agrees the system will have a positive impact.

“The upgrade to our WIFI throughout campus will enhance the teaching and learning process for our students and faculty,” Vargo said.

She said the new system can handle devices with WIFI 7.



Courtesy photo
Wheeling University Director of Information Technology Ron Magers displays some of the new WIFI hubs to be installed. The university is upgrading its WIFI system across campus this summer.

JOIN THE INAUGURAL GATHERING OF . . .

MOUNTAIN STATE CATHOLIC MEN

Friday, September 12
St. Joseph Cathedral Parish
Wheeling, WV

5:30 P.M. EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT & VESPERS

6:30 P.M. INFORMAL DINNER FOLLOWED BY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Saturday, September 13
Pittsburgh, PA
Gathering of Catholic Men’s Conference
Noon to 4:30 p.m. (Mass at 4:30 p.m.)
For more information and to register for Pittsburgh conference, go to:
www.cmfwpa.org

BUILDING CATHOLIC MEN’S GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

JOIN MEN FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

in

PRAYER PLANNING FAITH-SHARING NETWORKING

RSVP TO




Tyler Greenwood
tgreenwood@dwc.org
304-233-4121

OR


Mike Tupta
mjtds@cisinternet.net
304-541-5177

ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WV

SCAN ME!



Go to: dwc.org/rosary-crusade



From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

PRAYER WORKS!
Step up for Jesus and His Church!
Pledge. Share. Pray.



Building Community through Connection in Hampshire County

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY — Recently, Catholic Charities West Virginia participated in the first-ever Hampshire County Community Round Table—an event born out of a shared hope between local leaders: If we build it, they will come.

That hope became a reality. Organized by Sherri Unger, service specialist at Catholic Charities West Virginia, and Tanya, director of the Family Support Center in Romney, the event brought together a diverse group of community partners, all united by one goal—to better understand the gaps and strengths in local services. Together, they created a powerful visual mural and began meaningful conversations about how to collaborate more effectively to serve

our neighbors in need.

The energy in the room was unmistakable. From addressing overlooked services to ensuring that what’s already working remains strong, the Round Table wasn’t just a meeting—it was the beginning of something transformative. Participants are already planning to make these gatherings quarterly, ensuring ongoing cooperation and shared vision.

At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we believe that when we come together in the spirit of community and compassion, we can create lasting and meaningful change. This Round Table is a beautiful reminder that when we act on our faith and values—solidarity, subsidiarity, and the dignity of every person—our communities

become stronger and more connected.

Join in Our Mission to Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Please give and support in our mission, as we look forward to extending our reach and making a lasting difference in the lives of those confronting adversity.

Scan to make a donation:



Now is the time to Talk!

Kepner
FUNERAL HOMES
CREMATORY

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

Foodservice Equipment, Supplies, Disposables, Janitorial and more

national equipment co.

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

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

project rachel
Peace starts here

If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God’s healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.

For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org

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

“CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY THE MOUNTAINEERS CALL”

Duplaga's TOP NOTCH
LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC
Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls
Supply Yard
Chris Duplaga, Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com
office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

Employment Opportunities

Service Specialist Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa)

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices. The Service Specialist is responsible for the coordination of case management and program services at the Regional Offices. This includes all services provided in the region employee is assigned, Northern, Southern, Eastern or Western Regions.

Primary responsibilities of the Service Specialist include working directly with individuals or families to assess their needs and develop and implement a comprehensive service plan based on those needs, developing partnerships to address client and community needs, and developing and supporting workshops and similar programs. The Service Specialist is responsible for documenting all activities in this process and maintaining a case file according to guidelines/models provided. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. However, the Service Specialist must be flexible to work potential evenings and weekends, as scheduled, to ensure maximum access for clients. This position will report to the Regional Director or Coordinator. As an employee of Catholic Charities WV, the Service Specialist will also carry out various program functions at the request of the Regional Director as needed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Conduct face-to-face interviews with clients to assess needs and eligibility for services; assist clients by exploring all available options, identifying the client's own resources and available community and governmental resources, making appropriate referrals, and assisting in linking client with available resources; serving as facilitator and advocate when necessary; develop comprehensive service plan with client that states goals, identifies needs, and outlines corresponding interventions, responsible agents, and time frames, and document all work done on each case, including all contacts in the case file, according to CCWVa Case Management protocol; provide training and ongoing support to other staff and interns regarding social service provision and values; develop and maintain ongoing working relationships with agency partners, community social service agencies, faith-based organizations, schools, and coalitions to meet the larger needs of the community; create learning opportunities, such as life skills, financial literacy, budgeting, parenting, housing management, asset development and more; participate in community social service/interagency meetings and trainings; participate in resource development; provide reports as required and/or requested; perform other duties as needed, including providing office coverage and/or carrying out functions of regional programs, as directed by the Regional Director represent the mission and work of Catholic Charities West Virginia programs to the community; assist the Neighborhood Center Coordinator in working with parishes to develop and maintain ongoing working relationships and network these parishes with other community-based groups, churches, and coalitions to meet the larger needs of the com-

munity.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise Social Work Interns as appropriate; the Service Specialist may serve as a task supervisor for other staff.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: 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 in social work degree preferred. A valid social work license or the ability to be licensed in West Virginia is preferred; casework experience working with at-risk populations; excellent computer skills with the ability to track and analyze data; excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to speak in public and represent the organization with a variety of audiences and community sectors; willingness to adapt to change in schedule, including evenings and weekends, if necessary; knowledge of: federal, state and community resources; case management practices; populations served and their culture and needs; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment; must have transportation to travel as needed.

Ability to: Assess client and community needs and develop effective responses; organize, prioritize and utilize effective time management techniques; work independently; respect confidentiality at all times; respect clients' beliefs and choices; provide coaching and positive reinforcement for individuals from a broad range of socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds; navigate federal, state, and community resources; ability to communicate in Spanish is desirable; work in a faith-based setting and be sensitive to Catholic social teachings; make home visits, conduct off-site interviews, and attend meetings as needed.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit. The employee frequently is required to talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, use hands to write, type, etc. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. The employee must possess vision ability to read, write, and operate a motor vehicle.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job; the noise in the work environment is usually moderate; may be exposed to varying weather conditions due to job-related travel.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES: Oversee Hospitality House and provide case management services to clients enrolled in Hospitality House; prepare, organize, and lead RAPP (Relatives As Parents Program) providing assistance to all enrolled clients; assist with Rapid Rehousing as needed.

[Click here to apply.](#)

Cemetery Worker—Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling

The Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker, 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 Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker performs maintenance tasks, grounds maintenance and other duties to open and close gravesites.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Opens and closes graves, crypts or niches; assists in disinterment and disinterments; performs all general maintenance on grounds such as snow removal, grass cutting, digging, sodding, mulching, leaf collection, marker setting, etc.; operates equipment as needed and assigned.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Other job related as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform the job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, and ability required: High School Graduate or GED; valid driver's license; ability to follow directions; must work well with others; knowledge, understanding and use of basic buildings and grounds maintenance tools and

equipment.

Preferred experience in use of dump truck, excavators (backhoe and mini), folk lift and riding mowers.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform this job: The employee is regularly required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle or feel. The employee is required to reach with hands and arms; climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl, talk and hear. The employee must be able to move or lift up to 50 pounds and in excess occasionally. The employee must use close and distance vision, peripheral and depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described are those an employee encounters while performing this job: employee regularly works outdoors in varying weather conditions. The employee regularly works with and near moving equipment and mechanical parts noise level can be loud. Employee may work irregular schedule and hours.

[Click here to apply.](#)

English Teacher— Central Catholic High School, Wheeling

Central Catholic High School is seeking a part-time English teacher that can be matched with other duties to become full-time. Requirements include the ability to teach grades 9-12 English. The successful candidate will be able to masterfully teach English using 21st century instructional methods and educational technology; be able to work in a dynamic, collaborative, faith-filled environment with fellow teachers; and demonstrate a deep commitment to facilitating learning of all students while being willing to fully participate in the CCHS community and embrace our mission as a Catholic high school.

How to Apply: Applications are being accepted through July 1, 2025. A cover letter, resume, and letters of professional reference can be sent to the administrative assistant to the principal, Sarah Petry, at spetry@cchsknights.org

Stem Coordinator/ Teacher—Central Catholic High School, Wheeling

Central Catholic High School is seeking a full-time Stem Coordinator/Science Teacher. The position of STEM Program Coordinator will collaborate with the principal, instructional team, and teachers to plan, organize, and promote STEM curriculum and expanded learning opportunities through the integration of successful strategies and multiple technologies to best prepare CCHS students for college and beyond. The STEM coordinator will facilitate the completion of the STEM certification, identify areas of growth for STEM education, develop our current curricular offerings, and expand community engagement. The candidate must also be able to teach Physics and preferably lead our Robotics program.

A teacher at CCHS must possess the ability to teach using 21st century instructional methods and educational technology; be able to work in a dynamic, collaborative, technology rich environment with fellow teachers; and demonstrate a deep commitment to facilitating learning of all students while being willing to fully participate in the CCHS community and embrace our mission as a Catholic high school.

How to Apply: Applications are being accepted through July 1, 2025. A cover letter, resume, and letters of professional reference can be sent to the administrative assistant to the principal, Sarah Petry, at spetry@cchsknights.org

Employment Opportunities

School Counselor—Central Catholic High School, Wheeling

Central Catholic High School is seeking a full time School Counselor. A desirable candidate will possess a master's degree in School Counseling or related field.

Requirements include the ability to work with students to maximize their high school experience through academic advising, college readiness, and social/emotional counseling and programming. In addition, he/she will be able to work in a dynamic, collaborative, faith-filled environment with teachers, staff members, students and parents; and demonstrate a deep commitment to facilitating learning of all students while being willing to fully participate in the CCHS community and embrace our mission as a Catholic high school.

How to Apply: Applications are being accepted through July 1, 2025. A cover letter, resume, and letters of professional reference can be sent to the administrative assistant to the principal, Sarah Petry, at spetry@cchsknights.org

Part-Time Teaching Positions at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling

We are currently hiring for the following part-time positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Middle School Math Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Middle School Science Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Music Teacher for PK through 8th Grade
- Art Teacher for PK through 8th Grade
- Technology Teacher for Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- 8th Grade Spanish Teacher

These part-time positions may be combined to create a full-time role, depending on qualifications and availability. Bachelor's Degree/ Certification in Education required.

Please contact the school or email jperoni@stvincentschool.org for more information.

Office Manager -DWC Catholic Schools Office

The Office Manager for the Department of Catholic Schools serves as a vital administrative professional, providing comprehensive support to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools and the Department of Catholic Schools in its mission to oversee and support the 24 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

This position requires a

highly organized, detail-oriented, and proactive individual with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to maintain confidentiality, and a commitment to the mission of Catholic education. The office manager will manage daily operations.

Job Qualifications: High school diploma, GED or equivalent; 2-3 years experience in an

office manager setting; preferred school and/or office experience; proficient with office software — Microsoft Suite, Google Suite; ability to follow direction and work well with others; ability to work independently and be self-starting as the supervisors/directors travel regularly.

Interested parties should email: jhornyak@dwc.org with resume and cover letter

Housekeeper— St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

The Housekeeper at St John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning and preparing the facility, laundry and guest rela-

Teaching Positions – St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

Middle School English Language Arts and Literature Teacher

St. Michael Parish School is accepting applications for a full time Middle School English Language Arts and Literature teacher.

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across our middle school grade levels (5th-8th; this position will focus on 2 of the 4 grade levels).

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in education or related field; Valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure; Experience working with children in a classroom setting; strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills; willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution.

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

Part-time Elementary and Middle School Music Teacher

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across the school.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in music education or related field; valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure; experience working with children in a classroom setting; strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills; willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution; fluency in piano preferred but not required; should be willing to discuss extra curricular activities such as middle school choir and participation in a spring musical

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

Campus Minister – Marshall University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Hilltop Catholic Community, based on the principles of Empowered by the Spirit.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Develop and implement, in a collaborative manner, a strategic plan for campus ministry for the Marshall Catholic Community
- Coordinate and facilitate the schedule of Masses and Sacramental ministries.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with students and faculty, catechetical opportunities and pastoral services appropriate to the needs, concerns, and schedules of the community; to include retreats, faith-sharing groups, formational gatherings, etc.
- Manage the day-to-day operation of the center.
- Represent the Catholic Church on campus, becoming actively involved in the academic community while ministering not only to students but faculty, staff, and administration as well.
- Form and support Catholic student groups or organizations on campus.
- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Charleston Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.
- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.
- Support ministry volunteers and committees.
- Support volunteer peer ministers.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

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.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.
 - C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.
 - Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."
 - Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.
 - Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.
 - Experience in and knowledge of campus life.
 - Interpersonal communication skills.
 - Word processing and related computer skills.
 - Effective presentation skills.
 - Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
 - Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.
- Click here for full job description and to apply.

El arzobispo García-Siller pide oraciones y solidaridad tras la tragedia de las inundaciones en Texas

(OSV News) — Mientras muchos en Kerrville, Texas, se apresuraban a encontrar noticias de seres queridos desaparecidos o luchaban por perder sus hogares tras las catastróficas inundaciones, el arzobispo de San Antonio, Gustavo García-Siller, se encontraba entre los líderes religiosos presentes para ofrecer oraciones y apoyo.

OSV News habló con el arzobispo el 5 de julio sobre sus esfuerzos para responder a la devastación dejada por las históricas inundaciones que -- según reportes el 7 de julio -- han dejado al menos 82 muertos, mientras que 10 niñas siguen desaparecidas de Camp Mystic, un campamento de verano cristiano en Hunt, Texas.

El arzobispo viajó a Kerrville el 4 de julio y habló con las familias afectadas por las inundaciones, incluida una madre cuya hija de 9 años seguía desaparecida en Camp Mystic. Visitó un lugar designado para atender a las familias que buscan a sus seres queridos, y allí se encontró con muchas personas asustadas y que agradecían las oraciones mientras buscaban respuestas sobre el paradero de sus seres queridos.

El arzobispo también visitó la iglesia católica de Notre Dame en

Kerrville, "uno de los cuatro lugares que la ciudad ha seleccionado como centros de refugio, atención y ayuda", dijo.

"Caridades Católicas estuvo presente, llevando comida, ropa, artículos de higiene, agua", dijo el arzobispo García-Siller a OSV News, añadiendo que "pudieron colocar catres allí porque las familias han sido evacuadas y algunas familias también han perdido su casa o su remolque, por lo que necesitarán un lugar donde quedarse".

Conduciendo hasta la zona, el arzobispo se preguntó qué era lo que Dios "me pedía en esta situación, para que fuera útil" a los que se enfrentaban al miedo y a la pérdida, pero dijo que su enfoque cambió rápidamente cuando llegó, pasando de preguntarse cómo podría ser útil a simplemente estar presente ante los que estaban sufriendo.

Dijo que, en estas situaciones, es importante "dejarse tocar por la realidad" del momento y "simplemente estar" con la gente y atento a sus necesidades, además de ofrecer oraciones.

"En mi caso, es invocar al Espíritu Santo para que me guíe para saber cómo estar presente, no sólo con ellos en general, sino con este

individuo", dijo.

"Muchos padres jóvenes estaban allí, muy jóvenes y también venían de diferentes lugares", dijo. "No es sólo algo que afecta a la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio, ... había gente de Houston, de Austin, de otros estados".

Añadió que las inundaciones tendrán un impacto duradero en la comunidad.

"Estuve muy involucrado en lo que ocurrió en Uvalde, Texas, con la muerte de 19 niños y dos profesores, hace tres años, y todavía estamos lidiando con eso", dijo. Tras las inundaciones, el arzobispo dijo que a pesar de que la causa es diferente, "el hecho es el mismo: vidas perdidas" y "las familias están pasando por mucho".

El arzobispo García-Siller tenía programado celebrar una Misa el 6 de julio a las 11 de la mañana en la iglesia de Notre Dame, que consideraba una oportunidad para estar con la gente y acompañarles mientras siguen lidiando con el impacto de las vidas y los hogares perdidos.

En estos momentos, dijo, es importante "reconocer que Dios quiere obrar en nosotros, en este tiempo tan difícil", y debemos "abrirnos a creer, eso nos llevará con el tiempo a tener esperanza".

Mientras tanto, dijo, toda persona que quiera ayudar puede "tomar la decisión de amar".

Afirmó que, aunque por el momento la zona cuenta con abundantes recursos, animó a los fieles a rezar por quienes tan rápida e inesperadamente han perdido sus hogares y familiares.

El arzobispo dijo que no hay respuestas fáciles ni soluciones rápidas para situaciones trágicas como "la familia que pierde a su hijo a una edad temprana y sobre todo así, de forma totalmente inesperada".

"Por eso estamos llamados a hacer algo, a estar presentes y descubrimos con la gracia de Dios cómo estamos contribuyendo para el bienestar de la gente", dijo, añadiendo que hay "muchos otros aspectos además de las necesidades materiales que se están abordando, y seguiremos abordando".

Monseñor García-Siller dijo que la gente "no debe ser indiferente" cuando se entera de tales tragedias. Y elogió a quienes quieren ayudar y pidió que la gente aproveche la ocasión para comprender mejor el sufrimiento de los demás, añadiendo que "es una contribución si rezan".

(Lauretta Brown es redactora de cultura de OSV News.)

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

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 Estados 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 eclesiales 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, Diocese 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 ofrece 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.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

- **Cathedral of St. Joseph**
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**
1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** (*at site*): Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

“
Together, we are building a stronger, more
compassionate Church that lives out the
Gospel in word and deed. I humbly invite you
to join me in this mission.”
-Bishop Mark Brennan

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

**THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS
IN WEST VIRGINIA**

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

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart’s valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

**WVU Heart & Vascular
Institute**