



Diocese to Kick off Yearlong Celebration of Its 175th Anniversary on July 19

Churches and the Faithful across West Virginia Invited to Ring Bells in ‘Symbolic Act of Unity’

WEST VIRGINIA — The yearlong celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will kick off in a very memorable way. On Saturday, July 19 (the anniversary), churches across West Virginia are invited to ring/peal their bells at 7:19 p.m.

“This symbolic act of unity will involve the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, and various parishes and missions throughout the Mountain State,” Chad Carter, chancellor of the diocese,

said in an announcement to all parishes and priests.

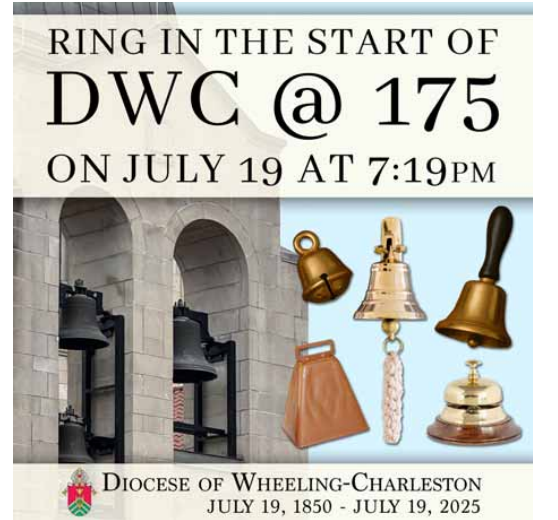
“In addition to the churches ringing their tower bells, we invite everyone to participate by going outside and ringing a bell (handbell, desk bell, cowbell, swiss bells, jingle bells etc...),” Carter said, adding that the diocese will be sharing this on social media. He included a graphic in the announcement that all are welcome to use.

“Parishes, we would love to share on our diocesan social media your videos or photos of your ‘Ringing in the 175th,’”

Carter said. He encouraged all to use the hashtag #DWC@175 with it. Parishes and the faithful can also e-mail photos directly to Joyce Bibey at jbibey@dwc.org.

This celebration takes place during the Catholic Church’s Jubilee Year of Hope, when the faithful are encouraged to be fully alive in the Church and share their love of Jesus Christ to all people.

The ringing of the bells, Carter said, serves as a reminder of the diocesan mission, that emphasizes “we are a determined and **See “Anniversary” on Page 2**



Courtesy photo
The above graphic was sent to all parishes to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Interfaith Prayer Service Held for Flood Victims

By Colleen Rowan

Bishop Mark Brennan and eight other religious leaders of the Wheeling area came together in Triadelphia the evening of July 11 for an interfaith prayer service. Their aim was to help bring spiritual healing to victims of the catastrophic June 14 flood that devastated that community and neighboring Valley Grove and Elm Grove and left nine people dead. The gathering was coordinated by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in an effort to meet the spiritual needs of those suffering. For an hour prior to the service, faith leaders were available to meet with people one on one to talk, to pray, and just to be present.

At the service, held on the grounds of Liberty Distributors, a Triadelphia business that donated the space, families and individuals came to pray with their neighbors and to pray for the neighbors they lost. Joining them were community leaders and first responders who have been working in recovery **See “Service” on Page 3**



Colleen Rowan photo
Bishop Mark Brennan offers a prayer during an interfaith service in Triadelphia July 11 for victims of the catastrophic June 14 flood in Ohio County. The gathering was coordinated by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in an effort to meet the spiritual needs of those suffering.

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family-oriented people of God nurtured by a land of remarkable beauty and abundant resources — sent to be a sign of Christ to the world.”

A special webpage will be accessible at the end of this week (from the main www.dwc.org page) which will provide various materials related to the anniversary celebration along with some historical information and a list of anniversary events which will continue from July 2025 through July 2026.

The diocese’s Office of Worship and Sacraments prepared the following intercession for parishes that wish to include it in the Universal Prayer for this coming weekend of July 19/20 or for various times throughout this next year of anniversary celebrations:

“For the Church in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, as we celebrate her 175th Anniversary,

that together with Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Brennan, the clergy, religious, and all the faithful we may live out the mission of Christ to which we are called through baptism. May we honor those who came before us by continuing to build the Kingdom of God here in West Virginia with hearts rooted in faith, hope, and love, let us pray to the Lord.”

Carter also announced a special celebration to be held on Friday, Aug. 22, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

“On this day we will celebrate the sixth anniversary of Bishop Brennan as Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston as well as officially kicking off the anniversary celebration with a festive Mass at 12:05 p.m.,” he said.

The Mass will be followed by a luncheon in the Great Hall of Wheeling Central Catholic High School. More details will be announced next week about this celebration. All are welcome to attend.

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 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

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Colleen Rowan photo

A woman offers comfort during the interfaith prayer service for flood victims in Triadelphia July 10.

Service ...

Cont'd from Page 1
efforts since the night the floodwaters began to rise. Among them was Lou Vargo, director of Wheeling-Ohio County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.

The service began with the singing of "Amazing Grace" by Gregory Gust, assistant director for Marriage and Family Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. All gathered joined him in the song.

As he stood before the crowd, Bishop Mark Brennan began with Psalm 69: "Save me, God, for the waters have reached my neck. I have sunk into the mire of the deep, where there is no foothold. I have gone down to the watery depths; the flood overwhelms me. I am weary with crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, from looking for my God" (Psalm 69, 1-4).

How true these words were that night of June 14, Bishop Brennan said to those gathered. That night, the community lost nine beloved souls.

"We mourn for them," the bishop said. And amid

the destruction, "We pray for the strength to rebuild." The words of the Psalm continue, Bishop Brennan told the crowd.

"But I will pray to you, LORD, at a favorable time. God, in your abundant kindness, answer me with your sure deliverance. Rescue me from the mire, and do not let me sink. Rescue me from those who hate me and from the watery depths. Do not let the flood waters overwhelm me, nor the deep swallow me, nor the pit close its mouth over



Colleen Rowan photo

Lou Vargo, director of Wheeling-Ohio County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, prays during the interfaith prayer service for flood victims in Triadelphia July 10.



Colleen Rowan photo

At right, a woman's T-shirt shows support for her community as she attends the interfaith prayer service for flood victims in Triadelphia July 10.

me. Answer me, LORD, in your generous love; in your great mercy turn to me. Do not hide your face from your servant; hasten to answer me, for I am in distress" (Psalm 69, 14-18).

This is the spirit the community needs at this time, Bishop Brennan said.

"The spirit that those who have survived the floodwaters and those who help them need to have," he said. "The confidence that with the strength of God working in and through them, they can accomplish much good to help people rebuild their lives, their homes, and businesses."

Each religious leader present addressed those gathered speaking of and offering prayers for specific individuals and groups affected by the tragedy. Bishop Brennan prayed for neighbors, volunteers, and relief workers who "have come to the aid of the families, individuals, businesses, and organizations who have lost loved ones,

property, and income during the recent flooding in this area. We thank you, Lord, for this outpouring of love and solidarity. We also ask you, merciful God, to lift the spirits of those who serve... Refresh those whose help is still needed. Give them the resolve to keep offering their energy and their skill for the benefit of those who have suffered so much. Keep far from them the acid of discouragement. Give them joy in their service to others. We ask this in your holy name. Amen."

Also present was Pastor Michael Palmer of Triadelphia United Methodist Church who prayed for those who lost their lives and those who mourn. Rev. Kenneth Hardway of the First Christian Church prayed for those who lost homes, possessions, and livelihood during the flood. Rev. Adam Mick of C3 Wheeling prayed for first responders and emergency personnel. Bishop Darrell Cummings of Bethlehem

Apostolic Temple prayed for those in despair in the wake of the flood. The Ven. Joshua Saxe of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church prayed for the restoration of the community—its infrastructure and beauty. Rev. Joe Hill of Christ United Methodist Church prayed for government officials that they remain focused on fair and just treatment for all who seek assistance. The final benediction was offered by Rabbi Joshua Lief of Temple Shalom in Wheeling. Gust then returned to the podium to offer the closing song "Lord, I Need You," which all joined in singing.

Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, offered a special thank you to the Peluchette family and Liberty Distributors for opening their hearts and business to the surrounding community and allowing the use of their space for the service.



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Federal Court Upholds West Virginia Pro-Life Law in Abortion Pill Case

WEST VIRGINIA — On July 15, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit issued a critical ruling in favor of a West Virginia pro-life law. At stake was whether or not the state had the right to prohibit the dispensing of a drug that the FDA had approved.

“This was a watershed decision, because what GenBioPro’s suit really sought was to federalize the issue of abortion by claiming that Congress intended to grant nationwide access to mifepristone in 2007,” said Lacey Evans, president of West Virginians for Life.

West Virginia law makes mifepristone (a.k.a. the abortion pill) illegal in most circumstances. GenBioPro, the drug’s manufacturer, sued, claiming that federal law mandated nationwide access to the drug, and that the FDA had the exclusive right to regulate the drug.

GenBioPro appealed the Fourth Circuit’s decision, and has now lost.

Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Erin Hawley said, “We’re pleased the 4th Circuit agreed that the [FDAAA] do not forbid the states from setting minimum safety standards for high-risk drugs or enacting legislation that protects life.”

“Preemption in this instance would upend the federal-state balance by supplanting every state law tangentially touching a federal domain,” the court wrote in its opinion in *GenBioPro v. Raynes*. The Fourth Circuit concluded that the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act “create[s] a regulatory floor, not a ceiling,” and that there was no indication “Congress intended to guarantee nationwide access to mifepristone when it enacted the FDAAA.”



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A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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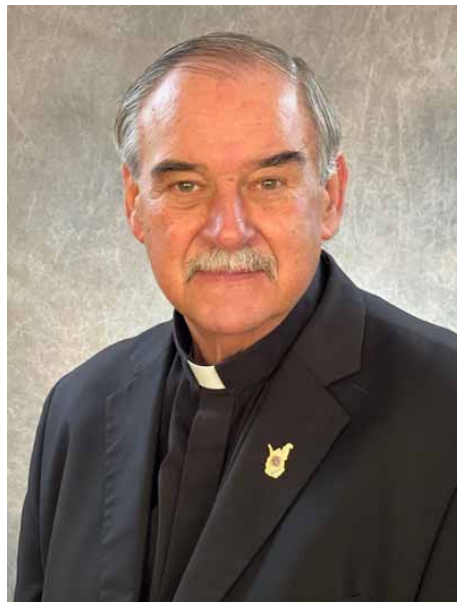
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Late Msgr. Joseph Peterson among Alumni Honored by Wheeling University

WHEELING—The late Msgr. Joseph Peterson was among alumni honored by Wheeling University for their achievements in education, service and dedication to the institution during its annual Alumni Recognition and Awards Dinner in June.

The awards were presented during the university's annual Alumni Weekend, a time when alumni return to campus to celebrate with classmates and reconnect with their alma mater, June 21 inside Troy Theater. Also honored were Richard (Dick) Riley, Jr. Ph.D., and Grace Williams.

The Fr. Pedro Arrupe Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes a graduate who embodies the ideals of Ignatian spirituality and lives a life committed to service. The university presented this year's award posthumously to Msgr. Peterson, class of 1973, for his service to Catholics throughout



Msgr. Joseph Peterson

West Virginia.

Msgr. Peterson served as vicar general of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston from April

2023 to the time of his passing (Sept. 12, 2024). He was ordained to the priesthood on April 19, 1975, by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges in Wheeling and went onto to serve at several parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Wheeling University presented the St. Ignatius Distinguished Alumni Award to a graduate who exemplifies the ideals of extraordinary competence and personal compassion in their chosen field. This award was presented to Riley, a member of the class of 1984.

He is the Louis F. Tanner Distinguished Professor of Public Accounting at West Virginia University and Director of Research for the Institute of Fraud Prevention. He has received numerous awards for his contributions to education at WVU and has been nationally recognized for his contributions in fo-

rensic accounting. Additionally, Riley also served two terms as president of the Wheeling University Alumni Council.

The final award given was the Rev. James O'Brien, S.J. Award which recognizes young alumni who manifest a growing competence in their chosen field and whose personal life reflects Wheeling's mission of 'education of men and women for life, leadership and service.' This year's O'Brien Award will be presented to Williams, a member of the class of 2013.

As a student and since graduating, Williams has embodied the University's mission to be a person for others. After graduation, she joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in New Orleans. Williams moved back to West Virginia in 2016 to become the director of the Big Laurel Learning Center in Kermit where she coordinates camps and hosts groups on service trips.

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



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Pope Calls for Ceasefire, Dialogue, Peace after Church Hit in Gaza

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After an early morning attack on the Holy Family Church in Gaza, Pope Leo XIV called for an immediate ceasefire, dialogue and peace in the region.

With Israeli tanks shelling multiple targets in Gaza, witnesses claimed the strike July 17 came from Israeli artillery shells. The Israeli military said in a statement it was aware of the reports of damage and casualties at the church, and that “the circumstances of the incident are under review.”

More than 500 men, women and children had been sheltering at the church, including about 50 people with disabilities and ill children cared for by the Missionaries of Charity. It is the only Catholic church in the Gaza Strip.

The early morning raid on the church left two people dead and 11 injured, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem told ANSA, the Italian news agency.

Among those wounded were one woman with life-threatening injuries, two who are seriously injured, five in stable condition and three with light injuries, the patriarchate said.

Among those hurt was the parish priest, Father Gabriele Romanelli, an Argentine of Italian descent whom Pope Francis would call regularly. News photos show the priest sitting in an unspecified location near a tent with a white bandage wrapped around his right calf.

A telegram sent by Cardi-

nal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, on behalf of the pope, stated, “His Holiness Pope Leo XIV was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life and injury caused by the military attack on the Holy Family Catholic Church in Gaza, and he assures the parish priest, Father Gabriele Romanelli, and the whole parish community of his spiritual closeness.”

“In commending the souls of the deceased to the loving mercy of Almighty God, the Holy Father prays for the consolation of those who grieve and for the recovery of the injured,” the cardinal wrote.

“His Holiness renews his call for an immediate ceasefire, and he expresses his profound hope for dialogue, reconciliation and enduring peace in the region,” he wrote.

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, told Vatican News, “We still have partial information, because communication with Gaza is not very easy, especially today.”

He confirmed that several were wounded, some seriously. “They say it was a mistake by an Israeli tank, but we don’t know. It hit the church, directly at the church,” he said.

Speaking to Vatican News July 12, Father Romanelli said almost everyone in the area beyond the church compound had left. “All around us, there is only death and destruction.”

“Day and night, we are accompanied by the sound of bombs falling even a few



OSV News/Dawoud Abu Alkas, Reuters

A wounded Palestinian Christian woman is brought into at Al-Ahli Arab Baptist Hospital following what initial reports and medics say was an Israeli tank attack on the church on the Holy Family Parish — the only Catholic parish in the Gaza Strip, in Gaza City July 17.

hundred meters from the parish. It is absurd, but now, after 21 months, these horrendous sounds of explosions have become an ordinary part of daily life,” he had said.

The Israeli Defense Forces’ offensive in the Gaza Strip came after the Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist attacks by Hamas and other jihadist groups operating from the territory.

Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need in mid-July, Father Romanelli underlined that the situation in Gaza was “very, very serious.”

“Another day of war — another hour of war — con-

tinues to complicate the lives of tens and hundreds of thousands of people,” he said, urging the world’s faithful to pray and support those affected.

“We ask you to continue helping us — to pray a lot, and to encourage others to pray,” he said. “To seek peace and justice by all means, and also to lend a hand to these poor people.”

Father Romanelli told Vatican News July 12 that there had been a little more than 1,000 Christians in Gaza before the Oct. 7 at-

tack. About 300 managed to get out of the strip when the Rafah crossing with Egypt was still open, he said.

At least 16 Christians were killed in a raid that hit the Orthodox Patriarchate’s St. Porphyry Church in October 2023, Aid to the Church in Need said. An elderly Christian was killed in November 2023, and a month later, a mother and daughter were killed just outside the church when an IDF sniper fired on the grounds of the Holy Family Church.

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Church of England Weighs Proposal to Place St. Thomas More's Skull in Shrine for Veneration

By **Simon Caldwell, OSV News**

LIVERPOOL, England (OSV News) — The Church of England is weighing plans to exhume and enshrine the head of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of statesmen and politicians, in time for the 500th anniversary of his 1535 martyrdom.

Years after his beheading, the saint's head was buried in a vault with the body of his daughter, Margaret Roper, at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church in the city of Canterbury in the southeast of England.

The parochial church council, or PCC, has announced that it wants to exhume the skull so it can be venerated by pilgrims.

A statement read to parishioners on July 6, the date of St. Thomas More's martyrdom, said: "What the PCC has agreed, subject to all the right permissions being granted, is to exhume and conserve what remains of the relic, which will take several years to dry out and stabilize.

"We could just put it back in the vault, maybe in a reliquary of some kind, or we could place the reliquary in some sort of shrine or carved stone pillar above ground in the Roper chapel, which is what many of our visitors have requested," the statement said. "We'd really appreciate your ideas and thoughts."

According to The Times, a daily newspaper based in London which broke the story, the church will seek to raise 50,000 pounds, or \$67,300, to fund the conservation project with the aim of creating a shrine by 2035.

Among the first steps will be obtaining permission from a commissary court in Canterbury, which issues rulings concerning church buildings and

grounds, according to The Times.

More was a lawyer who became one of the most admired statesmen in Europe, gaining international recognition for "Utopia," his satirical work about a perfect state.

He was appointed lord chancellor of England by King Henry VIII in 1529 but resigned in 1532 in opposition to the king's reforms of the Catholic Church in England.

He infuriated the king further by refusing to attend the coronation of Anne Boleyn, the mistress whom Henry had married after Pope Clement VII refused to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, prompting Henry to take the church into schism.

More was committed to the Tower of London after he and St. John Fisher, the bishop of Rochester, refused to take the oath attached to the 1534 Succession to the Crown Act that recognized the progeny of Henry and Anne as the rightful heirs to the English throne.

He was convicted of high treason at a trial in Westminster Hall in London and sentenced to death by being hanged, drawn and quartered, a slow and painful death involving disembowelment.

Henry commuted the sentence to beheading, and on the day of the execution at Tower Hill, London, asked More to keep his final address brief.

St. Thomas More famously protested that he died "in the faith and for the faith" and that he was always the king's good servant — but God's first.

The future saint's body was buried beneath the altar in the church of St. Peter in Chains at the Tower of London where it remains.



OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

A statue of St. Thomas More, patron of statesmen, politicians and members of the legal profession, is seen at St. Thomas More Church in Hauppauge, N.Y. Lord chancellor of England under King Henry VIII, St. Thomas More was beheaded in 1535 on charges of treason after refusing to recognize the king as the supreme head of the Church of England. Under a proposal announced July 6 the Church of England is weighing a plan to disinter St. Thomas More's skull and place it in a shrine for veneration.

His head, however, was parboiled and placed on a spike on London Bridge, replacing that of Bishop Fisher, who had been beheaded a fortnight earlier on June 22.

More's daughter Margaret — whom he lovingly called "Meg" — rescued the head and embalmed it. She was buried with the head following her death in 1544. It was moved with her remains when they were transferred to the Roper family vault more than 30 years later.

More and Fisher were declared martyrs and canonized together in 1935 by Pope Pius XI, and in 2000 St. John Paul II declared St. Thomas More "the heavenly Patron of Statesmen and Politicians."

In a 1991 address, St. Thomas More was described by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, as "Britain's

other great witness of conscience" besides St. John Henry Newman.

In June, Pope Leo XIV encouraged politicians to take inspiration from St. Thomas More as a perfect example of a public servant.

The American-born pontiff said during the Jubilee of Governments that he "was a man faithful to his civic responsibilities, a perfect servant of the state precisely because of his faith, which led him to view politics not as a profession but as a mission for the spread of truth and goodness."

Pope Leo said: "The courage he showed by his readiness to sacrifice his life rather than betray the truth makes him, also for us today, a martyr for freedom

and for the primacy of conscience."

(Simon Caldwell writes for OSV News from Liverpool, England.)

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Accepting New Patients

Stop the Hatred; Humanity is at Stake, Pope Leo Says in Video Message

By Carol Glatz , Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Politics can unite instead of divide as long as it refuses to settle for propaganda that feeds on creating enemies, Pope Leo XIV said.

Politics can unite, he said, if it “engages in the difficult and necessary art of an exchange of views, which seeks the common good.”

“It is still possible, it is always possible, to come together, even at a time of division, bombs and wars,” he said in a video message that aired before the start of a charity soccer match.

He urged people to have the “strength to believe and ask for a truce to come.” It is time to stop “the race of hatred. Our humanity is at stake.”

Italy’s annual Match of the Heart (“Partita del Cuore”) is organized by the national federation of Italian singers to raise money for a different cause each year.

The televised soccer

match pits Italian singers against a team made up of “adversaries,” which changes each year. For example, the match in 2000 saw singers face off against a mixed team of Israelis, Palestinians and well-known sports stars like Formula One racing driver, Michael Schumacher. The late Yasser Arafat, who was president of the Palestinian National Authority at the time, and the late Israeli statesman, Shimon Peres, sat together in the Rome stadium stands.

The 2025 match held July 15 in L’Aquila brought Italian singers to the field against top government ministers and Italian politicians, including the former prime minister of Italy, Matteo Renzi. They were raising money for a project established by the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome and Italy’s Caritas to support the families of patients who have a lengthy hospitalization and live far from Rome.

In his video message

recorded from the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, Pope Leo said it was “significant that two teams, one of politicians and one of singers, are playing today.”

“It tells us that politics can unite instead of divide, if it is not content with propaganda that feeds on building enemies,” but engages in dialogue aimed at the common good, he said.

“And it also reminds us how music enriches our words and memories with meaning,” he said.

He recalled Paul McCartney’s song, “Pipes of Peace,” and the film “Joyeux Noël,” which were both inspired by the 1914 Christmas truce between a group of British and German soldiers who left their trenches to meet in “no man’s land” to exchange gifts, take photographs and play soccer.

“It is still possible, it is always possible, to come together,” he said. All that is needed is to create the opportunities to do so.

That means, he said, cre-

ating opportunities to: “confront divisions and recognize that the greatest challenge is encountering the other; contribute together to a good cause; repair broken hearts, our own and those of others; and recognize that we are one in God’s heart, and that the heart is the place of encounter with God and with others.”

Pope Leo praised the charity event for mixing sports and television, and for raising funds “for life, for healing, not for destruction and death.”

When practiced well by athletes and fans, sports are great for turning “confrontation into encounter, division into inclusion, solitude into community,” he said. When television is not just about being “tuned in” but becomes a “communion of gazes, it can make us rediscover how to look at one another — with love instead of hate.”

He invited all those who came together for the event and who support the charity project to “look into the

eyes of children and learn from them,” to find the courage to be welcoming and to be “men and women of encounter.”



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 at crowan@dwc.org 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

Area Catholic Family Picnic Set for July 20 in Greenbrier Valley

The annual area Catholic family picnic will be held July 20 in the Greenbrier State Forest near White Sulphur Springs and is open to all Catholics and their families in the Greenbrier and Meadow Rivers Valleys.

Hosted by the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus, the picnic will be in Shelter #1, about six miles south of the Caldwell/White Sulphur Springs Exit off I-64.

The knights will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, all the fixings; all the paper products and plastic ware; soft drinks and bottled water; and ask those who can to bring a covered-dish of a vegetable, salad, or dessert for the serving table.

"We also encourage any family to bring their favorite table or yard games to be shared," a spokesman for the knights added, noting "We will serve lunch beginning at 2 p.m. and have a vesper service in the 4-4:30 p.m. timeframe."

Games can continue until early evening and the knights will have a limited number of tickets for the forest's swimming pool for chil-

dren under 12.

Parishes and chapels serving the Greenbrier Valley include St. Patrick Church of Hinton; Sacred Heart Chapel of Spring Dale; Sacred Heart Church of Rainelle; St. John Neuman Church of Marlinton; St. Bernard's Chapel at Snowshoe; St. Mark, the Evangelist, Chapel, Bartow; St. Charles Borromeo Church, White Sulphur Springs; St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ronceverte; Church of Mary Immaculate, Williamsburg; and St. John, the Evangelist, Chapel in Sweet Springs.

Earlier this month, the GV Council 8689 delivered a van loaded with cleaning supplies and other needs to St. Michael Parish in Wheeling for distribution to those in need following the disastrous flood in Ohio County. The pastor at St. Michael's most recently served at St. Patrick's Church in Hinton and Sacred Heart in Rainelle.

For further information about the area picnic, telephone the Office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley (304) 536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus (304) 645-1373.



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Dates	Locations
August 16, 2025	St. Michael Parish Angelus Center, Wheeling
August 23, 2025	St. Francis Xavier Parish Center, Parkersburg
September 6, 2025	Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, S. Charleston
September 13, 2025	St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall, Beckley
September 20, 2025	St. Leo Parish Hall, Inwood
September 27, 2025	All Saints Parish Hall, Bridgeport

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Study: Devotion to Mary Has Significant Impact on Discerning, Sustaining Vocations

By **Gina Christian, OSV News**

(OSV News) — Devotion to Mary is a significant factor in discerning and sustaining the call to priestly and religious life, according to a new study.

“As a religious, Mary has played a big role in our religious life, and I am just excited to see the report as a kind of confirmation that Mary indeed is our model,” said Sister Thu T. Do, a Sister of the Lovers of the Holy Cross and a research associate at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

On July 16, CARA made public a report titled “Impact of Mary, Mother of the Church, on Ecclesial Vocations,” which Sister Thu and fellow CARA researcher Jonathon L. Wiggins prepared in response to a request from the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

Spearheading that request was the diocese’s theologian and permanent diaconate formation coordinator, Daniel Osborn. He told OSV News the “main genesis” for the project was Pope Francis’ November 2023 call to members of the International Theological Commission for greater study on the Marian dimension of the church.

“On a personal level,” he added, “I owe my own ecclesial vocation as a lay theologian to the Blessed Mother’s intercession.” So the study, Osborn explained, was also “a way to honor and thank her personally for how she intervened in my own life,” which saw him return to his childhood Catholic faith after a period of drifting away.

The survey, conducted between March and May through mailed paper forms and emailed questionnaires, represented responses from 1,091 respondents, a mix of U.S. Catholic bishops, diocesan priests, permanent deacons, deacon directors, and major superiors of men and women religious.

Among those six groups polled, an average of 59% said Marian devotion had either a “meaningful” or “great” impact on their discernment of a vocation to serve Jesus Christ and the church. Of the groups, religious priests (71%) were most likely to cite Marian devotion, while deacon directors (49%) were the least likely.

Most respondents (92%) said they had first learned of Marian devotion as children, with family (79%) the primary means of introduction, followed by parishes (44%) and Catholic schools (44%).

The rosary topped the list of common Marian devotional practices during one’s discernment of a vocation, with 71% reporting private recitation and 52% saying they prayed the rosary with others. Praying before images of Mary — whether icons, statues or paintings — was cited by 40% of the respondents.

Among the participants, the home (80%) was the prime location for such devotion during their vocational discernment, followed by the parish (77%).



OSV News photo/Bob Roller
A statue of Mary with a crown, and a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe are pictured at Sacred Heart Church in Prescott, Ariz., May 5. The month of May is devoted to Mary and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning and praying of the rosary.

Survey respondents also said that they “often” or “always” wear the Miraculous Medal (32%), associated with Mary’s 19th-century appearances to St. Catherine Labouré; the Brown Scapular (29%); or another Marian medal (18%).

Pilgrimages to Marian apparition sites ahead of coming to their vocation in the church were also noted by 44% of all respondents, with Guadalupe (29%) and Lourdes (28%) as the most popular sites visited.

A majority of survey participants (74%) said devotion to Mary has either “strengthened” or “very much strengthened” the living out of their respective vocations. Bishops (89%) were most likely to highlight Mary’s role in this regard.

Marian devotion also enhances respondents’ current devotion to the Eucharist, with a total of 80% saying that Mary has had either a “meaningful” or “great” impact.

The survey’s open-ended question on the Marian dogma or doctrine that has been most significant in sustaining respondents’ vocations elicited 31 specific examples, with the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of God or Theotokos, the Assumption and perpetual virginity of Mary most commonly cited.

Another open-ended question on the most meaningful Marian titles yielded a high response rate, with 84% of participants listing a combined 128 distinct Marian titles. Most popular was “Mary, Mother of God,” followed by “Our Lady of Perpetual Help,” “Mary, Mother of the Church,” “Undoer of Knots,” “Our Lady of Guadalupe,” “Our Lady/Mother of Sorrows,” “Theotokos” (“God-bearer”), “Queen

of Peace,” “Our Lady of Good Counsel,” and “Immaculate Heart.”

Ranking first among Marian authors noted by survey participants was the French priest St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, followed by St. John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, Father Michael E. Gaitley, a member of the Marian Fathers of the

Immaculate Conception, and St. Alphonsus Liguori.

Among the report’s other findings:

-St. John Paul II was named as the saint who had most inspired respondents’ Marian devotion, followed by St. Louis de Montfort, St. Joseph, St. Bernadette of Lourdes, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Dominic, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

-The Gospels of Luke and John were the most popular sources of Marian-related Scriptures.

-Marian art such as the Pieta, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin’s tilma imprinted with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and depictions of the Annunciation and Our Lady of Perpetual Help received “a high volume of mentions” among survey participants.

“Most respondents described Mary’s presence in their lives using terms such as companion, friend, guide, comforter, model, intercessor, mother, and vocation-inspirer,” said the report. “Many also spoke of experiencing her role through Marian devotional practices and through being consecrated to Mary.”

Mary “meets us everywhere,” Sister Thu told OSV News. “Even in the place or in the moment that we do not find anyone, Our Lady, Mary, is there.”

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

“Impact of Mary, Mother of the Church, on Ecclesial Vocations” can be downloaded from the website of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at cara.georgetown.edu.

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Children Have Much to Teach Us



Courtesy photo

By Father Paul Wharton, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston

The Solemn Blessing in the Rite of Infant Baptism declares to the parents that they are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. The Church prays they may be the best of teachers. Whenever I see parents doing an outstanding job of sharing the light of the Catholic faith with their children, I am both grateful and touched. I see some parents helping children dip their fingers in holy water and make the sign of the cross. In churches where the tabernacle is visible, they teach them how to genuflect (get down on one knee as a sign of reverence). In both cases, they talk about the what and the why.

Every couple of years, a parent shares with me how their Child plays Mass by carrying the Gospel Book (when I didn't have a deacon), preaching, giving communion, etc. Last April, one of our mom shared this picture of a daughter's creative use of dolls at Mass. Notice the details.

—There is a sanctuary with an altar, ambo, presidential chair, and priest.

—To the priest's right are

servers, and perhaps a Reader and Eucharistic Minister.

—It looks like someone is waiting to accept the collection basket.

—There is a boy and girl ready to bring the bread and wine to the altar.

Here at Blessed Sacrament Parish children are always welcome no matter how young and restless. Your child or grandchild sounds 10 times louder to you than us. Notice how often an especially loud baby becomes quiet when someone carries them to the back.

When children see how important Mass is to the adults, they are growing in faith. Not only parents, but all adults need to set a good example for children by singing, praying, participating, by looking and acting as if something important is happening because it is. Jesus comes to us in the people gathered, the person of the priest, the Word of God proclaimed and preached, and in the bread and wine offered, blessed, and consecrated that become the Body and Blood of Christ. Our children have a lot to learn at Mass, in Sunday faith formation, and the upcoming Vacation Bible Experience. But they also have much to teach us.

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- **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.
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- **Pray for the Pope**

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

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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 community.

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.](#)

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 curric-

ular 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

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Employment Opportunities

Campus Minister – Concord, University

The Campus Minister's responsibilities are to plan and implement a broad campus ministry for the Concord 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 Concord 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 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.

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-

Campus Minister, West Liberty University and Bethany College

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 Hilltop 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 Wheeling 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.

tions.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holidays as needed. Helps in kitchen as needed.

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

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.

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.

Basta de odio; está en juego la humanidad, dice el Papa León en un videomensaje

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — La política puede unir en lugar de dividir, siempre y cuando se niegue a conformarse con la propaganda que se alimenta de crear enemigos, dijo el Papa León XIV.

La política puede unir, dijo, si "se dedica al difícil y necesario arte de la confrontación, que busca el bien común".

"Todavía es posible, siempre es posible, encontrarnos, incluso en tiempos de división, bombardeos y guerras", dijo en un mensaje de video que se emitió antes del comienzo de un partido de fútbol benéfico.

Instó a la gente a tener la "fuerza para creer y orar por una tregua". Es hora de detener "la propagación del odio. Nuestra humanidad está en juego".

El Partido del Corazón ("Partita del Cuore") que se celebra anualmente en Italia está organizado por la federación nacional de cantantes italianos con el fin de recaudar fondos para una causa distinta cada año.

El partido de fútbol televisado enfrenta a cantantes italianos con un equipo formado por "adversarios", que cambia cada año. En 2000, por ejemplo, los cantantes se enfrentaron a un equipo mixto de israelíes, palestinos y conocidas estrellas del deporte, como el piloto de Fórmula Uno Michael Schumacher. El difunto Yaser Arafat, presidente de la Autoridad Nacional Palestina en aquella época, y el fallecido estadista israelí Shimon Peres se sentaron juntos en las gradas del estadio de Roma.

El partido 2025, celebrado el 15 de julio en L'Aquila, enfrentó a cantantes italianos con altos ministros del gobierno y políticos italianos, entre ellos el ex primer ministro de Italia, Matteo Renzi. Recaudaban fondos para un proyecto creado por el Hospital Pediátrico Bambino Gesù de Roma, propiedad del Vaticano, y Cáritas de Italia para apoyar a las familias de pacientes que tienen una hospitalización prolongada y viven lejos de Roma.

En su videomensaje grabado desde la villa veraniega papal de Castel Gandolfo, el Papa León dijo

que era "significativo que hoy jueguen dos equipos, uno de políticos y otro de cantantes".

"La política puede unir en lugar de dividir, si no se conforma con la propaganda que se alimenta de la creación de enemigos", sino que entabla un diálogo orientado al bien común, dijo.

Y también el equipo de los cantantes "nos recuerdan que la música enriquece con significado nuestras palabras y recuerdos", afirmó.

Recordó la canción de Paul McCartney "Pipes of Peace" y la película "Joyeux Noël", ambas inspiradas en la tregua navideña de 1914 entre un grupo de soldados británicos y alemanes que abandonaron sus trincheras para reunirse en "tierra de nadie" e intercambiar regalos, hacerse fotografías y jugar al fútbol.

"Todavía es posible, siempre es posible, encontrarnos", afirmó. "Debemos crear oportunidades para hacerlo".

Eso significa, dijo, crear oportunidades para que "desafíemos las divisiones y reconozcamos que este es el mayor desafío: encontrarnos.

Contribuyamos juntos a una buena causa. Reconciliemos corazones rotos, los nuestros y los de los demás. Reconozcamos que en el corazón de Dios somos uno. Y que el corazón es el lugar del encuentro con Dios y con los demás".

El Papa León elogió el evento benéfico por mezclar deporte y televisión, y por recaudar fondos "para la vida, para el cuidado, no para la destrucción y la muerte".

Cuando los atletas y los aficionados lo practican bien, el deporte es estupendo para transformar la contienda en encuentro, la división en inclusión, la soledad en comunidad", dijo. Cuando la televisión no se limita a estar "sintonizada", sino que se convierte en una "comunidad de miradas, que puede hacernos redescubrir cómo mirarnos unos a otros, con amor en lugar de odio".

Invitó a todos los que se reunieron para el acto y que apoyan el proyecto caritativo a "mirar a los ojos de los niños y aprender de ellos", a encontrar el valor de ser acogedores y a ser "hombres y mujeres de encuentro".

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.

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Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology