

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Diocese Unveils Intentional Growth Plan for Catholic Schools

By Colleen Rowan

**WHEELING**—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and its Catholic schools have unveiled their strategic plan, an undertaking designed to ensure the viability and success of the schools in the future. With its official title of “Intentional Growth Planning for Our Catholic Schools of West Virginia 2021–2024,” the plan was presented in document form to principals near the end of June and will be officially published and distributed in August at the start of the new school year.

Included is a letter from Bishop Mark E. Brennan in which he shares: “Having received a Catholic education during my high school years, I know personally, the value of that experience. I hope not only to maintain but to strengthen the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston so that many young people today may derive from their experience the benefits that I received. The Intentional Growth Plan should help you take part in that effort.”

Also included in the document is a letter from Catholic Schools Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine as well as outlines of the development and implementation of the effort.

Work began almost two years ago and continued through the COVID-19 pandemic, Deschaine said, by dedicated representatives from all facets of Catholic education working together to produce the final product.

“The plan represents all of our 24 schools and the needs of the diocese’s Catholic schools as a whole,” she said.

See “Plan” on Page 4

## Bishop Brennan Discusses Draft Document on the Eucharist

By Colleen Rowan

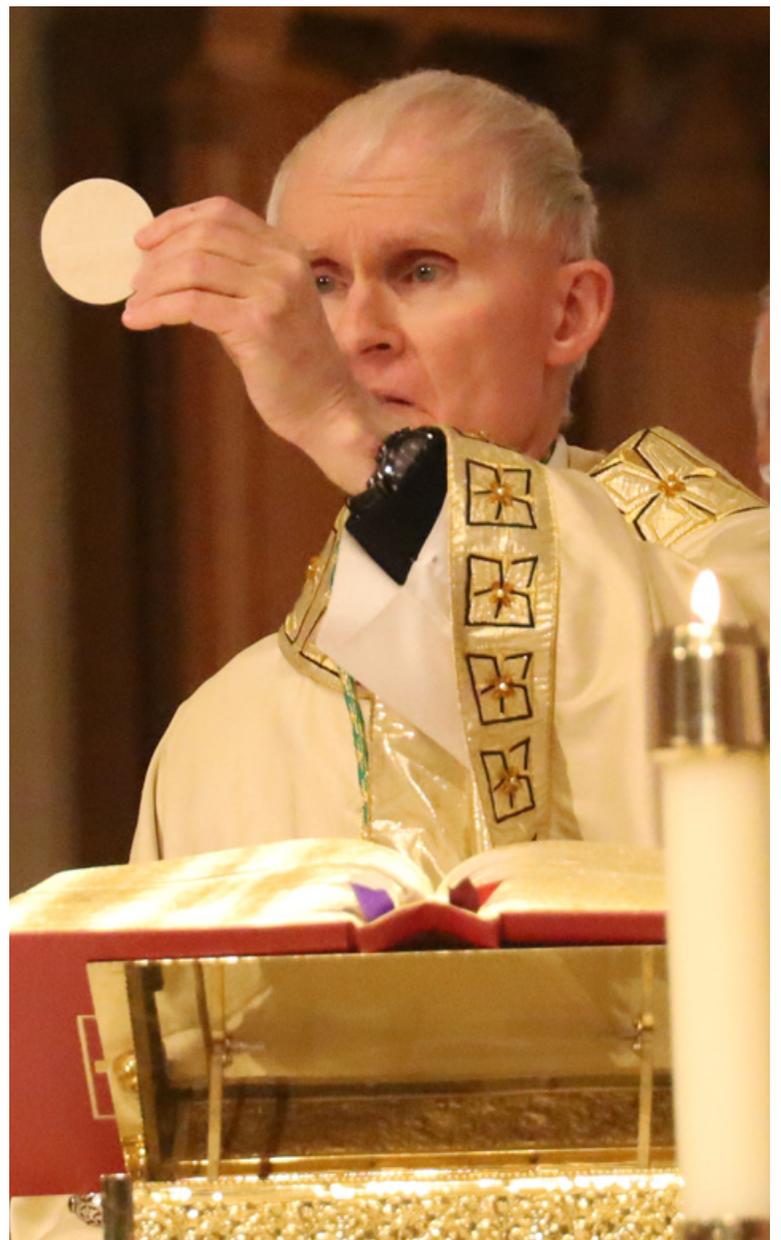
The church is facing a real problem, Bishop Mark Brennan said. Many Catholics today, who are regular Mass goers, no longer believe in the teaching of the church that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, he said. Pointing to findings of a 2019 Pew Research Center survey which reported that “just one-third of U.S. Catholics agree with their church that Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ,” Bishop Brennan said this is a seismic change from when he was growing up and even for recent years.

“It shows the corrosive influence of secularism, materialism, and the lack of sound catechesis about what the Eucharist is, the role it plays in our lives, and why it would not have that role if it really was not Christ giving himself to us in the Eucharist,” the bishop said.

The lack of faith in the real presence has brought a great deal of concern to him and his fellow U.S. bishops, the majority of whom voted in favor of a draft document to examine the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church” at their spring general assembly June 18.

“Our concern as bishops is that we don’t want our people deprived of the spiritual benefit of receiving holy Communion, which is certainly put in jeopardy if they don’t believe that it is the Lord Jesus whom they are receiving,” he said.

See “Eucharist” on Page 3



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark E. Brennan elevates the Eucharist during the Mass celebrating the 95th anniversary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling in April. Bishop Brennan sat down with *The Catholic Spirit* to discuss the draft of the teaching document on the Eucharist, which he and his fellow U.S. bishops approved at their spring assembly last month.

**Inside:** Celebrating Three Years of Eucharistic Adoration in Weirton, a ‘Chapel Belonging to All,’ Page 7

St. Joseph Catholic School Student Publishes a Motivational Storybook, Page 9

# USCCB Webpage Answers Questions about Vote on Communion Document

By Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — A page on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops answers a series of questions regarding the bishops' vote to approve drafting a document on the Eucharist during their spring general assembly June 16-18.

Presented in a question-and-answer format, the page reviews four questions including why the document is being developed and whether the bishops voted to ban elected officials from receiving holy Communion.

The webpage — [www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church](http://www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church) — is dated June 21, three days after the bishops announced the vote to allow the Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November.

The U.S. bishops approved advancing a plan to draft a document to examine the "meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church" following a lengthy debate during their assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic. The action passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

Chieko Noguchi, USCCB director of public affairs, told CNS in an email June 24 that the question-and-answer online document was developed by her office in collaboration with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, doctrine committee chairman, and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Communications.

"We were hearing from people who seemed to misunderstand the vote, so it was created and then shared with all bishops with the approval of the conference president," Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, she wrote.

In two paragraphs leading to the questions, the webpage states that the vote approves the drafting of a teaching document on the Eucha-

rist, explaining: "The question of whether or not to deny any individual or groups holy Communion was not the ballot."

Noting the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life, it says that "the importance of an ever deeper understanding of the beauty and mystery in our lives" is not a new topic for the bishops to address.

"The document being drafted is not meant to be disciplinary in nature, nor is it targeted at any one individual or class of persons. It will include a section on the church's teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate," it says.

The first question addresses why the bishops acted on this during their meeting.

In response, the webpage explains the bishops have had a "major concern" that Catholics have had a declining belief and understanding of the Eucharist. The concern is so deep, it said, the bishops made the Eucharist the major theme of their 2021-2024 strategic plan.

The webpage also says the Communion document "will serve as a foundation for the conference's Eucharistic Revival Project, a national effort focused on reviving eucharistic faith.

The second question asks whether the recent vote actually bans politicians from receiving Communion.

"No, this was not up for vote or debate. The bishops made no decision about barring anyone from receiving holy Communion," the response says.

It stresses that all Catholics are called to "continual conversion," while the bishops have "repeatedly emphasized the obligation of all Catholics to support human life and dignity and other fundamental principles of Catholic moral and social teaching."

The third question focuses on  
**See "Webpage" on Page 3**

## To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://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](http://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 im-mediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

**To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment," then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability," then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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## Correction:

In the story on the Golden Horseshoe winners from diocesan Catholic schools in the June 25 issue of The Catholic Spirit, Golden Horseshoe winner Gabriel Watson of St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown was mistakenly left out.

## Eucharist ...

Cont'd from Page 1

In the days following the assembly, Bishop Brennan sat down with *The Catholic Spirit* to discuss the reason for the document and why he voted in favor of it as well as other actions of the bishops.

The purpose of the document is teaching on Christ's real presence in the Eucharist and preparation for the launch of the bishops' Eucharistic revival in 2022, Bishop Brennan said. This is why he was among the 168 U.S. bishops who voted "yes" on the draft document. Bishop Brennan also said there is value in having the document, especially at this time in the life of the church.

"Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council urged us to be attentive to the signs of the times," Bishop Brennan said. "And if we find, looking at our own times, that the Eucharistic faith of our people has greatly weakened then a document that addresses that specific problem is in order. That is why I voted for it."

Further discussion on the document, which Bishop Brennan said was requested by a number of the 55 U.S. bishops who voted "no" on its drafting at this time, will be facilitated at regional meetings of the bishops to be held around the country this summer. The bishops will discuss the document again at their fall assembly.

Fundamental to Catholicism is the doctrine of transubstantiation, when bread and wine change to become the Body and Blood of Christ when consecrated by a priest. The appearance of the bread and wine stays the same, Bishop Brennan said, but through faith, "We can describe, but not fully understand that the risen Jesus Christ takes these common elements of the bread and wine ... and incorporates them into his risen body. When we receive holy Communion that is what we are receiving, Christ. That is why we say, 'Body of Christ... Blood of Christ.' We do not say, 'symbol of Christ.' It is the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ."

The faith of the people going back to the New Testament and the earliest post-apostolic writings is that it is Jesus, Bishop Brennan said. "The reality is that it is not just a piece of bread that symbolizes Jesus. It is

"Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council urged us to be attentive to the signs of the times. And if we find, looking at our own times, that the Eucharistic faith of our people has greatly weakened then a document that addresses that specific problem is in order. That is why I voted for it."

—Bishop Mark E. Brennan

Jesus," the bishop said. It is mysterious how Christ can take these elements and transform them into himself, and "give himself to us. He said, holding the bread, 'This is my body'; and holding the chalice, 'This is my blood.' He is the son of God, so he does not lie and he has the power to do as he says. And we believe he does," the bishop said.

If Catholics do not have faith that they are really receiving the Lord in the Eucharist, Bishop Brennan said he doubts they are receiving the benefit of the sacrament. Turning to the third chapter of Revelation, the bishop said there is that image of Jesus knocking at the door. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me" Revelation 3:20.

"Christ is truly presenting himself in the Eucharist," Bishop Brennan stressed, urging the faithful not to close the door on him.

It is devastating for the faith of the Catholic people when a large number of practicing Catholics do not believe, Bishop Brennan said. Part of the problem is that many of the faithful simply do not know of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, he said. There is also the strong secular, materialistic tendency in modern culture "to reduce everything to the horizontal level,"

the bishop said. "We really have to overcome that mindset."

This is what led the U.S. bishops, he said, to plan for the Eucharistic revival next year, and the teaching document on the Eucharist will help to prepare the faithful.

"This document will bring together the teaching of the church on the Eucharist, its role in the individual believer's life but also the larger life of the church," the bishop said.

The document will include three topics: the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion; unity, beauty and identity as the "fount and apex of the whole Christian life"; and moral transformation, Eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

In regard to the controversy surrounding Eucharistic consistency, Bishop Brennan points to the words of St. Paul to examine oneself.

"St. Paul says in his Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 11, examine yourself before you receive, otherwise you may eat and drink a judgment against yourself," Bishop Brennan said.

The chair of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades "assured us they do not plan to be naming names and talking about people who shouldn't receive Communion," Bishop Brennan said, and the bishops are not going to propose of any kind of national standard.

During the assembly, Bishop Brennan said the bishops also approved a document which will be the basis for diocesan plans for Marriage and Family Life. They also approved a formal statement and comprehensive vision for Native American/Alaskan Native ministry; discussed their efforts on immigration; and approved a new national pastoral framework on accompanying youths and young adults in the church.

The bishops also voted to approve three sets of translations from the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, or ICEL, on: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; additional intercessions and psalter concluding prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours; and the Order of Penance, among other actions.

## Webpage ...

Cont'd from Page 2

whether the bishops plan to issue a national policy on withholding Communion from politicians.

"There will be no national policy on withholding Communion from politicians," the online document says in response. "The intent is to present a clear understanding of the Church's teachings to bring heightened awareness among the faithful of how the Eucharist can transform our lives and bring us closer to our creator and the life he wants for us."

The final question asks if the Vatican told the bishops not to move forward on drafting a teaching doc-

ument on the Eucharist.

The webpage says this was not the case but that the Vatican has encouraged the bishops to "engage in dialogue and broad consultation" and that the discussion during the recent spring general assembly was part of that process.

"It is important to note that collaboration and consultation among the bishops will be key in the drafting of the document," the webpage says.

A consensus emerged among the bishops' during the debate on drafting the document to convene regional discussions, the outcomes of which would be forwarded the doctrine committee.



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## Plan ...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

"For us to do what we had to do during a pandemic was really challenging but our principals, the Intentional Growth Planning committees, school advisory councils, supporting parishes, and the pastors were so collaborative on all this that we were able to meet objectives and create something that is really good."

"Having received a Catholic education during my high school years, I know personally the value of that experience. I hope not only to maintain but to strengthen the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston so that many young people today may derive from their experience the benefits that I received."

—*Bishop Mark E. Brennan,*  
letter from "Intentional Growth  
Planning for Our Catholic  
Schools of West Virginia"

In a description of how the plan was developed, the document states: "We are committed in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (DWC) to provide exceptional Catholic schools with strong academics, while nurturing responsibility, accountability, citizenship, and empathy. Our pre-school through grade 12 focus is to encourage individual and critical thinking, deepen faith, build self-esteem, and develop a sound moral foundation unapologetically rooted in our Catholic faith."

Prominent in the plan are four pillars for the schools to focus upon. They are: Mission and Catholic Identity; Governance and Leadership; Academic Excellence; and Operational Vitality. Deschaine described the project as "a bottom-up process" that began with a building level as individual schools first looked at the four pillars and then created their own plans based on academic, survey, and internal sources data

# 2021-2024 INTENTIONAL GROWTH PLANNING FOR OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF WEST VIRGINIA



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Cover of "Intentional Growth Planning for Our Catholic Schools of West Virginia"/Courtesy of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Department of Catholic Schools

they collected.

"They built a building-level plan that incorporated all of the pillars," Deschaine said, "and they worked with their local-level team."

According to the outline of the development of the effort, each individual school's plan drew upon the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary

Schools (NSBECS). Once individual school plans were finalized, focus shifted to the development of the Intentional Growth Plan for diocesan schools as a whole. The diocesan plan incorporates attributes of the individual school plans along with the outline of pillars and standards of the NSBECS. The development process began with the principals assessing everything at hand.

"We broke our principals into four separate pillar groups, and they looked at each of the 24 plans, looked for trend data and supporting documentation and came out with critical issues that were common to those plans in that specific pillar," Deschaine said. "They then developed goals based upon each of those pillars."

**See "Plan on Page 5**

“The plan represents all of our 24 schools and the needs of the diocese’s Catholic schools as a whole.”

—Mary Ann Deschaine, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

**Plan ...**

**Cont’d from Page 4**

For example, the first goal under Pillar I of Mission and Catholic Identity, is “Review and update current DWC Religious Education Certification Policy.” This goal is under the first of four standards under Pillar I which states: “An excellent Catholic school is guided and driven by a clearly communicated mission that embraces a Catholic identity rooted in gospel values, centered on the Eucharist, and committed to faith formation, academic excellence and service.”

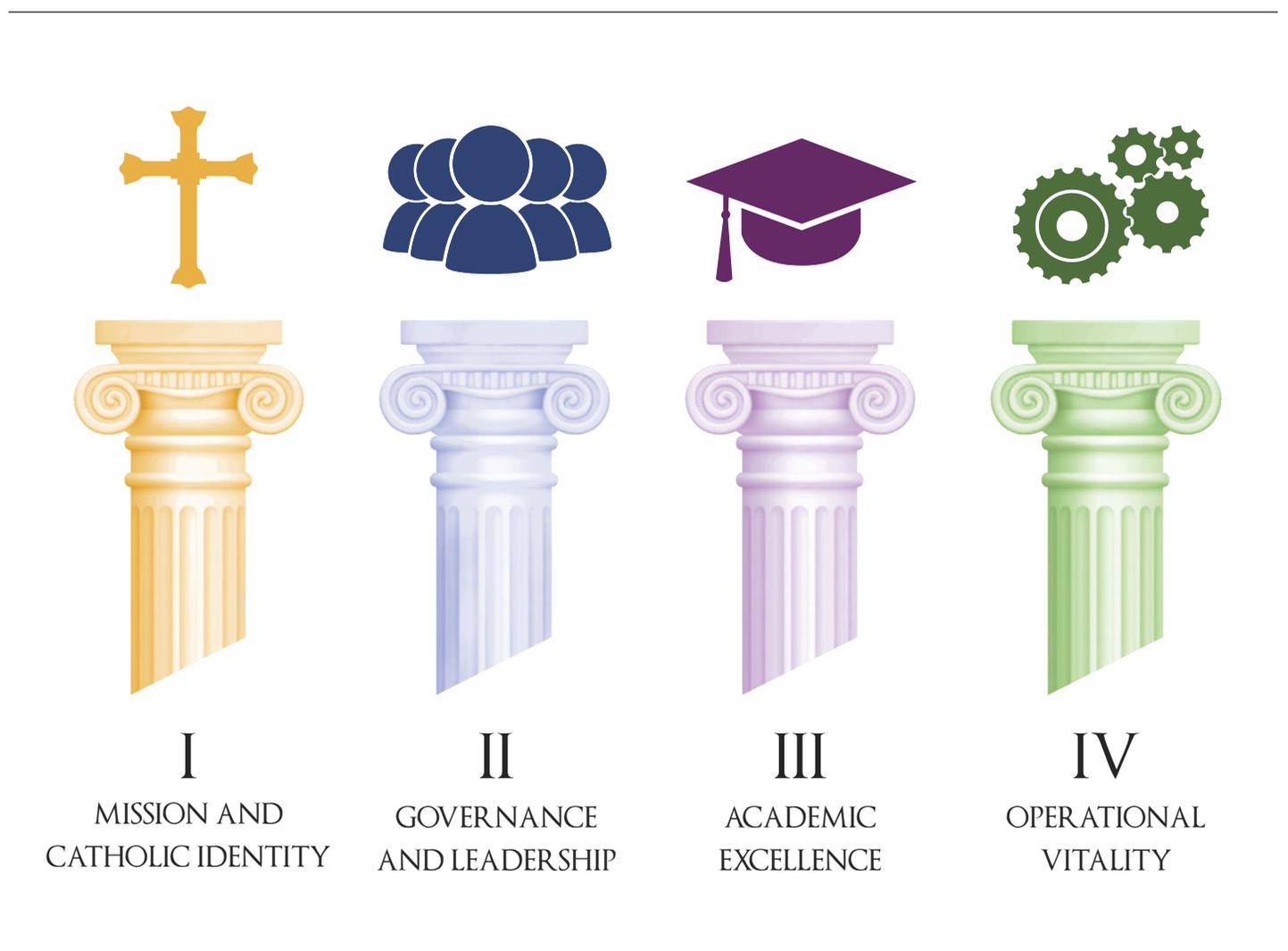
In all there are 13 standards dispersed throughout the four pillars. Each pillar also includes a Measure of Success under each standard. For Pillar I, Standard I, the Measure of Success states: “By 2024, DWC Catholic schools will review, revise, and implement a Religious Education Certification protocol.”

According to the plan, each goal has been assigned a target completion date between Dec. 31 of this year and Dec. 31, 2024. However, progress will be constantly monitored, and modifications implemented when needed.

“With any type of growth plan, we evaluate annually,” Deschaine said, and as objectives are met, needed amendments can be made. “So, it is a living document,” she said, one which aims to guide Catholic schools to a strong and prosperous future.

The document also states that this growth process is also part of ongoing accreditation through Cognia, a national accrediting organization. The plan further states, “It is our priority to continually improve Catholic education in every school across the diocese.”

The diocese’s Catholic schools are located all over West Virginia. Its secondary schools are Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, Charleston Catholic High School, Madonna High School in Weirton, Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, Parkersburg Catholic High School, and St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington.



Graphic from “Intentional Growth Planning for Our Catholic Schools of West Virginia”/Courtesy of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Department of Catholic Schools

The diocese has 18 Catholic elementary and grade schools. In Wheeling are Corpus Christi School, Our Lady of Peace School, St. Michael Parish School, and St. Vincent de Paul Parish School. Weirton is home to St. Joseph the Worker Grade School and St. Paul School.

In the south are Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston, St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans,

Our Lady of Fatima Parish School and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington, SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Oak Hill, and St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley.

In the Central Region of the state through the I-79 corridor are St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown, Fairmont Catholic Grade School, St. Mary Central School

in Clarksburg, and St. Patrick School in Weston. The Central Region is also home to Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School, while the Eastern Panhandle provides Catholic education at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.

For contact information for all of the diocese’s Catholic schools, visit [wvcatholicschools.org/our-schools/](http://wvcatholicschools.org/our-schools/).

The graphic is a vertical rectangle. At the top left, a black box contains the text 'ENROLL TODAY' in white, and below it, a teal box contains 'WV Catholic Schools' in white. The main text is in a large, black, cursive font: 'Empowered by knowledge. Transformed by faith.' To the right is a photograph of a young girl with long brown hair, wearing a light pink shirt, giving two thumbs up. At the bottom left is an icon of an open book with a heart and rays above it. At the bottom right, the text 'Register today' is above the website address 'wvcatholicschools.org'.

# Wheeling University Updates COVID Plan, Recommends Campus Community be Vaccinated

**WHEELING**—Wheeling University's updated COVID-19 plan urges all community members to be vaccinated, but will not require students, faculty and staff be inoculated prior to the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

University President Ginny R. Favade said the revised campus guidelines reflect new recommendations from local, state and federal agencies.

"We looked at all of the recent guidance and adjusted our campus COVID Plan accordingly. We are currently surveying our students and employees to determine the percentage of those who have been vaccinated. While we are not requiring vaccinations, we do urge members of the community to be in-

oculated. Continued progress towards our vaccination goal of 70 percent of our campus population, will provide us greater confidence in easing our indoor social distancing and masking restrictions," Favade said.

The university will establish on-campus vaccination clinics at the start of the academic year for students who wish to receive a vaccine. Favade noted that students will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test or proof of vaccination when they return to campus in August.

Under the new plan, masks are still required indoors across campus, unless employees are in their office alone or students are in their rooms. Wearing

masks outdoors is left to the discretion of each individual. Social distancing measures have been lifted, with classrooms and dining areas reverting to pre-pandemic designs. The university will hold face-to-face instruction, using hybrid and remote learning when necessary.

Favade said, the university will continue testing as needed and keep its isolation/tracing/care program in place through the fall. Per NCAA guidance, the university will test athletes. However, student-athletes who show proof they have been vaccinated, will be exempt unless they exhibit COVID symptoms, she added.

"Our testing, tracing, isolation and

care program helped us contain outbreaks and remain open throughout the academic year. We believe it is important to keep these protocols in place for now," Favade added. Additionally, space restrictions and gathering limits have been rolled back to pre-pandemic levels in classrooms, meeting areas, the dining halls, coffee shop, and student lounges. Favade said the in-classroom cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and sanitizing stations will continue to be provided. "We know that adjustments to our plan may be needed moving forward," Favade said. "For now, we believe our plan has the necessary precautions in place to keep our students, faculty and staff safe."

## Frank Koenig to Lead Knights of Columbus in West Virginia

**WEST VIRGINIA**—At the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Convention held at Elkins in May, State Secretary Frank Koenig was elected State Deputy to serve for the next two fraternal years. Koenig took over for former State Deputy Paul Niedbalski July 1 and he is charged with leading all Brother Knights and their councils in West Virginia.

Koenig's service with the Knights began as a charter member of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Council #7442 at Sacred Heart Parish in Willow Springs, Missouri. He then went on to serve as Grand Knight of his home council in Elkins and most recently as West Virginia State Secretary. When asked why he joined the Knights, Koenig quickly answered saying "to serve my parish and community, to grow in my faith with like minded Catholic men and to protect my family."

Koenig along with his wife JoAnn are looking forward to the next two years and hopes to meet and visit many of the local councils to help strengthen the Knights' commitment to service and evangelization across the Mountain State.

Koenig was installed as State Deputy at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., and says he feels blessed to have the honor of leading the Knights in West Virginia. He is committed to "Growing the Order" in West Virginia stronger, with all councils active. In growing, he stated, "We need to recruit more men, we need our current Knights to become more active in programs and support of their parish priest and to grow individually in our faith and love of God and our fellow man."

Catholic men who would like to help serve their parish and community should ask their parish priest how to become a Knight, contact a local Knights council, or go to [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus).

## Franciscan University to Host Conference on Parental Rights

**STEBENVILLE, OHIO**—In recent decades, schools, courts, states, and other federal agencies have eroded parental rights by imposing more far-reaching restrictions on American families. Public schools have appropriated sex and gender ideology education in the classroom, health care systems override parental rights in decisions regarding a minor's care, and legal systems challenge parental rights in the United States and internationally.

With this in mind, Franciscan University of Steubenville will host the Conference on Parental Rights Oct. 15-16. The two-day conference features 13 presentations.

"We have often seen 'experts' in different areas assume automatically they know better than parents on ethical matters," says Dr. Stephen M. Krason, professor of political science and legal studies at Franciscan University of Steubenville. "Parental rights, however, are affirmed in sound ethics, the teaching of the church and the Christian tradition generally, and in the background of our nation's common law tradition."

Presenters and topics to be addressed include: Dr. Patrick F. Fagan, The Catholic

University of America—"The Welfare State, the Family, and Parental Rights"; Michael P. Donnelly, Esq., Home School Legal Defense Association—"The History and Erosion of Parental Rights in American Law"; and Hugh Brown, American Life League—"Parental Rights and the Life Issues."

Other topics include: "The Threat to Parental Rights by Gender Ideology"; "False Child Abuse Allegations, the Child Protective System, and the Threat to Parental Rights"; and "In Defense of Homeschooling."

The conference is co-sponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville's Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life and Department of Political Science, ParentalRights.org/Parental Rights Foundation, the Home School Legal Defense Association, the Alliance Defending Freedom, and the Society of Catholic Social Scientists.

Parents, academics, and professionals are invited to attend. Cost of attendance is \$40. For a full agenda, list of speakers, and registration information, visit [franciscan.edu/parental-rights-conference](http://franciscan.edu/parental-rights-conference) or send e-mail to [adelfiandra@franciscan.edu](mailto:adelfiandra@franciscan.edu).

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# Celebrating Three Years of Eucharistic Adoration in Weirton, a ‘Chapel Belonging to All’

By Colleen Rowan

“Adoration is an invitation to have a face-to-face conversation with God,” said Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton. That invitation has been accepted by many Catholic faithful. Each week, 250 of them visit the Communion of Saints Adoration Chapel at St. Joseph the Worker Church.

This year marks the chapel’s third anniversary, and although it is located at St. Joseph’s parishioners feel that it belongs to the wider Catholic community. “We did not want the chapel to be thought of as belonging to the parish, but as the adoration chapel serving the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia and surrounding area, belonging to all,” said Mary Ekvovich, adoration guardian coordinator.

That message has been well communicated as adorers come from all over the tri-state area to spend time with Christ. The chapel opened April 13, 2018, with barely enough guardians to staff 12 hours of adoration. However, this would change quickly. “In the past three years, guardian membership has increased from the original 20 to well over 100,” Ekvovich said.

Guardians are those who sign up to spend a certain amount of time in the chapel in prayer because the Most Blessed Sacrament can never be left

alone. “These committed individuals from various parishes throughout the area, serve one or more hours every week,” Ekvovich said. “By the grace of God and their generosity, adoration is now open to all, 60 hours a week, Monday – Friday.”

Father Schuelkens said the guardians come from many parishes in the area as well as parishes from the nearby Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Diocese of Steubenville, which is just across the Ohio River from Weirton.

“It’s encouraging to know that in addition to the daily Masses and the school Masses along with the other devotions that we offer throughout the year, over 250 people per week are in the church, before our Lord in adoration, engaged in life-changing conversations, strengthening those who come with the encounter of God’s personal, passionate, unrelenting love for them,” Father Schuelkens, Jr., said. “It has, no doubt, had a profound impact on our community’s faith in the Living God.”

The parish’s goal is to establish Perpetual Adoration, Father Schuelkens said.

The name “Communion of Saints” was chosen for the chapel for two reasons. Ekvovich said the room where the chapel is now located once housed the Most Blessed Sacrament. When the tabernacle was moved to the main body of the church the room even-



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the Communion of Saints Adoration Chapel at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton.

tually became referred to as the Candle Room, she said, a quiet place to pray and light a candle to place in front of one of the many statues of saints that over time had been donated and placed there by parishioners. The second reason was for it to be known as belonging to all. “Communion of Saints seemed a most appropriate title!” Ekvovich said.

Father Schuelkens said: “God is substantially present to us, within us, in the power of our baptism and confirmation. The Holy Spirit substantially dwells within us changing our

soul with God’s presence. Nevertheless, there are parts of our heart that God goes to by invitation only. We have to be actively involved in a deep conversation, which is prayer. It’s part of the life of sanctification, being sanctified by a growing an active relationship with Jesus Christ. We just celebrated the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Holy Communion is a substantial embrace by God to strengthen us. Adoration is an invitation to have a face-to-face conversation with God. Providing this opportunity perpetually is our goal.”

## Twenty-two Candidates for the Diaconate

The 22 candidates for the diaconate for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are gathered following the Rite of Admission to the Candidacy for the Permanent Diaconate at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 6 celebrated by Bishop Mark E. Brennan. In the front row, from left, are Thomas Joseph McFadden, David Andrew Torlone, Bryce Burl Timberlake, Michael Brumley, Jason Scott Miller, Dr. John Anthony Basil, Christopher James Forshey, and Stephen Francis Allard. In the second row, from left, are Deacon John Yaquinta; Patrick Michel; James David McCullough; William Richard Allen, III; Anthony Michael O’Leary; Ronald Piaskowski; Victor Francis Cwynar; John David Butler; and Emarjun Capuno Brucal. In the third row, from left, are Tommy Bryan, Michael A. Kawash, William Klug, Aaron Talbott, Jacob Manning, and Robert Joseph Krall.

Courtesy Photo



# God's Grace Transforms Sinners into Apostles, Pope Says

**By Junno Arocho, Esteves Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Even the lowliest of sinners can become the greatest of apostles by answering God's call and allowing his grace to work in their heart and mind, Pope Francis said.

The life of St. Paul, who went "from being a persecutor of Christians for not observing the traditions and the law" to being one of the great apostles, highlights the power of God's grace, the pope said June 30 during his weekly general audience.

"How often, in the face of the Lord's great works, does the question arise: How is it possible that God uses a sinner, a frail and weak person, to do his will? And yet, none of this happens by chance, because everything has been prepared in God's plan. He weaves our history and, if we correspond with trust to his plan of salvation, we realize it," he said.

Arriving in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, the pope took his time greeting pilgrims and blessing newlyweds. Before concluding the audience, the pope also took time to thank his personal driver, Renzo Ciecchi, who was retiring.

"He began working when he was 14 years old, riding a bicycle. Today, he is the pope's driver. Let us applaud Renzo and his faithfulness. He is one of those people who bring the church forward with his work, with his goodness and with his prayers. I

thank him so much, and I also would like to take the opportunity to thank all the laypeople who work here at the Vatican," the pope said.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his new series of talks on the Letter to the Galatians, reflecting on the theme, "Paul, true apostle."

St. Paul shows "a father's concern" for the Christian community, he said, and in reading his Letter to the Galatians, "we immediately discover that Paul has a profound knowledge of the mystery of Christ."

When problems arise, such as the dispute over whether Gentiles must be circumcised, St. Paul did not follow "the shallow arguments used by his detractors" but instead "chose to go deeper, because what was at stake was the truth of the Gospel and the freedom of Christians."

"He does not stop at the surface of the problems, as we are often tempted to do in order to find an immediate solution that deludes us into thinking that we can all agree with a compromise," the pope said. "This is not how the Gospel works, and the apostle chose to take the more challenging route."

One of the ways St. Paul explains his reasoning is by reminding the Galatians of his history of violent persecution against Christians and "that he is a true apostle not by his own merit, but by God's calling."

"On the one hand, he insists on underlining that he had fiercely persecuted the church and that he had been a 'blasphemer, a persecutor and a man of violence,' the pope said. "On the other hand, he highlights God's mercy toward him, which led him to experience a radical transformation, well known to all."

Pope Francis said St. Paul's "wonder and gratitude" despite his past showed that, through the grace of God, even one who fought the disciples of Christ "could become a herald among the Gentiles."

"The call always implies a mission to which we are destined; that is why we are asked to prepare ourselves seriously, knowing that it is God himself who sends us and supports us with his grace," the pope said. "Let us allow ourselves to be led by this awareness: The primacy of grace transforms existence and makes it worthy of being placed at the service of the Gospel."

## Report on Immigration Highlights Care Needed for Unaccompanied Minors

**By Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — A Catholic agency has collaborated with a professor from The Catholic University of America on a report pointing out deficiencies but also opportunities in the care of unaccompanied migrant children in the United States.

The report, "A Vision Forward: Policies Needed to Protect the Best Interests of 'Category 4' Unaccompanied Immigrant Children," focuses on minors who crossed the border but have no family or a custodian waiting to claim them. Without a home to go to, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement places the children in facilities.

However, rising numbers of minors entering in

general — 17,847 registered minors recorded as of May 26 — have prompted concerns, particularly for "protecting unaccompanied children whom the government has determined do not have viable sponsors."

Catholic University, with help from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migrant and Refugee Services agency, worked on the report, which points out recommendations, including better collection of information on the population; access to legal help; family- and community-based care, as opposed to large-scale facilities; and ending detention for those who reach 18, when they age out of the system. The report says those 18 to 21 should be helped with independent living conditions.

## House Appropriations Committee urged to Include Pro-Life Policies in Bills

**By Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and international policy committees have urged the House Appropriations Committee and all members of Congress "to protect taxpayers from having to pay for the evil of abortion, and to instead use our tax dollars for the common good and welfare of all."

In a joint statement issued late June 28, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, addressed how proposed spending bills for the District of Columbia and several federal agencies and for U.S. foreign operations have eliminated three decades-old, bipartisan policies that would prevent taxpayer funds from being

used to pay for abortions. Archbishop Naumann is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop Malloy is chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace.

Their statement came as the House Committee on Appropriations prepared to mark up two appropriations bills: the Financial Services and General Government bill, which funds the Treasury Department, the Judiciary, the Executive Office of the President, and other federal agencies, including the Small Business Administration; and the State and Foreign Operations bill, which funds the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and other international programs and activities.

## Prayers, Vigil Held Following Florida Building Collapse

**By Catholic News Service**

**SURFSIDE, Fla. (CNS)** — After girding themselves with eucharistic adoration, rosary, songs and reflections, the teens, young adults and parish community of St. Joseph stepped out into the night air to solemnly walk to Surfside's new ground zero.

For three hours — and all the way until midnight — the participants in the June 26 prayer vigil, organized in response to the Champlain Towers South partial collapse, turned their thoughts heavenward: 12 parish families were affected by the tragedy, eight of whom remain missing.

As of June 30, 16 people were confirmed dead and about 145 others were still missing as search and rescue efforts entered their seventh day. The death toll from the tragic collapse could end up on par with that of the 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City if few or no more victims are rescued from the dismal scene of rubble being televised around the world. In that earlier tragedy, after a two-week rescue effort ended, the fatalities numbered 168. Fires, winds and intermittent heavy rains have hampered an already logistically challenging rescue effort after the collapsed towers' floors piled up on themselves in a pancakelike fashion. On June 27, St. Joseph Parish released a list of registered members who had lived in Champlain Towers South, and church leaders pointed out that many others who lived there were likely informally associated with the parish.

"This was definitely a shock, but it is bringing people together in prayer; there has been a lot of people coming here to donate things," said George Sanchez, parish youth ministry leader and a resident of the Allapattah neighborhood in Miami.

# St. Joseph Catholic School Student Publishes a Motivational Storybook

**By Joyce Bibey**

**HUNTINGTON**—Kingston Garrett may only be 8 years old, but he is already a published author of “Rockin’ Randy – The Tale of the School Talent Show.”

Garrett, who just finished second grade at Huntington’s St. Joseph Catholic School, said he wrote the book to help encourage kids to work hard, be brave, and have faith.

“Rockin’ Randy is about a 10-year-old boy at Hillside Elementary School, who’s like me and most kids I would say,” the young author, who goes by King for short, explained. “He likes to play in his backyard, play video games, and hanging with his friends; but then he finds out about a school talent show.”

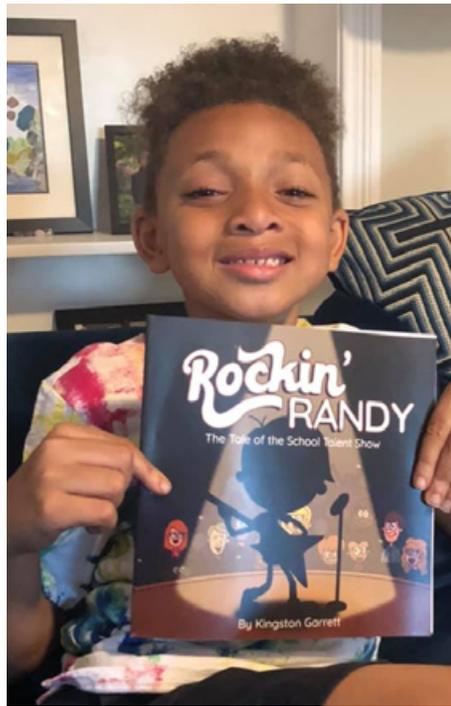
Despite being antagonized by his tormenter, “Mean Gene,” Randy, the star of the book, enters the contest, practices as much as possible, and showcases his courage and talents on stage.

“He worked hard on what to sing, what to wear, what dance moves to do,” Garrett said. “He practiced, practiced and practiced on the guitar.”

The young writer said, even though Rockin’ Randy had to swallow a “big gulp of nervousness,” he faced his fears and did his best.

“That’s what we all should do,” Garrett said. “I give that advice to myself. When you feel like you can’t do something you really really want to do, is when you just have to put your mind to it, be ready to work hard, really try, and believe you can succeed.”

Garrett, the son of Candace Layne and Taurean Garrett, said he gets reassurance all the time from his parents; his grandmother Brenda Layne, who he affection-



**Courtesy Photo**  
**Pictured is 8-year-old Kingston Garrett, author of “Rockin’ Randy – The Tale of the School Talent Show.”**

ately calls “Grand B”; and his teachers Susie Wagner and Amy Parent.

“I tell King all the time, trust in God, be a good human, and work hard in everything that you do,” his mother said. “When he was writing I asked him the same question. What is it that he wants people to learn about Rockin’ Randy? He told me, ‘to learn, to practice, work hard, and never give up.’ I try to tell him this every day and encourage him to live, because life is short.”

Garrett has always loved books and story time. As a preschooler, he would entertain friends and family by telling stories. Once he could write his letters and a few words he started making his own little story books.

“He’s been writing and telling stories since he was four,” his mother said. “His PreK4 teachers Ms. Angel (Blake) and Ms. Sharon (Icenhower) encouraged me to keep all of his writings and stories, so I have.”

When the pandemic started and Garrett had a lot of time on his hands, Layne challenged him to do what he loved – write her some stories he could read to her.

When he came out with the story about “Rockin’ Randy,” Layne enjoyed it and was impressed with the message it was sending. She nudged him to work on it more to make it even better.

“I asked him questions about it, and told him he should provide more details,” she said.

“Publishing was truly a learning experience from the copyright to ISBN to the illustrations,” Layne said, but it was a childhood friend of hers, Amy Frasure, of Bullseye Creative Media, who stepped up to help get it published.

When he first opened the package with his professionally published book inside, he said, “I was pretty chill on the outside, but on

the inside, I was very, very, VERY excited!”

He immediately explained that the best feeling was the reaction he got when other people saw the book for the first time.

“People at school and church (Antioch Missionary Baptist Church) and told me they loved it,” he said. “Then my Papa took it to the senior citizens. I’m pretty sure he read it to them. I’m happy to make other people happy.”

As for the future, Garrett is focused on his summer basketball tournaments, playing on O.J. Mayo’s 9 and under youth travel ball team (Team Mayo), which will take him to Nashville, Columbus, and Cincinnati.

Being an author before even reaching double digits in age doesn’t seem to be going to Garrett’s head.

“I love that I have a book to share, but you know what?” he asked. “I made the honor roll! Every time this year!”

To order the book go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/55S7TSH>

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*A Special Six-Part Series on the Diocesan Pastoral Council*

# Buede, Brockett, Abrahamian Represent Eastern Panhandle on DPC

**By Joyce Bibey**

**WHEELING**—The Martinsburg Vicariate representatives selected to serve on the reestablished Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) are ready to collaborate with Bishop Mark E. Brennan to move the church forward to fulfill the mission of the diocese.

Paul Buede, Kathleen Brockett, and Linda Abrahamian are generously sharing their time for the greater good of the church.

The team will work with Bishop Brennan, conferring with other vicariate representatives and religious from across the diocese. Together they will assist Bishop Brennan in outlining and developing priorities, initiatives, and plans to fulfill the mission of the church.

Paul Buede, a 15-year member of St. James the Greater in Charles Town, will serve on the DPC for three years. He is on the Pastoral Concerns Committee. Buede was baptized in the church after he was born, but his family did not attend. It wasn't until 1996, when he went through RCIA with his now wife that he began practicing his faith and making it a priority to become involved in the church.

Over the years he has shared his love of God and the church teaching confirmation classes, 7th and 8th grade boys' Parish School of Religion (PSR), and adult vacation bible school. His wife shares this passion of evangelization. She has taught the 7th and 8th grade girls.

He is a strong believer in the Benedictine motto, "ora et labora," which means "pray and work." This is evident in men's mission trips to Webster Springs and other service ministries he cherishes—Trail Life scouting for boys, homeschooling families group, and the St. Sebald firewood ministry.

"Caring for the treasures of the church (the poor) is very special to me and a great motivator and 'miracle grow' for faith and faithfulness," he said, praising St. James Parish ministries. "Our parish is the most active parish I have ever seen, with ample opportunities to live our faith through

action, and also have our faith nurtured through spiritual experiences and events such as retreats and pilgrimages."

Buede said he began focusing his efforts outside the parish after the scandals in the greater church and our own diocese under the previous bishop.

"I resolved that being angry and writing letters isn't enough," he said. "The saving mission of the church is worth fighting for, and the souls of our clergy, who are under attack by evil, need to be supported. We need to defend and help our good clergy, and hold accountable those who are struggling, and protect minors and seminarians all at the same time.

"My 7th grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Tamashiro, used to always say, 'If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem,'" he said. "If the laity does not take active involvement and interest in supporting the mission of the church, and how the church functions, we bear some responsibility for the mismanagement and failure. To paraphrase a much smarter person, all it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Those of us committed to the saving mission of the church need to take responsibility and become involved in constructive and charitable ways, even when we have to say or do things that are confrontational or uncomfortable."

To sum up his goal for his work with the diocese Buede said, "To be a constructive and responsible member of the council, and to ensure that I share the experiences and wisdom of those in our parish and vicariate with others in the diocese, for the purpose of supporting the mission of the church which is to save souls."

Kathy Brockett shares Buede's goal and sees great hope for the future of the church through the DPC.

"During the first two meetings of the DPC, I was very impressed with the number of young people involved and their inspiring enthusiasm," she said. "This is truly the element that will strengthen and unite the Diocese moving forward."



**Paul Buede**



**Kathleen Brockett**



**Linda Abrahamian**

Brockett will be on the DPC for the remainder of 2021. She has been a member of the Annunciation of Our Lord Parish in Fort Ashby for about 40 years. She attended Catholic school for 12 years in Greentree, Pa., where she was raised.

Her parish family is an important part of her life. She has served as a PSR teacher, lector, and parish secretary for Annunciation and St. Anthony Parish in Ridgeley, prior to becoming the bookkeeper.

Representing small parishes in her vicariate is her motivation for serving on DPC.

"Parishioners love their parish family, wanting to have Bible study and other support groups, but since the same people have been carrying the load for a long time, they grow weary," she said. "Without dynamic leadership the 'family' will cease to exist."

"I was really excited when Bishop Brennan announced reviving the Diocesan Pastoral Council," she said, adding, "Because the previous administration didn't seem to care about the laity in the Eastern Panhandle."

She is already seeing progress. The Lay Life and Ministry committee she serves on for the DPC has already reached out to all parishes in the diocese through a survey "distributed to all parishes through Daniel Maul in the Office of Evangelization. The

goal is to present recommendations to the bishop for supporting catechesis and evangelization throughout the diocese which is very diverse in terms of culture and economics. It takes the directive of the pastor to make anything happen and it is hard to pastor to everyone."

The committee is also going to conduct a youth survey to be given to campers at the DWC's Camp Carlo this summer, and students in the Catholic schools of West Virginia in August.

Linda Abrahamian is grateful the DPC is putting emphasis on youth ministry and evangelization for all.

She is a member of her childhood parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsburg, where she is the youth ministry leader.

"I am quite active in the church, and have been since high school, when I was one of the organists for the parish," she said. "Through the years, at St. Joseph and other parishes, I have continued to work with various music ministry programs, been a catechist for confirmation, organized fundraisers and parish social events, have assisted with vacation bible school, taught adult religious ed classes, was on the parish school board and have served on the parish council as a member and president."

Her work for the church is a reflection of her beliefs.

"Our Lord has given me many blessings, so I want to praise and thank God for those gifts by using them for His work," she said. "And the church is a family, and in a family, everyone needs to contribute and help in whatever way they can. One person, especially our priests, who are extremely overworked already, cannot do it all. And when you share your faith with others through teaching or music ministry, or whatever you are called to assist with, your faith grows! You receive an abundant outpouring of God's love and joy!"

Abrahamian will be on the DPC for a two-year term and is on the Pastoral Concerns committee with Buede.

"I think there are many ways that the laity can help our diocese to evangelize and renew the faith throughout the state, and I wanted to take an active role in doing that," she said. "It saddens me to see Catholics leave the church, as I have members of my own family who do not practice any more. So, I am deeply committed to work of the Pastoral Concerns Committee of the council to see what we can do for revitalization and renewal and encouraging people to come back. 'Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam' (For the greater glory of God)!"

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# Sister Carole is living the dream

## *WV Institute for Spirituality is her instrument*

By Joyce Bibey

As she stands in the parlor of a retreat house which graces Virginia Street in Charleston, Sister Carole Riley bids farewell to folks she hopes are leaving with the same feeling as leaving home and instantly longing for an opportunity to “come ‘home again — a place of welcome, peace, acceptance, freedom to be who God made me to be in this moment.”

Sister Carole of the Sisters of Divine Providence congregation is the Spiritual Director of the main campus for the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality that sits just a block away from the West Virginia State Capitol and Governor’s Mansion. Surrounded by grand evergreens and lush gardens, the retreat and training center for WVIS offers an extensive list of spiritual development, healing, and growth for individuals and groups in a compassionate Christ-centered environment.

The petite, perfectly groomed white-haired religious sister with a heartwarming smile may at first glance seem like an ordinary sweet servant of God but spend an hour with her and one will

walk away with a sense of being in the presence of a dynamic fisher of souls—someone who genuinely wants to bring out the best in everyone with a little humor lovingly woven into the process.

When she is not in retreat mode, good luck keeping up with her.

There isn’t much Sister Carole hasn’t coordinated at the center. Whether it be helping to create the countless reflection booklets, sabbatical programs, days of prayer, spiritual director trainings, directed silent retreats, or programs to support single

mothers, Sister Carole is able to carry the brunt of the load with a bit a grace and a lot of wisdom. She and WVIS are now affiliated with Graduate Theological Foundation in the areas of spiritual direction and sacred music teaching on the Master’s and Doctoral levels. She holds several degrees in music education and piano performance from Duquesne University including a Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctorate. She is also a licensed professional counselor and an AAPC-Fellow.

It was Bishop Joseph



Courtesy Photo

The stately retreat house for the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality sits on Virginia Street in Charleston.

Hodges who encouraged Sister Carole to take this journey several decades ago to Central West Virginia. Although she admits it was not necessarily because of her expertise in scripture, theology, or Church teachings, it was because she could drive a truck, she shared with a laugh.

It’s true the late bishop was looking for a group of three religious sisters to work in Charleston for the Catholic schools there and eventually help with a spiritual direction retreat center that may have otherwise closed its doors. The bishop had provided a

truck to haul everything that was needed in the capitol city. Sister Carole was happy to go on the adventure. She was going to get to teach music—her love and area of expertise—at Charleston Catholic High School.

Bishop Hodges served the diocese from 1962 until his death in 1985 – the years when the Second Vatican Council’s focus on evangelization was emphasized. Bishop Hodges focused heavily on evangelization in the diocese by implementing a formalized office to introduce and run parish renewal programs, Teens Encounter Christ retreats, Cursillo, Marriage Encounters, and many more pastoral and lay leadership programs throughout the diocese.

The WVIS compliments his vision, Sister Carole said. The retreat center is now her main focus. She said it is her greatest joy to bring people of all faiths into a conversation about God as a means to hope and peace.

“We nurture the mind, body, and soul through scripture and reflection to obtain personal peace, healing, and

mindfulness,” she said.

Sister Carole and her colleagues at the institute host retreats for parish councils, married couples, and individuals. If you check out the organization’s website at [wvis.org](http://wvis.org) you will see Sister Carole’s efforts are reinforced by a team of more than two dozen other spiritual directors and supervisors positioned across the state.

For those who come for a spiritual journey she said her job is to, “help them stay ‘in and of’ the world God desires for them.”

“All of our work is so important to us,” she said. “It would be unrealistic to think after attending a retreat you stay on a spiritual mountaintop for good. What you learn at the retreat must be lived out, worked out, fine-tuned, and applied in the tests and trials of daily life.

“Spiritual practices of the retreat can be helpful, but even Jesus did not ‘live on the mountaintop,’” she said.

Before any individual or group comes to the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality Sister Carole prays.

“I pray that God’s love surrounds, protects, guides, and enables the person coming to be open to God’s presence and I pray that I and all those at (WVIS) are collaborative with what God is doing in and for this person,” she said.

If you would have told her younger self how many hundreds if not thousands of people, she would inspire through her calling to serve she wouldn’t have believed it, she said.

As a young novice Sister Carole set a goal for herself “to work and be a saint who made a difference in people’s lives, bringing them closer to Christ and heaven.”

Those who meet her confidently say she is living the dream.



Sister Carole Riley



Courtesy Photo

A group of spiritual directors gather at the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality.

#FaithInWV

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



# Remembering Paula Taylor, CCWVa Board of Directors Chairman



**By Katie Hinerman Klug, CCWVa Marketing Communications Specialist**

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) remembers the service and dedication of Paula Taylor, CCWVa Board of Directors chairman.

Paula worked tirelessly to advance the values and mission of CCWVa.

She provided outstanding leadership and guidance, serving on the CCWVa Board of Directors since 2012, and serving as chairman of the Board of Directors since 2017.

"I am deeply saddened by the death of our board president Paula Taylor," said Beth Zarate, CCWVa president and chief executive officer. "I was fortunate to work closely with Paula, and her passion shone through in everything she did, from her work with our board of directors to her volunteer service in her community."

Paula was a licensed Graduate Social Worker with the West Virginia Board of Social Work, and she had a special passion for protecting children. In a 2018 interview, Paula said, "I'm a social worker by profession, but also by heart." This sentiment captured her dedication and passion, which were evident to those around her.

As a devoted Catholic, Paula was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood. She was active in her parish and in her community.

CCWVa honored Taylor with the CCWVa Salt and Light Award in 2012. "Paula was a remarkable woman, and our agency will celebrate her extraordinary leadership, compassion and life dedicated to serving the most vulnerable West Virginians," said Zarate.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org). The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



Courtesy Photo  
Paula Taylor served on the Catholic Charities West Virginia Board of Directors since 2012.

Courtesy Photo  
From left: Beth Zarate, CCWVa president and CEO; Matthew Bowles, former CCWVa Board of Directors president; Paula Taylor, CCWVa Board of Directors chairman.

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*St. Joseph*

MARCH 19, 2021 - MARCH 19, 2022

## A Special Gift and Prayer to St. Joseph for Priests on Father's Day



Courtesy Photo

Pictured, from left, are Sharon Ann Steele; Sally Frantz; Sue Sakara; Kevin Tasey; Father Tony Thurstan; Very Rev. Dennis R. Schulkens, Jr., V.E.; seminarian Tyler Boyd; Kay Mascio; Shirley Rychlicki; Elaine Underwood; Chuck Ballato; Josie Cekinovich; and Carolyn Shaffer.

**WEIRTON**—After Mass on Father's Day, June 20, some members of the May 1 St. Joseph Consecration group from St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart

of Mary parishes in Weirton gave special gifts to their parish priests.

They presented St. Joseph stoles to Very Rev. Dennis R.

Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor of the parishes, and Father Tony Thurstan, associate pastor, "for being spiritual fathers, for teaching, guiding, offering the sacraments,

and for giving their lives to be shepherds."

After the presentation, the group prayed a St. Joseph Father's Day prayer for them.

## Fairmont Parish Dedicating Families to the Holy Family in Year of St. Joseph

**FAIRMONT**—Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont is celebrating the Year of St. Joseph and the Family in a special way for parishioners. The parish is calling this celebration a "Dedication of Our Families to the Holy Family."

The parish began this prayer initiative June 1.

"We will pray each day for one of our parish families," parish officials said in announcing the initiative. "The family chosen for a par-

ticular day is notified through a letter and followed by a reminder call."

The names of the families being prayed for each week are listed in the parish bulletin. The families are asked to join in praying during their family prayer time, parish officials said. If there is no Mass on a chosen day, the family's Mass is celebrated the very next Mass.

"We dedicate your family to the Holy Family by lighting a candle

and placing your name in front of the Holy Family statue," organizers said. "Also, we will pray for you during the prayers of the faithful during Holy Mass."

Families may also wish to attend one of the Masses that week or weekend to pray for their special intentions, organizers said.

Pope Francis announced in late December that, beginning March 19, the church would dedicate more than a year to focusing on the

family and conjugal love. March 19 was the fifth anniversary of his apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia." The special year will conclude June 26, 2022 at the World Meeting of Families in Rome.

The pope proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is also celebrating the Year of St. Joseph from March 19 of this year to March 19, 2022.

# La gracia de Dios transforma a los pecadores en apóstoles

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — Hasta el peor pecador puede convertirse en el más grande de los apóstoles respondiendo al llamado de Dios y permitiendo que su gracia obre en su corazón y mente, dijo el papa Francisco.

La vida de san Pablo, que pasó "de ser un perseguidor de cristianos por no observar las tradiciones y la ley" a ser uno de los grandes apóstoles, destaca el poder de la gracia de Dios, dijo el papa el 30 de junio durante su audiencia general semanal.

"Cuántas veces, delante de las grandes obras del Señor, surge de forma espontánea la pregunta: pero ¿cómo es posible que Dios se sirva de un pecador, de una persona frágil y débil, para realizar su voluntad? Sin embargo, no hay nada casual, porque todo ha sido preparado en el diseño de Dios. Él teje nuestra historia, la historia de cada uno de nosotros: Él teje nuestra historia y, si nosotros correspondemos con confianza a su plan de salvación, nos damos cuenta", dijo.

Al llegar al Patio de San Dámaso del Palacio Apostólico, el papa saludó a los peregrinos y dio su bendición a los recién casados. Antes de concluir la audiencia, el papa también se agradeció a su chofer personal, Renzo Ciecì, quien se retiraba.

"Comenzó a trabajar a los 14 años, montando bicicleta. Hoy es el chofer del papa. Aplaudamos a Renzo y su fidelidad. Es una de esas personas que hacen avanzar a la Iglesia con su obra, con su bondad y con sus oraciones. Le agradezco mucho, y también me gustaría aprovechar la oportunidad para agradecer a todos los laicos que trabajan aquí en el Vaticano", dijo el papa.

En su discurso de audiencia principal, el papa continuó su nueva serie de discursos sobre la Carta a los Gálatas, reflexionando sobre el tema

"Pablo, verdadero apóstol".

San Pablo muestra "la preocupación de un padre" por la comunidad cristiana, dijo, y al leer su Carta a los Gálatas, "descubrimos inmediatamente que Pablo tiene un conocimiento profundo del misterio de Cristo".

Cuando surgen problemas, como la disputa sobre si los gentiles deben ser circuncidados, san Pablo no siguió "los argumentos superficiales de sus detractores", sino que "optó por ir más profundo, porque lo que estaba en juego era la verdad del Evangelio y la libertad de los cristianos".

"No se detiene en la superficie de los problemas, de los conflictos, como a menudo tenemos la tentación para encontrar en seguida una solución que ilusiona para poner a todos de acuerdo con un compromiso", dijo el papa. "No funciona así con el Evangelio y el Apóstol ha elegido seguir el camino más arduo".

Una de las formas en que san Pablo explica su razonamiento es recordando a los gálatas su historia de persecución violenta contra los cristianos y "que él es un verdadero apóstol no por sus propios méritos, sino por el llamado de Dios".

"Por un lado, él insiste al subrayar que había perseguido ferozmente a la Iglesia y que había sido un 'blasfemo, un perseguidor y un insolente' no escatima en adjetivos, él mismo se califica así", dijo el papa. "Por otro lado, evidencia la misericordia de Dios con él, que le lleva a vivir una transformación radical, bien conocida por todos".

El papa Francisco dijo que san Pablo muestra maravilla y reconocimiento de que a pesar de su pasado demostraron que, a través de la gracia de Dios, incluso uno que luchó contra los discípulos de Cristo "podría convertirse en un heraldo entre los gentiles".

"La llamada conlleva siempre una misión a la que estamos destinados; por esto se nos pide que nos preparemos con seriedad, sabiendo

que es Dios mismo quien nos envía, Dios mismo que nos sostiene con su gracia", dijo el papa. "Hermanos y hermanas, dejémonos conducir por esta conciencia: el primado de la gracia transforma la existencia y la hace digna de ser puesta al servicio del Evangelio".

## Regístrese para la edición semanal ¡Vía correo electrónico!

La edición electrónica semanal del Espíritu Católico se envía gratuitamente por correo electrónico a quienes se suscriban. La edición electrónica se puso a disposición para ayudar también a reducir el costo de impresión y se envía todos los viernes por la mañana. Muchos se han registrado y dicen que prefieren esta nueva versión. Cualquiera puede inscribirse en la lista electrónica enviando un correo electrónico a [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org) con "La lista electrónica del Espíritu Católico" en la línea de asunto. Considere eliminar su nombre de la edición impresa. Esto ayuda a garantizar que sus compañeros católicos de todo el estado que necesitan la edición impresa, como los que no tienen acceso a Internet y los ancianos, continúen recibéndola.

### Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352. 6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

# Employment Opportunities

## Child Care Resource Center Provider Support Specialist, Wheeling

All information provided must be consistent with position description. At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

This position is located in Wheeling, WV and is full time position, Non-Exempt status. This position is responsible for assisting child care providers in the West Virginia CARES system, WV STARS Career Pathway system, providing support in person or on the phone as needed, participating in community outreach events, and relieving the Supervisor of clerical duties and minor administrative business details. Essential Job Duties: Assist providers in the WV CARES requirements and procedures; Assist providers in using WV STARS policies, procedures, online access and requirements; Conduct informative presentations to potential child care provider; Develop good working relationships with providers

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in human services or related field or early care and education or child development; Ability to work collaboratively; Ability to follow directions; Ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks; Knowledge of office equipment; Ability to maintain confidentiality.

Valid driver's license and able to drive throughout the covered region and state. Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by July 9 to: [Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov](mailto:Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov)

## Child Care Resource Center Behavior Consultant, Fairmont

All information provided must be consistent with position description. At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices. This is a full time non-exempt position. The Behavior Consultant for the Child Care Resource Center is responsible for providing individualized technical assistance and consultation to child care providers and families around specific children who are experiencing behavioral issues that are interfering with their ability to attend or participate in a child care setting. Essential Job Duties: Participate on the CCRC early childhood team; Develop an individual professional development plan; Provide telephone and on-site consultation to early childhood providers; Observe and evaluate environments; Facilitate the development of positive behavioural supports.

Qualifications: Master's degree in special education, early childhood special education, child development, psychology, educational psychology, counselling, or a behavioral science related degree; Special training or experience in assessing child behaviour and developing intervention plans.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by July 9 to: [Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov](mailto:Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov)

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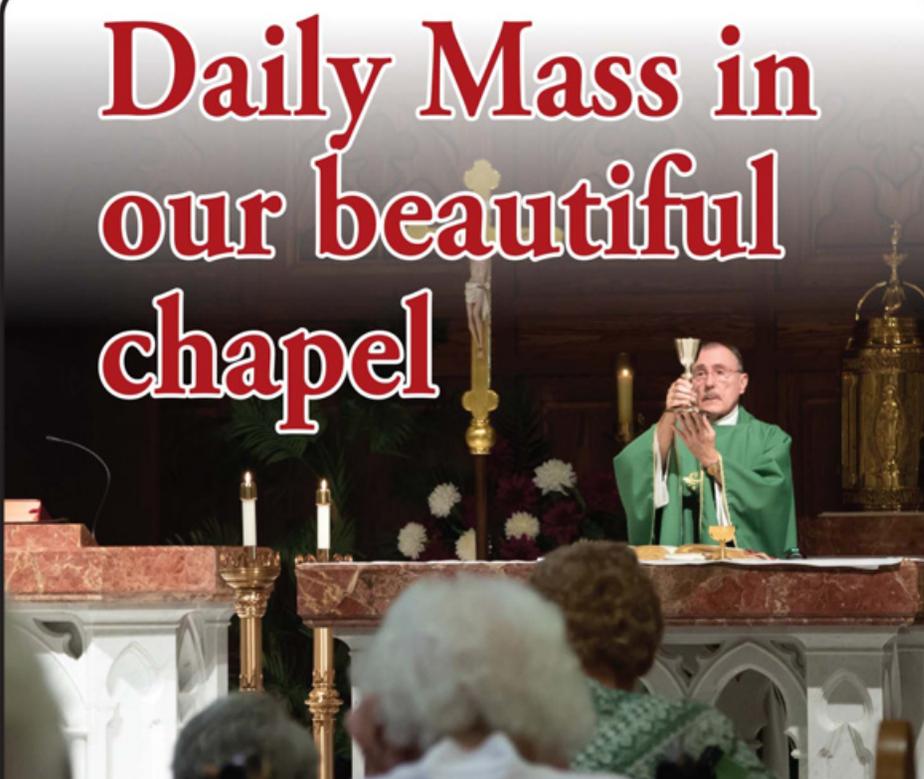
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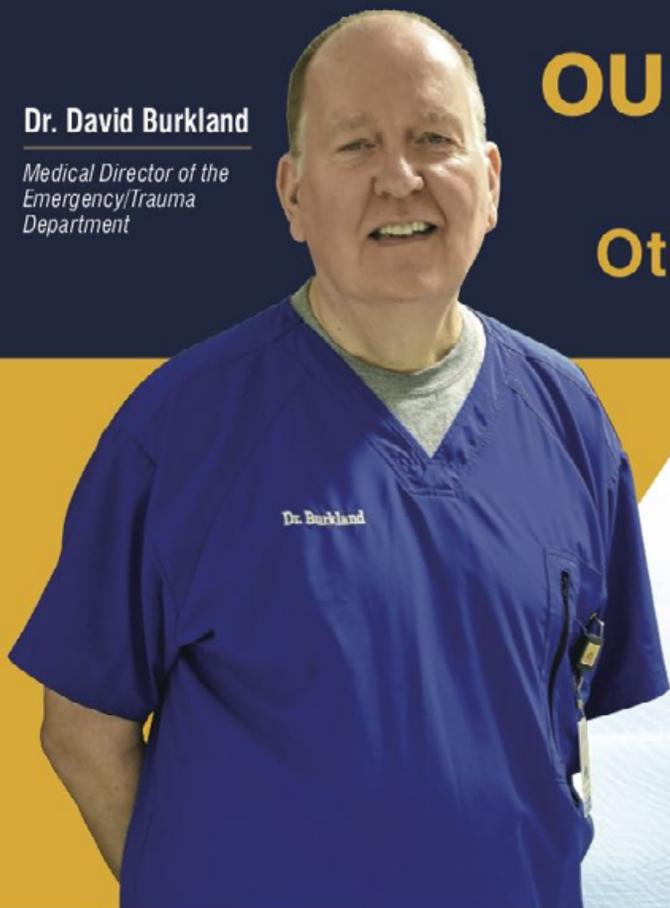
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