



Abuse Allegations Down, but Challenges Remain, Say U.S. Bishops in Report

By Gina Christian, OSV News

(OSV News) — Abuse allegations against Catholic clergy and religious in the U.S. declined last year, but challenges remain regarding protecting vulnerable adults and ensuring online safety, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On July 14, the USCCB's Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection released the "2022 Annual Report – Findings and Recommendations on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

USCCB President Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of Military Services said in his preface the report was "a milestone accounting of the continued efforts in the ministry of protection, healing, and accompaniment."

The document — covering the period July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022 — consists of a progress report from the secretariat; an audit report conducted by the Rochester, New York-based consultants StoneBridge Business Partners; and a survey of abuse allegations and costs by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University.

Now in its 12th year of performing the audit, StoneBridge visited 62 dioceses and eparchies, 48 in person and 14 virtually.

The report itself is the 20th of its kind since 2002, when the U.S. bishops established the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" as a number of clerical abuse scandals emerged.

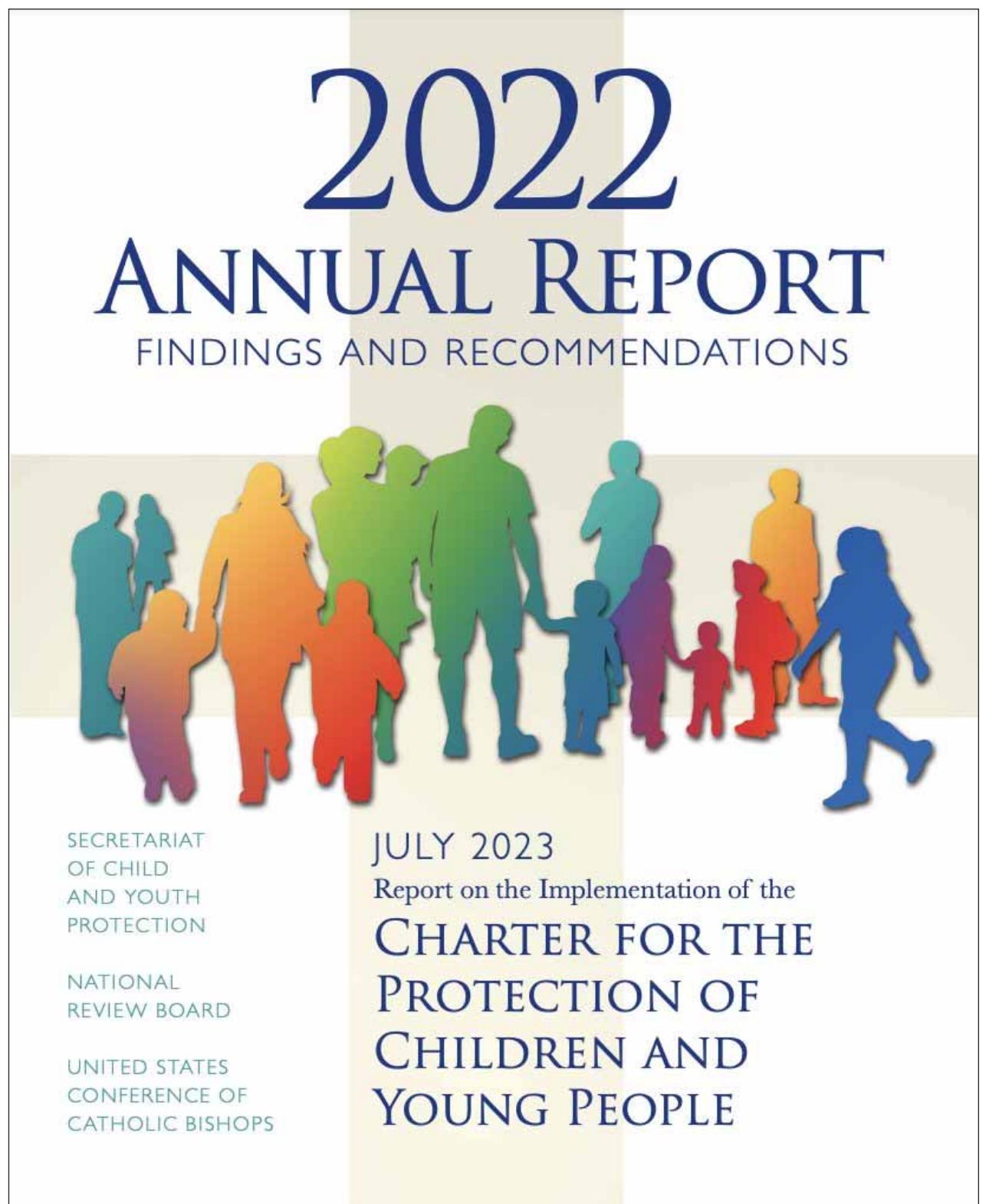
Commonly called the "Dallas Charter" for the city in which the bishops met at the time of its ratification, the document lays out a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The charter also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of abuse.

During the 2022 report period, 1,998 individuals came forward with 2,704 allegations of abuse, with claims down 399 from 2021 and 1,548 from 2020. The decrease was largely due to resolutions of allegations received through lawsuits, compensation programs and bankruptcies. Most allegations (83%) were initially brought to diocesan officials by an attorney.

Sixteen reports during the period involved current minors, with all other allegations made by adults citing abuse as minors.

The CARA portion of the report said that 194 responding dioceses and eparchies had judged 245 allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a

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This is the cover of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection's 2022 annual report on the "Findings and Recommendations on the Implementation of the 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People'" released July 14.

OSV News Photo/courtesy USCCB

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Obituary

Deacon Michael R. Prestera, Jr.

Reverend Mr. Michael R. Prestera, Jr., 72, of Lake Worth, Fla., formerly of Huntington, West Virginia, passed away on July 13, 2023.

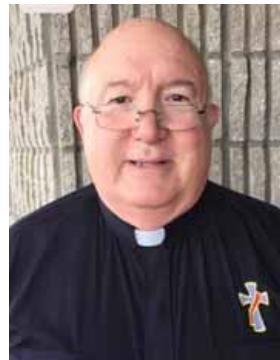
He was born on August 26, 1950 in Sylacauga, Alabama, son of the late Michael R. Prestera, Sr. and Nancy Shapard Prestera. He was also preceded in death by a brother, John Prestera; sister Carmella Prestera and a nephew Robert Steven Cline, II. Mike is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Deborah England Prestera; daughter Amy Christina Prestera; sisters Michele (Tom) Craig and Mary Anne "Kitty" Cline and brother Robert A. (Kathie) Prestera; grandchildren Arrington "AJ" Prestera and Griffith (Brandon) Osburn and great granddaughter Isabella Osburn and many loving nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Mike started his career at 14 working with his father at Prestera Trucking and C.I. Whitten Transfer. He was Student Body President at Marshall University, part owner of Advanced Institute of Driver Education and served the citizens of Cabell County as a Milton Police officer, an Emergency Medical Technician and assistant director of WV Safety Council. He was also a real estate appraiser and served on the board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Mike was ordained a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and served as a deacon in the Diocese of Palm Beach at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Lantana, Fla., and St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Lake Worth, Fla. He retired in April of 2023.

A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday July 21, 2023, at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Huntington by Monsignor Dean Borgmeyer. Burial will follow in Ridgelawn Memorial Park, Huntington.

Contributions may be made to Big Brothers Big Sisters or the charity of your choice. Condolences may be made at www.regerfh.com.



Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with

children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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Diocesan Official Appointments

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

Father Frederick J. D'Souza is appointed chaplain and director of Campus Ministry at Wheeling University with residence at St. Alphonsus Parish rectory in Wheeling, effective July 19, 2023.

In consultation with Very Rev. Jaya Raj Battula, HGN, provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Praveen K. Mallela, HGN**, is appointed parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling with residence at the parish rectory, effective July 19, 2023.

Mr. Mark Enders is reappointed chairman of the Diocesan Committee on Scouting for a period of three years, effective immediately.

Mr. Ernest Richard Fauss is appointed secretary of the Diocesan Committee on Scouting for a period of three years, effective immediately.

Mr. Robert L. Greer is reappointed a member of the Diocesan Committee on Scouting for a period of three years, effective immediately.

Mr. Daniel Maul is reappointed a member of the Diocesan Committee on Scouting for a period of three years, effective immediately.

Mr. Craig O'Leary is reappointed a member of the Diocesan Committee on Scouting for a period of three years, effective immediately.

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 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, 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, 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 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.

Report...

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priest or deacon to be credible. Of those, 20 allegations involved children who were under the age of 18.

CARA also calculated that total costs incurred by dioceses and eparchies due to allegations were down 19% from the previous year, totaling over \$157 million. (Costs for men's religious communities, by contrast, rose 53%, approaching \$45 million.)

The secretariat said in its assessment "the year-over-year trends are encouraging as the number of current minor allegations in the U.S. remains low."

Many dioceses and eparchies "have taken certain measures that go beyond the specific requirements of the charter," StoneBridge noted in its report.

Among the measures cited were recurring adult training, parish audits and background check renewals (which are not currently required by the charter).

However, StoneBridge found that more than 30% of diocese and eparchies it had visited during the report period struggled with "some dysfunction" in their review boards, including "lack of meetings, inadequate composition or membership, not following the by-laws of the board, members not confident in their duties (and) lack

of rotation of members."

Auditors pointed out an unevenness in the charter's overall application, with "196 different implementations" of the document resulting from the various policies of dioceses and eparchies.

Another concern centers on the protection of "vulnerable adults," a definition for which is not contained in the charter, said auditors.

A year after the charter's most recent revision in 2018, Pope Francis issued the motu proprio "Vox Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), outlining global legal procedures for how the church should deal with clergy sexual abuse, including procedures for investigating bishops.

The document, implemented for a three-year experimental period beginning June 1, 2019, included the term "vulnerable person," defined as "any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want or otherwise resist the offense."

On March 25, Pope Francis published an updated version with the specific term "vulnerable adults," without altering the previous definition. The revised text also was broadened to include investigations of leaders of Vat-

ican-recognized international Catholic lay associations and movements.

Yet Suzanne Healy, chairwoman of the lay-led USCCB National Review Board, highlighted findings by StoneBridge in her remarks in this report, saying that while the charter addresses clerical abuse of children, "there is confusion in reporting matters pertaining to 'Vos Estis Lux Mundi' and canon law regarding penal sanctions.

The board "recommends the pursuit of a separate auditable resource with specific guidelines for these adult and lay matters of abuse," she wrote.

The audit results represent 194 of the 196 dioceses and eparchies in the U.S., with the report listing the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy as not participating.

Father Richard Janowicz, vicar general and safe environment coordinator for the Chicago-based St. Nicholas Eparchy, said in an email to OSV News he was "quite surprised" to learn the eparchy had been listed as such, since it had been audited by StoneBridge on April 17 of this year, and confirmed in a June 21 letter that the eparchy had remediated its initial lack of a children's safe environment training program. It remains unclear as to why the ep-

archy was listed in the report as "not participating," and OSV News has reached out to the USCCB for clarification.

Father Simon Esshaki, secretary to Bishop Emanuel Shaleta of the St. Peter Eparchy in El Cajon, California, said in an email to OSV News that the eparchy "did in fact have a full 'Protecting God's Children' program for 2022," but "unfortunately for some reason the statistics were not shared with the USCCB."

The dioceses of Birmingham, Alabama, Lubbock, Texas, and St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands were each found noncompliant regarding Article 2 of the Dallas Charter, which in part specifies a required review board, comprised of mostly laypeople not employed by the diocese, that meets regularly and serves as a consultative body to the bishop. Each diocese subsequently corrected the deficiency.

For the Birmingham Diocese, the problem was one of

timing, Donald Carson, director of communications and public relations, told OSV News.

Two resignations due to health concerns and the transfer of a religious sister left three vacancies on that review board during the audit period. The seats "have since all been filled, bringing the number of representatives not employed by the diocese back in compliance with the requirements of the charter," he said in an email to OSV News.

In the Lubbock Diocese, COVID was at its height during the reporting period and had "stopped many areas of our work," Lucas Flores, communications director, told OSV News in an email, adding that the diocese had resumed review board meetings.

OSV News was awaiting a response from the Diocese of St. Thomas.

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



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Papal Envoy Gives Biden Letter from Pope, Urges U.S. Leaders to Support Peace

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Matteo Zuppi hand-delivered a letter from Pope Francis to U.S. President Joe Biden as part of his three-day papal mission to help promote humanitarian efforts and open avenues of peace in Ukraine.

The pope had sent the cardinal, who is archbishop of Bologna and president of the Italian bishops' conference, to Washington July 17-19 for meetings with top church and government leaders, including members of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and the Senate Prayer Breakfast.

Cardinal Zuppi and other members of a Vatican delegation went to the White House July 18 "where they were received by President Joseph R. Biden, to whom Cardinal Zuppi delivered a letter from the Holy Father, emphasizing the pope's sorrow for the suffering caused by the war," said a Vatican communique published July 19.

"The meeting, which began shortly after 5 p.m. and lasted over an hour, took place in an atmosphere of great cordiality and mutual listening," it said.

During the conversation, assurance was made of there being a "full willingness to support humanitarian initiatives, especially for children and those who are most fragile, both to respond to this urgency and to foster paths of peace," the Vatican said.

Early July 19, the Vatican delegation attended the Senate Prayer Breakfast, which is held Wednesday mornings in the U.S. Capitol for senators to meet, talk and pray together.

During this gathering, the

Vatican said, "Cardinal Zuppi had the opportunity to brief the participants on the meetings he had over the various stages of his peace mission. During the meeting, appreciation was expressed for the Holy See's efforts and the responsibility of each individual to strive for peace was emphasized."

He also traveled to Russia and Ukraine in recent months to meet with church and government officials on the pope's behalf.

Cardinal Zuppi arrived in Washington the evening of July 17 and had a meeting with USCCB President Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of Military Services at the apostolic nunciature.

"Some reflections were exchanged on the war in Ukraine and the Holy See's initiatives in support of victims and peace" during that meeting, the Vatican said.

The next morning the Vatican delegation went to the Rayburn House Office Building and met with some members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission. This independent U.S. government commission seeks to promote human rights, military security and economic cooperation in 57 countries in Europe, Eurasia and North America.

The Vatican delegation, which included Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Msgr. Séamus P. Horgan, chargé d'affaires at the apostolic nunciature, presented to the commission "the nature and conduct of the mission entrusted to it by the pope, reflecting together on ways in which it could be

made more effective."

According to Cardinal-designate Pierre, the top priority for Cardinal Zuppi in his meeting with President Biden was the repatriation of children forcibly deported from Ukraine to Russia.

The overall objective of that closed-door meeting, he told the Italian daily, *La Repubblica*, was "to contribute to peace and more precisely to cover the humanitarian aspects, in particular concerning children. The discussion revolved around this."

When asked if this meant that the immediate goal was facilitating the reunification of Ukrainian children with their families, the cardinal-designate said, "Yes, that is the cardinal's, and obviously the pope's, more specific goal, also because it is a more concrete issue."

"Obviously, however, the idea is to think about peace, in the complicated context that exists," he said in the interview with the newspaper, published in Italian July 19.

"The cardinal is very realistic, we try to do what is possible," Cardinal-designate Pierre said.

In general, Cardinal Zuppi's mission was "to listen and be listened to. To report on what has already happened in order to see how one can proceed," the papal nuncio said.

"This is a first step. We are realists, we know perfectly well that this is not easy. But the pope wants to contribute to (bringing) attention to a situation that will in any case have to reach an outcome," Cardinal-designate Pierre said.

Meanwhile, the White House said in a statement July 18 that President Biden shared with Cardinal Zuppi "his

wishes for Pope Francis' continued ministry and global leadership and welcomed the recent nomination of a U.S. archbishop as cardinal," referring to Chicago-born Cardinal-designate Robert F. Precht, prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.

The U.S. president and Cardinal Zuppi "also discussed the Holy See's efforts providing humanitarian aid to address the widespread suffering caused by Russia's continuing aggression in Ukraine, as well as the Vatican's advocacy for the return of forcibly deported Ukrainian children," the White House statement said.

Pope Francis had sent Cardinal Zuppi to Washington as part of his ongoing humanitarian efforts to help Ukraine.

The July 17-19 visit is "in the context of the mission intended to promote peace in Ukraine and aims to exchange ideas and opinions on the current tragic situation and to support humanitarian initiatives to alleviate the suffering of the most affected and fragile people, especially children," the Vatican said in a communique July 17.

The cardinal visited Bucha and Kyiv in early June and met with Ukrainian officials including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. In Moscow in late June, he met with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow; Yury Ushakov, a Kremlin foreign policy adviser and former ambassador to the United States; and Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's commissioner for children's rights, accused by the International Criminal Court of aiding the abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia.

Cardinal Zuppi had told reporters at a book presentation

in Rome July 4 that the Vatican was working on a "mechanism" to help Ukrainian children that have been taken into Russia, Vatican News reported.

"The children should be able to return to Ukraine," he said. "The first step is verifying the children and then seeing how to return them, starting with the most fragile."

"There is no peace plan (or) mediation," he said, "there is a great aspiration that the violence ends, that human lives can be saved starting with the defense of the youngest."

The cardinal said July 2 that Pope Francis' concern is to "create all opportunities to see, to listen and encourage everything that can lead toward a resolution to the conflict."

"Of course there are small openings, we must look for them," he said. "It is precisely in the darkness that the light of peace must be sought while knowing no one has a magic wand."

(Contributing to this report was Justin McLellan in Rome.)



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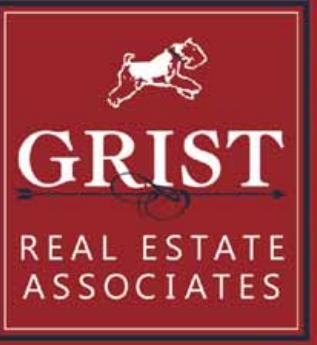
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Conference Gathers 250 Priests at Wheeling's Oglebay Park



Joachim Gawayolek Photo

The St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology held its 2023 Priest Conference at Oglebay Park in Wheeling with 250 priests from 38 states and three countries attending. Bishop Mark Brennan is pictured with participating priests at the conference, which was held July 10-13.



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Beckley's St. Francis de Sales School Celebrating 65 Years



Courtesy Photo

Group photo of St. Francis de Sales students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

**By Jeri S. Knowlton for
The Register-Herald, Beckley,
W.Va.**

They were part of the first class to attend St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley when it opened its doors in 1957. For 65 years, John and Ramona Rist continue to remain actively involved with the school, go to Bible study weekly at the parish, and have grandchildren in classes there.

"I was 10 then," remembers Ramona about leaving public school to attend a Catholic school.

"It was so awesome because there were nuns and all the little Catholic girls wanted to be nuns when they grew up. We had four nuns, and the other classes were taught by lay teachers. They were wonderful."

In those days the nuns were from the Sisters of St. Joseph,

Wheeling, and as it was then, the school continues to be accountable to the diocese and the superintendent of Catholic schools.

John quickly remembers that the nuns didn't hesitate on homework.

"That's not a complaint now," he said. "I'm glad."

The couple has been married for 51 years and believes in the importance of quality education.

"The nuns were teaching us stuff other than math and history," explains Ramona. "They were reinforcing what our parents were teaching us at home, like prayers before we eat, and Catholicism, and it was reinforced in the school."

According to the school principal, Mary Grace DePolo-Peck, St. Francis began when concerned parents wanted something better for

their children.

"These parents wanted their children to know a living God," she said.

While the school has always been open to the public, the goal was to open a school that followed the Catholic religion.

Respect for faith

"We teach Catholicism here, but it is open to everyone," adds Father Leonard Smith, pastor of the school and St. Francis

de Sales Parish.

For example, the seventh-grade religion class is made of up various denominations – five Catholics, five Protestants, and five Muslim students.

It can make for interesting conversations, he adds.

"We were comparing the concept of fasting in the Catholic Church and fasting as they know it in the traditions of Islam," he pointed out. "So, there are parallels

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School...

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and there are differences."

Acknowledging the inclusive nature of the student body, Father Smith continued, "It is a Catholic school, and we are serious about trying to maintain the Catholic identity. And the families know that when they enroll their children here."

Part of their Catholic teaching is respect for others.

"There are those that have no belief, Jews, Christians, Muslims, we all believe in the same God," he explained. "We all believe very different things about that God, but we believe in the same God."

Because of that area of commonality, Father Smith believes that gives the ground for unity and sharing discussion.

He continued, "Sometimes there are differences that lead to productive discussion. The faith of others is respected here more than it might be in some other schools."

Respect for quality education

Father Smith came to the parish in 2021 and notes the commitment of the parish to supporting the school. But he also recognizes there are a lot of challenges to having a school.

Years ago, there was no tuition, mostly due to the women's religious teaching in schools, like the nuns of St. Joseph.

"They worked for very little to nothing and so it didn't cost as much to provide a Catholic education. In recent years, with the reduction in the number of women religious teaching in schools, we must rely on lay teachers," he explained.

"The tuition is there to pay the salaries and take care of the school and administer the school. There are real costs associated with it."

The parish provides a monthly subsidy that the school depends on to maintain and sustain the quality education they provide.

"Our teachers are state certified or working toward their certificate," said DePolo-Peck. "Thankfully we have been blessed with very ded-



Jenny Harnish Photo/The Register-Herald, Beckley, W.Va.

Father Leonard Smith teaches a seventh-grade religion class at St. Francis de Sales School that is made up of various denominations – five Catholics, five Protestants, and five Muslim students.

icated individuals that go beyond instructional expectations with their students."

The challenges and opportunities that St. Francis faces are not unique to the parochial school.

Those challenges and opportunities include "keeping up with technology and funding to support it, finding and retaining qualified teachers, dealing with bullying or disrespectful behaviors that stem from the misuse of social media, and helping students deal with outside influences that impact them in negative ways," the principal noted.

65 years and counting

The 2022-2023 school year represents 65 years of education for St. Francis.

Opportunities for accessible education continue to improve, said DePolo-Peck.

"We offer Diocesan Tuition Assistance to Catholic and non-Catholic families based on need. The HOPE Scholarship program from the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office is another avenue of support for a family's quest for Catholic education."

According to Father Smith, the Catholic Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children.

"The church's mission and role in that is what we call subsidiary," he explained. "We are helping parents fulfill their primary responsibilities by helping parents to educate their children in their faith and to educate them in all the other areas of life so that they can flourish."

"We are educating the whole person, and part of that is their spiritual lives."

The school offers Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H. There are opportunities for elementary basketball, volleyball, and cheer. Middle school children can do volleyball, cheer, track, cross country, and soccer.

The sports teams often play opposite local public schools.

They also offer chess, robotics, art, and drama clubs.

DePolo-Peck added, "Today, St. Francis de Sales School remains a place where faith and knowledge meet. Just as the nuns did a long time ago, we encourage students to think critically. We teach strong communication skills. We foster community involvement. We build self-esteem and confidence."

"These attributes or life skills alone go beyond a grade point average. We walk and talk with God throughout our day."



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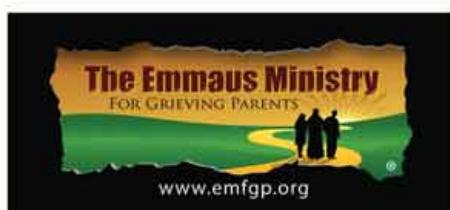
A Catholic Ministry serving the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago

Losing a child under any circumstances is horrendous. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously.

Just as He comforted his grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus comforts us and we comfort each other in this very special Catholic ministry.

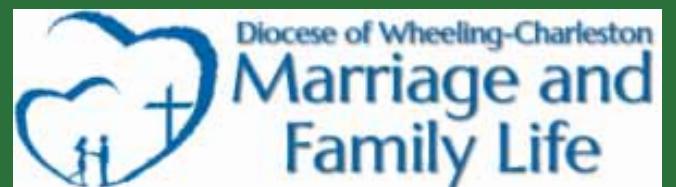
With other Emmaus Parent Companions and Spiritual Leaders, find spiritual nourishment in a warm and loving place—to think, talk, feel and pray. Find compassion, rest and peace... at least for a time.

Space is limited! When maximum number is reached, registration will close. For more information or to register, see www.emfgp.org today!



Learn more at www.emfgp.org
or call (800) 919-9332

All are welcome



OFFERING AN
EMMAUS MINISTRY
FOR GRIEVING PARENTS
SPIRITUAL RETREAT

*For any grieving parent
whose child of any age has
died by any cause,
no matter how long ago*

ONE-DAY IN-PERSON
SPIRITUAL RETREAT

October 14, 2023
9:30am -7:30pm
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
2244 Marshall Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003



*Give yourself the gift of
getting away from
everyday life to focus on
your spiritual journey
after the death of your
precious child.*

PRE-REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

See www.emfgp.org for more
information and to register,

Catholic-Jewish Conference to Confront Rising Antisemitism

Franciscan University and The Philos Project to Co-Host Event to Address Shared Challenges in a Secular Age

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO — Franciscan University of Steubenville and The Philos Project will co-host Nostra Aetate and the Future of Catholic-Jewish Relations at a Time of Rising Antisemitism on Oct. 24-26.

Leading Catholic and Jewish voices will address the recent rise in antisemitism, the history of Catholic-Jewish relations, and the significance of Nostra Aetate, the Second Vatican Council's declaration on the relation of the Catholic Church to non-Christian religions. The shared experiences of faithful Jewish and Catholic communities confronted with the challenges of secular progressivism will also be explored.

"Franciscan University is delighted to collaborate with The Philos Project on the important

work of promoting Catholic-Jewish relations and condemning the recent rise in antisemitism," said Dr. Steve Hildebrand, vice president for Academic Affairs at Franciscan University. "This conference will be a shining example of the truth that fidelity to our respective convictions as Christians and Jews demands and does not undermine our fraternity and our mutual respect."

"The rise of secular progressivism makes us able to see more truly and more clearly not only what we have in common but also the unique contribution that the Judeo-Christian tradition has made in the history of human civilization and the history of human thought," Hildebrand added.

"The Philos Project is excited to partner with Franciscan University

in this important effort to strengthen Jewish-Catholic ties," said Andrew Doran, senior research fellow and Catholic director at The Philos Project. "At this time of rising antisemitism, Catholics shouldn't be silent. We also stand with Jewish institutions like Yeshiva University on the struggle to preserve religious liberty in America."

At the conclusion of the conference, participants will release a coalition statement opposing antisemitism and commemorating the 5-year anniversary of the horrific Oct. 27, 2018, Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh and the 58-year anniversary of Nostra Aetate.

Conference speakers include Rabbi Dr. Meir Y. Soloveichik, senior rabbi of Congregation Shearith

Israel in New York City and director of the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought, Yeshiva University; Sohrab Ahmari, founder and editor of Compact and visiting fellow at Franciscan's Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life; Peter Berkowitz, Tad and Dianne Taube senior fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University; Dr. Faydra Shapiro, senior fellow with The Philos Project and research fellow with the Center for the Study of Religions, Tel Hai College, Israel; Dr. Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University.

For more information and to register, visit franciscan.edu/catholic-jewish-conference.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

CURSILLO

Calling all Cursillistas!

Would you like to gather with other past participants in Cursillo weekends for an Ultreya meeting? Well, you can, on Saturday, August 19th, and you have two locations and times to choose from!

The Diocesan Cursillo community will gather, on Saturday, August 19th, first at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, in Charleston, at 10:30 AM. Then, the other Ultreya option will be a gathering at the Parish Center of St. John University Parish, in Morgantown, at 4:30 PM.

What should you expect? At both meetings, we will have our Regional Director for Cursillo, Mr. Dan Kubisiak, as the rector/moderator, along with the Lay Director for Cursillo in South Carolina, Mr. Tommie Smith, as our main witness speaker.

At both locations, we will gather for about an hour and a half, for fellowship, spiritual enrichment, socializing, refreshments, and a meal. We hope these gatherings will help revive Cursillo in our wonderful state.

If you would like to join us, and we'd love if you would, please let us know either by calling the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, at 304-233-0880, ext. 374, or by emailing Daniel Maul, at dmaul@dwc.org.

Thank you, God bless you, and De Colores!

Sister Maria Rukwishuro, SJI, to Lead Bible Study

CLARKSBURG — An Eight-Week Bible Study with Sister Maria Sheri Rukwishuro, SJI, will be held each Monday from Sept. 11 through Oct. 30 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg.

"Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, an eight-part Bible study, helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can get the 'big picture' of the Bible and understand what it's all about," parish officials said. The study will be aided by a unique, color-coded Bible Timeline Chart that arranges the key people, places, and events of the Bible in chronological order. "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible will help you pick up the Bible with confidence and understand how you fit into God's plan," parish officials said.

Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. To register, call the office (304-622-8243) by Aug. 16. Registration fee is \$15.

Catholic Distance University to Host Free Virtual Open House July 25

Catholic Distance University is hosting a FREE Virtual Open House July 25 at 7 p.m.

Learn all about our undergraduate and graduate online theology degree programs to discern the next step on your ascent to greater heights. Our faculty is looking forward to meeting you and introducing our flexible and convenient online theology programs that are perfect for personal, professional and spiritual success.

If you want to become a leader in promoting Christ, strengthen your employability and grow your Faith, CDU's Virtual Open House is your opportunity to get started!

Hear from our amazing faculty and staff why students choose CDU. Get an overview of our theology programs. Preview courses from our transformative curriculum. Learn about resources to make the most out of studying at CDU. Get info on transferring credits to complete your degree. Ask questions during a live Q&A. Enter our free raffle for a chance to win a book authored by a CDU professor!

See "University" on Page 11



5095 National Road, Triadelphia, WV
304-907-4027
www.flooringamericawestvirginia.com

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2023 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, August 6: Ascension Hurricane; 11:00 a.m.

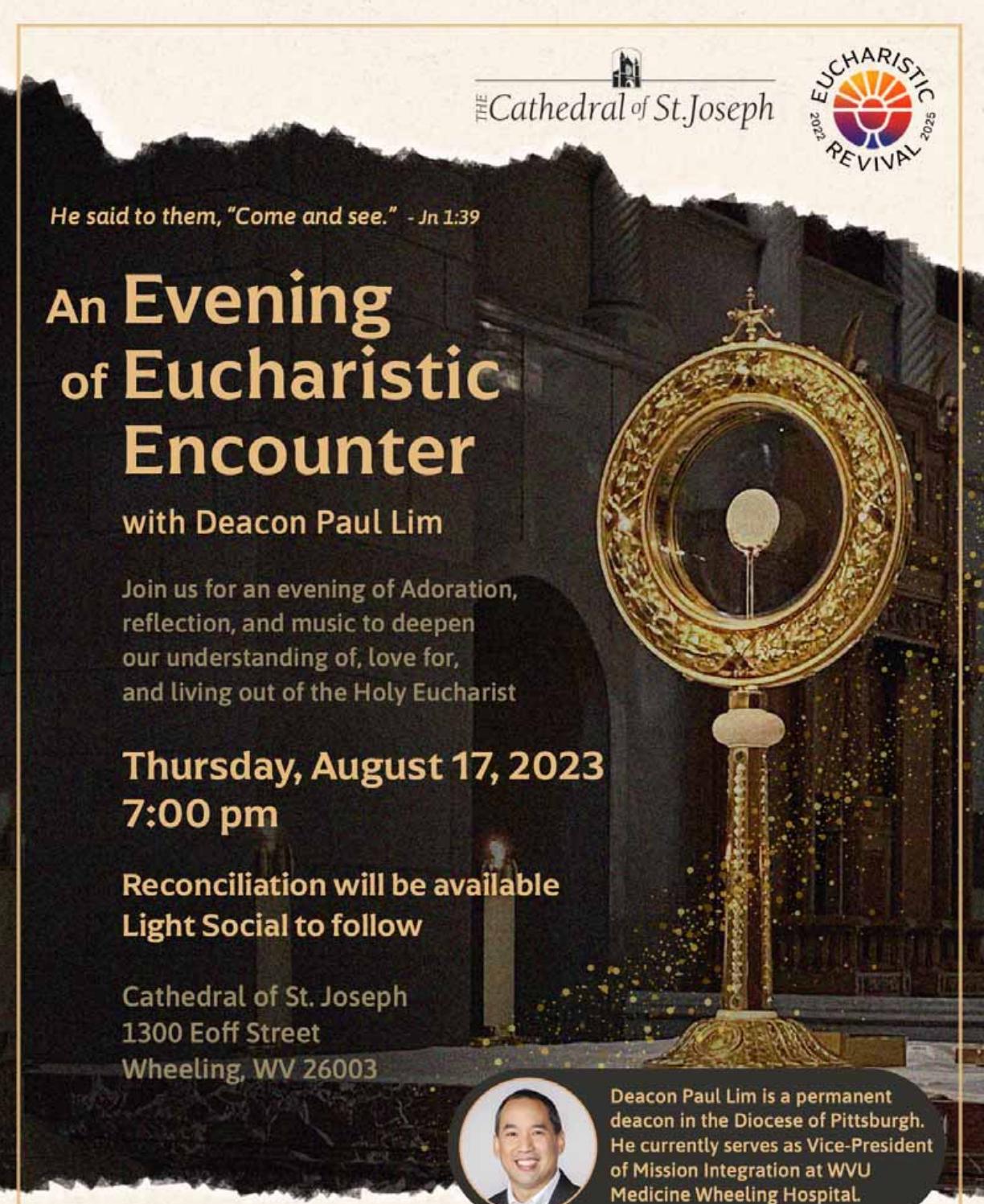
Sunday, September 17: St. Stephen, Ona; 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19: Our Lady of Mercy Mission, Parsons; 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 23: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4: St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19: Sacred Heart, Bluefield; 9:00 a.m.



CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

EUCARISTIC REVIVAL

He said to them, "Come and see." - Jn 1:39

An Evening of Eucharistic Encounter

with Deacon Paul Lim

Join us for an evening of Adoration, reflection, and music to deepen our understanding of, love for, and living out of the Holy Eucharist

Thursday, August 17, 2023
7:00 pm

Reconciliation will be available
Light Social to follow

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street
Wheeling, WV 26003



Deacon Paul Lim is a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He currently serves as Vice-President of Mission Integration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.

Parishioners Enjoy an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social in Elkins



Courtesy Photos
Parishioners enjoy an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social at St. Brendan Parish in Elkins July 16. Everyone seemed to enjoy the sweet treats and good fellowship, parish officials said. Looking on in the above photo is Father James O'Connor, pastor of the parish. In the photos below, little ones eagerly await their scoops.



University...

Cont'd from Page 10

Our Virtual Open House lasts about 45 minutes and is completely free! Afterwards, you'll be ready for an easy transition into an online theology degree program and be ready to start classes in the Fall I or II term.

For over 40 years, we've made lifelong learning in the Faith not only a goal, but a reality for thousands of Catholic adults worldwide. Register now to save your spot on Tuesday, July 25th at 7 pm EDT and get ready to learn about our online theology programs (and enter the free raffle)!

Visit cdu.edu to register.

 CATHOLICDISTANCEUNIVERSITY

CDU partners with the diocese to offer **free** non-credit continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry.

Visit www.pathlms.com/cdu to browse the courses and register. Use the access code, **CDU20DIOCESEWC**

when setting up your account to receive your free tuition! cdu.edu

Gracious living




Welty
Home for the Aged

304.242.5233 www.weltyhome.org

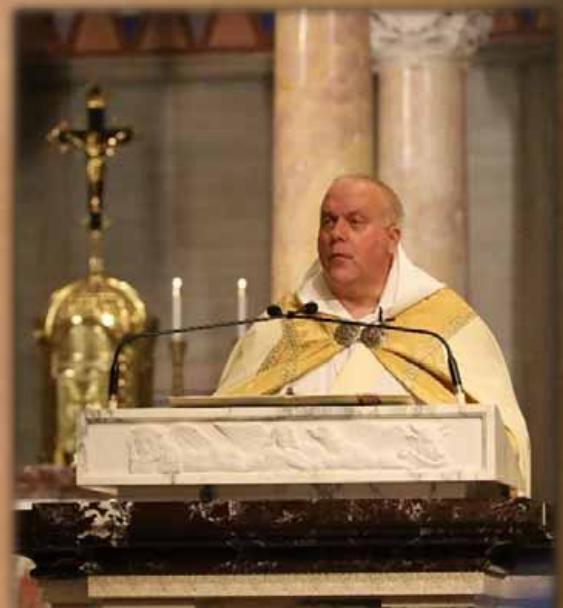
Catholic Men of West Virginia, Married or Single, Consider the Vocation of a Deacon



Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service, assisting the bishop and his priests in many areas, especially in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opened a new Diaconate Formation Program for all Catholic men who will be 35 by June of 2027. Bishop Mark Brennan has made the 2023-2028 Diaconate Formation Program free to the men who apply, and the cost will be covered by the diocese.

Permanent deacons may be married. They must be faithful Catholics. Most work at secular jobs and must be willing to be open to an assignment outside of their parish.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

To apply and for more information, click the link below:

<https://dwc.org/directory-listing/permanent-diaconate-formation-office-of/2275/>



The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is accepting applications for the next class of permanent deacons.

Applications may also be obtained by contacting Tina High in the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (888) 434-6237 or for the Wheeling area at (304) 233-0880, ext. 271. Completed applications must be sent to the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Faith Formation Director Needed

ST. MARY PARISH, STAR CITY

A progressive parish of 600 families is seeking a vibrant individual to coordinate formation programs, enable the gifts of the faithful, and to engage our youth to live a life of faith. We are located in Morgantown, WV, home of West Virginia University. Our people have a deep love for celebrating Mass, gathering for fellowship, opportunities for adult formation and growth and for mission to the least of these. The position is full-time and reports to the Pastor.

Responsibilities & Duties: Coordinates and manages all Faith Formation ministries including, but not limited to Religious Education (PK-5th); Youth Ministry; Sacrament Preparation; Assist in Adult Faith Formation; Safe Environment. Candidates will be responsible for keeping current on trends in catechetical ministry and seeking ongoing educational opportunities.

Qualifications and Skills: BA Religious Education/Pastoral Ministry/Theology (Preferred), BA/BS + catechetical experience (Qualified), Diploma + certified catechist (Will Consider)

Preferred Skills: Excellent organizational, supervisory and leadership skills; Excellent verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills; Works well in collaborative efforts with other parish ministers; Excellent computer skills including the use of Microsoft Office; Skills in communicating via social media platforms.

Salary & Benefits: Health, vision, dental, participation in 403B plan, paid vacation and personal days, and education stipend. Salary range: \$40,000 - \$50,000 depending upon experience.

If interested please submit a resume by August 1, 2023. Send letter and resume to Fr. John McDonough by email jmcdo-nough@dwc.org or via mail to:

Attn: Father John McDonough
St. Mary Parish
3346 University Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26505



HUNTINGTON,
WEST VIRGINIA

Priest/Chaplain Needed

St. Mary's Medical Center, Huntington, WV – This Priest/Chaplain serves as part of an interfaith spiritual care team. He provides a compassionate and pastorally caring presence for patients, families and staff through attentive listening and spiritual counseling interventions, making tangible God's grace and presence amid their present circumstances and is supportive of the Mission and Values of St. Mary's Medical Center.

In addition, the priest/chaplain recruits, trains, and serves as a liaison to Eucharistic Ministers who serve the medical center's catholic patients. The Priest/chaplain will respond to on-call requests and after hour emergencies for chaplain assistance for sacramental ministry to Catholic patients. He is expected to celebrate Mass regularly for the religious community of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, provide sacramental ministry and pastoral support to patients and their families, staff, and the sisters.

The Priest/Chaplain's role includes a broader dimension in the areas of formation, education, and leadership that nurtures the mission and values of St. Mary's by par-

ticipation in mission integration activities to further the mission and values which gives the health ministry of St. Mary's Medical Center a foundation which embodies a wholistic approach to the healing of body, mind and spirit, a cornerstone of St. Mary's Medical Center.

Minimum Requirements: Education: An ordained Roman Catholic priest in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church and with the ecclesiastical endorsement of the Bishop of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese. A Master's degree in theology, divinity, pastoral ministry, or spirituality. Completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education accredited by ACPE. Certified or eligible for certification within 2 years of hire. Complete Safe Environment program mandated by the Diocese. Work Experience: 1-year clinical training usually through CPE. Competitive Salary and Benefits offered.

For more information or to apply contact: Rev. Greg Creasy, Director of Spiritual Care & Mission Integration at greg.creasy@st-marys.org or call 304.526.1188.

Employment Opportunity

Manager of Welty Home/Administrator of Good Shepherd Nursing Home

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Manager/Welty Home for the Aged Inc., and Administrator/Good Shepherd Nursing Home LC, in Wheeling, W.Va., directs and coordinates overall operation of Good Shepherd Nursing Home, The Braddock Apartments, The Welty Home LC, and Welty Apartments LC both internal and external, in order to provide excellent care to the residents served by these facilities. Manages the day-to-day operations of Good Shepherd Nursing Home and keeps the organization on track for its strategic plan, long term goals and organization's mission. Coordinates these activities to ensure compliance with established standards and regulatory requirements. Promotes public relations and a positive public image. Acts as the 'face' of the organization to the governing board, the public, and residents' families; and as a liaison between staff, residents, and families. Arranges and obtains transfer and working agreements with other health facilities.

Qualifications: Holds a current valid license or an emergency permit issued by the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board. A master's degree in a health care or business-related field is preferred. A bachelor's degree in a health care or business-related field with qualifying experience may be considered. Has a sincere interest in the eld-

erly and their needs. Has the ability to deal with people effectively to carry out objectives of facilities under his/her direction.

This individual must be a Roman Catholic in Good Standing. "Roman Catholic in Good Standing" is an individual who is, as determined by the Diocese: (1) a baptized Roman Catholic who is a registered member of a Roman Catholic parish; (2) agrees with the pastoral and sacramental missions and with the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church; and (3) agrees with and is committed to maintaining the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, Sixth Edition, including in his or her work connected with such organizations.

License qualifications and requirements: Candidate is to submit the name, address, and contact of the State Licensing Board in which they are licensed. Current administrators will submit the most recent three years of State/Federal Survey Reports (CMS Form 2567) for which they were the "Administrator of Record". Reports are to include the deficiency citation, scope, and severity determination of each deficiency.

Click here to apply

El Papa envía un enviado a Washington D.C. como parte de su misión para ayudar a Ucrania

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—El Papa Francisco ha enviado al cardenal Matteo Zuppi, su enviado especial, a Washington D.C., como parte de sus esfuerzos humanitarios en curso para ayudar a Ucrania.

La visita del 17 al 19 de julio "se enmarca en la misión destinada a promover la paz en Ucrania y tiene como objetivo intercambiar ideas y opiniones sobre la trágica situación actual y apoyar las iniciativas humanitarias para aliviar el sufrimiento de las personas más afectadas y frágiles, especialmente los niños", dijo el Vaticano en un comunicado el 17 de julio.

El cardenal viajó a Rusia y Ucrania en los últimos meses para reunirse con funcionarios del gobierno en nombre del Papa.

El cardenal Zuppi, arzobispo de Bolonia y presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Italiana, "viajará a Washington D.C. como enviado del Santo Padre Francisco", dijo el Vaticano el 17 de julio. Le acompañará un funcionario de la Secretaría de Estado vaticana.

El cardenal Zuppi explicó recientemente que la misión vaticana se ha centrado en desarrollar un plan para regresar a Ucrania a los niños deportados ilegalmente a Rusia, no en mediar en el conflicto.

El cardenal estuvo en Moscú del 28 al 30 de junio y se reunió con el Patriarca ortodoxo ruso Kirill de Moscú; Yury Ushakov, asesor de política exterior del Kremlin y antiguo embajador en Estados Unidos; y Maria Lvova-Belova, comisaria rusa para los derechos de la infancia, acusada por la Corte Penal Internacional de ayudar al secuestro y deportación de niños ucranianos a Rusia.

Ushakov dijo en una entrevista con la agencia de noticias Interfax publicada el 30 de junio que, aunque no se llegó a ningún acuerdo en sus reuniones, el deseo del cardenal de "despolitizar todos los asuntos humanitarios" era importante para Rusia, y que Moscú "aprecia la postura equilibrada e imparcial del Vaticano" sobre la situación en Ucrania.

En la presentación de un libro en Roma el 4 de julio, el cardenal dijo a los periodistas que ya había hablado con el Papa sobre su viaje a Moscú y que el Vaticano está trabajando actualmente en un "mecanismo" para ayudar a los niños ucranianos que han sido llevados a Rusia, informó Vatican News.

"Los niños deberían poder regresar a Ucrania", dijo. "El siguiente paso será, en primer lugar, examinar a los niños y, a continuación, ver cómo recuperarlos, empezando por los más frágiles".

"No hay un plan de paz (o) mediación", dijo, "hay una gran aspiración de que la violencia termine, de que se puedan salvar vidas humanas empezando por la defensa de los más jóvenes".

En su intervención en un acto sobre la guerra en Europa, el 2 de julio, el cardenal Zuppi dijo que las autoridades ucranianas están solicitando encarecidamente la ayuda del Vaticano en los esfuerzos humanitarios, en particular para proteger a los menores y a los niños pequeños.

El cardenal dijo el 2 de julio que la preocupación del Papa Francisco es "crear todas las oportunidades para ver, escuchar y fomentar todo lo que pueda conducir hacia una resolución del conflicto".

"Por supuesto que hay pequeñas aperturas, hay que buscarlas", dijo. "Es precisamente en la oscuridad

donde hay que buscar la luz de la paz sabiendo que nadie tiene una varita mágica".

El cardenal Zuppi viajó a Ucrania los días 5 y 6 de junio, donde visitó Bucha y Kiev. En la capital se reunió con funcionarios ucranianos, entre ellos el presidente Volodymyr Zelens-

kyy. Tras su reunión del 6 de junio, el presidente escribió en su canal de Telegram que sólo el aislamiento diplomático y la presión sobre Rusia podrían traer una "paz justa" a Ucrania.

(Contribuyó a este informe Justin McLellan en Roma.)



Retiro de Mujeres

¡Mujer ejemplar, vale mas que las piedras preciosas!

<< 29 y 30 de Julio >>

El retiro se llevará a cabo en la parroquia
San Francisco de Sales
614 S. Oakwood Ave Beckley, WV

Para poder participar del retiro debes ser mayor de 18 años y entregar tu solicitud con la cooperación lo mas pronto posible.

Entrada: Sabado 7:00 a.m.
Salida: Domingo 3:00pm.
 Donacion: \$40
 Para mayores informes: (304) 890-3386
Hermanas Misioneras Servidoras de la Palabra

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 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.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variaran 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 anónimamente 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 eclesiásticas 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, 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, 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.

Join in a Pilgrimage with Bishop Brennan

September 29-October 2, 2023

Itinerary

DAY 1: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

DEPART USA, ARRIVE IN MEXICO

- Depart to Mexico City via independent flights
- Welcome dinner with orientation talk

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- Breakfast at the hotel and then take your bus to the world famous Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- See the miraculous image, the "Tilma" of St. Juan Diego, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Guided tour: the Shrine, the New Basilica, Old Basilica, Tepeyac Hill, and more
- Celebrate Mass with our pilgrim priests
- Time to pray, shop & explore the grounds of the Shrine
- Dinner presentation: Sisters of Mary programs around the world

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Sisters of Mary Girlstown

- Be inspired as you celebrate Mass with 3,500 girls
- Enjoy an amazing musical performance by the girls
- Lunch with the exceptional Sisters of Mary
- Tour Girlstown and see how the Sisters are transforming lives
- Time to play and enjoy the girls
- Light dinner with the Sisters before departing
- Return to the hotel for wrap-up

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Return to USA

- Return home on independent flights

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- The most-visited Marian Shrine in the world!
- Home of the only true image of our Blessed Mother.
- (A miraculous image created by God)

PILGRIMAGE PREP SUGGESTIONS

Excellent books:

- "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love" by Carl Anderson and Eduardo Chavez
- "Priest and Beggar" by Kevin Wells

Sisters of Mary

In 1964, Venerable Fr. Aloysius Schwartz founded the Sisters of Mary to serve the poorest of the poor. Today, 400 Sisters now operate our Boystowns and Girlstowns in seven countries. They have rescued and transformed more than 170,000 of the world's poorest children from the most desperate circumstances.

Sisters of Mary Girlstown and Boystown

Girlstown and Boystown are safe havens for the current group of 21,000 poor and vulnerable children who have HOPE for a brighter future thanks to the Sisters. In a joyful and loving environment, they thrive as members of a loving family while receiving an education and faith formation. Upon graduation, many receive scholarships to study at universities and others find good jobs. Visit www.worldvillages.org to read the amazing success stories and triumphs.

Testimonials

"It was truly one of the most spiritually important pilgrimages I've ever made."

—Glory Sullivan

"Anyone who goes to Guadalupe and Girlstown will be so grateful for the experience of this faith-filled journey." —Jane Lanier

To Join in the Pilgrimage

Contact Susan Driscoll at the Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children at sdriscoll@worldvillages.org or call 1-800-662-6316.

A WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2023

PLUS AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT TO
The Sisters of Mary GIRLSTOWN



An Extraordinary Experience!

- See for yourself the only image of Our Lady in the world by God
- Be inspired by Mass at the world-famous Shrine
- Walk where the Blessed Mother appeared
- Meet the Sisters of Mary, modern day "miracle workers"
- Witness how the Sisters of Mary Girlstown program is "breaking the cycle of poverty"
- A unique pilgrimage with 100% positive reviews

PILGRIMAGE CHAPLAINS

- Bishop Mark Brennan - West Virginia
- Fr. William Ryan - Togo, West Africa
- Fr. Daniel Leary - Chaplain, Sisters of Mary

West Virginians for Life



At our annual Leadership for Life Weekend, teens experience a unique combination of traditional **fun-in-the-sun** summer camping activities and leadership training to **SAVE LIVES** in the pro-life movement.

PRO-LIFE LEADERSHIP
Weekend Retreat

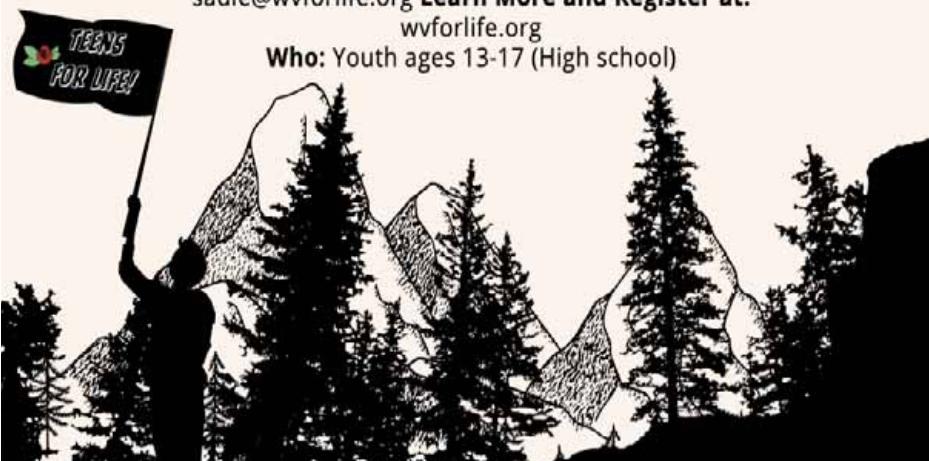
August 25-27th, 2023

Friday, arrival: 4-6 pm
Sunday, pick up 9-10 am

- ROCK CLIMBING
- HIKING
- SWIMMING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- CAMP FIRE
- STRATEGIZING
- ARCHERY
- AND MORE!

Address: 3309 Horseshoe Run Rd, Parsons, WV 26287 **Contact Info:** 304-476-9015 or sadie@wvforlife.org **Learn More and Register at:** wvforlife.org

Who: Youth ages 13-17 (High school)



St. John University Parish Mountaineer Catholic
On the campus of West Virginia University



Going to WVU?




Mass and Confession
Friendship
Movie Nights
Bible Studies
Game Nights
Jam Sessions




Grow your Faith with us! mountaineercatholic.com






COURAGE

A Ministry for Catholics with Same-Sex Attraction

Meets monthly in Morgantown
couragedwc@gmail.com

Faith, Fellowship, and Support
dwc.org/courage-apostolate

"Courage is doing the work of God!" - Pope St. John Paul II

Good Shepherd is hiring nurses!

\$15,000 sign-on bonus for RNs and LPNs

\$10,000 sign-on bonus for CNAs



To learn about this offer, our flexible scheduling, supportive workplace and other advantages, call HR Director Heather Blake at 304.242.1093 or email hblake@weltyhome.org.



www.WeltyHome.org

Foodservice Equipment, Supplies, Disposables, Janitorial and more



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

Advertise
with
The Catholic
Spirit

Contact
Colleen Rowan at
crowan@dwc.org

20th Annual
St. Patrick School
golf tournament

Saturday, August 5, 2023

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. - Shotgun starts at 9:00 a.m.

4 - Person Scramble

1st place \$1,000 cash
2nd \$500 cash
3rd \$250 cash

- Hole in One contest with a \$25,000 prize (Hole #9)
- Longest Drive (Hole #2 & 11)
- Closest to the Pin (Hole #6 & #15)
- Longest Putt (Hole #7 & #16)
- Putting Contest (Putting Green)
- 50/50 raffle



Price
Includes:
• Skins Game
• Closest to Pin
• Longest Drive
• Longest Putt

LOCATION Deerfield Country Club
400 Country Club Drive, Weston, WV

To register a team or ask about sponsorship opportunities call
Kathy Boyle 304-844-7987 or Sharon Franklin 304-269-3759

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS
IN WEST VIRGINIA

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

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

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

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

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

**WVU Heart & Vascular
Institute**