



USCCB Issues Annual Audit on Compliance with Charter by Dioceses, Eparchies

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' annual report on compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" shows that 2,930 victim survivors came forward with 3,103 allegations during the audit year of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The number of allegations is 1,149 less than that reported in 2020, according to the audit report released July 12 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

"This decrease is due in large part to the resolution of allegations received as a result of lawsuits, compensation programs, and bankruptcies," said a news release accompanying the report. "Of the allegations received, 2,284 (74%) were first brought to the attention of the diocesan/eparchial representative by an attorney."

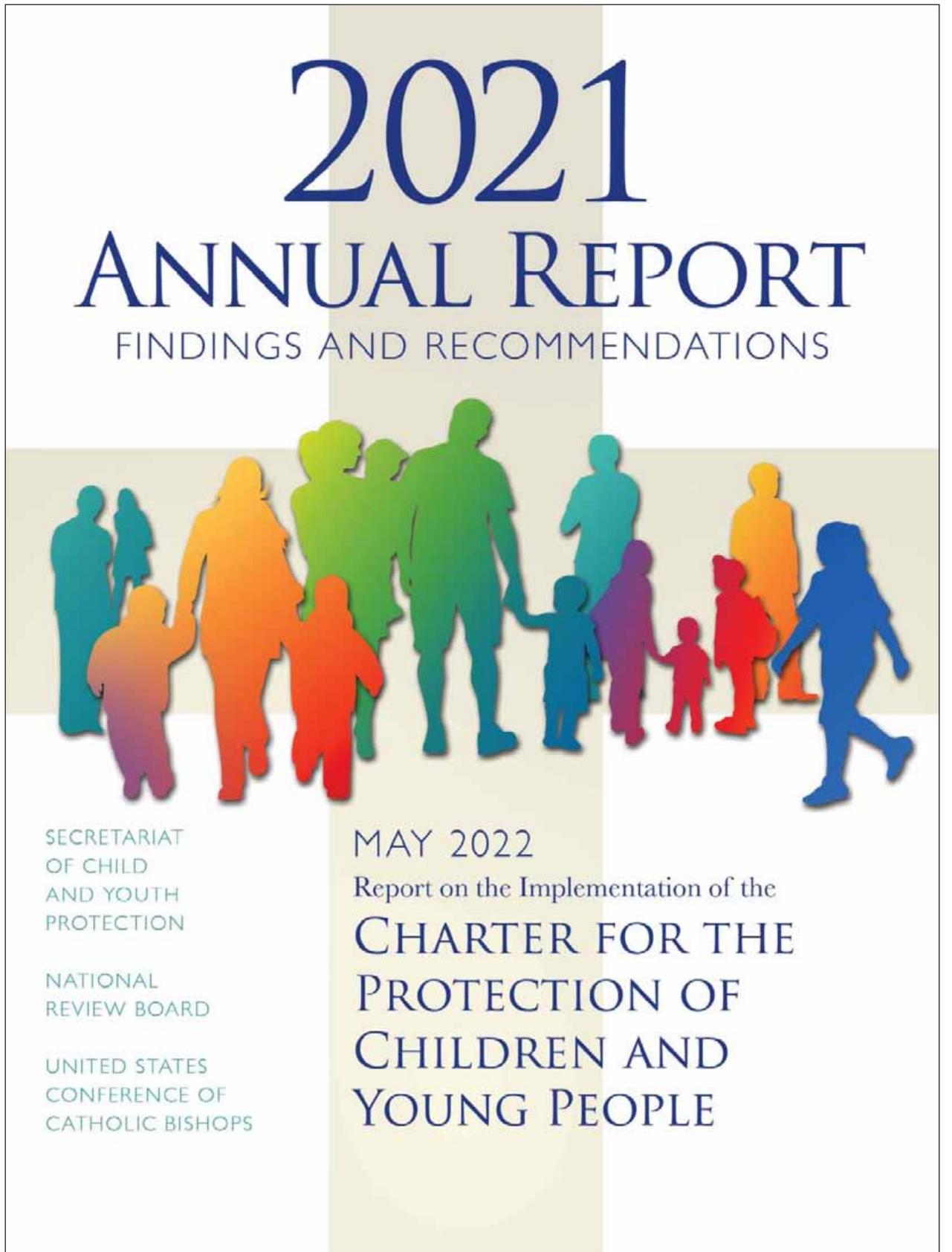
The majority of allegations received were "historical in nature," meaning the alleged victim is now an adult and the abuse happened in years or decades past. During this audit year, there 30 were new allegations.

The report is based on the audit findings of StoneBridge Business Partners, a specialty consulting firm based in Rochester, New York. Also included in the report are results of a survey on allegations conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown.

The charter was adopted in 2002 by the U.S. bishops following widespread reports of clergy abuse and has been revised several times since to adapt to changing situations surrounding the question of clergy sexual abuse of minors. It was revised in 2005, 2011 and 2018.

Of the new allegations made by current minors, six were substantiated; nine are still under investigation; nine were unsubstantiated; five could not be proven; and one was

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This is the cover of the U.S. bishops' 19th annual report on the implementation of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" by dioceses and eparchies. Released July 12, 2022, the report is for audit year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. TCNS Photo/courtesy USCCB

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referred to the provincial of a religious order.

"This year's audit, once again, shows that new cases of sexual misconduct by priests involving minors are rare today in the Catholic Church in the United States," Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, said in a preface to the report. He added that "every offender was removed from ministry. Every allegation was reported to law enforcement."

"As we know, one allegation of abuse is too many," he said. "But my brother bishops and I remain firmly committed to maintain our vigilance in protecting children and vulnerable adults and providing compassion and outreach to victim-survivors of abuse."

"On behalf of my brother bishops, I again want to express our sorrow and apologies to every person who has suffered at the hands of someone in the church. And again, we pledge our commitment to the healing of victim survivors and to doing everything in our power to protect children and vulnerable adults."

The report shows that dioceses and eparchies provided outreach and support to 285 victim survivors and their families who reported an allegation during the audit period. Continued support was provided to 1,737 victim survivors who had reported in prior audit periods.

In 2021, the church conducted 1,964,656 background checks on clergy, employees and volunteers. In addition, over 2 million adults and over 2.4 million children and youth were trained in how to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to report those signs.

Data from CARA said the costs related to allegations for diocese and eparchies for fiscal year 2021 were: settlements, \$118,516,493; other payments to victims, \$13,103,280; support for offenders, \$9,972,414; attorneys' fees, \$45,597,100; and other costs, \$6,930,931.

The grand total of costs was \$194,120,218. This figure is 38% less — or \$117,860,448 less — than the grand total of \$311,980,666 for fiscal year 2020.

"Six-tenths of the payments made by dioceses and eparchies between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, were for settlements to victims (61%) and almost a quarter of the total cost is for attorney's fees (23%)," CARA said.

Despite restrictions experienced due to the pandemic, elements included in the charter audit process conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, were not altered:

Seventy dioceses/eparchies were visited either in person or via remote technology and data was collected from 122 others.

There were four instances of noncompliance due to the inac-

tivity of their review boards: the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas; the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana; the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota; and the Eparchy of Newton were found noncompliant with Article 2 of the charter.

Article 2 requires they have a lay-run review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch.

Subsequent convening of the review boards of the dioceses and the eparchy brought each of them into compliance with Article 2.

Three eparchies and one diocese did not participate in the audit: the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle, the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, and the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

"May the Lord bless and preserve our efforts to make good on our promise to protect and pledge to heal," Suzanne Healy, who chairs the National Review Board, said in a letter to Archbishop Gomez included in the report.

She said the NRB "continues to recommend that all dioceses and eparchies participate in the audit, but also audit every single parish in their ordinances. Parishes and school audits provide the most effective evaluation tool for diocesan/eparchial safe environment efforts."

The board also "recommends examination of the efficacy of safe environment programs for both adults and children to ensure the training is working toward our promise to protect," she added.

She said the board recommends enhancing the audit process with "possible expansion of the audit scope to include measures" in Pope Francis' 2019 "motu proprio" "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" — which established procedures for reporting allegations of sexual abuse and for holding accountable bishops, eparchs

and religious superiors who protect abusers.

The process could also include, she said, a new section of the Code of Canon Law dealing with crimes and punishments in the church: "Book VI: Penal Sanctions in the Church."

The NRB suggested a voluntary "mentorship" program between eparchies that do not participate in the audit and other eparchies that do, she said, and it also proposed there be one day when parishes in every diocese offer "a liturgy of lament for victims/survivors of clergy sexual abuse and their families."

"Through the efforts of many individuals, both lay and ordained, the culture and attitudes surrounding the abuse of children has and will continue to change," Deacon Bernie Nojadera, director of the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection, said in a letter to the archbishop in the report.

He has been blessed by the survivors he has come to know, he said, by them "sharing their stories and how they learned to cope and survive and, in some cases, thrive. I am honored and humbled to be in the presence of such holy people."

"The church will be successful in her journey toward conversion, reconciliation, healing and hope through the relationships with victims/survivors," he said.

"The healing of such experiences is a process of listening, accompaniment and atonement. ... Together, with our sisters and brothers who have been abused, we can and will weather this storm and grow in the abundant love of our Lord," the deacon said.

The full annual report on compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3aHxm59>.

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 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, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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House Bill to Codify Roe is 'Unjust, Extreme,' say USCCB Committee Chairmen

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees said a measure passed by the House July 15 is "the most unjust and extreme abortion on demand bill our nation has ever seen."

They implored lawmakers "who see abortion as a legitimate 'solution' to the needs of women to abandon this path of death and despair," urging them to join the U.S. bishops in prioritizing "the well-being of women, children and families" by providing material resources and "personal accompaniment" so "no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child."

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty, made the comments in a joint statement July 18.

In a mostly party-line vote of 219 to 210, House members approved an updated version of the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022, which would codify a right to abortion in federal law. An earlier version was passed in March by the House, but it failed to pass in the Senate.

The bill, H.R. 8296, would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy and would eliminate pro-life laws at every level of government — including parental notification for minor girls, informed consent, and health and safety protections specific to abortion facilities.

"Answering the needs of women by promoting taxpayer-funded elective abortion, as this bill would do, is a grave evil and a failure to love and serve women," said Archbishop Lori and Cardinal Dolan.

"Offering free or low-cost abortions, instead of increasing the resources women need to care for themselves and their children, is not 'choice' but coercion and callous abandonment," they said.

"Simply repeating the mantra that abortion is health care doesn't make it so," they added. "Deliberately ending the lives of defenseless and voiceless human beings is the antithesis of health care."

They said H.R. 8296 would likely force health care providers and professionals to perform, assist in and/or refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as force employers and insurers to cover or pay for abortion.

The House also passed the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act, H.R. 8297, which would ban states from punishing those who travel out of state "for reproductive health care." This vote also was largely along party lines; the measure

was approved 223-205.

Archbishop Lori and Cardinal Dolan invited everyone, in Congress and in the country at large, to join the U.S. bishops "in pursuing a vision we presented in 'Standing with Moms in Need,'" which, they said, "upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable — a society in which the legal protection of human life is accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children."

The USCCB issued the statement "Standing with Moms in Need" earlier this year as the nation awaited the outcome of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a challenge to a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks. Oral arguments were heard in the case Dec. 1.

The bishops reiterated their statement when a draft of the court's majority opinion in *Dobbs* was leaked in early May indicating *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned.

On June 24, the court upheld the Mississippi law 6-3, but the high court also voted 5-4 to overturn its 1973 *Roe* decision and 1992's *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruling, which affirmed *Roe*.

In the "Standing with Moms in Need" statement, the bishops pledged "to redouble our efforts to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, and during the early years of parenthood, offering them loving and compassionate care through initiatives such as 'Walking with Moms in Need' and countless others."

These efforts include ensuring all parishes are places of welcome for pregnant women in need and their families.

In 2020, the U.S. bishops launched the initiative "Walking with Moms in Need," which aims to engage every Catholic parish "in providing a safety net to ensure that pregnant and parenting moms have the resources, love and support they need to nurture the lives of their children."

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In the "Standing with Moms in Need" statement, the bishops also said they would redouble "our advocacy for laws that ensure the right to life for unborn children and that no mother or family lacks the basic resources needed to care for their children, regardless of race, age, immigration status or any other factor."

"We are deeply conscious that, after nearly half a century of legalized abortion, more than 65 million children have died from abortion and an untold number of women, men, and families suffer in the aftermath," they also said.

"Recognizing this pain and loss, we also recommit our committees and urge our dioceses, parishes, and Catholic agencies and institutions: To proclaim God's mercy after abortion and compassionately accompany women and men who are suffering after an abortion," they said.

They also pledged to expand the church's abortion healing ministries.

The "Standing with Moms in Need" was signed by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, and the chairmen of eight USCCB committees: pro-life, migration, domestic policy, international policy, Catholic education, communications, evangelization and catechesis, and marriage and family life.

The full "Standing with Moms in Need" statement can be found online on the USCCB website at <https://bit.ly/3yOkpyt>.

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German Synodal Path Must Not Create New Structures, Doctrines, Vatican Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — “It seems necessary to make it clear that the ‘Synodal Path’ in Germany does not have the power to compel bishops and the faithful to assume new modes of governance and new approaches to doctrine and morals,” said an unsigned “declaration of the Holy See.”

Released by the Vatican press office in German and Italian July 21, the declaration said the Catholic Church in Germany could not “initiate new official structures or doctrines in the dioceses prior to an agreed understanding at the level of the universal church.”

Doing so, it said, “would represent a wound to ecclesial communion and a threat to the unity of the church.”

The fourth assembly of the Synodal Path is scheduled to meet Sept. 8-10 in Frankfurt with plans to debate a series of

revised texts and vote on them for possible adoption as resolutions of the Synodal Path.

The assembly is made up of the members of the German bishops’ conference, 69 representatives of the Central Committee of German Catholics, and other representatives of spiritual ministries and church offices, young people and individuals. In total, the synodal assembly comprises 230 people.

At its meeting in early February, the assembly passed resolutions calling for a greater role and voice for laypeople in church decision making and for the involvement of laypeople in cathedral chapters that have a voice in recommending the names of candidates to be submitted to the pope for possible nomination as bishops.

The assembly also made its initial consideration of motions to encourage a relaxation

of the rule of mandatory celibacy for most Latin-rite priests and in favor of the ordination of women as deacons. The blessing of same-sex unions has been widely discussed as well, but not formally adopted by the assembly.

The power of the assembly to make decisions for the Catholic Church in Germany has been widely and repeatedly discussed. Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops’ conference, in an April letter responding to bishops from other countries criticizing the German process, insisted all resolutions calling for reforms that can only be implemented at the universal church level would be submitted to the worldwide synodal process launched by Pope Francis in preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops on synodality.

In a 2019 letter to German

Catholics — a letter also quoted in the new declaration — Pope Francis emphasized that synodality is a process that must be guided by the Holy Spirit with patience and not a “search for immediate results that generate quick and immediate consequences.” Transformation “calls for pastoral conversion,” he said.

“Brothers and sisters, let us care for one another and be attentive to the temptation of the father of lies and division, the master of separation who, in pushing us to seek an apparent good or a response to a given situation, in fact ends up fragmenting the body of the holy and faithful people of God,” the pope said.

The July declaration from the Vatican reminded Catholics in Germany of Pope Francis’ words to them in 2019 that the local church and the universal church live and flourish together.

If local churches separate from the whole, he said, “they become debilitated, rot and die. Hence the need to keep communion with the whole body of the church always alive and effective.”

The Vatican declaration said, “it is hoped that the proposals of the Path of the particular churches in Germany will flow into the synodal path being taken by the universal church for mutual enrichment and a witness to that unity by which the body of the church manifests its fidelity to Christ the Lord.”

The Catholic Church in Germany launched the Synodal Path Dec. 1, 2019, in a search for ways to restore trust lost in the clergy abuse scandal. Scheduled to conclude its work by February 2023, it is debating the issues of power, sexual morality, priestly existence and the role of women in the church.

Pope Describes Canada Trip as ‘Penitential Pilgrimage’

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Asking for prayers ahead of his visit to Canada July 24-29, Pope Francis described the trip as a “penitential pilgrimage” as part of a commitment to healing and reconciliation with the country’s Indigenous people.

“Unfortunately, in Canada, many Christians, including some members of religious institutes, contributed to the policies of cultural assimilation that, in the past, have severely harmed native communities in various ways,” the pope said July 17, referring particularly to the involvement of dioceses and religious orders in running residential schools.

From the 1870s to the 1990s, the Canadian government, usually in partnership with Christian churches, operated a residential school system to which over 150,000 First Nation, Métis and Inuit students were sent. Their language and customs were banned, and they often suffered malnourishment and physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square after the recitation of the Angelus prayer, Pope Francis said the church’s involvement in

the schools was the reason why he met in late March and early April at the Vatican with “representatives of Indigenous peoples, to whom I expressed my sorrow and solidarity for the harm they have suffered.”

“And now I am about to embark on a penitential pilgrimage, which I hope, with God’s grace, will contribute to the journey of healing and reconciliation already undertaken,” the pope said.

With his mobility still limited because of knee trouble, Pope Francis’ itinerary is very light, although he will visit the site of a former residential school, a parish for Indigenous people, a popular pilgrimage site in Edmonton and another in Quebec, and will meet Inuit elders and young people in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

He will celebrate a public Mass July 26 at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton and another July 28 at the National Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré outside of Quebec. But the Catholic bishops, who are organizing the visit, are giving priority for places at both liturgies to residential school survivors and other members of the Indigenous communities.

Addressing his “dear brothers and sisters of Canada,” Pope Francis half apologized for not being



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis accepts snowshoes from Adrian Gunner, representing the Assembly of First Nations, during a meeting with Canadian Indigenous groups at the Vatican in this April 1, 2022, file photo. The pope plans to read his speeches in Spanish during his July 24-29 trip to Canada. While the Indigenous will be the focus of the trip, concern for the environment and prayers for Ukraine also are expected.

able to meet everyone. “As you know, I will come among you especially in the name of Jesus to meet and embrace the Indigenous peoples.”

“I thank you in advance for all the work of preparation and for the welcome you will give me,” the pope said. “And I ask you to please accompany me in prayer.”

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Grandparents and Elderly to Receive Special Blessing at the Cathedral

WHEELING—Pope Francis has established throughout the Church the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

The theme for this year's celebration is "In Old Age They Will Still Bear Fruit" (Ps. 92:15). The theme is meant to emphasize how grandparents are a gift both to society and the church.

To celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling invites all grandparents and elderly present at this weekend's Masses (July 23-24) to receive a special blessing at the conclusion of Mass.

This year, Pope Francis is also extending the opportunity for a plenary indulgence "to the faithful who devote adequate time to visit, in presence or virtually, through the media, their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty" on July 24.

Official Appointments

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

After consultation with Very Rev. Joby John Edamuriyil, C.S.T., provincial superior of the St. Thomas Province of the Little Flower Congregation in Kerala, India, **Father Jojan Joseph, C.S.T.**, is appointed pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Oak Hill with residence at the parish rectory, effective Aug. 10, 2022.

In consultation with Rev. Father Jaya Raj Battula, H.G.N., provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Kishore Babu Varaparla, H.G.N.**, is appointed administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont with residence at the parish rectory, effective Aug. 10, 2022.

In consultation with Rev. Father Jaya Raj Battula, H.G.N., provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Praveen Mallela, H.G.N.**, is appointed chaplain and director of Campus Ministry at Wheeling University with responsibility for coordinating sacramental ministry to its actively enrolled students, effective Aug. 3, 2022. He will reside at Campion Hall on the Wheeling University campus.

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On **Saturday, October 29th, 2022** from **11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**, join us at our Diocesan camp property: **225 Catholic Conference Center Huttonsville, West Virginia 26273**

We will celebrate Mass with our bishop, Mark E. Brennan. There will also be adoration, music, food, recreational activities, catechesis, and speakers.

Parents are encouraged to attend as well.

St. James the Greater Parish Consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Courtesy Photo

Consecrating of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary is Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F., center. With him are Deacon James T. Munuhe, left, and Deacon David E. Galvin, right.

Tonight, July 22, in Charles Town, Saint James Jam Offers Family Fun While Raising Funds for Food, Clothing Ministry

CHARLES TOWN—For the second year in a row, the Parish of St. James the Greater in Charles Town is providing the community with a chance to run, bounce and play cornhole while supporting a ministry that feeds, clothes and provides furniture to those in need.

The Saint James Jam begins at 7 p.m. this evening (Friday, July 22) at the church, 49 Crosswinds Drive in Charles Town.

Activities include:

—A 5K run beginning at 7 p.m. on the scenic cross-country course on the church grounds

—A bounce house competition beginning at 7 p.m. for ages 11 and younger

—A 1-mile stroller-friendly walk/run beginning at 7:10 p.m.

—A double-elimination cornhole tournament beginning at 8 p.m. for ages 12 and older

—A silent auction featuring two-night stays for two at the Hilton Brooklyn in New York City; the Hilton Garden Inn in Washington, D.C.; and Hotel Indigo in Pittsburgh

The silent auction will continue at the parish picnic on July 24, where the winners will be announced.

Registration costs are \$15 per person, per event, which includes a T-shirt and \$5 in Jam Dollars, which can be used to purchase a variety of items at the Saint Isidore Market at the

church.

In addition, a variety of baked items, including pepperoni rolls, will be sold. The Knights of Columbus will offer shrimp bowls and Capitol Snow from Alexandria, Va., will sell shaved ice.

All registration fees will be used by the Saint Roch Ministry at the church, which ships food to the needy from North Carolina to upstate New York. The proceeds from the Saint James Jam will cover increased fuel costs and maintenance to keep the ministry's vehicles on the road.

The Saint Roch Ministry works with First Fruits Farm of Freeland, Md., and several local

farms to provide healthy food to marginalized communities. In addition to food, the Saint Roch Ministry provides clothing and basic furniture to those in need and is working with the Bethany Retreat Center in Clearfield, Pa., which hosts groups from across the United States as they plan their mission work. The retreat center's primary fundraiser is selling blueberries, but this year's crop was decimated by gypsy moths, so it reached out to St. James for help.

For more information, email stjamesjam22@gmail.com; go to stjameswv.org; or call (304) 725-5558.



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Lewis County Bluegrass Festival Will Benefit St. Patrick School, Weston, Fourth Grader Battling Leukemia

LEWIS COUNTY—The Lewis County Bluegrass Festival will be a weekend of Mountain Music at Historic Annamede in Lewis County with all profits benefiting Audrey Westfall, a fourth grader at St. Patrick School in Weston who is battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. The festival will be held Aug. 19 4 p.m.-10 p.m. & Aug. 20 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Audrey is a 4th grade student at St. Patrick School in Weston. She and her family live in Walkersville. She loves being outdoors, hiking, swimming at the lake and hunting with her dad. She is also a member of the Crawford Indian Trails 4-H club. And recently she has started taking horseback riding lessons at Silver Mist Stables in Jane Lew. Unfortunately, she was recently diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. She is undergoing treatment at WVU Children's Hospital at Ruby in Morgantown.

The festival will feature the following performers: Nothin' Fancy, Valerie Smith, Rick Kent, Circa Blue, LC Blue ALUMNI, Bobby Maynard, The Masons, and LC Blue

For tickets or to donate visit <https://lewiscountybluegrassfestival.events/>



Audrey Westfall

St. Boniface in Camden to Host 89th Annual Chicken Supper and Bazaar

CAMDEN—St. Boniface Parish in Camden will have its 89th Annual Chicken Supper and Bazaar on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 4:30-7 p.m. The cost is \$12 for adults. For kids 6-12 the cost is \$6. Admission is free for kids under 6.

On the menu is Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Homemade bread, Desserts, Iced Tea, and Coffee

Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. by Father Gary P. Naegele, pastor of the parish

Contact Janet Rinehart at (304) 871-0091 for more information. The event is being sponsored by the St. Boniface Altar Society

The bazaar will feature many local crafts, homemade baked goods, and home grown produce. Carry outs and outdoor seating will be available. Chances will be available for a beautiful handmade Quilt.

Tickets are on sale through the St. Patrick Parish Office in Weston for the quilt. Tickets will also be available for purchase after Mass on the weekends of July 23-24, and July 30-31. Tickets are \$5 each.

West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston to Offer Zoom Series: 'Love: A Guide for Prayer'

WEST VIRGINIA—The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston will offer "Love: A Guide for Prayer," a 6-week guided prayer experience via Zoom.

All are invited to participate in this guided prayer experience to be held July 31-Aug. 28. Participants will be using the book, "Love: A Guide to Prayer" by Bergan and Schwan (available through any bookseller).

"We will meet for 60 minutes each week," WVIS officials said. The program is being offered by WVIS

Associate Program Director Paula Osborne.

This book begins with these lines of prayer, "Lord, my God, when your love spilled over into creation you thought of me. I am from love, of love, for love." This collection of prayer exercises focuses on knowing and affirming God's love for all.

"Each week we will pray together for the grace of an intimate and heartfelt experience of God's love," WVIS officials said. "As a group, we will commit to pray with these exer-

cises daily and then gather weekly on Zoom to share our experiences of God in our prayer for that week."

The group will meet Sundays from July 31 through Aug. 28 from 3-4 p.m. (Eastern) via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to all those who register for the program.

Those interested can register online by visiting the WVIS website under programs. They can also register via email by contacting WVIS at wvisreg@gmail.com. If registering by email, please include LOVE

GROUP in the subject line.

The Donation for this program is \$50 (plus the cost of the book). Please use the link to register. When registering online, participants will be given the choice to pay via check. If paying by check, please make check payable to WVIS and mail to 1601 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25311.

The registration deadline is July 28.

For more information about the program, contact Osborne at pfo1125@gmail.com.

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SEPTEMBER 27

DOORS OPEN @ 6 - EVENT STARTS @ 6:30
ST. MICHAEL PARISH

EVENING INCLUDES:

What's the meaning of sex, gender, and the human body? The truth of masculinity and femininity are being questioned like never before. Discover how your body as a man or woman reveals your identity and calling.

Purchase Tickets with QR Code



If you have any questions or if you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Diane at the parish office: 304-242-1560

Lewis County Sheriff's Department Hosts St. Patrick's Summer School Students on Field Trip



Courtesy Photos
Summer school students at St. Patrick School in Weston went on a field trip last week, visiting the Lewis County Judicial Annex and learning about the judicial process. The kids are pictured touring the facility and exploring a police cruiser. "Thank you to the Lewis County Sheriff's Department for your hospitality," school officials said.

Texas Bishops Call for Immigration Reform after Migrant Deaths in Trailer

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Texas Catholic bishops urged immigration reform, saying it is necessary to prevent what happened to 53 migrants discovered dead and dying inside a trailer June 27 from happening again.

Reminding others to reflect on the incident, they focused on defending the sacredness of every life.

In a YouTube video posted July 15, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, Bishop Michael F. Olson of Fort Worth and Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, on behalf of the Texas Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops, reminded Catholics “to never forget the sacredness of all human life in light of all this.”

Cardinal DiNardo recalled Pope Francis’ lament, the “throw-away culture” the pope warns against, which leads humanity to discard God’s creation, including people.

“This senseless loss of life should shock and sadden us as we

are all brothers and sisters in Christ,” said Cardinal DiNardo in the video. “We cannot ignore those most vulnerable among us who at times become victims of this throwaway culture and only seek a better life for themselves and their families.”

He commended the souls of the men and women who died near San Antonio after being smuggled into the U.S. in the part of a semi-trailer reserved for cargo, not people. They were traveling without air conditioning or ventilation in temperatures that surpassed 100 degrees. It’s not clear how long they had been inside the trailer.

Authorities said the man identified as the truck driver, Homero Zamorano Jr., fled the scene, leaving the migrants, which included minors, dead and dying. He has been apprehended and charged with alien smuggling resulting in death. Three others also have been arrested in connection with the incident.

“The exploitation of the poor and in particular of migrants who flee dramatic situations in search



CNS Photo/Sandra Sebastian, Reuters
Isabela Guachiac, an aunt of Pascual Melvin Guachiac, 13, who died June 27 when he suffocated while being smuggled in a semitrailer in San Antonio, cries during the funeral of her nephew in the small village of Tzucubal in Nahuala, Guatemala July 16. The teen was one of 53 migrants found dead in the truck’s cargo area.

of opportunities and hope is particularly grave,” said Archbishop García-Siller in the video.

Their abandonment inside the sweltering tractor-trailer “is one of those sins that cry to heaven,” he said, adding that it’s the kind of loss that could have been prevented with common sense immigration laws, which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops have supported for decades.

“They’re God’s children,” he said. “They are members of God’s family, human, like all of us, families with dreams.”

Bishop Olson said that “our na-

tion’s past unwillingness to address immigration ... has brought us to a grave moment of polarization and crisis that threatens the lives of the vulnerable.

“This polarization has hardened many hearts resulting in apathy and indifference for the suffering and exploitation of the vulnerable women and children who are the victims of the trafficking of drugs and of human beings,” he said.

“The light of our faith should prompt us to care and to address the causes of these injustices as

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Conferencia episcopal publica auditoría anual sobre denuncias de abuso

Por Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El informe anual de los obispos de EE. UU. sobre el cumplimiento de la "Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes" muestra que 2,930 sobrevivientes de víctimas presentaron 3,103 denuncias durante el año de auditoría del 1 de julio de 2020 al 30 de junio de 2021. El número de denuncias es 1,149 menos que el informado en 2020, según el informe de auditoría publicado el 12 de julio por la Secretaría de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE. UU. conocido como USCCB por sus siglas en inglés.

"Esta disminución se debe en gran parte a la resolución de las denuncias recibidas como resultado de juicios, programas de compensación y quiebras", dijo un comunicado de prensa que acompaña al informe. "De las denuncias recibidas, 2,284 (74%) fueron presentadas primero a la atención del representante diocesano/episcopal por un abogado".

La mayoría de las denuncias recibidas fueron de "naturaleza histórica", lo que significa que la presunta víctima es ahora un adulto y el abuso ocurrió hace años o décadas. Durante este año de auditoría, hubo 30 nuevas denuncias. El informe se basa en los resultados de la auditoría de StoneBridge Business Partners, un grupo consultor con sede en Rochester, Nueva York. También se incluyen en el informe los resultados de una encuesta sobre denuncias realizada por el Centro de Investigación Aplicada en el Apostolado de Georgetown (CARA).

La carta fue adoptada en 2002 por los obispos de EE. UU. tras informes generalizados de abusos del clero y ha sido revisada varias veces desde entonces para adaptarse a situaciones cambiantes en torno a la cuestión del abuso sexual de menores por parte del clero. Fue revisado en 2005, 2011 y 2018.

De las nuevas denuncias realizadas por los menores actuales, seis fueron fundamentadas; nueve aún están bajo investigación; nueve carecían de fundamento; cinco no pudieron probarse; y uno fue referido al provincial de una orden religiosa.

"La auditoría de este año, una vez más, muestra que los nuevos casos de conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de sacerdotes que involucran a menores son raros hoy en día en la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos", dijo el arzobispo de Los Ángeles, José H. Gómez, presidente de la USCCB, en un prefacio al informe. Agregó que "todos los infractores fueron retirados del ministerio. Cada acusación se informó a las autoridades".

"Como sabemos, una acusación de abuso es demasiada", dijo, "pero mis hermanos obispos y yo seguimos firmemente comprometidos a mantener nuestra vigilancia para proteger a los niños y adultos vulnerables y brindar compasión y alcance a las víctimas"

sobrevivientes de abuso".

"En nombre de mis hermanos obispos, nuevamente quiero expresar nuestro dolor y disculpas a cada persona que ha sufrido a manos de alguien en la iglesia. Y nuevamente, prometemos nuestro compromiso con la sanación de las víctimas sobrevivientes y hacer todo lo posible en nuestro poder para proteger a los niños y adultos vulnerables".

El informe muestra que las diócesis y las eparquías brindaron asistencia y apoyo a 285 sobrevivientes de víctimas y sus familias que informaron una denuncia durante el período de auditoría. Se brindó apoyo continuo a 1,737 víctimas sobrevivientes que habían presentado informes en períodos de auditoría anteriores.

En 2021, la iglesia realizó 1,964,656 verificaciones de antecedentes de clérigos, empleados y voluntarios. Además, más de 2 millones de adultos y más de 2.4 millones de niños y jóvenes recibieron capacitación sobre cómo identificar las señales de advertencia de abuso y cómo denunciar esas señales.

Los datos de CARA dijeron que los costos relacionados con las denuncias de diócesis y eparquías para el año fiscal 2021 fueron: acuerdos, \$118,516,493; otros pagos a víctimas, \$13,103,280; apoyo a los infractores, \$9,972,414; honorarios de abogados, \$45,597,100; y otros costos, \$6,930,931.

El gran total de los costos fue de \$194,120,218. Esta cifra es un 38 % menos, o \$117,860,448 menos, que el total general de \$311,980,666 para el año fiscal 2020. "Seis décimas partes de los pagos realizados por diócesis y eparquías entre el 1 de julio de 2020 y el 30 de junio de 2021 fueron para arreglos a las víctimas (61%) y casi una cuarta parte del costo total es para honorarios de abogados (23%)", dijo CARA.

A pesar de las restricciones experimentadas debido a la pandemia, los elementos incluidos en el proceso de auditoría de estatutos realizado por StoneBridge Business Partners no se modificaron:

Se visitaron setenta diócesis/eparquías, ya sea en persona o mediante tecnología, y se recopilaron datos de otras 122.

Hubo cuatro casos de incumplimiento debido a la inactividad de sus juntas de revisión: la Diócesis de Corpus Christi, Texas; la Diócesis de Lafayette, Luisiana; la Diócesis de New Ulm, Minnesota; y la Eparquía de Newton no cumplieron con el artículo 2 de la carta.

El artículo 2 requiere que tengan una junta de revisión dirigida por laicos que funcione como un cuerpo consultivo confidencial para el obispo/eparca.

La posterior convocatoria de las juntas de revisión de las diócesis y la eparquía hizo que cada una de ellas cumpliera con el Artículo 2.

Tres eparquías y una diócesis no participaron en la auditoría: la Eparquía caldea de San Pedro Apóstol, la Eparquía de Nuestra Señora del Líbano, la Eparquía ca-

tólica ucraniana de San Nicolás y la Diócesis de Santo Tomás en las Islas Vírgenes. "Que el Señor bendiga y preserve nuestros esfuerzos para hacer el bien en nuestras promesas para proteger y sanar", dijo Suzanne Healy, quien preside la Junta Nacional de Revisión, en una carta al arzobispo Gomez incluida en el informe.

Ella dijo que la NRB "continúa recomendando que todas las diócesis y eparquías participen en la auditoría, pero también auditen cada parroquia en sus ordenanzas. Las auditorías parroquiales y escolares brindan la herramienta de evaluación más efectiva para los esfuerzos diocesanos/eparquiales de ambiente seguro".

La junta también "recomienda revisión de la eficacia de los programas de ambiente seguro tanto para adultos como para niños para garantizar que la capacitación cumpla con nuestra promesa de proteger", agregó. Dijo que la junta recomienda mejorar el proceso de auditoría con una "posible expansión del alcance de la auditoría para incluir medidas" en el "motu proprio" del papa Francisco de 2019 "Vos Estis Lux Mundi", que estableció procedimientos para informar denuncias de abuso sexual y para hacer responsables a obispos, eparcas y superiores religiosos que protegen a abusadores. El proceso también podría incluir, dijo, una nueva sección del Código de Derecho Canónico que se ocupe de los delitos y penas en la iglesia: Libro VI: Sanciones penales en la iglesia.

La NRB sugirió un programa voluntario de "tutoría" entre las eparquías que no participan en la auditoría y otras eparquías que sí lo hacen, dijo, y también propuso que haya un día en que las parroquias de cada diócesis ofrezcan "una liturgia de lamento por las víctimas/sobrevivientes" de abuso sexual del clero y sus familias".

"A través de los esfuerzos de muchas personas... la cultura y las actitudes que rodean el abuso de niños han cambiado y seguirán cambiando", dijo el diácono Bernie Nojadera, director de la Secretaría para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, en una carta al arzobispo en el informe.

Dijo que ha sido bendecido por los sobrevivientes que ha llegado a conocer y por ellos comparte "sus historias y cómo aprendieron a sobrellevar y sobrevivir, en algunos casos, prosperar. Me siento honrado y honrado de estar en presencia de tal pueblo santo".

"La iglesia tendrá éxito en su camino hacia la conversión, la reconciliación, la sanación y la esperanza a través de las relaciones con las víctimas/sobrevivientes", dijo.

"La sanación de tales experiencias es un proceso de escucha, acompañamiento y expiación... Juntos, con nuestras hermanas y hermanos que han sido abusados, podemos aguantar esta tormenta y creceremos en el abundante amor de nuestro Señor", dijo el diácono.

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 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 Se-

guro 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.

 **CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA**
MISSION MOMENT



Courtesy Photo

Margie McLaughlin's granddaughter, Maggie, displays the goodie bags her family put together at CCWVa Loaves and Fishes Outreach Center.

Margie's Mission

Margie McLaughlin was dedicated to reaching out to her community. She often showed her compassion by filling and delivering "goodie bags" to people in need.

"She personally strived to provide services that allowed her community to live a happy, healthy, and spiritual life," said Tammy, Margie's daughter. "Compassion was her motivation and the knowledge of helping another individual was her only desired payment."

After Margie passed away last year, the McLaughlin family chose to use their grief for good by honoring Margie's memory with Margie's Mission. Margie's children and grandchildren have committed to making regular donations of hygiene products, laundry supplies, and pet food to clients at Catholic Charities Loaves and Fishes Outreach Center.

Our clients and staff are grateful for the McLaughlin family, and for Margie's legacy of love.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and how to support your neighbors in need, please visit 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.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

WHEELING—The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center on 18th Street operates a Meals on Wheels program, where by hundreds of residents are provided one meal around noon on Mondays thru Saturdays. Different delivery routes are established for various neighborhoods, and it often takes less than one hour for volunteer drivers to complete their "Routes." Food is usually

ready for pickup around 10:30 a.m. at the center.

At this time, there is a shortage of drivers for Meals on Wheels. In a twist of fate, Fridays have been most difficult to schedule. In fact, over the next three Fridays, meals will not be delivered to shut ins due to the driver shortage.

To become a driver, call Jodi Fogle at the 18th St. Center at (304) 232-7157.

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Openings for Teachers at Charleston Catholic High School

Charleston Catholic High School is seeking enthusiastic and qualified candidates for the following positions: Middle School Spanish teacher (full or part time); Middle School Theology teacher. Qualified candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and experience in the relevant field. Candidates should be able to plan lessons, implement curriculum and assess students at a rigorous level in content. Candidates will have a depth of knowledge and enjoyment of the subject area. Candidates should contribute to the overall success of Charleston Catholic High School and support students in their academic growth and faith development through their commitment to Catholic values, positivity, and love of teaching. Candidates should be certified or willing to pursue certification. To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to principal Colleen Hoyer at colleen.hoyer@charlestoncatholic-crw.org.

Middle School English Needed at Corpus Christi School, Wheeling

Corpus Christi School, Wheeling, a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has a rich history of providing faith-based, Catholic education to students Preschool through 8th grade, for over 106-years. Our school is seeking positive, energetic, qualified individuals to fill the following position for the starting the 2022-2023 school year.

Middle School English (FULL TIME)

Qualifications: Must hold a valid WV teaching certificate.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and three references to Principal Shannon Wall at swall@ccwheeling.net

Teachers Needed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling is seeking qualified and energetic candidates for the following positions for the 2022-23 school year:

- Full Time Kindergarten Teacher
- Full Time Kindergarten Aide
- Full Time 3rd Grade Teacher
- Full Time Middle School English-Language Arts Teacher
- Part-Time Development Director

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School is a Catholic school that exists to serve the community through exceptional education grounded in responsibility to Catholic values by embracing individual needs. For over 100 years, SVS has served students and families in a faith-filled and vibrant environment, framed by academic excellence, family spirit, and the formation of the whole person. We work to provide students the tools they need to lead positive, productive, and purposeful lives. We do this through spiritual development, relevant classroom experiences, real-world application, character development, and the use of well-rounded academic and technological resources. The school is part of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and currently enrolls approximately 130 students in preschool through eighth grade. We offer a vibrant work environment framed in a positive culture and climate.

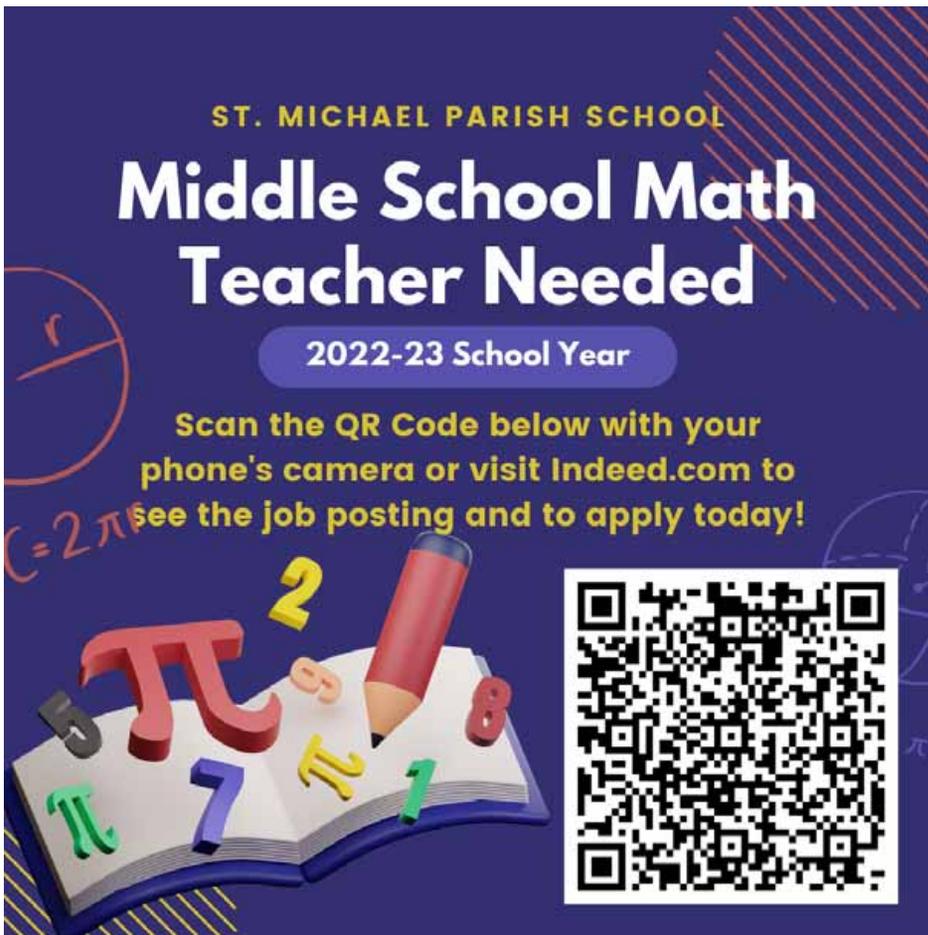
To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and list of 3 professional references to the 2022-23 Principal Jarett Kuhns at jkuhns@stvincent-school.org. A complete job description can be emailed upon request.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL

Middle School Math Teacher Needed

2022-23 School Year

Scan the QR Code below with your phone's camera or visit [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) to see the job posting and to apply today!



Middle School Teacher Needed at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking a middle school math/science teacher for the 2022-23 school year.

Candidates must hold or be eligible to hold West Virginia professional teaching certification. A long-term substitute with a bachelor's degree or first-class permit may be considered if there is a lack of fully qualified candidates.

Applicants should be driven to promote high moral standards and academic excellence.

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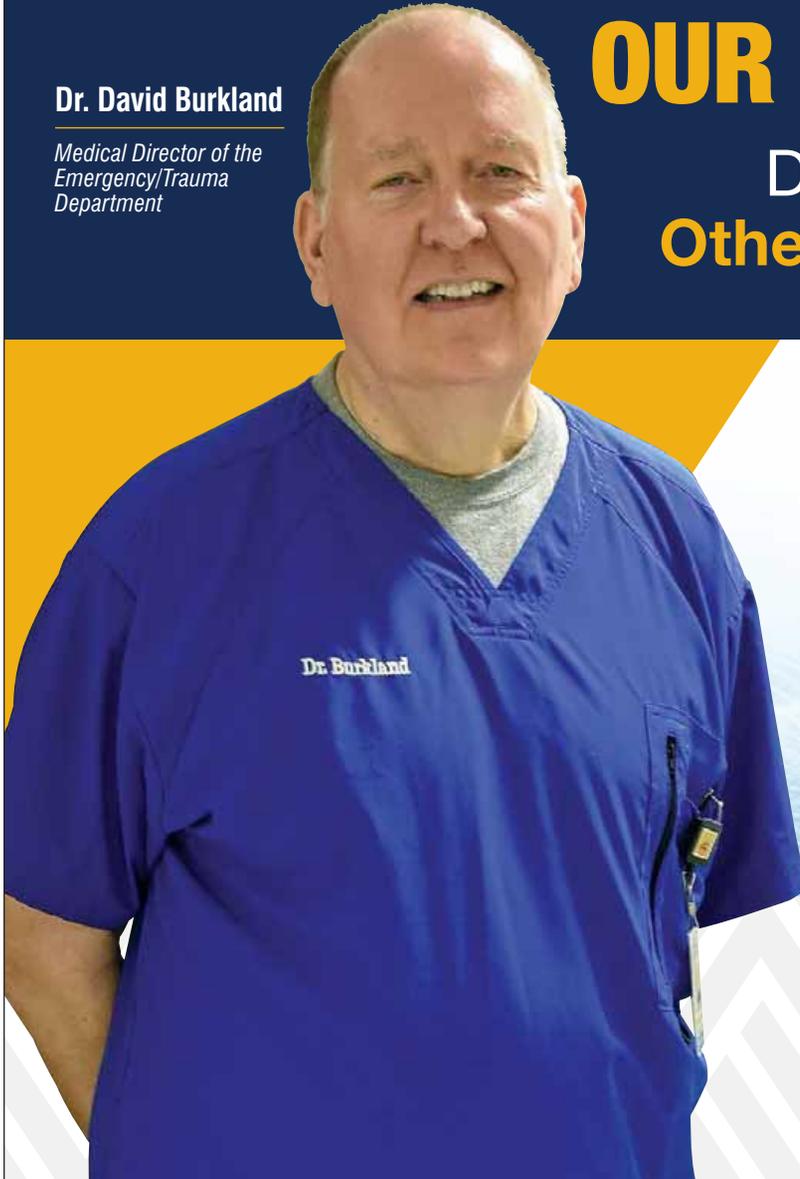
OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.

Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of
Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don't ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We'll protect you, and take good care of you.




WVU Medicine
WHEELING HOSPITAL