By Colleen Rowan

"We are true to who we are, and our curriculum follows that," Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine said of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Catholic schools. With the faith at the center of everything and the path they provide to academic success for students, the diocese's Catholic schools continue to be the choice of many families.

To sustain them for the future, the schools' Catholic identity and mission and academic excellence are being strengthened through the recently launched "Intentional Growth Planning for Our Catholic Schools of West Virginia."

The diocese's six Catholic high schools and 18 Catholic elementary and grade schools are located in 13 counties of West Virginia. A number of them, July 23, 2021                                            Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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


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similarly direct that the Mass in the extraordinary form continue in those locations where it is currently being offered in the archdiocese.

“No new public liturgical celebration of the extraordinary form, however, should be introduced anywhere in the archdiocese at this time without my written permission.”

Currently, Mass in the extraordinary form is regularly offered in the archdiocese at seven parishes.

Saying he was acting for the good of the unity of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis July 16 re-stored limits on the celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Missal in use before the Second Vatican Council, overturning or severely restricting permissions St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had given to celebrate the so-called Tridentine-rite Mass.

His apostolic letter “Traditionis Custodes” (“Guardians of the Tradition”) endorses liturgical books promulgated after the Second Vatican Council to be “the unique expression of the lex orandi (law of worship) of the Roman Rite,” restoring the obligation of priests to have their bishops’ permission to celebrate according to the extraordinary or pre-Vatican II Mass and ordering bishops not to establish any parishes or dioceses devoted to the old liturgy.

Priests currently celebrating Mass according to the old missal must request authorization from their bishop to continue doing so, Pope Francis ordered, and for any priest ordained after the document’s publication July 16, the bishop must consult with the Vatican before granting authorization.

In a statement issued late July 16, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, encouraged his brother bishops “to work with care, patience, justice and charity” as “these new norms are implemented … (and) as together we foster a eucharistic renewal in our nation.”

Like Minnesota’s archbishop, a number of other U.S. bishops similarly told their priests who celebrate the Mass in the extraordinary form and their parishes that already are allowed to have the celebration of this Mass that they can continue to do so, but that they further study the document.

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington told priests of the archdiocese July 16: “I will prayerfully reflect upon ‘Traditionis Custodes’ in the coming weeks to ensure we understand fully the Holy Father’s intentions and consider carefully how they are realized” in the archdiocese.

In the meantime, until there is “further guidance,” he said, would allow “those who celebrate the Mass using the liturgical books issued before 1970 to continue to do so … in the days to come.”

In a July 19 statement, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said that further study of the norms by individual bishops and the USCCB “will help determine how these norms apply here in the archdiocese of Baltimore. In the meantime, the current practice will continue and going forward every effort will be made to meet the pastoral needs of those who frequent Holy Mass in the extraordinary form.”

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City tweeted shortly after the papal document was released:

“Many questions have been raised by today’s publication of Pope Francis’ motu proprio ‘Traditio-
tiones Custodes.’ I have inform-
ed our clergy that I am granting tem-
porary permission for those priests
competent in offering Mass in the Extraordinary Form to continue to do so in their parishes. Priests that have an Extraordinary Form Mass on their schedule or in a private setting until further study and clarification can inform an appropriate im-
plementation of this document. Thank you for your patience.”

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas, in a July 16 statement said it was “incumbent on me as your bishop to indicate the im-
mportance of these norms and to em-
phasize that our parishes and the diocese
have their bishops’ permission to celebrate according to the Extraordinary Form.”

In Pittsburgh, Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish was established as a personal parish to sup-
port the celebration of the traditional Latin Mass in July 2019. Under the new norms, Bishop David A. Zubik confirmed there will be no alterations to the parish’s status and “no changes” to those Masses celebrated at the church.

“With today’s communication from the Holy Father, we remain committed to work for the unity of the Church as Pope Francis implores us to do in his latest teach-
ing,” Bishop Zubik said in a state-
ment.

Bishop Donald J. Hying of Mad-
dison, Wisconsin, said in a July 16 letter to the faithful of his diocese that “before making any definitive decisions,” he “will seek to under-
stand fully what the Holy See is de-
creeing.”

“Although I do not celebrate the Tridentine Mass myself, I have great esteem for its form and its antiquity, knowing that many Catholics in our diocese draw tremendous graces and blessings by participat-
ing in it,” the bishop said. “This ap-
preciation will certainly guide me in any decisions needed to be made” to best serve “the needs of the faithful, of parishes and of the diocese as a whole.”

In the meantime, he said, some points of the norms “require more immediate attention.”

“Priests of the diocese and other priests ministering stably in the diocese who wish to celebrate according to the traditional Latin Missal can presume my authorization to do so for now, in fidelity to all relevant lit-
urgical and disciplinary norms, but they should anticipate in the near future that I will ask them to contact me to request continued authorization,” Bishop Hying said.

Until “times and places for the public celebration of Mass in the Extraordinary Form” are design-
ated, Masses can continue to be celebrated at the times and places in which they have regularly been celebrated throughout the diocese, including in parish churches, he said, adding that the readings must “be proclaimed in the vernacular using translations of the sacred Scripture approved for liturgical use by the USCCB.”

“May all of us, whether we wor-
ship at the Novus Ordo Mass or the Tridentine Mass, find our unity in the Eucharist, the living bread of God who died and rose from the dead, so that we could be saved and live forever with the Lord,” Bishop Hying added.
Spending Bills without Hyde Seen as Move to Expand Abortion on Demand

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In eliminating the Hyde Amendment in spending bills for fiscal year 2022, the “pro-abortion” Democrats on the House Appropriations Committee “destroy over 40 years of previously unprecedented bipartisan support for a measure aimed at saving human lives,” said the president of National Right to Life.

“This is a campaign by pro-abortion Democrats to ensure that abortion is available on demand, for any reason, at any time and paid for with taxpayer dollars,” said Carol Tobias.

She made the comments late July 15 after the committee marked up the legislation.

“The most egregious aspect of the bill presented today is the removal of the Hyde Amendment, which protects lives and prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion,” said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., during the markup session.

Hyde first became law in 1976 to prohibit federal funds appropriated through the Labor Department, the Health and Human Services Department and related agencies from being used to cover abortion or fund health plans that cover abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

Hyde has been reenacted in spending bills every year since it was first passed.

House Democrats said they had planned to keep Hyde out of spending bills because President Joe Biden released his proposed budget May 28 without the amendment, according to an ABC News report. ABC quoted House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., as saying at a July 12 hearing of the committee: “Allowing the Hyde Amendment to remain on the books is a disservice to our constituents. We are finally doing what is right for our mothers, our families and our communities by striking this discriminatory amendment once and for all.

DeLauro, like Biden, is a Catholic who supports keeping abortion legal.

Jennifer Popik, legislative director of National Right to Life, cited data showing that Hyde has “saved over 2 million American lives” since 1976.

“The Hyde Amendment has proven to be the greatest domestic abortion prevention measure ever enacted by Congress,” she added in a statement.

Also missing from the appropriations bills was Weldon Amendment language to protect the conscience rights of medical providers and prevent them from being forced to participate in an abortion.

Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., who is Catholic, told the committee members: “I will tell you as a practicing physician, the Weldon Amendment is incredibly important at protecting people with deeply held conscience and religious beliefs from being forced to participate in something they don’t agree with.”

Another Catholic member of Congress, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., issued a statement July 15 lamenting the move by House Democrats to break from the decades of bipartisan consensus on Hyde “to advance legislation that would force U.S. taxpayers to pay for abortion on demand.”

The majority of the American people remain opposed to forcing taxpayers to fund elective abortion, said Smith.

“Polling consistently shows that a majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion — nearly six in 10,” he said, citing a recent a Marist poll. “Another eight in 10 Americans think laws can protect both the well-being of a woman and the health of her unborn child.”

Smith, who is co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and many other pro-life leaders have noted how Biden as a senator always supported the Hyde Amendment.

In a 1994 letter to a constituent, he said that “on no fewer than 50 occasions,” he had voted against federal funding of abortions.

“Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them,” he said. In a 2007 memoir, he similarly stated: “I am against federal funding of abortion.

In June 2019, Biden declared he no longer supported the Hyde Amendment. The New York Times quoted him as saying: “If I believe health care is a right, as I do, I can no longer support an amendment that makes that right dependent on someone’s ZIP code. I can’t justify leaving millions of women without access to the care they need and the ability to exercise their constitutionally protected right.”

The “ZIP code” reference was in relation to his opposition to the efforts in a number of states to enact restrictions on abortion.

Smith is the author of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021, or H.R. 18, which would make Hyde and similar provisions permanent. He has 166 co-sponsors.

On June 23, in a late afternoon vote, all 218 Democrats in the House approved a procedural “previous question” motion that prevented the House from debating and voting on the measure. The Republican vote against the motion was 209.

Smith told Catholic News Service that House Republicans then began a series of “unanimous consent requests” on the floor asking that H.R. 18 be immediately discharged from three committees and brought to the floor for debate and a vote. McCarthy made the first request, “followed by others including me. We are going to do this every day until the August recess.”

Over the past couple of months, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committee chairman, individual bishops, the head of the Catholic Health Association and several pro-life organizations, including March for Life, the Susan B. Anthony List, National Right to Life and Students for Life of America have called on Americans to write to their members of Congress demanding the Hyde Amendment be included in spending bills.

The USCCB’s Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is asking Catholics and all “people of goodwill” to sign an online petition, www.notaxabortion.com, urging Congress not to let federal funds be used to pay for abortions. The petition, “Save Hyde. Save Lives,” will be sent to members of Congress and staff. As of late July 16, the petition had 121,000 signatures.

The spending measures approved by the House Appropriations Committee will now go to the full House for a vote.
Congress Urged to be ‘Courageous,’ Pass Comprehensive Immigration Bill

By Patricia Zapor, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a Capitol Hill media event July 21, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington joined immigrants, agriculture and business representatives and two U.S. senators in calling for legislative protections for immigrants that keep families together, including a pathway to citizenship.

Speaking on the lawn of the Capitol, Cardinal Gregory said that “like many of our own family members who made a new life here ... we too are called to demonstrate kindness and a spirit of welcome to our migrant and refugee sisters and brothers, who are greatly contributing to our society through work and service.”

He added a note of gratitude “for their dedication and service to this country in positions classified as essential work, health care and military service” during the pandemic.

Cardinal Gregory’s remarks were bracketed by brief comments from Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and by a recipient of DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, who aspires to be a citizen.

Graham, who also chairs the board of The Dream Act and is the former publisher and chairman of The Washington Post, said immigration legislation is a matter of justice, fair treatment and, “above all, a moral matter.”

“America is not a cruel country, and Americans are not cruel people,” Graham added, “but what we are doing to Dreamers is cruel and it is wrong.”

Graham introduced Enrique Sanchez, a recent graduate of the University of Utah, who said he came to the United States from Mexico as a 2-year-old. As a briefly intense rain shower swept through, blowing umbrellas inside out and drenching participants, Sanchez said that DACA has provided him, and others who have been raised in the United States but lack legal status, the chance to work and attend school “and contribute to this country.”

He said immigrants like him are everywhere in the United States. “We are your friends, we are your neighbors, we are your co-workers.”

The event was hosted by the American Business Immigration Coalition, which represents 1,200 CEOs and employers. The group was sponsoring a national week of action focused on pressuring members of Congress to pass the Durbin-Graham Dream Act. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is a co-sponsor of the measure.

In opening the press event, Rebecca Shi, the coalition’s executive director, said that in addition to participation by Durbin and Schumer, the members had met with 41 Republican senators and that potentially 13 to 15 of them might support immigration legislation.

“There is a deal to be had,” she said.
Students from Our Lady of Fatima Parish School in Huntington attend school Mass earlier this year.

Schools ...
Cont'd from Page 1

Deschaine said, are already seeing an increase in enrollment which she believes has much to do with the schools’ continued commitment to students and their success through the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We didn’t miss a beat in offering education the last two years,” she said. “If it was in-face instruction or remote, our data demonstrates that our children are progressing ... We are able to provide that personalized instruction for our kids.”

The Catholic Schools’ Snapshot provided earlier this year reported that the class of 2020 of the diocese’s six high schools received $28.4 million in academic and athletic scholarships.

On July 21, Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg announced that its graduates of 2021 were offered approximately $1.7 million dollars in scholarships.

In the snapshot, Deschaine says: “West Virginia Catholic Schools provide exceptional academics in a Christ-centered environment, while nurturing responsibility, accountability, citizenship, and empathy. Our PK-12 focus is to encourage individual and critical thinking; deepen faith; build self-esteem; and develop a sound moral foundation rooted in the gospel. God is in our schools. Everything we do, choices we make, and plans we develop are prayerfully made with the best intentions of our students’ success. The social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental well-being of each child is just as important to academic achievement. We lead with faith.”

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

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

In the south are Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston, St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans, Our Lady of Fatima Parish School and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington, SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Oak Hill, and St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley.

In the Central Region of the state through the I-79 corridor are St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown, Fairmont Catholic Grade School, St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg, and St. Patrick School in Weston. The Central Region is also home to Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School, while the Eastern Panhandle provides Catholic education at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg.

Students at these schools attend weekly school Masses and other prayerful gatherings, keeping the Catholic faith at the forefront.

Catholic school principals and teachers are hoping that families in their areas will choose their schools for their children this year.

Families in our area should choose Fairmont Catholic because we develop learning through academic excellence and foster faith, family and education,” said Diane Burnside, principal of Fairmont Catholic School. “Our faculty and staff serve as moral role models as we serve God and our community. We are motivated, dedicated and devoted to our students from the minute they enter our doors in the morning to leaving at the end of the day. God is LOVE! We are blessed!”

Shannon Wall, principal and an alumna of Corpus Christi School in Wheeling, echoed these sentiments about her school as well which serves children in the Warwood area of Wheeling.

“At Corpus Christi School, we provide a rounded education which not only offers high academics but also strong faith-filled values,” she said. “We get to know our students and families on a personal level which allows us to individualize our instruction and help each child to grow into the best version of themselves while learning the importance of accepting and helping others.”

The Department of Catholic Schools provides testimonials from parents, families, and students on its website. One of them is from Anne Garvin, a parent of students at Parkersburg Catholic High School, who said the school “provides my children with the gifts of faith, knowledge, which allows them to learn, serve, lead, and succeed both now and in their grown-up lives. I love what a Parkersburg Catholic education has done for my four children. Their education is a true blessing.”

Read more testimonials at https://wvcatholicschools.org/testimonials.

Deschaine also noted that on Aug. 10 and 11, the diocese’s Department of Catholic Schools is offering “Mountain Movers,” a virtual professional development conference, for all of its teachers and principals.

“We have over 15 virtual breakout sessions, but we are focusing on Catholic identity and mission and academic excellence,” Deschaine said. “It’s huge that we ... are offering this and having our teachers be able to dive deep into formation, into incorporating the faith into their classrooms while still focusing on our academics along the way. I think that’s pretty powerful.”

The conference was planned after the Department of Catholic Schools looked at NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) scores, and the intentional growth plans conducted by individual schools.

For contact information for all of the diocese’s Catholic schools, see the ad on Page 7 of this issue or visit wvcatholicschools.org/our-schools.
WV Catholic Schools Mission Statement

The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop and share their God-given gifts and talents.

Central Catholic High School
www.cchsknights.org

Charleston Catholic High School
www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org

Madonna High School
www.weirtonmadonna.org

Notre Dame High School
www.notredamewv.org

Parkersburg Catholic High School
www.parkersburgcatholic.com

St Joseph Central Catholic High School
www.stjosephhs.org

Corpus Christi School
www.corpuschristiwheeling.com

Fairmont Catholic Grade School
www.fairmontcatholic.com

Our Lady of Fatima Parish School
www.olofps.org

Our Lady of Peace School
www.olpschool.org

Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School
www.pceswv.org

Sacred Heart Grade School
www.shgs.us

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic School
www.ssppcatholic.org

Saint Francis de Sales Central Catholic
www.stfrancismorgantown.com

Saint Francis de Sales School
www.sdfsbeckley.org

Saint Francis of Assisi School
www.sfschwv.com

Saint Joseph Catholic School
www.stjosephhgs.org

Saint Joseph School
www.sjschwv.org

Saint Joseph the Worker Grade School
www.weirtonstjoseph.net

Saint Mary’s Central School
www.stmaryswv.org

Saint Michael Parish School
www.stmikesparishschool.org

Saint Patrick School
www.stpatswv.org

Saint Paul School
www.weirtonstpauls.org

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish School
www.stvincentschool.org

To learn more about WV Catholic Schools visit us at www.WVCatholicSchools.org
Pishner Releases New CD, ‘Songs of Hope for the Heart’

Stephen Pishner, director of Music and Liturgy at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, recently released a new CD.

BRIDGEPORT—Stephen Pishner, director of Music and Liturgy at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, has just recently released a new recording on CD. Called “Songs of Hope for the Heart,” the CD contains a collection of original songs, some of which were composed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One song, “We Will Get Through This Storm,” was actually written in response to the pandemic. It received a good bit of attention online.

This first song, that begins the CD, gained a collective 10,000-plus plays on youtube and facebook. Some of the other songs are “Tu Eres Mi Otro You/You Are My Other Self,” which is based on an ancient poem. Pishner combined this phrase with additional themes that remind the listener that we are the children of God. There is also a song entitled “Song of Justice Love and Mercy,” which was inspired by Micah 6, Matthew 25, The Corporal Works of Mercy, I John 4:7, and the Prayer of St. Francis.

The CD also includes three Psalms as well as a Canticle of Mary called “My Soul Rejoices In My God.” Two inspirational songs are found towards the end of the CD, “You Raise Me Up” and “The Prayer.”

Pishner says those who listen to this recording may find it uplifting and a way to enhance their prayer time. Four of the songs from this CD can already be found on iTunes and Amazon Music, as well as youtube and various other digital platforms. Plans now are being made to get the entire CD posted online, but that will come later on.

Anyone interested in obtaining copies of the CD can get them at All Saints Parish Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., or after Masses on the weekends.

Those interested can also e-mail Pishner directly at italiawv@gmail.com and have one mailed to them. The cost is $15 plus $3 for shipping.

This is his second CD of sacred music. Additional songs he’s recorded can be found on iTunes, Amazon, Pandora, Spotify and more.

Pishner’s music has just recently made it to greatcatholicmusic.com, radio programming that is available online 24 hours a day.

‘Jesus Christ Superstar’ to be Performed at St. Agnes in Shepherdstown

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The musical, “Jesus Christ Superstar,” by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, will be performed at St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown outside on the lawn. Show dates are Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 5, 6, 7, and 12, 13, 14 at 8 p.m.

Patrons are encouraged to bring their favorite lawn chair or blanket to sit on the hill. Social distancing will be practiced. The entrance fee is $10 per person (no printed tickets necessary), and reservations can be made by calling the office at (304) 876-6436.

“We need help us spread the word,” parish officials said, “and welcome back our St. Agnes Players and Friends as we put on this classic musical.”

Schedule includes:

- Keynote speaker Todd Faller
- Mass with Bishop Mark E. Brennan
- Breakout sessions
- Reconnecting with old friends and acquaintances
- Opportunity to get more involved with TEC WV
- Making new friends
- Lunch

Please visit dwc.org/tec-reunion to register.
The Knights of Columbus

presents

Long-Term Care Planning Seminar

Preparing for a long and healthy future begins with understanding risks that you and your family may face later in life.

While we all hope to remain healthy in our later years, the reality is that most of us will need long-term care at some point in our lives.

In this seminar, we will discuss some of the challenges that you may face and the solutions that you and your family should consider. We'll go through what long-term care is and how the Knights of Columbus can help you prepare.

Register today to save your spot.

Date: August 31, 2021     Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom webinar

RSVP: aug31.abbatekofc.com

Visit our website for more information:
www.abbatekofc.com or call: 1-866-868-1492
abbateagencymail@kofc.com
Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/AbbateKofC
Following the State Organizational Meeting held in Elkins on July 10, the Knights of Columbus State Council officers were installed into their respective office for the fraternal year by West Virginia State Deputy Frank Koeing. The installation was held at St. Brendan Church in Elkins following the Saturday evening Mass. Father Jim O’Connor, pastor of St. Brendan Parish, blessed the medals of each office. As part of the organizational meeting and installation of officers, a banquet dinner was held at historic Graceland on the campus of Davis and Elkins College later that evening. Koeing and all the officers look forward to serving Catholic parish and parishioners across West Virginia this coming year. Pictured above, from left, are Koeing and Father O’Connor. From middle left are State Advocate Tom Burke and his wife Cindy, and State Secretary Mike Stanger. At bottom, from left, are State Treasurer Brian Gordon and his wife Valleri, State Warden Carmen Romano and his wife Mary, and Immediate Past State Deputy Paul Niedbalski and his wife Diane. (Courtesy Photos)
Pope Expresses Closeness with Cuban People as Unrest Continues

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis expressed his closeness to the people of Cuba a week after protests erupted on the island nation.

In his first public appearance after his release from Gemelli hospital, the pope told pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square July 18 that he was “near to the dear Cuban people in these difficult moments, in particular to those families suffering the most.”

“I pray that the Lord might help the nation construct a society that is more and more just and fraternal through peace, dialogue and solidarity,” he said, as a large group of pilgrims in the square held Cuban flags.

The pope encouraged the people of Cuba to entrust themselves to the maternal protection of the island’s patroness, Our Lady of Charity, who “will accompany them on this journey.”

Thousands of Cubans in Havana and elsewhere took to the streets July 11 to protest economic hardships, lack of basic freedoms and the Cuban government’s handling of the coronavirus outbreak, making for what some have described as the most significant unrest in decades.

Since the protests, the government reportedly has responded by arresting people, including clergy, not only on the streets but also in their homes. There was at least one confirmed death after police shot a man taking part in the anti-government protest.

Before praying the Angelus, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading in which Jesus shows concern for his disciples and “their physical and interior tiredness” after returning from preaching.

“Jesus does this, the pope said, to make them aware of the danger of being “caught up in the frenzy of doing things, falling into the trap of activism where what is most important are the results that we obtain and the feeling of being absolute protagonists.”

“How many times this happens in the church: we are busy, we run around, we think that everything depends on us and, in the end, we risk neglecting Jesus and we always make ourselves the center,” he said.

The Gospel reading, the pope continued, is a reminder that physical rest also implies remaining in silence and in prayer to “return to the heart of things.”

“Let us beware, brothers and sisters, of the frenzy of doing things, falling into the trap of activism where what is most important are the results that we obtain and the feeling of being absolute protagonists.”

“Compassion is born from contemplation,” Pope Francis said. “If we learn to truly rest, we become capable of true compassion.”

“If we cultivate a contemplative outlook, we will carry out our activities without that rapacious attitude of those who want to possess and consume everything; if we stay in touch with the Lord and do not anesthetize the deepest part of ourselves, the things we need to do will not have the power to take our breath away or devour us,” he said.
By Katie Hinerman Klug, CCWVa Marketing Communications Specialist

In addition to providing direct assistance to those in need, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) also engages the youth in West Virginia through learning about poverty, its root causes, and efforts to effect change. Through this year's Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) "Rebuilding Together at the Margins" art contest, CCWVa engaged students in grades 7-12 to reflect on the vast disparities in our world, and how many of those disparities were amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School (Huntington) student Elexis Spurlock authored a poem addressing the struggles of homelessness. In Spurlock’s piece, the person experiencing homelessness only finds escape by going to sleep and dreaming.

"Faith isn’t just complete trust in God; it can be complete trust within yourself and others," said Spurlock. "I think when going about this [effecting change] in a communal way, we need to have faith in one another.”

"With faith in both God and in one another, CCWVa works with people in poverty to find long-term, sustainable solutions. "At Catholic Charities, we meet each person or family where they are, and we build relationships and provide guidance to empower them to reach their goals," said Beth Zarate, CCWVa president and chief executive officer.

One of these families is that of Katherine Elliott, who found herself without a home for her family, including her 1-year-old daughter and her boyfriend, Jr, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because Katherine had a child, she did not qualify to stay at local homeless shelters without being separated from her child. However, the Catholic Charities Hospitality House in Wheeling provided transitional housing for her and her family for several months. The Hospitality House enabled the family to stay intact under one roof, while receiving extensive case management services and learning about budgeting and saving money.

“The house was a life saver,” said Elliott. “In the midst of COVID, with a child, it made everything so much better. I don’t know where I would’ve been without it.”

CCWVa Case Manager Joe Sparksman met with Elliott weekly during her time at the Hospitality House.

"Joe was our mentor. He helped walk us through everything, set us up with the programs we needed to get our life straight," said Elliott. "We were able to save and pay our first month’s rent at a [new] house they [CCWVa] connected us with through the Homeless Coalition.""Elliott and her family are thriving in their new home and continuing to work toward their goals.

Read more about their journey and read Spurlock’s full poem at 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.
Obituary

Sister Mary Brendan Conlon, OSU

Ursuline Sister Mary Brendan Conlon, 93, died on July 16, 2021, at Nazareth Home-Clifton. Born in Cumberland, Maryland, and named Mary Catherine, she entered the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville in 1946 after her 1945 graduation from the former Ursuline Academy in Cumberland.

Sister Mary Brendan founded Christian Help, Inc. in Mingo County, West Virginia, in 1994, and served that ministry to the needy until her retirement in 2010.

In recognition of her work at Christian Help, the Jenco Foundation in 2006 awarded her the Community Leader Initiative Award for her “visionary leadership in Appalachia.” In 2008 the Catholic Committee of Appalachia awarded her the Bishop Sullivan Award for “26 years of working for the voiceless and economically poor of Appalachia.” In 2009 she was the recipient of the Dr. William and Budd Bell Award from the Community Transportation Association of America for establishing accessible transportation “to seniors and low-income residents of Mingo County.” [Mingo County had no public transportation system.]

Before her service in Mingo County, she was a teacher in schools in Louisville, Kentucky; Omaha, Nebraska, and Morgantown, West Virginia. In 1982 she succeeded Ursuline Sister of Louisville Thecla Shiel as director of Christian Help, Inc., in Morgantown. She also served as a campus minister at West Virginia University's St. John Parish and on the faculty of Saint Francis de Sales School in Morgantown.

In the late 1980s, Sister was a Witness of Peace delegate in Managua, Nicaragua, Central America, for eight months. She also took part in many protests for justice and peace, including civil disobedience, both in Washington, D.C. and at the annual gathering of several thousand people at Fort Benning, Georgia, a movement committed to the closing of the School of the Americas.

Sister Brendan also served her Ursuline Sisters in leadership from 1968 to 1970, and as director of communication from 1969 to 1971. In retirement, she volunteered at several social agencies in Louisville.

Sister Brendan earned her bachelor’s and master's degrees in English from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, and a master’s in theology from Wheeling University; and studied at Marquette University, Milwaukee; Duquesne University, Pittsburgh; the University of Iowa and Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Sister Brendan is survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as her community of Ursuline Sisters and Associates.

Confirmation Schedule

Fall 2021

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, August 29, 2021: Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 7, 2021: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Stonewood, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 19, 2021: Ascension Parish, Hurricane, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 24, 2021: St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 30, 2021: St. Patrick Parish, Mannington, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 7, 2021: Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021: Combined Confirmation: Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, Elizabeth; at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20, 2021: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5:00 p.m.

Catholic Charities West Virginia is accepting nominations for its 2021 Charity in Action Award, to be presented in Charleston this fall.

Catholic Charities is grateful to have many cherished collaborators working in service together, and will celebrate and honor those who have performed exemplary charitable work.

Visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org to download the nomination form and submit by July 30.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Charity in Action Award 2021

Placement available here.

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Papa expresa cercanía al pueblo cubano mientras continúan los disturbios

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco expresó su cercanía al pueblo cubano una semana después de que comenzaran protestas en la isla.

En su primer evento público después de ser dado de alta del hospital Gemelli en Roma, el papa dijo a los peregrinos reunidos en la Plaza de San Pedro el 18 de julio, que estaba "cerca del querido pueblo cubano en estos momentos difíciles, en particular de aquellas familias que más sufren".

"Rezo para que el Señor ayude a la nación a construir una sociedad cada vez más justa y fraterna a través de la paz, el diálogo, y la solidaridad", expresó, mientras un grupo de peregrinos en la plaza ondeaban banderas cubanas.

El Santo Padre animó al pueblo cubano a encomendarse a la protección materna de la patrona de la humanidad de la iglesia, quien "lo acompaña en este camino".

Miles de cubanos en La Habana y otros lugares salieron a las calles el 11 de julio para protestar por las dificultades económicas, la falta de libertades básicas, y el manejo del gobierno cubano frente a la pandemia de COVID-19, lo que provocó lo que se han descrito como las protestas más masivas que se han visto en Cuba en décadas.

Según informes, desde que empezaron las protestas, el gobierno ha respondido arrestando a personas -- incluyendo a miembros del clero -- no solo en las calles sino también en sus hogares. Hubo al menos un muerto confirmado después de que la policía disparara contra un hombre que participaba en una protesta contra el gobierno.

Antes de rezar el Ángelus, el papa reflexionó sobre la lectura evangélica dominical en la que Jesús muestra preocupación por sus discípulos y por "su cansancio físico e interior" después de que ellos habían regresado de predicar.

Jesús hace esto, señaló el Sumo Pontífice, para concienciar a sus discípulos sobre el peligro de estar "atrapados en el frenesí del hacer, de caer en la trampa del activismo, donde lo más importante son los resultados que obtenemos y la sensación de ser los protagonistas absolutos".

"Cuántas veces sucede también en la iglesia: estamos atareados, vamos de prisa, pensando que todo depende de nosotros, y, al final, corremos el riesgo de descuidar a Jesús y ponernos siempre nosotros en el centro", manifestó.

La lectura del Evangelio, continuó el papa, es un recordatorio de que el descanso físico también implica permanecer en silencio y en oración para "regresar al corazón de las cosas".

"Cuidémonos, hermanos y hermanas, de la eficiencia, detengámos la carrera frenética que dicta nuestras agendas. Aprendamos a hacer una pausa, a apagar el teléfono móvil, a contemplar la naturaleza, a regenerarnos en diálogo con Dios", acotó el papa.

"Si cultivamos una mirada contemplativa, realizaremos nuestras actividades sin esa actitud rapaz de quienes quieren poseer y consumir todo; si nosotros mantenemos en contacto con el Señor y no anestesiamos lo más profundo de nosotros mismos, las cosas que necesitamos hacer no tendrán el poder de quitarnos el aliento o devorarnos", indicó.

El papa Francisco expresó su cercanía al pueblo cubano a encomandarse a la protección materna de la patrona de la humanidad de la iglesia, quien "lo acompaña en este camino".

Miles de cubanos en La Habana y otros lugares salieron a las calles el 11 de julio para protestar por las dificultades económicas, la falta de libertades básicas, y el manejo del gobierno cubano frente a la pandemia de COVID-19, lo que provocó lo que se han descrito como las protestas más masivas que se han visto en Cuba en décadas.

La gente sostiene banderas cubanas antes del rezo del Ángelus al mediodía por el papa Francisco en la Plaza de San Pedro en el Vaticano el 18 de julio de 2021, la semana después de que comenzaron protestas en Cuba.

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 alienta a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU.; tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con la autoridad civil correspondiente y visite www.reportbishops.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con la autoridad civil correspondiente y visite www.reportbishops.org.

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 formularios que se encuentran en línea después de que comenzaran protestas en Cuba.

Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry Opening

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire an Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry.

The Executive Director is responsible for serving as a catalyst and ongoing resource to the Bishop, diocesan staff, pastors and parishes in developing and maintaining effort which link direct service, advocacy, action and empowerment toward concerns of local and global justice, respect for all human life and environmental concerns.

This person also provides leadership, vision and advocacy for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for Prison, Hispanic ministries and other immigrant groups.

Qualification requirements include a Bachelor’s degree (Master’s preferred), 2-5 years experience in parish Social Ministry, extensive knowledge of Catholic Social Teachings, working knowledge of the operation of the Catholic Church, self-motivated, ability to work in a team environment.

Please submit resume, references and cover letter to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 1311 Byron Street, PO Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003

Position will stay open until filled.

Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement VISTA Needed

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling, WV, is hiring a Volunteer Recruitment and Engagement VISTA. The VISTA will be responsible for working with the Volunteer Manager to increase volunteerism at the Center.

Essential duties include providing information to potential volunteers via social media and at in-person events; coordinating one special event per quarter to promote volunteer engagement; promoting volunteer opportunities throughout the community; and assisting Volunteer Manager with volunteer recognition events.

To review full position description and to apply, please visit https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Keith Miller, Volunteer Manager, at 304-232-7157, ext. 7.

Please apply by July 31, 2021.

Northern - CCNC

Case Manager – Homeless Outreach

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWV), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

Case Manager – Homeless Outreach: This employee will direct case management duties, serve at-risk individuals and families especially to those experiencing homelessness. Case Manager also addresses financial assistance needs for clients outside of case management services.

Essential Job Duties: Conduct interviews; Assist clients in long-range plans; Maintain the operation of region’s Emergency Assistance Program; Assist the Regional Director in working with regional Catholic parishes to develop and maintain working relationships

Job Type: This is a regular fulltime, non-exempt position located at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center, Wheeling, WV 26003

Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in social work, education, human services, or a related field; Experience working with at-risk populations; Excellent computer skills with ability to track and analyze data; Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; Knowledge of Federal, State and community resources; Case management practices; Must have transportation to travel and a valid Driver’s License; Working knowledge of and ability to articulate Catholic Social Teaching.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by 08/02/2021 to: (maphillips@ccwv.org)

Application materials can also be delivered to:
Mark Phillips
2000 Main St
Wheeling, WV 26003

Elementary School Teacher and aide Sought

St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking a certified elementary school teacher. We are blessed to have a high volume of students, so hiring another teacher will allow us to keep our class sizes small.

If you are interested in working in a rewarding, faith-filled environment, please email a résumé and cover letter to Principal Pat Blanc at pblanc@sjswv.org.

St. Joseph School is also seeking a kindergarten teacher’s aide. Aides support teachers in planning and implementing daily programs.

Job responsibilities include ensuring the daily care of every child by following all licensing guidelines and the school’s standards of care. Aides also help maintain a fun and interactive environment that is clean and organized.

Applicants must have at least a high school diploma. Experience working in a child care setting is preferred.

For more information, contact Principal Pat Blanc at pblanc@sjswv.org or call 304-267-6447.
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