

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Reflections on the National Eucharistic Congress

Bishop Mark E. Brennan

Along with a few hundred West Virginia Catholics and many thousands of others, I took part in the recent National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. It was a joyous event from start to finish, a great way to begin the national phase of our country's Eucharistic Revival.

I was impressed with the diversity of the people I saw: parents with their young children, teenagers and young adults, men and women of different races, religious sisters, priests and deacons, people in wheelchairs or using a cane or walker. We were united by our faith in Jesus Christ, truly and substantially present in the Eucharist, and together we prayed, sang and clapped in his honor in vibrant liturgies, rallies and inspiring talks.

On Saturday afternoon, July 20, the bishops (at least 150 of them) and priests processed with the Eucharist about a mile from downtown to the State's World War I Memorial. Thousands of people lined the streets and joined us in Memorial Park for Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It was hot but a beautiful experience. (I did carry a bottle of water with me.)

The closing Mass Sunday morning was celebrated by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Vatican department concerned with evangelization, whom Pope Francis sent as his special delegate to the Congress. He emphasized that our time together, rejoicing in the gift of the Eucharist, must produce good fruit when we returned home.

Many of the speakers reminded us that "we must become what we eat," that is, we must learn to serve others as the Lord Jesus, whom we receive in Holy Communion, has served us. The Congress was not meant to be a one-off. Like every Mass, it was designed to motivate us to live our faith more fully in love for God and in works of charity, justice and peace for our neighbor. Being with so many fervent Catholics certainly was encouraging and brought home to me that we have many brothers and sisters who share our faith and treasure the Eucharist as the source of their spiritual energy.

If you were not able to go to the Congress, you might find parts of it on the Internet. It would be worth watching. You might understand why I found it to be such a joyful and spiritually invigorating experience. In the words of an old hymn that we sang at Mass to the Eucharistic Lord: "all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine."

(To pre-order congress content, live podcast recordings, and more, click [here](#).)



AJ Emery photo

Evening Benediction is held at Lucas Oil Stadium during the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 20.



See coverage of this historic moment in the Church on Pages 4-7 of this issue and the Aug. 2 issue.



President Joe Biden Makes Historic Decision to End 2024 Reelection Bid

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — In an announcement July 21, President Joe Biden said he made the historic decision to end his 2024 election bid.

The announcement brings to an end several weeks of speculation about Biden's political future, including both his viability in the November election and his ability to serve another four-year term in the White House. Biden's faltering performance at a June 27 debate crystallized longstanding concerns about the 81-year-old president's physical and mental stamina, causing a substantial loss of confidence among voters heading into the general election campaign.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," Biden said in a letter posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country

for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," he said.

Biden argued the nation has made "great progress" during his time in office, arguing "America has the strongest economy in the world." He cited some of his accomplishments, including "lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, the first gun safety law in 30 years," and appointing "the first African American woman to the Supreme Court."

"And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me," he said. "I believe today what I always have: that there is nothing America can't do — when we do it together. We just have to remember we are the United States of America."

Biden's letter did not shed light on next steps for his party. But in a subsequent post on X, Biden endorsed his Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee in No-

vember.

"My fellow Democrats, I have decided not to accept the nomination and to focus all my energies on my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Biden wrote. "My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it's been the best decision I've made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this."

Harris in a statement praised Biden for "his extraordinary leadership" and said it was "a profound honor to serve as his Vice President." Harris then said she was "honored to have the President's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination."

"We have 107 days until Election Day. Together, we will fight. And together, we will win," she said.

In a statement posted to his social media platform



OSV News photo/Nathan Howard, Reuters
President Joe Biden speaks next to Vice President Kamala Harris as he delivers a statement a day after Republican challenger Donald Trump was shot at a campaign rally, during brief remarks at the White House in Washington, July 14, 2024. In an announcement July 21, Biden said he made the historic decision to end his 2024 election bid.

Truth Social, former President Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, said Biden "was not fit to run for President, and is certainly not fit to serve — And never was!"

Trump criticized Biden's immigration policy, and

argued, "We will remedy the damage he has done very quickly."

While it is not entirely without precedent in American history for an incumbent president to end his reelection campaign, such decisions are **See "Biden" on Page 3**

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe


someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to

the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment," then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC,

at 304.559.6742. 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 requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese," then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org)

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Feast Day, August 15

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2

Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Feast Day, September 14

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

Our Lady of the Rosary
Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

Advent

First Sunday of Advent, December 1
The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29

Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

Catholic Education Expands in Martinsburg with the Restoration of High School Grade Levels

MARTINSBURG — The Martinsburg area Catholic community and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are excited to announce the expansion of Catholic education in the Eastern Panhandle with the restoration of high school grade levels at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

The high school levels are an extension of St. Joseph School—currently serving infants through eighth grade—and will be managed as one school system.

“It is a true joy to be able to announce that we are opening a Catholic school rather than closing one,” said Bishop Mark E. Brennan. “With the growth of the Catholic population in the Eastern Panhandle, there is a need to expand Catholic education at St. Joseph’s School. To that end, our Diocesan Finance Council and I are providing seed money to establish a Catholic high school in Martinsburg and we will work with local Catholics to make it a reality. I am truly grateful to the parents and friends of Catholic education in the Eastern Panhandle for their commitment to this project.”

The enrollment plan for the school is a progressive enrollment model, meaning that beginning with the 2025 academic year (Fall 2025) ninth and tenth-grade levels will be offered and based on the current school campus. From there, the high school will mature with additional grade levels being added each year. The first graduating class will be the Class of 2029.

Currently there are 430 students enrolled at St. Joseph School. The new high school levels will accommodate 40-50 students per grade for the first year. Staff hiring is already underway for the high school.

Bishop Brennan added, “our Catholic schools do more for students than just fill their heads with facts or numbers, they fill their hearts with the love of God—they form the whole person in Christ. Students learn to be better disciples of Christ, to serve their communities in body and mind, and to live the Gospel. This is why parents choose a Catholic education for their children. We are thankful for those parents and are excited to support the growth of

Catholic education in Martinsburg.”

“From the time that I arrived at St. Joseph Parish,” said Father Thomas R. Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and School in Martinsburg, “I cannot tell how many people have been asking about when we would start a high school. Not only that, parishioners and alumni who attended when St. Joseph School had a high school always spoke fondly of their experience. When I heard the news that St. Maria Goretti High School in Hagerstown, Md., was shuttering, I felt it was morally imperative to do something to provide Catholic education for those of our alumni who are in high school and those who will be coming up in future years. This is one way we can evangelize like St. Paul, to put our Faith into practice—helping high school students who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Fullness of the Truth the Catholic Church preaches. I want to thank Bishop Brennan and Ms. Jennifer Hornyak for being so supportive of our school and the idea to reestablish the high school after all these years. It is my hope that Catholic education will continue to grow and flourish in the Eastern Panhandle for many years to come.”

With this expansion, St. Joseph School will better serve all parish communities in the Eastern Panhandle. The school will be open to all members of the community, regardless of faith, race, or sex.

History:

The Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland established Saint Joseph School on September 4, 1883 in a two-story building with four classrooms on East Stephen Street. The wooded school building was moved to the west side of South Queen Street in the late 1880s.

In 1905, a four-year high school was introduced into the school system, and the wooden school building was replaced in 1913 with an eight-room, two-story, brick building. The building was dedicated on October 14, 1914, by the Reverend William Anthony McKee-frey. The first class to graduate from the high school was a class of eight students in 1915.

In the late 1960s, the four-classroom high school building was completed.

A gymnasium was built and dedicated in 1938, and the Saint Joseph Crusaders Basketball team brought spectators from throughout the state. The basketball team continually went to the West Virginia State Competition and came back victorious in 1967.

The high school closed in 1972, with the last seniors to graduate in the class of 1971.

In 2000, Saint Joseph School moved across Stephen Street to the current school building. The old gymnasium was torn down in 2006 and our current school building houses a new gym. The eight-room brick building on Queen Street currently holds Saint Joseph Church parish offices and serves a variety of other functions related to our church and our school. The four-room high school building now serves as our pre-kindergarten building.

Mission and Identity:

St. Joseph School Mission: Saint Joseph School educates the young in the spirit of the Gospel, stressing Catholic values, inspiring academic excellence, global awareness, and services to those in need.

School Identity:

Taken from the school’s website, <https://sjsww.org>

For more than 130 years St. Joseph School has been providing an excellent Catholic education in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Its Catholic identity truly sets us apart in the way in which students are prepared to be good Christian leaders in the community throughout the rest of their lives. Through the building of a strong faith life, a firm moral character, and a desire of service, students are able to be always faithful to Christ and those around them.

The primary goal at St. Joseph School, above all else, is to help make saints. Thus, it strives to help each stu-

dent encounter Jesus Christ and so build a personal relationship with him (cf. John 1:38-39). Through instruction in prayer, an intensive focus on scripture, and teaching about Church doctrine, students grow dramatically in their faith. In addition, they are given numerous opportunities to participate in the Sacraments such as weekly school Mass and periodic penance services every year.

Furthermore, students are taught the importance of a moral character and how it must have a strong foundation (cf. Mt 7:25). They are encouraged to grow in virtue with each moment and each action. Each teacher helps to guide students to have a well-formed conscience and values system beginning with preschool up until when they graduate in 8th grade. Students are taught personal discipline through their academic assignments, extracurricular activities, and the normal day to day interactions with others so that they may be who God made them to be.

The belief in the Gospel drives all at the school to be “doers of the Word and not hearers only” (Ja 1:22). The students live out their faith through serving others and this often leads others to do so as well. Through a variety of service projects, activities, speakers, and field trips students are encouraged to be young men and women for others, even when it takes them out of their comfort zone. It is this giving of oneself that allows each student to live their faith, but also to choose what is good and moral throughout their lives.

St. Joseph School’s mission is to guide every student to be faithful to Jesus Christ. The Catholic identity of St. Joseph School is essential in helping teachers and students to live out daily Christ’s commandment “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34). By firmly trusting in Christ, living out their faith authentically, and teaching them to lead by example, students, and the whole school family, are able to let their light shine (Mt. 5:16).

Biden...

Cont’d from Page 2

rare, and none have occurred because of pressure from within the incumbent’s party about his mental and physical capabilities to do the job.

The announcement signals the end of a political career in Washington spanning decades. Biden previously represented Delaware for 36 years in the U.S. Senate, first elected at age 29, before his election as vice president in 2008, a role he held for two terms during former President Barack Obama’s administration. In 2020, he was elected as the 46th president of the United States.

Biden, who was previously the first Catholic vice president, and later became the second Catholic president in U.S. history, has previously been at odds with the U.S. bishops over his administration’s abortion policy but has won some bishops’ praise on refugee and climate-related policies, as well as mixed responses to his policies on immigration.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’s teaching document on political engagement, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” provides guidance to Catholic voters during a presidential election year.

(OSV News/Courtesy USCCB)

[Click here to read the document](#)

‘We’ve Got This’: Answering the Call of the Eucharistic Congress

By Tyler Greenwood (Courtesy of the National Catholic Register)

For five days in the middle of summer, people from every walk of life filled an NFL football stadium to host, and adore, Jesus.

In downtown Indianapolis, amidst a bustling crowd of 60,000 people, a man stood defiantly on a street corner, clutching a blow horn and a copy of the Ten Commandments.

Pilgrims young and old had traveled near and far to participate in an event that hadn’t occurred in more than 80 years.

As the crowd eagerly jostled for a spot to view the Eucharistic procession, the evangelical protester seized the moment to mock the faithful, attempting to disrupt the reverence of the occasion.

From the throng of pilgrims, one individual stepped forward with unwavering resolve. With a gentle hand placed on the protester’s shoulder and a compassionate gaze, this faithful pilgrim met the protester’s eyes and simply said, “We’ve got this.”

In that instant, something remarkable happened: The protester, perhaps moved by the unexpected kindness and quiet confidence, calmly packed up his belongings and walked away.

And we continued to follow Our Lord in the middle of Indiana’s capital city.

Encountering the Real Presence

Before the start of the National Eucharistic Congress, my wife and I attended a Mass celebrated by New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan at the Indianapolis Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, an auxiliary bishop of New York, preached the homily. He recounted a story from his childhood when another auxiliary bishop from New York led a highly anticipated annual pilgrimage to the North American Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York.

Filled with excitement over the invitation to join his aunt and uncle, young Gerardo asked his parents for permission to attend, with a bold request to wear his brand-new school pants. His mother agreed, with the condition that he did not get them dirty.

The day was filled with talks, Holy Mass and an outdoor Eucharistic procession. When everyone began to kneel as the procession



Tyler Greenwood photo

A faithful throng adores Christ in Lucas Oil Stadium during the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

passed by, he hesitated, worrying about dirtying his pants in the rain-soaked mud.

As the bishop approached with the monstrance, Aunt Sarah’s voice rang out, “Young man, that is your Lord passing by, kneel down!” A push to the back of his knee landed him in the mud.

Despite the surprise and embarrassment, he was in awe as the bishop passed by with Jesus. In that moment, he realized, “This must really be Jesus!”

From then on, his belief in the Real Presence was confirmed.

Sacred Days in a Stadium

For five days in the middle of summer, people from every walk of life filled an NFL football stadium that hosted a Super Bowl and the recent Olympic swimming trials and will soon welcome Taylor Swift fans.

In the middle of all this, fittingly so, the stadium was privileged to host, and adore, Jesus himself, accompanied by tens of thousands of his followers, from repentant sinners to living saints.

Those gathered in person and those who participated virtually, thanks to livestreaming and EWTN, witnessed stunningly beau-

tiful liturgies, inspiring talks and palpable energy.

One of the most striking aspects was the profound joy among everyone present. Impatience and annoyance are often inevitable in an ordinary setting with a crowd of this size. Yet that was not the case.

What I witnessed was true happiness and unity, a sense of togetherness that can only come from a life rooted in the Eucharistic Lord, who prayed “that all may be one.”

New Day Dawning

When the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage made a stop in Wheeling, West Virginia, on its way to the congress, I remember hearing the “Perpetual Pilgrims” sing the contemporary worship song 10,000 Reasons during the procession from the Cathedral of St. Joseph to St. Alphonsus Church.

“The sun comes up; it’s a new day dawning. ... Bless the Lord, o my soul,” the lyrics go.

Hearing this song a few weeks later in Lucas Oil Stadium, sung by thousands of people who love the Lord, brought tears to my eyes.

I am convinced that a new day is dawning, prompted by the Eucharistic Revival. It is obvious that something big is happening, but

we shouldn’t be surprised. As a dear priest friend of mine likes to say, when we put Christ at the center, things change.

At the end of this monumental event, everyone was charged with a crucial yet familiar task: to take this message “to the ends of the earth.” We’ve heard it before: “Go and make disciples of all nations!”

So, how are we going to do it? I think we know the answer. We’ll follow the bold example of millions throughout the ages who have kept the Church alive amidst persecution, scandal and passivity.

True and faithful Catholics are not indifferent to the needs of the poor, the stranger and the vulnerable. They are not hesitant to kneel in the muddiness of the world, not to passing political leaders or trends, but to the true King present in our midst. They recognize him as Our Lord and are not afraid to stand up and speak the stabilizing truth to a society that desperately needs it.

With confidence and love, and strengthened by the Eucharist, they say to those who are unsure: “We’ve got this!”

(Tyler Greenwood is a pastoral associate at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, West Virginia.)

Forever Grateful

**From the desk of Sr. Martha Gomez, RGS,
Delegate for Consecrated Life Office
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston**

Dear WV brothers and sisters in Christ,
I am so pleased to have been able to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in Indiana. The Eucharist is the center of my life. It is the fountain where I satisfy my thirst, where I find food for my soul and rest for my weary spirit.

I was overwhelmed to witness the great devotion, respect, and gratefulness for the Eucharist from all the participants. This was a faith-filled experience that brought me peace, joy, and hope for our world at this moment.

Though we didn't experience visible miracles, I am sure there were many. Also, I was impressed by the many times I heard the words excuse me, please, and thank you. This made our stay in the stadium more profound, and yes, bearable as you can imagine what it would be like to get from one session and event as thousands of others are doing the same. I felt God was watching over us, and we were watching for each other's well-being.

It was a great joy to see so many cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, and consecrated men and women all together in one place. It made me think of the Scriptures (Revelation 4:3): "Those wearing white robes are standing before the throne of God..." and (Rev. 7: 9-14) "There is a great multitude that no one could count from out of every nation."

What a joy! It was a real treat to be among all our brothers and sisters from all 50 states.

All, and each one of the presenters reminded us of our call, that is "To be His disciples." And at the same time, we are sent to be messengers of His great mercy.

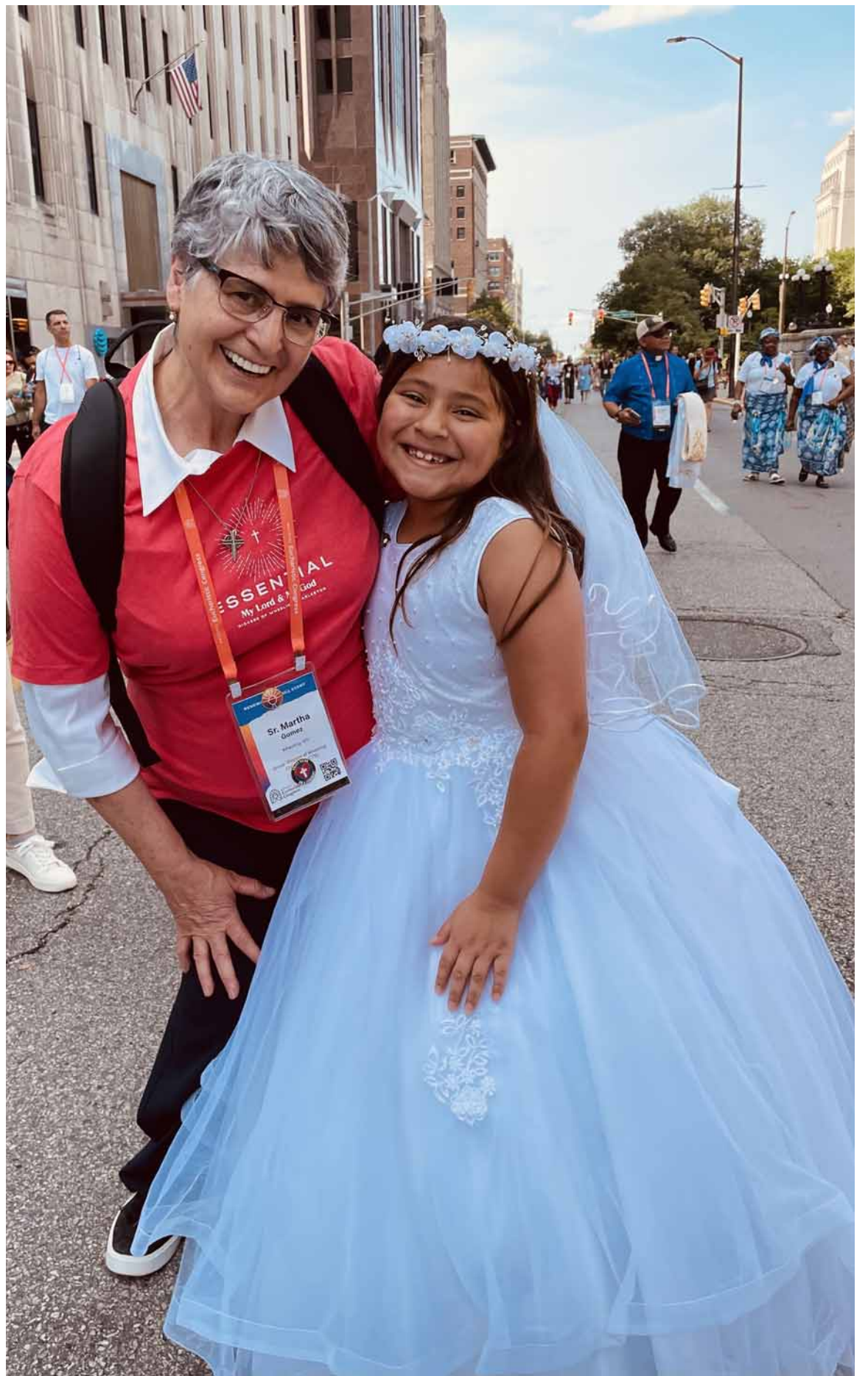
As Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle said "Go, go, don't stay in the church. Go and proclaim the Good News to all your brothers and sisters."

I pray that I may be faithful to my promise. That is to invite and accompany another person to come to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. Hopefully we can bring myriads to the Lord by our words and deeds.

Blessings,
Sr. Martha

Joyce Bibey Photo

PRECIOUS MOMENT: After walking the one-mile Eucharistic Procession at the NEC, Sr. Martha Gomez, greeted one of the many first communicants who processed behind the Holy Monstrance with Christ. She was beaming with joy as she made her way with her mother the mile and a half back to where they had parked coming into the city. To make the moment sweeter, the little girl was elated when she found out that Sister was from Mexico just like her father. She truly gasped with excitement and immediately hugged Sister.

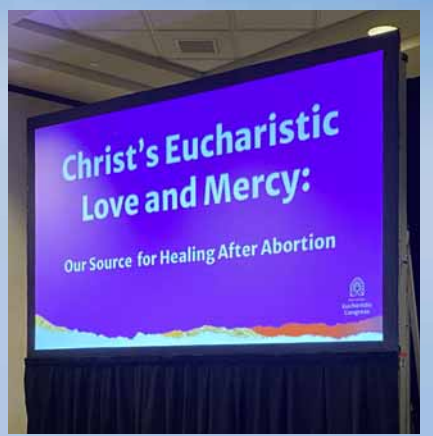


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National Eucharistic Congress in Pictures



AJ Emery photos

Clockwise from above: The Eucharistic procession of the National Eucharistic Congress is held in downtown Indianapolis July 20; Bishop Mark Brennan (right) walks in the procession with bishops from around the country; Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E., walks in the procession (left) with priests from around the country; Sisters of Life sing an original song, "A Total Consecration to Mary," during their presentation, "Christ's Eucharistic Love and Mercy"; a screen shows the title of the sisters' presentation; Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., speaks; Bishop Brennan blesses rosaries for a West Virginia Catholic; and a family prays together at the congress. On the final day of the National Eucharistic Congress, Bishop Cozzens announced that a Eucharistic pilgrimage from Indianapolis to Los Angeles is being planned for spring 2025. Congress organizers were also considering holding an 11th National Eucharistic Congress in 2033.



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Cardinal Visits Ukraine's President, Conveying Closeness of Pope

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of State, visited Ukraine to hold high-level meetings, meet local Catholics and represent Pope Francis at the final stop of a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine of Berdychiv.

"My presence in Ukraine (is) to bring in person the closeness of the pope," the cardinal said July 22 on the Secretariat of State's official X account.

The cardinal met with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other government officials in Kyiv July 23 and "reiterated the pope's closeness and commitment to find a just and lasting peace for martyred Ukraine," the secretariat said on X.

Zelenskyy said on his official X account July 23, "We discussed the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the ongoing aerial terror, the difficult humanitarian situation, and the outcomes of our meeting with Pope Francis in June in Italy."

"We focused particularly on the decisions of the first Peace Summit and the Vatican's role in establishing a just and lasting peace for Ukraine. I am grateful for (the) Cardinal's support of our country and people," the post said.

"I appreciate this significant gesture of support for Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and our desire to live peacefully in our own state. It is essential for us and for the cause of peace that the Vatican remains active in protecting lives and supporting the implementation of the Peace Formula, particularly regarding the release of prisoners," Zelenskyy wrote on X July 23.

Cardinal Parolin's visit from July 19-24 included stops in Kyiv, Odesa, Berdychiv, and Lviv. On July 23 he visited the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv, which still showed signs of Russian bombing July 8.

The cardinal visited the different wards that have been reopened and spoke with the young patients and their parents, the secretariat said on X July 23. He greeted and encouraged the



CNS photo/courtesy of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, major archbishop of Kyiv-Halych, talk during Cardinal Parolin's visit to the headquarters of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine on July 21.

medical staff and looked at drawings made by the children.

Cardinal Parolin also visited Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, major archbishop of Kyiv-Halych and head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

He went to the cathedral, which continues to function as a "refuge" for people during Russian airstrikes, said a press release from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church July 23.

The cardinal "expressed his support and gratitude for the humanitarian missions of our church and he

was pleasantly surprised by our progress," the press release said.

The cardinal and archbishop also discussed the Vatican's efforts to free prisoners of war.

"It was emphasized the need to be able to visit prisoners of war, both military and civilian, who are illegally detained in Russia, bringing them food, needed clothes, and, especially religious literature, which they need for their spiritual life," the press release said.

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CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Fall 2024
Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

- Saturday, September 21: Sacred Heart, Chester 5 p.m.
- Saturday, September 28: St. Mary, Petersburg; 4 p.m.
- Sunday, October 6: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown; 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane; 11 a.m.
- Sunday, October 27: All Saints, Bridgeport; 10 a.m.
- Saturday, November 9: St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont; 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday, November 16: Sacred Heart, Williamson; 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 19: St. Anthony, Follansbee; 6 p.m.



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Cursillo Mini Retreat Set for Aug. 17

CHARLESTON — The Cursillo leadership group, of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, is planning a mini retreat, for all Cursillistas (individuals who have already attended a Cursillo weekend) who are interested in gathering together, in the name of Jesus Christ and the Cursillo Movement, in our diocese.

It will be held at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, in Charleston, on Saturday, Aug. 17. We will begin at 8 a.m. with Mass, and finish by 4 p.m. We plan to do groupings, discuss the needed roles of the Secretariat, as well as pray a rosary, have Eucharistic Exposition, and provide the opportunity for individual Confessions to be heard.

Free lodging, on Friday evening, Aug. 16, will be available for those individuals and couples who come from a great distance. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided, during the retreat.

If you'd like to register for the retreat, or if you'd like more infor-

mation, please contact Daniel Maul, at dmaul@dwc.org, or call (304) 233-0880, ext. 376.

The Cursillo Day-Retreat schedule is as follows: 8 a.m. – Gather for Mass (Chapel); 8:45 a.m. – Gather in our meeting room (Dining Room A) for refreshments (“continental breakfast”); 9 a.m. – Introductions (Dining Room A) and distribute books; 9:15 a.m. – Explanation of Groupings and begin Groupings (Dining Room A); 10 a.m. – Process the groupings (discussion) as a large group (Dining Room A) and talks; 11 a.m. – Introduce and explain Secretariat roles (begin the discernment process; provide sheet); 11:30 a.m. – Rosary (Chapel); noon – Lunch (cafeteria) and brief break; 1 p.m. – Holy Hour – Eucharistic Exposition, Benediction, & Confessions, simultaneously (Chapel); 2 p.m. – Break; 2:30 p.m. – Discussion on need for a Secretariat and get a sense of their willingness; 3:30 p.m. – Wrap-up, Q & A, & plan for moving forward; and 4 p.m. – Adjournment & Departure.

Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast to be Held Saturday, Aug. 10

MORGANTOWN — Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, Aug. 10, at St. John University Parish Hall in Morgantown from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. (doors open 8:45 a.m.).

Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic women aimed at strengthening and sharing their faith. The inspirational speaker is Mary Sampey, a parish formation director and community philanthropist. Mary will share her personal story of how loss, suffering, and grief helped her to find God's purpose in her life so that she can bless others.

Tickets are \$20 per person, \$12 for students, and a buffet breakfast

will be served. Must register by Aug. 3. Register online at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/morgantownwvmagnificat>, and click on the Home tab. For mail-in reservations, print up a registration form at [Webpage-event-ReservationForm.pdf](#) (magnificat-ministry.net). Mail to Morgantown Magnificat, c/o 12 Whites Run Court, Morgantown, WV 26508, by Aug. 3. If it will be late, call Mary Paul to let her know at (304) 319-2747 by Aug. 5. Questions? E-mail Claire Mey at CLRPL09@gmail.com, or call Mary Paul at (304) 319-2747. St. John University Parish Hall is located at 1481 University Ave., Morgantown.



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To apply for any position, please email a cover letter, resume, and list of three professional references to Principal Jarett Kuhns at info@stvincentschool.org.

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Saint Joseph School and St. Joseph Parish are seeking a bookkeeper. This position is responsible for summarizing transactional data into the general ledger, conducting bank and credit card reconciliations, payroll processing and assisting with financial reporting for nonprofit organizations. The ideal individual must have the ability to exercise good judgment in a variety of situations and have administrative and organizational skills.

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Supporting role for payroll and HR responsibilities

Ad-hoc reporting to include Excel spreadsheets making use of pivot tables

Assist in analyzing current costs, revenues, financial commitments and obligations incurred to predict future revenues and expenses

Other duties as assigned

Knowledge, skills and requirements:

Minimum of associate degree in accounting or finance

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Laudato Si' Advocates Program

The Laudato Si' Advocates Program is a year-long internship program for young leaders across the U.S. under the guidance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and in collaboration with National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE) that cultivates renewal and ecological conversion by offering formation, mentorship, and professional experience in policy, outreach, and advocacy.

Laudato Si' Advocates promote integral ecology by advocating for bipartisan federal policy and organizing community-based action in their state. Advocates commit to deepening their understanding of Catholic social teaching as it relates specifically to politics and the environment while developing advocacy skills through experiential learning.

The duration of Internship is Sept. 1, 2024-May 31, 2025.

For more information or to apply, contact Kathleen Barton, director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, at (304) 233-0880, ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org.



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Concluye el congreso nacional y comienza una nueva era de conversión misionera eucarística

Por **Gretchen R. Crowe, OSV News**

INDIANÁPOLIS (OSV News) —Los cinco días del 10º Congreso Nacional Eucarístico en Indianápolis no podrían haber terminado de una manera más apropiada: con la celebración de la Eucaristía con más de 50.000 personas reunidas en el Lucas Oil Stadium.

Usualmente el campo de juego de los Indianápolis Colts, por un último día, el estadio se llenó de personas adorando y alabando a Jesucristo, con corazones desbordantes de amor y gratitud por lo que habían experimentado durante la última semana.

La Misa fue celebrada por el enviado papal, el cardenal Luis Antonio Tagle, quien estuvo presente en Indianápolis durante todo el Congreso y saludó a los participantes en muchos idiomas diferentes. En una homilía llena de energía, alegría, y humor, el cardenal Tagle agradeció "al Dios que es Amor ... por reunirnos como una familia de fe en esta Misa de clausura del Congreso Nacional Eucarístico".

El cardenal Tagle, quien sirve a la Santa Sede como el pro-prefecto de la Sección para la Primera Evangelización y Nuevas Iglesias Particulares del Dicasterio para la Evangelización, señaló que traía consigo las "bendiciones paternales" del Papa Francisco, quien "reza, como todos nosotros, para que el Congreso dé mucho fruto para la renovación de la Iglesia y de la sociedad en Estados Unidos de América".

El mensaje del Papa Francisco para los asistentes al Congreso, agregó, fue "la conversión a la Eu-

caristía".

Mientras los asistentes se preparaban para dejar los cinco días transformadores del Congreso Nacional y eran comisionados para salir a difundir el Evangelio, el cardenal Tagle reflexionó sobre la conexión entre "conversión eucarística" y "conversión misionera".

Aquellos que salen en misión son un "regalo" para la Iglesia y para el mundo.

"La misión no se trata solo de trabajo, sino también del don de uno mismo", exclamó. "Jesús cumple su misión dándose a sí mismo, su carne, su presencia a los demás, según la voluntad del Padre. La presencia de Jesús en la Eucaristía es un regalo y el cumplimiento de su misión".

Donde hay "una falta o un debilitamiento del celo misionero", podría ser que, "en parte, se deba a un debilitamiento en la apreciación de los dones y los talentos", añadió.

"Cuando el pesimismo se apodera, solo vemos oscuridad, fracasos, problemas, cosas de las que quejarnos", continuó. "No vemos dones en las personas y eventos. Y aquellos que no ven dones en sí mismos y en los demás, no darán dones; no irán en misión".

El cardenal pidió a los presentes que examinaran sus propias conciencias al considerar por qué algunas personas eligen alejarse del Señor Eucarístico, prefiriendo "su ausencia en lugar de su presencia en sus vidas".

"Los invito a detenerse y hacer preguntas bastante dolorosas sobre este misterioso rechazo de Jesús por parte de sus discípulos — por

parte de sus discípulos", resaltó el cardenal Tagle. "¿Es posible que nosotros, sus discípulos, contribuyamos al alejamiento de otros de Jesús? "

"¿Por qué algunas personas se alejan de Jesús, cuando él está dando el regalo más precioso de la vida eterna? ¿Por qué algunos bautizados se apartan del regalo de Jesús en la Eucaristía?" preguntó. "¿Nuestra formación bíblica, catequética, y litúrgica permite que el don de la persona de Jesús resplandezca claramente? ¿Nuestra celebración eucarística manifiesta la presencia de Jesús o más bien oscurece su presencia?"

Finalmente, preguntó el cardenal, al irse los asistentes, ¿se quedarán con Jesús?

"Quienes eligen quedarse con Jesús serán enviados por Jesús", enfatizó. "El don de su presencia y su amor por nosotros será nuestro regalo para las personas. No debemos quedarnos con Jesús solo para nosotros. Eso no es ser discípulo. Eso es egoísmo. El regalo que hemos recibido debemos darlo como un regalo".

Los invitó a "compartir el amor tierno de Jesús" con "los cansados, los hambrientos, y los que sufren".

"Vayan y compartan la caricia del pastor Jesús con los perdidos, confundidos, y débiles ... Vayan y compartan el don de la reconciliación y la paz de Jesús con los que están divididos", agregó.

"Un pueblo eucarístico es un pueblo misionero y evangelizador", continuó. "¡Proclamemos a Jesús con alegría y fervor para la vida del mundo!"

Durante y después de la Comuni-

ón, el estadio se llenó con los acordes de himnos eucarísticos tradicionales, incluyendo "Panis Angelicus" y "Ave Verum Corpus" de Mozart, interpretados por la Orquesta Sinfónica de Indianápolis. Los músicos también interpretaron la partitura original "La Misa de la Paz", compuesta por Dave Moore, el director de liturgia y música del Congreso Nacional Eucarístico, y su esposa, Lauren. Los Moore, fundadores de la Iniciativa de Música Católica, "un apostolado sin fines de lucro que crea música hermosa, que se pueda cantar en la Misa", también actuaron durante la Misa de clausura y la sesión de avivamiento.

Antes de la Misa de envío misionero, el Congreso celebró un avivamiento matutino. La madre Adela Galindo, fundadora de las Siervas y Siervos de los Corazones Traspasados de Jesús y María, los animó a ver a María como el modelo de misionera eucarística y exhortó a los asistentes a compartir los frutos visibles de lo que experimentaron.

"Este es un nuevo capítulo en la vida de la Iglesia, un capítulo que escribiremos con el poder del Espíritu Santo", exclamó. "Lo que hemos recibido gratuitamente, tenemos que darlo gratuitamente", agregó. "Debemos ser testigos y ardientes misioneros de la Eucaristía y del Evangelio de Jesucristo".

En ese avivamiento, Chris Stefanick, fundador de Real Life Catholic, explicó a la multitud que cada Comunión es un recordatorio del amor de Dios y esto exige una respuesta radical compartiendo el

Ver "eucarística" en la página 14

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 varían 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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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, diacono, 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.

Eucarística...

Viene de la página 13
Evangelio con confianza, regocijándonos en su amor, incluso cuando la vida es difícil, y sobre todo, esforzándonos por convertirnos en santos.

"Cada corazón humano está hecho para el amor que es Jesucristo", enfatizó.

"Algunas personas han comparado esta conferencia con un momento de Pentecostés", señaló Stefanick. "Pidan la gracia que Él prometió para hacernos sus testigos".

Al concluir la Misa, el obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota, presidente de la junta del Congreso Nacional Eucarístico, Inc., se puso de pie ante la multitud en el Lucas Oil Stadium y recibió una ovación de pie.

"Tengo una pregunta para ustedes", exclamó a la multitud. "Este es el 10º Congreso Nacional Eucarístico, ¿creen que deberíamos hacer un 11º?"

El estadio rugió con vítores y aplausos aprobatorios. Dijo que los organizadores del Congreso ya habían estado planeando el próximo congreso en 2033, el Año de la Redención, 2.000 años después de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, pero ahora están considerando organizar otro congreso eucarístico aún más pronto.

"Seguiremos discerniendo y les informaremos", acotó con una sonrisa, provocando risas en la audiencia.

También anunció otra Peregrinación Nacional Eucarística el próximo año, comenzando en Indianápolis y llegando a Los Ángeles a tiempo para la Fiesta del Corpus Christi, el 22 de junio de 2025, donde el arzobispo José H. Gomez de Los Ángeles dijo que daría la bienvenida "a todos ustedes".

También pidió a la multitud que aceptaran la invitación de los obispos a unirse a la iniciativa Camina con Uno, identificando a una per-

sona a la que puedan acompañar para conocer mejor a Jesús.

"Comprométanse a caminar con una persona", exhortó. "Comprométanse a convertirse en un misionero eucarístico, alguien que viva profundamente una vida eucarística, y habiendo recibido ese don, permita ser dado como un regalo".

Ya el fuego del avivamiento eucarístico del Congreso mostraba signos de expandirse más allá de Estados Unidos, mientras decenas de miles de católicos abandonaban el Lucas Oil Stadium en el resplandor orquestal del himno final conmovedor, "Oh Dios Más Allá de Toda Alabanza".

Christina Nugent, de 18 años, viajó con su hermana de 20 años al Congreso desde Calgary, Alberta, y declaró a OSV News que le encantaría ver un evento similar para los católicos en Canadá.

En lugar de sentirse satisfecha con su experiencia personal en el Congreso, "esto realmente me ha impulsado a ver qué puedo hacer por los demás cuando regrese a casa", manifestó. "Ellos dicen: 'Si estás enamorado de alguien, se lo dirías a la gente'. Entonces, si estás enamorado de Jesús, deberías estar contándole a la gente. Ese es mi mensaje".

Después de la Misa, el obispo Cozzens expresó OSV News que está "lleno de tanta gratitud por lo que Dios ha hecho, y realmente por el poder del Espíritu Santo que está presente aquí".

"Es difícil poner en palabras lo que ha sido toda la experiencia, desde el principio hasta el final, tan hermosa y con un gran sentido de que Dios está renovando su Iglesia", subrayó. "Estoy muy agradecido por lo que Dios ha hecho".

(Gretchen R. Crowe es directora de OSV News. Contribuyeron a esta historia: Laretta Brown, Maria-Pia Negro Chin, y Maria Wiering)



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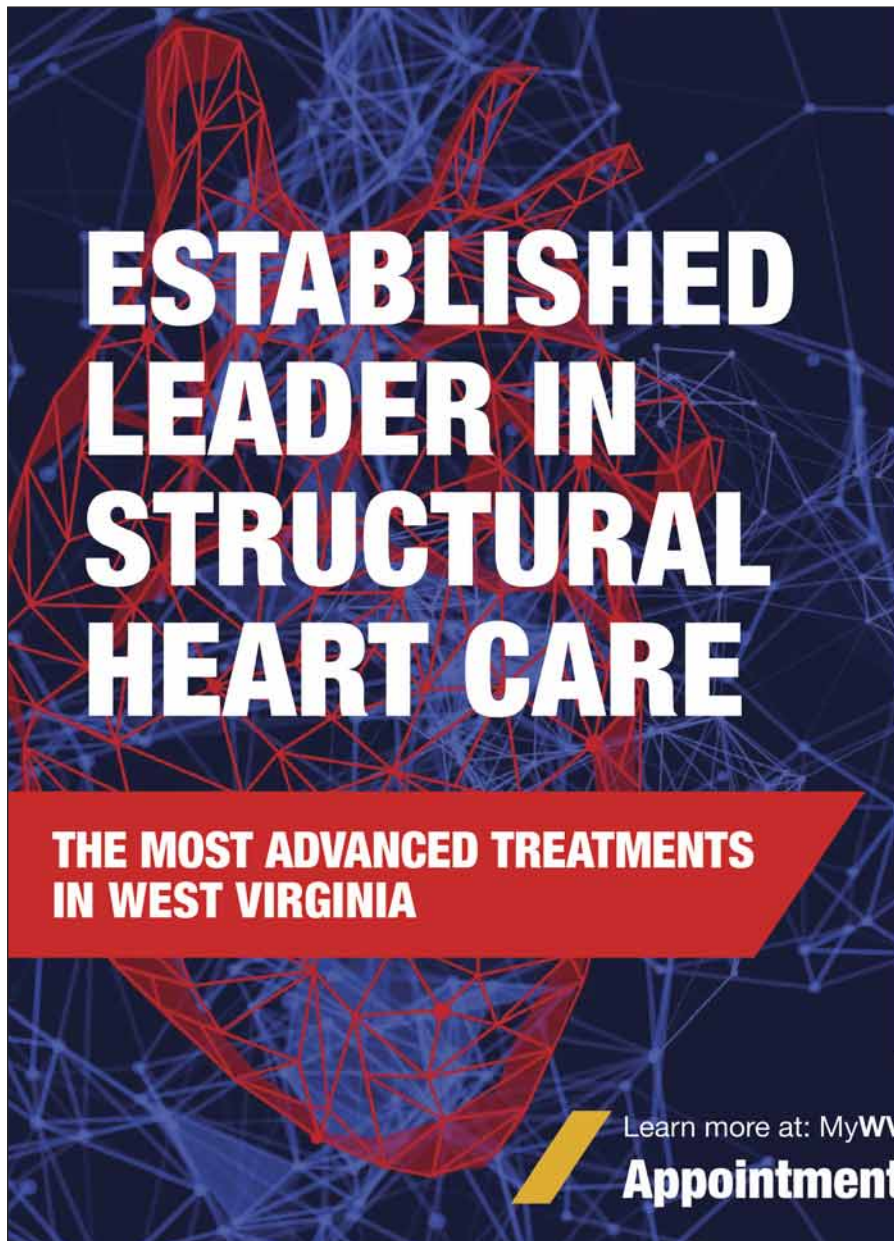
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The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

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

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

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

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology




Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology




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