

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

The Catholic Spirit Moves to Publish Monthly Print, Weekly Electronic Issues

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—With the ultimate goal of enhancing communication while operating within a new budget to help cut costs, The Catholic Spirit announces the move from printing twice a month to once a month and the addition of a weekly electronic issue for those who subscribe.

Beginning with this July 3 issue, all print publishing dates will be on the first Friday of each month. The Catholic Spirit monthly print version will continue to be delivered free of charge to all Catholic households in West Virginia.

The new electronic edition of The Catholic Spirit was made available last month to also help cut the cost of printing, and will now be sent every Friday morning. Many have signed up, and say they prefer this new version. Anyone can sign up for the e-list by sending an e-mail to crowan@dwc.org with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line, noting that they would like to be removed from the print mailing list. Those who sign up are asked to please provide the name and address

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Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings Announced

WEST VIRGINIA—The following norms are intended to assist pastors as they reopen their parish/mission facilities to serve those entrusted to their pastoral care. Obviously, the diversity in size, location and facilities will require pastors to make some adaptations in the following norms. However, the substance and intent of these norms are to be observed. These norms are provided to promote a safe environment for our faith communities.

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Golna Ordained to Priesthood



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan is pictured with newly ordained Father Justin Golna at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling June 27.

By Colleen Rowan

Ordaining Father Justin M. Golna to the priesthood, Bishop Mark Brennan encouraged him to look to Jesus the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep, as his model.

The ordination gathered Father Golna's family, friends, fellow clergy and others at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling June 27 to celebrate this joyous moment in the life of the

church in West Virginia. Father Golna, 31, is a native of Washington, Pa., and the son of John and Deborah Golna.

Almost 20 priests of the diocese were present to concelebrate the Mass. The designated concelebrants were Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor of the Parishes of St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart of Mary in Weirton; Msgr. Kevin M. Quirk, pastor of the

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Catholic Schools Plan to Welcome Students Back in August

WHEELING—West Virginia Catholic Schools Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., has set a clear goal to welcome staff and students back into the building in August for the 2020-2021 school year.

"We are working with our principals and pastors to lay out a plan to have their students in school five days a week," Deschaine said. "As we move forward with these plans we have been and will continue to take exhaustive measures to keep the health and safety of our children and staff a critical priority."

The Department of Catholic Schools is excited to have the traditional five-day in school plan in place, but in order to do so they will continually be alert of federal, state, and county mandates.

Deschaine is confident that no matter what the schools face in the future they are focused and ready

to "adapt, instruct, encourage, and challenge our students in the classroom or whenever necessary go to a distance learning situation without hesitation at basically the flip of the switch. That confidence, positive adaptability and flexibility is a huge life lesson for our children," Deschaine said.

What can Catholic school parents expect this fall? Deschaine listed the following, noting this is just the beginning of the extensive list of measures the schools are taking for a healthy and secure bricks and mortar classroom, but also a compassionate and welcoming environment: detailed instructions on entrance and exit procedures; heightened cleaning measures before, during, and after school; sanitizing of surfaces and materials multiple times a day; temperature checks; masks in designated areas; creative lab and curriculum sched-

uling to ensure academic benchmarks are met or surpassed; lunch area and times adjusted for healthiest, safest, and most enjoyable environment; physical education restructuring to focused more about individual wellness/activities; and regulations for choir/band to be in accordance to CDC and Diocesan mandates. Services provided to the Catholic schools through the county will be based on the individual county school mandates to be announced later this summer.

"Our world is ever-changing, and our WV Catholic Schools embrace that, while at the same time continue to maintain a Christ-centered learning environment which includes a focus on the social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being of each child.

"We recognize that social emotional learning is key to the successful development of a child," she said. "It is critical to life experiences. Making those moments for peer interaction possible is our job. Taking the responsibility to do so in the safest and most secure way is our responsibility and privilege."

She added that classrooms in the buildings will look a bit different, as extra furnishings will be removed in order to afford the children and teachers more square footage for safe distancing.

Between now and the start of school everyone in the building will be trained on proper CDC cleaning procedures. Janitorial and maintenance staff will receive individualized training for proper

See "Students" on Page 6

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 report. 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.

To report to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: The Diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost as well as 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 designees at 304-233-0880. The proper extensions are: Sr. Ellen F. Dunn, O.P., ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Tim Bishop, ext. 353. You may also fill out a confidential "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor" by picking one up at your local parish or requesting one in the mail from Safe Environment Coordinator, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003. The Complaint Form also is available for download on the diocese's web site www.dwc.org, click Diocese on the menu bar, then click Offices, click Safe Environment and click "Download Files and Forms" section. It is listed as "Complaint Form." To report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: Dr. Patricia M. Bailey: 304-242-6988

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

Diocesan Official Appointments:

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

Father Justin M. Golna is appointed to full-time studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, in order to obtain a license in canon law with residence at the Pontifical North American College's Casa Santa Maria, effective immediately. He is also assigned to liturgical and pastoral ministry at St. Joseph the Worker Parish and Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton, with residence at St. Joseph the Worker rectory in collaboration with Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor, for the period of June 27, 2020, through July 29, 2020; and then at St. John University Parish, Morgantown, with residence at the parish rectory in collaboration with Father Brian Crenwelge, pastor, for the period of July 29, 2020, through September 9, 2020.

Father John V. Di Bacco, Jr., will retire from active ministry, effective July 29, 2020.

Father George Pucciarelli retired from active ministry, effective June 24, 2020.



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Diocesan Restructuring Announced



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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June 29, 2020

To the Clergy of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston:

On this feast day of Saints Peter and Paul, I thought it appropriate to express my gratitude to you for the wonderful service you render to the people of this Diocese. You and the people you serve are constantly in my prayers.

Upon my arrival as Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston less than one year ago, it was immediately clear to me that I needed to work with our consultative bodies, Diocesan staff and our professional advisors to ensure that fiscal resources are wisely used to advance the mission of the Church. It is also necessary to work to provide financial security for generations to come.

In my January letter to the Faithful, I mentioned that “as I have been telling Diocesan staff and the priests’ council for a couple of months, the Diocese has been living above its means. I didn’t do that in my parishes nor in my personal life, nor can our families live that way. I don’t think the Diocese can do that either.”

The Diocese has seen a reduction in the value of its investment portfolio due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and a drastic reduction in oil revenues. Guidance from our professional advisors indicates that we need to be very conservative when budgeting for unrestricted operating income from these sources. Concurrently, I am very thankful to our Diocesan consultative bodies and administrative staff for their diligent work and commitment to prudent financial stewardship of our Diocesan Church. Their leadership and advice are greatly appreciated.

This week, the Diocesan Finance Council unanimously recommended a plan that cuts our operational budget from \$22.6 million in FY 2020 to \$15.6 million in FY 2021, a reduction of more than 30 percent. Much of this budget is made possible by a reorganization of Diocesan operations and reflects the need to make some very difficult decisions regarding the size of our payroll and the status of pastoral centers in the Diocese.

My brother priests, while we are called to be ministers and not financiers, we do have an obligation to be good stewards of the financial blessings bestowed on this Diocese. Therefore, I have approved the following reorganization plan, which was reviewed and critiqued by our Presbyteral Council, College of Consultors, and Diocesan Finance Council. The major elements of that plan are:

PASTORAL CENTERS

Beginning August 1, 2020, operations at the Mary Help of Christians Pastoral Center and the Priest Field Pastoral Center will cease. The Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston will remain in operation. I do wish to explore opportunities with partner non-profits to repurpose the two closed pastoral centers for a continued use in Catholic ministry.

CAMP BOSCO

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, operations at Camp Bosco were cancelled for the 2020 season. While the camp is closed, the Diocese will begin evaluating its options with the hope of reopening the camp in the future.

CHANCERY OPERATIONS

A number of changes have been made in Chancery operations. Six positions have been eliminated as a result of attrition and continued downsizing will occur with the offering of an early retirement incentive for certain employees and reorganization of offices.

The Diocese will also be making changes to its health insurance coverage

options with new coverage beginning January 1, 2021. With the addition of Gap insurance through a third-party insurer, we hope to save nearly \$2 million on our self-insured medical plan each calendar year while also keeping affordable health care options for staff members at the Diocese and those in parishes, schools, and Catholic Charities. The plan will continue to provide for quality health care.

NEW DEPARTMENT: EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

Ministry to young people will continue in a variety of ways, but we are announcing that the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, as well as Campus Ministry, have been combined with the duties of the Office of Faith Formation to form the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis under the direction of Mr. Daniel Maul. He will now have the title of Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. A new Associate Director of Evangelization and Catechesis will be hired soon. The name change focuses on our need to evangelize and catechize. The thrust of the office will be to assist parishes and their mission to evangelize and catechize both youth and adults.

STREAMLINING COMMUNICATIONS

We are bringing The Catholic Spirit, Website Development, and Communications & Marketing together into one unit thus streamlining Diocesan communications efforts. In another cost saving measure, we will cut production of the Spirit in half, from 24 issues to one monthly issue. At the same time, electronic communication strategies have already begun and will be further developed.

In total, through attrition and position elimination, 35 positions are affected by the reorganization plan, a number which could increase depending on how many staff elect to take an early retirement package.

The above changes are not driven solely by financial considerations, but by a desire to position the Diocese to carry out its mission of bringing Jesus Christ to the people of our State. Like a fighter training for the next fight, we must trim down so that we have the agility and strength to meet the challenges we face not only to live our faith but to share it with others. We also must try to leave a legacy from our Diocesan resources for future generations of West Virginia Catholics rather than seeing it dwindle each year and eventually run out.

The challenge before us is to believe what St. Paul tells us: God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having what you need, you may have an abundance for every good work (II Corinthians 9:8). With trust in the Lord, even if we are rather poorer in financial resources than we were before, we can become richer in faith and learn as we move forward, to use the resources we possess in a prudent and focused way to support our common mission.

May God bless you and keep you strong in the service of His people!

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Norms...

Cont'd from Page 1

1. Parish Meetings and Formation
a. Parishes may convene and host in-person regular meetings of parish committees, most importantly Parish Council, Finance Council, parish administrative staff and VIRTUS trainings. Preparations must be made in advance for physical distancing, such as sitting on every other seat. Attendees must wear masks upon entry and exit from parish buildings and during meetings. No tactile greetings are permitted. Hand sanitizer must be made available to all those in attendance. No food or drink is to be served. Any handouts must be taken home by

those in attendance or discarded before leaving. Use projection devices when possible. Follow state and county guidance regarding the maximum number of attendees for public gatherings. Disinfect the meeting space upon conclusion. Please consider making provisions for participants who wish to participate virtually or by teleconference.

b. Group meetings are not to reconvene at this time in our parishes. This includes parish groups, youth groups, prayer groups, or outside groups such as ecumenical groups, AA, scouting, etc.

c. Adult religious education and formation classes, RCIA, etc., are not to be conducted face-to-face at this time. Ho-

wever, teleconferencing such as Zoom Meetings may be used.

d. Vacation Bible School and other children's and youth programs are not to be held at this time.

2. Indoor, Parish Hall or Gymnasium Events

a. Funeral Luncheons and other gatherings with meals: Presently, parishes may NOT have funeral luncheons/dinners.

b. Wedding Receptions, Baptismal/Confirmation gatherings, Bridal/Baby Showers, etc.: Presently parishes may not hold these types of gatherings.

c. Charitable Outreach: Parishes have been and still are encouraged to continue charitable outreach to the community during the pandemic, with special em-

phasis on operating food pantries, “meals on wheels,” utility assistance, clothing distribution, and outreach with local partners such as the Gabriel Project, Red Cross, St. Vincent de Paul Society, etc. Be certain to follow social distancing guidelines, use location specific plans to avoid contact, always wear masks and encourage hand washing/use of hand sanitizer. Organizers must clearly mark separate doors for ingress/egress and mark floors for one-way traffic flow. Track names of those in attendance at the entrance of your facility for contact tracing purposes. Prohibit use of public drinking fountains. Clean bathrooms frequently. Sanitize after each facility use.

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Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan receives the first blessing from newly ordained Father Justin Golna at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Golna...

Cont'd from Page 1

Parishes of St. Vincent de Paul in New Martinsville and Mater Dolorosa in Paden City and the Missions of St. Joseph in Proctor and Holy Rosary in Sistersville; and Father Timothy Grassi, pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Thomas, and Our Lady of Mercy Mission in Parsons. Also present was Father Brendan Hurley, SJ, of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown. Serving as Deacon of the Word was Deacon Phillip Szabo, and Deacon of the Eucharist was Deacon David Galvin of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

In his homily, Bishop Brennan said that when Father Golna lies prostrate he will surely be praying for God's grace "to fill you so that you will be a faithful, fruitful, effective priest for his people. You had to discern your call to the priesthood and the church had to confirm it, but its origin is in God, so ask him for that grace."

At times in the years to come, the bishop told Father Golna that he will feel that he has been prostrated by the demands of his ministry. "I hope that you remember during those difficult times the people will be praying for you," he said, "as they are praying for you today."

The women religious at his old parish in Gaithersburg, Md., pray for priests every day, the bishop said. He

asked those joined with Father Golna that day—family members, friends, priests, and parishioners—to continue to pray for him.

Turning to Father Golna, the bishop reminded him that in his baptism he was change from being a creature made in God's image and likeness, to a son of God by adoption. That was and remains a more personal relationship with God, one that he shared with many brothers and sisters, some of whom were gathered that day.

"Today you also will be changed," Bishop Brennan said to him, "you will be configured to Jesus Christ in a new way so that you're very person will bring his people the forgiveness of their sins and the spiritual nourishment of the body and blood of Christ. Because of a change in you today you will be able to do those things for God's people. Along with your sacramental ministry, you will continue to preach God's word and be a minister of charity and justice—your diaconate continues. I urge you to cooperate with me and your fellow priests and deacons and the lay faithful so that together we may show the world what unity in faith and love looks like."

All of the sacraments benefit those who receive them, the bishop said. Using the image of a seesaw in the playground, the bishop said, it tilts in holy orders much more toward the people the priest serves than toward the priest himself.

"Ours is really a sacrament ordered to the service of others, our brothers and sisters who are, through their bap-

tism, priests of the new covenant, a royal priesthood as St. Peter says, capable of offering spiritual sacrifices to God.

"As an ordained priest you will offer to those who are priests through their baptism the spiritual strength of the sacraments and the light and encouragement of God's word," Bishop Brennan said to Father Golna. "Our faithful laity want that service and they will expect it from you."

In the Votive Mass for priestly vocations, prayers to God ask for ardent yet gentle heralds of the gospel, Bishop Brennan said. "You will have to preach the Gospel, a Gospel that many people today resist, including some within the church itself," Bishop Brennan said. "Your model must be Jesus the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep."

Bishop Brennan also noted the up-

"Your model must be Jesus the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep."

—Bishop Brennan, in his homily for the Ordination to Priesthood of Father Justin M. Golna

coming beatification of Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. Father McGivney answered the need of strengthening the faith of Catholic men in an era that was rife with anti-Catholic agitation, Bishop Brennan said.

"We live in an era in which the faith of our Catholic people, men and women, needs to be strengthened so that they can meet the challenges that a society increasingly hostile to our way of life poses to living their faith," Bishop Brennan said. "They need that spiritual strengthening. There are also many people in the state of West Virginia—some of our faith and some who are not—who need the hope that the Gospel offers and the concrete help that Christians, inspired by that Gospel, can offer them."

The bishop encouraged Father Golna to see "Golna" on Page 5

Congratulations Father Golna & Deacon Szabo on your Ordinations



SACRED HEART OF MARY PARISH, WEIRTON



Bishop Mark Brennan ordains Father Justin Golna to priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Colleen Rowan Photo



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Brennan presents the paten of bread and chalice of wine to Father Golna.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Msgr. Kevin Quirk, left, and Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., right, vest Father Golna with the stole and chasuble.



Joyce Bibey Photo

Father Golna blesses his parents John and Deborah Golna.

Golna...

Cont'd from Page 4

Golna to see the challenges people are facing and to work with him, fellow clergy, and lay faithful to respond to them.

“Christ who is teacher, priest, and shepherd will speak the truth whether convenient or inconvenient,” Bishop Brennan said. “Offer the sacraments of God’s grace to his flock and guide them in righteous living. That is the legacy of Father Michael McGivney. He made Jesus his model. Make him your model too.”

Following the bishop’s homily, the ordination continued as Father Golna stood before the bishop and promised to serve the people of God as a priest.

The bishop then laid his hands upon his head and called upon the Holy Spirit to make him an ordained priest. Each of his fellow priests gathered came forward to lay their hands upon his head as well. Father Golna was vested with the stole and chasuble by Father Schuelkens and Msgr. Quirk. Father Golna then knelt before the bishop, who anointed his palms with holy chrism. The bishop then presented the paten of bread and chalice of wine to him. The bishop, followed by his fellow priests, then offered Father Golna the kiss of peace.

Following the Mass those gathered came forward to receive a blessing from Father Golna.

The next day, Father Golna celebrated his first Mass at his home Parish of Our Lady of Peace in Wheeling with Msgr. Quirk as the homilist and

concelebrant. Also concelebrating were Father Schuelkens; Father Joseph Augustine, pastor of the parish; Msgr. Jeremiah McSweeney; and Father Martin Smay. Father Crenwelge was the assisting priest.

Father Golna is now at his summer assignment at St. Joseph the Worker and Sacred Heart of Mary parishes in Weirton with Father Schuelkens. He will then go to St. John University Parish in Morgantown with Father Crenwelge for a time before returning to Rome to continue his advanced studies in canon law at the Gregorian University.

Corpus Christi's Principal Dick Taylor Retires after 44 Years

By Colleen Rowan

The 44 years he spent at Corpus Christi School in Wheeling hold a special place in Dick Taylor, Jr.'s heart. "It's been my vocation," he said the day before his retirement officially began. "It's been my life."

Twenty-two of those years at the school were in the role of principal. "It's been tremendous, and I thank God every day for giving me the opportunity," he said. Taylor has cherished his time at the school, and remembered back to when it all began.

Before coming to Corpus Christi, Taylor spent a year at the School of Hope in St. Clairsville, Ohio, and substitute teaching. God would soon lead him to Corpus Christi.

"I remember the day that I walked in for my interview with, God bless her, Sister Eileen Marie Sinnott (CSJ)," Taylor fondly remembered. "She was the principal at the time, and she hired me."

Sister Eileen called Taylor later that day to tell him he had the teaching position, and he is thankful to her for the opportunity to come to Corpus Christi.

"When I started 44 years ago, I had 44 kids in that class," Taylor recalled. He started out teaching third grade and then moved on to teach fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades as well as departmental math and science for many years.

He then stepped into the role of administration, which he felt was a great blessing.

"I missed not being in the classroom," he said, "but I really felt God had a better plan for me."

That plan included doing many new things at the school with a fantastic faculty for so many years, he said. Teachers were always on board with doing new programs and progressing, he said.

"It's just been a wonderful blessing. Corpus Christi has been my family for all these years and it always will be. ... Corpus Christi



Dick Taylor, Jr.

holds a very special place in my heart," Taylor said.

He's not going out cold turkey, he said laughing. He promised Shannon Wall, the new principal, to continue to help with the transition and to support her and the school any way he can. Wall is a former student of Taylor's. She was in his sixth-grade class.

"As an alumnus of Corpus Christi, I have been very fortunate to know Mr. Taylor as a teacher, co-worker, boss, and friend," Wall said. "His love for his Crusaders is undeniable

and it is impossible to count the number of lives he has touched throughout his 44 years. The halls of Corpus Christi will not be the same without him, but I am beyond excited for him to begin a new chapter in his life. There is no doubt that he deserves this time to relax and enjoy making memories with his family. I wish him nothing but happiness in his retirement and look forward to working with him as I take on my new role as principal."

Taylor said that it was an honor to teach Wall and the many students he has had in the classroom over the years.

"I think of so many of the kids and seeing them go on to do many great things," he said. "It's a joy and a pleasure to follow those students and watch them grow, especially over the time as principal. I see them walk in the building as 3-year-olds and then graduate from the eighth-grade; and see how much they've grown, how much

they've learned, and how much they've matured, and what wonderful young men and women they've become. That's what it's all about."

Taylor also thought of the many Sisters of St. Joseph who served at the school: Sister Mary Brown, Sister Mary Cremin, Sister Elizabeth, and Sister Teresa, just to name a few. "So many wonderful sisters that I learned from," he said. "You learn from everybody. You learn from your colleagues, you learn from your kids. It just makes you a better person."

In his retirement, Taylor had planned to travel the world. However, the coronavirus pandemic has put a hold on that. In the meantime, he will be involved in Project Grow and other community programs in Martins Ferry, Ohio, where he lives, which is just across the Ohio River from Wheeling. He also will stay involved in Corpus Christi, the school he loves so much.

Students...

Cont'd from Page 2

cleaning techniques, how to use required additional sanitizing equipment, and how to recognize potential concerns and the action steps necessary to resolve them.

The Department of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be providing enhanced e-learning and distance engagement trainings for teachers in each building.

Prior to the start of school, during August 3-7, students in grades Kindergarten-10th grades will have the opportunity to take the NWEA assessment. This assessment will identify any areas where a student may need extra help, but also help staff develop prescriptive individualized educational plans.

"Our students take the NWEA assessment three times a year to assess progress and identify academic growth," Deschaine said. "We don't rely on a once a year assessment system. So, this August assessment will highlight what we need to do to have a successful start to our academic year."

Deschaine said the schools will be contacting their families with enrichment opportunities to be held over the summer. Some will be subject area specific, while others will be a cross curriculum bridge program.

Guidelines for before and after care programs are also being developed, so they can be offered safely for the staff and students.

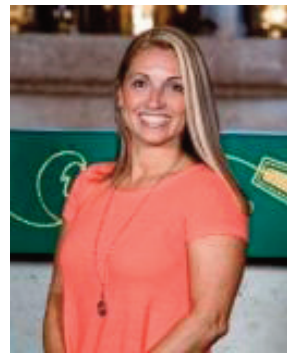
She said each building will announce its own start date, but all Catholic schools will be in session by August 24 at the latest.

Kimberly Burge Named Principal of St. Michael School, Wheeling

WHEELING—St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling congratulates Kimberly Burge on a title change of interim principal to the official principal of St. Michael Parish School.

This year will mark Burge's 20th year at the school. She was hired as a sixth-grade teacher in 2000 upon her graduation from Bethany College, Magna Cum Laude. While at St. Michael's, she has been a junior high school teacher and was instrumental in the creation of school's science lab. She was the science lab teacher for many years before becoming interim principal.

She and her husband J.B. have a son, Bode, entering seventh-grade at St. Michael's, and a daughter, Jayden, heading to Central Catholic High School in the fall.



Kimberly Burge

"It is important to understand that no matter what the circumstance – weather, building issue, or health/safety concern – our Catholic schools continue to learn, lead, and succeed whether under the roof of the building or apart. These last few months have proven we are well equipped and prepared. We forge ahead confidently in our academic journey. We do not settle for pass-fail curriculum. We push forward and do not slack whether we are together in one building or together through an e-platform classroom. We

as a Catholic school system will continue to give our students responsibility, challenges, and accountability – expectations and character that make us stand out."

Catholic school offices across the state will continue registrations for the 2020-2021 school year through the summer. Contact your area Catholic school for more information. You can also call the Department of Catholic Schools Office at (304) 233-0880 for assistance.

More Than a Century of Ministry

Marists Leave Buckhannon's Holy Rosary Church after 118 Years



Pictured is Holy Rosary Church in Buckhannon, which has been served by Marists priests and religious for 118 years.

Courtesy Photo

By Colleen Rowan

For 118 years, the Society of Mary priests and religious have served the faithful Catholics of Central West Virginia. Last month, the people of Buckhannon's Holy Rosary Parish said goodbye to their pastor, Father Joseph McLaughlin, SM, and pastoral associate, Brother Roy Madigan, SM. They are the last of the Marists to serve the parish, and are now moving on to new assignments within their order.

A few days before leaving for his new assignment in San Francisco, Father McLaughlin took a moment to talk about the Marists and their history in the area and the people of this great parish. He has served at Holy Rosary for four and a half years.

"The people here have always been very welcoming," Father McLaughlin said, "and from what I can gather the ones that have been here a long time have really appreciated the Marists who have been here over these years. And so it is a bittersweet leaving because they were so used to having the Society of Mary involved."

Offering words of farewell to parishioners in the Holy Rosary bulletin, Brother Madigan said: "What a privilege and pleasure it has been for me to be part of that community of faith for almost 15 years. I hope and I pray that, in my own quiet way, I have added something of value to that community that has become 'home' for me.

"Soon it will be time to leave this family of faith that I have come to know and deeply appreci-

ate, a church family that I have shared so many memories with," he said. "I will be taking these memories with me as I journey with the Lord, for they have been a blessing and will always be cherished."

Marists who have previously served in the area, Father McLaughlin recalled, have often said that those who come to West Virginia, no matter where it was in the central areas, just didn't want to leave because it's so beautiful and enjoyed the people so much.

Over the years, the Marists have served in Richwood, Summersville, Gassaway, Camden-on-Gauley, and several other communities of the region.

Next year, Holy Rosary will celebrate 100 years. The parish was started at 1921 by Father Nicholas Hengers, who was the first pastor.

He started down in Richwood and he took care of the area, often traveling by horseback and train to get to different parts of Central West Virginia. The church was originally called St. Joseph's Church. The Pallottine Missionary Sisters then travelled to the area at his request and established St. Joseph's Hospital, which will also celebrate its centennial next year. The hospital is operated now by West Virginia University. The original church was replaced with a new church and was named Holy Rosary in 1962.

Father McLaughlin along with Bishop Mark Brennan welcomed Holy Rosary's new pastor Father Edward Teteteh, SVD, of the Society of the Divine Word Mis-

sionaries, at a recent Mass at the church.

A week later as he prepared to leave, Father McLaughlin wanted to say: "Just how deeply grateful I am for the opportunity to serve here at the parish and in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and how much I have enjoyed the good people here. They've been so supportive and caring, and I certainly will miss being with them. They have helped me to grow in many ways spiritually and as a person and I am deeply, deeply grateful. I just feel that they're really going to welcome Father Ed and he will have a wonderful time in this parish and have a good experience."

Bother Madigan has moved to nearby Elkins for a six-month sabbatical, a time of rest and spiritual renewal, he said. However, he will not be in seclusion and plans to visit Holy Rosary and stay in touch with his parish family.

In closing his farewell to his parish family, Brother Madigan said: "Before leaving for Elkins, I would like to extend to you this prayerful hope:

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon you. Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."



Kari Conaway Photo/Courtesy of The Record Delta
Bishop Mark Brennan (center) is pictured with Father Joseph McLaughlin, SM, former pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon (left), and Father Edward Teteteh, SVD, the new pastor.

High Court Rules against Trump Administration's Plan to End DACA

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In one of the most anticipated cases of the term, the Supreme Court June 18 ruled against efforts by the Trump administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA.

In a 5-4 decision, the court said the Trump administration's actions in rescinding the program were "arbitrary and capricious."

Last November, the court examined three separate appellate court rulings that blocked President Donald Trump's 2017 executive order to end DACA, a program that started in 2012 by executive order under the Obama administration and which has enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as "Dreamers," to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver's license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation.

"We welcome the U.S. Supreme Court's decision noting that the Trump administration did not follow proper administrative procedures required to repeal the DACA program," said a statement by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"To DACA youth, through today's decision and beyond, we will continue to accompany you and your families. You are a vital part of our church and our community of faith. We are with you," said the statement by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration.

The bishops urged the president to "strongly reconsider terminating DACA," noting that "immigrant communities are really hurting now amidst COVID-19 and moving forward with this action needlessly places many families into further anxiety and chaos."

They also urged U.S. senators to "immediately pass legislation that provides a path to citizenship for 'Dreamers.' Permanent legislative protection that overcomes partisanship and puts the human dignity and future of 'Dreamers' first is long overdue."

Declaration on Supreme Court Decision on DACA, June 18, 2020

From Bishop Mark Brennan

I rejoice with the immigrants who live in West Virginia over the recent US Supreme Court decision which rejected the effort of the federal government to put an end to the DACA program. The Court's decision will give a measure of relief to the young people who were brought without documents to this country by their parents when the children were minors in age. For the moment, these young people do not run the risk of deportation.

However, since the Supreme Court's decision turned on the government's failure to follow legal procedures in its eagerness to overturn the DACA program and not on the substance or merits of the program, it is not a sufficient resolution of the dangerous situation in which the affected young people live. It remains for us to advocate again before Congress for the more secure protection that a law would give to that portion of the Dreamers who benefit from

DACA. Thank God, the great majority of our country's citizens support such legislative protection for them. It is time for Congress to approve a just and humane law for these young people, many of whom have never known any other country than the United States.

God has given the world to all human beings. This continent has throughout its history been the destination of immigrants, from the tribes that came from Asia thousands of years ago to those who have come in more recent centuries from other places. The immigrants of today contribute to this country's wellbeing, just as the immigrants of the past did. They deserve the respect and support of those who were born here. There is need for a comprehensive reform of our immigration laws that will reflect the welcoming and humane values of this nation. May God bless this project in favor of His people.

Judge Strikes Down Trump Administration's "Third-Country Asylum Rule"

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal judge ruled late June 30 the Trump administration unlawfully implemented its 2019 policy to turn away asylum-seekers if they don't first seek protection in countries along their way to the United States. Judge Timothy J. Kelly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia said the policy might have been legal but the administration bypassed the Administrative Procedure Act, meaning it did not give the public enough advance notice of the new policy, known as the "third-country asylum rule," nor did it provide the required amount of time for public comment on the change. The Asylum Eligibility and Procedural Modifications rule was jointly published July 15, 2019, by the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security. The agencies said it was written "to take effect immediately when it's formally published." "There are many circumstances in which courts appropriately defer to the national security judgments of the Executive (Branch)," Kelly wrote in his opinion in a suit brought by immigrant-rights advocates. "But determining the scope of an APA exception is not one of them." Faith leaders and other immigrant advocates have long called for an end to this policy, labeling it "a backdoor asylum ban."

Catholic Leaders Denounce Court's Rejection of Federal Death Penalty Appeal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the Supreme Court announced June 29 that it would not hear an appeal by federal death-row inmates challenging the method to be used in their upcoming executions, a long-time advocate against capital punishment said the court "abdicated its legal and moral responsibilities. This means that the federal government will likely execute four people" starting in July "using an untested lethal injection protocol during a global pandemic without any real oversight from the Supreme Court," tweeted Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille. The unsigned three-sentence order from the court said Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor would have heard the inmates' appeal. The inmates had appealed a lower court order allowing the federal government to proceed with executions using a single-drug protocol. The federal executions, which have not taken place since 2003, are set to resume in mid-July. When Attorney General William Barr announced last year that the federal government was reinstating the federal death penalty, he said the executions would use a single drug instead of a three-drug protocol carried out in most recent federal executions and by several states. This execution method was challenged by some of the federal death-row inmates. Last November, a federal judge said this protocol injection went against the Federal Death Penalty Act. In April, a federal appeals court lifted a lower court ruling that had prevented the execution of federal death-row inmates.

Court's Abortion Ruling Continues 'Cruel Precedent,' Says Bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a 5-4 decision June 29, the Supreme Court ruled that a Louisiana law requiring that doctors who perform abortions have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals could not stand. The opinion in *June Medical Services v. Russo*, written by Justice Stephen Breyer, said the case was "similar to, nearly identical with" a law in Texas that the court four years ago found to be a burden to women seeking abortion. Breyer was joined in the opinion by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. Breyer said the Louisiana law was unconstitutional because it posed a "substantial obstacle" for women seeking abortions while providing "no significant health-related benefits." The Texas case, *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, struck down the law with a different bench without Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. In the Louisiana case, Chief Justice John Roberts filed an opinion concurring with the judgment of the four justices voting to strike down this law. "The court's failure to recognize the legitimacy of laws prioritizing women's health and safety over abortion business interests continues a cruel precedent," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the bishops' pro-life committee.

Advocates Call Order Advancing Religious Freedom Globally a Needed Action

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Donald Trump's executive order on religious freedom issued in early June lays out a strategy for expanding U.S. support for international religious freedom that the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has been urging, said the chair of the commission. "USCIRF has long called on the U.S. government to develop an overall strategy for promoting religious freedom abroad, as well as country-specific action plans, and we welcome the fact that this executive order requires the State Department and USAID to do exactly that," Gayle Manchin said June 24 in a statement to Catholic News Service. "We also appreciate the express reference to U.S. officials working for the release of religious prisoners of conscience, which is a high priority for USCIRF," she added. On June 2, Trump signed the order to promote and advance religious freedom across the globe. "Religious freedom, America's first freedom, is a moral and national security imperative," the order said. "Religious freedom for all people worldwide is a foreign policy priority of the United States, and the United States will respect and vigorously promote this freedom." The State Department and USAID have 180 days since the order was issued to develop a strategy to prioritize international religious freedom in the planning and implementation of U.S. foreign policy and in their foreign assistance programs.

Gomez: Truth of Saint's Ministry is His Respect, Loving Care of Indigenous

By Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez has asked Catholics of the archdiocese to invoke the intercession of St. Junipero Serra “for this nation that he helped to found.”

He also urged prayers especially for “an end to racial prejudice and a new awareness of what it means that all men and women are created equal as children of God.”

“In this hour of trial in our nation, when once again we are confronting America’s shameful legacy of racism, I invite you to join me in observing St. Junipero’s feast day, July 1, as a day of prayer, fasting and charity,” Archbishop Gomez said in an open letter to Catholics.

The letter appears as his June 29 column “Voices” in English and Spanish in Angelus, <https://angelusnews.com>, the online news platform of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

He addressed the recent controversies in California surrounding public monuments to St. Junipero Serra, “the Apostle of California.” On June 19 a statue of the saint in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park was toppled and desecrated. Archbishop Gomez also said a Serra statue in the plaza outside the archdiocese’s first church, Nuestra Señora Reina de los Angeles, in downtown Los Angeles also was torn down.

“Up and down the state, there is growing debate about removing Serra memorials from public lands,” he wrote. “Ventura officials have announced that they will hold a public hearing July 7 to debate whether to take down his statue from in front of Ventura City Hall.

“Faced with the possibility of vandalism, we are taking increased security precautions at the historic missions located in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Unfortunately, we will probably have to relocate some statues to our beloved saint or risk their desecration,” Archbishop Gomez wrote.

He said these developments saddened him. “I have been thinking and writing about Junipero Serra for many years now.”

“I understand the deep pain being expressed by some native peoples in California. But I also believe Fray Junipero is a saint for our times, the spiritual founder of Los Angeles, a champion of human rights, and this country’s first Hispanic saint,” the archbishop said,



CNS Photo/Victor Aleman, courtesy Angelus News

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is seen May 1 from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

noting that he was “privileged” to concelebrate the Spanish Franciscan’s canonization Mass with Pope Francis in 2015 during the pontiff’s pastoral visit to Washington.

“I rely on his intercession in my ministry, and I am inspired by his desire to bring God’s tender mercy to every person,” the archbishop added.

Known for spreading the Gospel in the New World during the 18th century, the Franciscan priest landed in Mexico, then made his way on foot up the coast of Mexico and to California, where he established a chain of missions that are now the names of well-known cities such as San Diego, San Francisco and Santa Barbara.

He was the first president of the California mission system, and personally founded nine of the state’s 21 missions. It is estimated that during his ministry, St. Junipero Serra baptized about 6,000 native people.

In 2015, some people objected to the canonization of the Spaniard, like critics did of his beatification in 1988, because of questions raised about how Father Serra allegedly treated the native peoples of California and about the impact of Spanish colonization on native peoples throughout the Americas.

“The exploitation of America’s first peoples, the destruction of their ancient civilizations, is a historic tragedy,” Archbishop Gomez wrote. “Crimes committed against

their ancestors continue to shape the lives and futures of native peoples today. Generations have passed and our country still has not done enough to make things right.”

In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, “we have worked hard to atone for past errors and wrongs and to find the path forward together,” he said. “We honor the contributions that native peoples made to building the church in Southern California and we cherish their gifts in the mission of the church today.”

Archbishop Gomez said over the years he has “come to understand how the image of Father Serra and the missions evokes painful memories for some people,” and for that reason, he said, he feels the protests in California and around the country over historical monuments are important.

“Historical memory is the soul of every nation. What we remember about our past and how we remember it defines our national identity — the kind of people we want to be, the values and principles we want to live by,” he said.

“But history is complicated. The facts matter, distinctions need to be made and the truth counts,” he explained. “We cannot learn history’s lessons or heal old wounds unless we understand what really happened, how it happened and why.”

Archbishop Gomez said U.S. society might reach a consensus on not honoring Sr. Junipero Serra or other figures from the past, but “elected officials cannot abdicate their responsibilities by turning these decisions over to small groups of protesters, allowing them to vandalize public monuments.”

“This is not how a great democracy should function,” he said.

“Allowing the free expression of public opinion is important,” Archbishop Gomez added. “So is upholding the rule of law and ensuring that decisions we reach as a society are based on genuine dialogue and the search for truth and the common good.”

He praised the city of Ventura for planning a public hearing and how it is approaching the debate by involving civil authorities and indigenous leaders, and representatives of the Catholic Church and the community at large. This could be “a model for thoughtful and respectful discourse,” he said.

Those who are attacking St. Ju-

nipero Serra’s good name and vandalizing memorials to him “do not know his true character or the actual historical record,” Archbishop Gomez said, adding that decades ago activists started “‘revising’ history to make Junipero the focus of all the abuses committed against California’s indigenous peoples.”

“But the crimes and abuses that our saint is blamed for — slanders that are spread widely today over the internet and sometimes repeated by public figures — actually happened long after his death,” he said, noting that a genocidal war waged against the Native Americans took place in 1851, and the saint died in 1784.

“The real St. Junipero fought a colonial system where natives were regarded as ‘barbarians’ and ‘savages’ whose only value was to serve the appetites of the white man,” Archbishop Gomez said, yet in online petitions today the saint “is compared to Adolph Hitler, his missions compared to concentration camps.” No serious historian would accept this, he added.

The saint lived and worked alongside native peoples, defended their humanity and protested crimes against them; he celebrated their creativity and knowledge; and he learned their languages and their ancient customs and ways, the archbishop said.

“I like to think that his deep reverence for creation was influenced by his conversations and observations among this land’s first peoples,” Archbishop Gomez said. He also said the saint “did not impose Christianity, he proposed it.”

“Pope Francis called Junipero ‘one of the founding fathers of the United States. He recognized that the saint’s witness anticipated the great spirit of human equality and liberty under God that has come to define the American project.’”

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Diocesan Faithful Raise More Than \$87,000 for Retired Religious

By Colleen Rowan
WEST VIRGINIA—The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) expressed gratitude to Bishop Mark Brennan and the people of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for contributing to the 2019 Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal (RFR) held in December.

Through their generosity, \$87,280 was raised in the collection from parishes and missions of West Virginia.

In a letter to Bishop Brennan, Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, executive director of the NRRO, thanked him and the people for their support of the appeal.

“Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to your parishioners for their ongoing support of senior religious and their communities,” she wrote to Bishop Brennan, noting that since the collection was launched, contributions from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have totaled \$3.5 million.

Sister Stills said that generosity to the collection enables NRRO to distribute financial and educational assistance that help religious communities provide for older members while continuing to serve the people of God.

Also offering a thank you for the support of the appeal was Sister Ellen Dunn, OP, Wheeling-Charleston’s delegate for Consecrated Life.

“The church of West Virginia is most grateful for the faith of our Catholic people who continue, through challenge and change, to support the retirement needs of the religious women and men who have loved and served them over the years,” she said.

Proceeds of the RFR appeal provide support for medications, nursing care, and other day-to-day necessities. A portion also underwrites programming and education promoting long-term retirement planning. These resources focus on helping communities reduce costs, enhance elder care, and identify additional sources of income.

According to the RFR website, 360 religious communities received funding from the appeal in 2019.

“Joined with the 32,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious, I offer a daily prayer of thanksgiving for all whose love and sacrifice make the work of our office possible,” Sister Still said in her letter to Bishop Brennan. “We are very grateful to you and your parishioners for your generous support of our mission. May God bless you and your parishioners.”

Catechist Training Begins

By Babette Pascasio
WEST VIRGINIA—This summer, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will offer courses for Catechist Certification. The following courses are required and will be offered for those interested in certification: Introduction to Catechesis—the Ministry of Forming the Faith Lives of Children and Youth, Introduction to Prayer and Praying with Children—Communicating Our Lives with God Simply, Catholic Beliefs and Survey of Catholic Doctrine—the Creed and its Application to Our Lives, Introduction to Scripture—the Bible for Living, Jesus Christ—Lord and Savior of Our Lives, and the Seven Sacraments and Sacramental Living—Encountering Christ in Our Lives.

Each of the diocese’s six vicariates—Wheeling, Charleston, Martinsburg, Clarksburg, Beckley, and Parkersburg—has a schedule of courses, that will most likely be offered online via Zoom. Check for updates on this on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DWCFormationandMission>.

The Charleston, Martinsburg, and Clarksburg vicariates already held some Zoom sessions in June.

Courses to be offered in the Parkersburg Vicariate will be at St. Michael Parish in Vienna which will have Seven Sacraments and Sacramental Living course July 11. St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg will have Introduction to Prayer and Praying with Children July 12. St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville will have Catholic Beliefs and Survey of Catholic Doctrine Aug. 1, and St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood will offer Jesus Christ—Lord and Savior of Our Lives Aug. 2.

Next, in the Wheeling Vicariate, July 18 at Our Lady of Peace Parish in that city will have Introduction to Catechesis. St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling will have Catholic Beliefs and Survey of Catholic Doctrine July 19. Completing this month’s schedule will be the Beckley Vicariate as St. Peter and Paul Parish in Oak Hill will have on July 25 Introduction to Prayer and Praying with Children, and another Zoom conference on Scripture July 26.

More trainings will be in the Charleston Vicariate at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston with Introduction to Scripture Aug. 8, and Ascension Parish in Hurricane on the Seven Sacraments and Sacramental Living Aug. 9. In the Clarksburg Vicariate, Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon will have Jesus Christ—Lord and Savior of Our Lives Aug. 15, and St. Brendan Parish in Elkins will have Introduction to Catechesis Aug. 16. In the Martinsburg Vicariate a Zoom session will be available Aug. 22, and Assumption of Our Lady Par-

ish in Keyser will have Introduction to Prayer and Praying with Children. Visit the diocese’s website www.dwc.org for more information. These trainings will be Zoomed. For more information, updates or to register, call (304) 233-0880, ext. 374.

Since his appointment in January as the director of the Department of Faith Formation and Mission (now the new Department of Evangelization and Catechesis), Daniel Maul has been meeting the catechetical leaders of parish schools of religion and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA programs for the diocese.

He explained, “the chancery seeks to empower parishes to direct their own faith formation programs and live it out, at the local level, the mission given to us by Jesus Christ.”

Over all, he has visited 23 parishes. Before the start of the coronavirus pandemic, also known as COVID-19, he was able to meet staff at a rate of two parishes a week.

When asked about the needs of the parishes and the people, he said, “Now, the parishes specifically need good leadership. The people outside of the church need to know of the good things taking place in our parishes. [Church members] need to learn how to better communicate their goodness and their good works...”

Some of the areas he has helped in have been “... primarily to get to know the parish catechetical leaders, listening to their stories, hearing their needs, and commiserating with them about the blessings and challenges of parish ministry in the areas of evangelization and catechesis,” he added, “I’ve tried to share good ideas and resources, make suggestions, discuss models and methods of ministry, provide inspiration, give commendation, make them aware of the ways in which the diocese is trying to support them, and be a sounding board for them to which to vent.”

In his talks with people he has met, he said, they want to know their faith better, in order to be able to share it with others and inspire them to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. While the church “has to serve the people...bring love to God’s suffering people. That’s an essential part of the mission given to the church by Jesus Christ.”

In speaking with the directors of Religious Education (DRE), he has found their desire to minister to more families, adults, children. The DREs must find new ways, he said, to “draw the people in and what exactly to do with them to keep them coming back.”

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Conversion Brings Weirton Family Balance and Peace

By Joyce Bibey

Donald Swearingen spent much of the last decade finding reasons why not to become Catholic.

He is a self-proclaimed history nerd, who has always been intrigued by the formation of the Church, and ancient times. It was that passion which led to a calling he often questioned but could not ignore.

Last summer he signed up for Right of Christian Initiation (RCIA) classes at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

"I kept running away from the idea of becoming Catholic, but something kept pulling me back," Swearingen said.

The road to his conversion story has had its twists, turns, and even drop offs. However, he said when he stopped ignoring the call and fully committed to God through the Catholic religion, especially its rich traditions, his life gained the balance he and his family needed.

"I grew up protestant. We would go to church on Easter and Christmas, but never with any consistency," he said. "I didn't want to go to church as a teen. I struggled with any sort of faith life in college. For years I didn't know what I believed. I became depressed. I gave into my downfall, which was food. There was a time when I even questioned if I was atheist."

He said as an adult, husband, and father, he was drawn into wanting to learn more about Catholicism, but ignored those feelings, "because it would be adding a lot more accountability and obligations" he didn't want to accept.

"Now I refer to that time as my spiritual darkness," he said. "I was challenged with anger and depression issues, and I began putting on a lot of weight."

He and Jessica were living in Morgantown at the time.

"We entered a Baptist based church and things moved along for us fairly well. We enjoyed the preacher and had a feel-good presence there, but it wasn't stable. It wasn't enough."

The church eventually crumbled. They tried another congregation but left feeling empty. So, the couple suspended their church life. They left Morgantown to return to



At the Cathedral: Pentecost Sunday had special meaning for the Swearingens, shown here with Cailee at the foot of the sanctuary with, Jessica to her left, and Donald, receiving the blessing as the family officially entered the Catholic Church.

the Weirton area they were originally from to be closer to their extended family, but church remained out of the picture.

Life continued to be "busy" and their spiritual quest vanished. That was until Donald said his family took an unexpected hit.

"It's awful to say, but it took something horrific to wake me up and make us rethink everything."

That tragedy was the unexpected death of his wife Jessica's father, a pillar in their family.

"It was a spark that lit a fire in me," Donald said. "I had so many questions, but nowhere to turn. When I die, am I going to heaven? Am I honestly even prepared? I knew I needed to step up and get out of this darkness I was in, stop beating myself up, and stop doing nothing about my spiritual growth – my family's spiritual growth. I found myself being pulled again to the Catholic Church. I began attending Masses on a regular basis, and

that is when I felt like I truly belonged.

"I was thinking more clearly. I actually dropped 100 pounds. I took part in a 54-day Rosary Novena. I learned about liturgy of the hours and began praying that in the morning and evening. I felt a huge difference."

Jessica noticed his dramatic changes and the peace that came over him. She knew she too needed "that something more."

"As a child, my family did belong and was active in a traditional Free Methodist Church," she said. "As I got older, I didn't make it my priority to go anymore. It wasn't until after my father passed away that I was overcome with the feeling of needing Christian traditions back. I missed it. I needed it."

"I needed to join (Donald) and take this big step in joining the Church together. We needed structure as a family. It made sense."

Soon their teenage daughter Cailee approached them,



Donald, Jessica, and Cailee Swearingen pause for a photo before Mass at St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton.

wanting to attend RCIA too.

"I actually feel more freedom in the Catholic Church," Cailee Swearingen said. "I don't feel like I'm being judged. I feel like they're accepting me for who I am. There is more room for people to think and ask questions not just to be preached to. I like being able to think things over and being challenged to be a better person."

The Swearingens have three younger children Eve, 13, Donnie 8, and Bella, 7.

"I can truly say that this (conversion) is helping us with our daily life," Donald Swearingen said. "We are doing more as a family. Our quality time is just that – quality."

Jessica Swearingen said the RCIA classes and celebration of Mass have filled her desire for more stability and spiritual guidance, as well as the need for proud traditions.

"My favorite part of all of this has been the change I see in how we do things," she said. "There is such a joy now in our family, especially with our little ones. We have more purpose and do things more intentionally. We enjoy Mass together and say the rosary. I love that. Our kids are saying it and after are proud that they did. They look at me and say, 'Mommy did you hear me? Mommy I was able to say the

whole thing."

The family are now members of St. Joseph Parish in Weirton.

"Becoming Catholic now was God's timing," Donald said. "The Catholic Church isn't going anywhere. It is the original church. It is a worldly institution, not a trendy congregation. If a priest or bishop does something bad, they are dismissed, but the church goes on. There is structure. There is rich tradition. There is so much history. It is the first Church."

The COVID-19, stay at home orders, and the suspension of public Mass tested the Swearingens and their desire to enter the church.

"It was hard on our spiritual life to be away from Mass," Swearingen said. "When you don't go to church every Sunday, it makes it a little easier to get distracted with everyday life... and neglect personal devotion to God. We proved we could be shaken but remain in faith."

During the stay at home order the family enjoyed Mass livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, as well as on EWTN. Their final RCIA classes were completed virtually.

The family was elated when they were told they

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Training...

Cont'd from Page 10

He referred to the models of ministry such as the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Bible study, faith-sharing groups for the adults, catechesis for the children, youth ministry for teens, RCIA, and community service. With all that is offered within a church, some parishes have not seen the abundance of people (this was before the coronavirus started) as hoped.

Church staff would like to see parishioners returning, being an active member, and helping with different ministries. "It's highly beneficial to people to be part of a parish in this life, not just for the next—but so many people don't know it. They don't know what God can do for them, through the ministry of the church..." he commented.

Because of the effects of the coronavirus this year, many Christians have given their messages on TV, radio, and Internet about their concerns. When asked about what Catholics in West Virginia should do? Maul responded, "Christ told Peter to found a church, and a church is a community of people living out their faith in unity... Christ came to fulfill people's earthly needs—people need to be seen, heard, touched, held, listened to, walked with and be enveloped in a community of love. I don't think the Internet affords us the opportunity to love people as Christ loved people. We've got to get back to live and in-person ministry as

soon as possible."

For those who just don't quite know yet what ministry to take part in, there are other areas to help with. Gardeners can bring their beautiful flowers for the altar or to decorate the social hall.

Just by playing their piano, flute, or violin instrumentalists and vocalists with their gifted singing voices can soothe so many souls just sitting at the pews searching for spiritual help. However, because of COVID-19 concerns, choirs are limited at this time.

Since taking office in January, Maul has not been able to have regular communication with the youth and young adult population. However, during his previous role as director of Religious Education at an Illinois urban parish, he worked with them very often.

Remembering his days with them, he remarked, "Young people are immature and make mistakes; they admit it. But, they need a community that accepts them—sin and all—supports them, will help and guide them, and won't give up on them. The youth are out there, who need a community to love and support them, and only a community rooted in the love of God and love of neighbor can truly do that..."

Look more closely at parish life and make a difference for your family, others, and yourself. If interested in the catechist training, join this summer.

Look for updates on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DWCFormationandMission>.

Publish...

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to be removed and the e-mail to send the e-version of the newspaper.

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Norms...

Cont'd from Page 3

d. Fund Raising Auctions, Craft Fairs or public events with or without food or beverage service: At this time, these events are not permitted to resume.

e. Athletics: Indoor athletic practices, games or recreational activities on parish property are not permitted to resume at this time. Guidance for Catholic School facilities is available through the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

f. Fellowship: Per the guidelines already distributed for the resumption of public litur-

gies, no coffee, donuts or other gatherings are permitted in halls, gymnasiums or other church properties.

g. Bingo: Bingo is not permitted to resume at this time.

h. Rentals: Parish halls and gymnasiums are not available for parishioner or public rental at this time.

Outdoor Facilities and Venues: While outdoor events appear to provide more flexibility, it is important that care be taken to keep these events safe. Therefore safe-distancing is important as is the wearing of masks and meals are not to be served at these locations.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE SUMMER 2020

Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, and St. Jude, Glen Dale, at Our Lady of Peace

Thursday, June 25: 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, June 27 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Michael, Wheeling

Saturday, July 11: 10:00 a.m. and Monday, Aug. 10: 5:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Chester

Sunday, July 12: 11:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, Fairmont

Friday, July 17: 6:00 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling

Saturday, July 18: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg

Sunday, July 19: 11:00 a.m.

St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton

Wednesday, Aug. 5: 7:00 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans

Saturday, Aug. 8: 11:00 a.m.

St. Agnes, Charleston and St. Anthony, Charleston, at St. Agnes

Saturday, Aug. 8: 5:00 p.m.

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Sunday, Aug. 12: 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (4:00 Mass if necessary)

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown

Wednesday, Aug. 12: 7:00 p.m.

St. Leo, Inwood

Saturday, Aug. 15: 10:00 a.m.

St. Agnes, Shepherdstown

Sunday, Aug. 16: 9:00 a.m.

St. Joseph, Martinsburg (to be held at St. James Parish, Charles Town)

Sunday, Aug. 16: 3:30 p.m.

St. Sebastian, Kingwood; St. Zita Mission, Mason; St. Edward the Confessor, Mission, at St. Sebastian

Friday, Aug. 21: 6:00 p.m.

St. Peter Welch and Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan, at Sacred Heart Mission

Saturday, Aug. 22: 5:30 p.m.

St. Francis de Sales, Beckley

Sunday, Aug. 23: 11:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi, Warwood

Saturday, Aug. 29: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

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Corte Suprema rechaza plan de administración Trump para terminar con DACA

Por Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — En uno de los casos más esperados de toda la gestión, la Corte Suprema de Justicia, el 18 de junio, falló en contra de los esfuerzos de la administración del presidente Donald Trump para poner fin al programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, conocido como DACA.

En una decisión 5-4, la corte dijo que las acciones de la administración de Trump al rescindir el programa fueron “arbitrarias y caprichosas”.

El noviembre pasado, la corte examinó tres sentencias separadas del Tribunal de Apelación que bloquearon la orden ejecutiva de 2017 del presidente Donald Trump para poner fin a DACA, un programa que comenzó en 2012 por orden ejecutiva bajo la administración del presidente Barack Obama. Este programa ha permitido a más de 700,000 jóvenes calificados (a quienes se les llama “Soñadores”) poder trabajar, ir a la universidad, obtener un seguro de salud, una licencia de conducir, y no enfrentar deportación. Estos jóvenes adultos fueron traídos a Estados Unidos por sus padres sin documentación legal cuando eran niños.

“Recibimos con agrado la decisión de la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos que señala que la administración Trump no siguió los procedimientos administrativos necesarios para derogar el programa DACA”, dijo un comunicado de la Conferencia de Obispos

Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB por sus siglas en inglés).

“Para los jóvenes de DACA, con esta decisión de hoy y en el futuro, continuaremos acompañándolos a ustedes y a sus familias. Ustedes son una parte vital de nuestra iglesia y nuestra comunidad de fe. Estamos con ustedes”, dijo la declaración del arzobispo José H. Gómez de Los Ángeles, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, y el obispo auxiliar de Washington Mario E. Dorsonville, presidente del Comité de Migración de USCCB.

Los obispos exhortaron al presidente “reconsiderar fuertemente la terminación de DACA”, señalando que “las comunidades de inmigrantes realmente están sufriendo ahora en medio de COVID-19 y avanzar con esta acción innecesariamente coloca a muchas familias en mayor ansiedad y caos”.

También pidieron a los senadores de Estados Unidos “aprobar de inmediato una legislación que proporcione un camino a la ciudadanía para los ‘Soñadores’”. La protección legislativa permanente que supera el partidismo y pone en primer lugar la dignidad humana y el futuro de los “Soñadores” es algo que se está atrasando.

La opinión mayoritaria de la corte, escrita por el presidente del Tribunal Supremo John Roberts, señala que la acción de la corte no detiene esfuerzos futuros para terminar con DACA, pero que el gobierno no dio razones aceptables para terminarlo. También dijo

que la secretaria interina de Seguridad Nacional, Elaine Duke, en sus esfuerzos por dismantlar DACA en 2017, no usó todas las opciones para limitar el programa y no consideró cuán importante era para los participantes.

“Aquí la agencia no tuvo en cuenta los problemas conspicuos de si se debe mantener el perdón y qué hacer con respecto a las dificultades para los beneficiarios de DACA”, sostuvo la corte. “Esta doble falla genera dudas sobre si la agencia apreció el alcance de su discreción o si ejerció esa discreción de manera razonable. Por lo tanto, lo apropiado es devolverlo al DHS (el departamento de seguridad nacional) para que pueda considerar el problema nuevamente”.

Roberts fue acompañado en el voto mayoritario por los jueces Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan, y Sonia Sotomayor. Los jueces Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, y Brett Kavanaugh disputaron la decisión y dijeron que habrían permitido los esfuerzos de la administración de Trump para poner fin al programa.

Trump respondió a la decisión de la corte con un tuit: “¿Tienen la impresión de que a la Corte Suprema no le agrado?” y con otro que decía: “Estas decisiones horribles y políticamente cargadas que salen de la Corte Suprema son golpes en la cara de personas que se enorgullecen de llamarse republicanas o conservadoras”.

En la opinión disidente, Clarence Thomas escribió: “La decisión de hoy

debe ser reconocida por lo que es: un esfuerzo por evitar una decisión políticamente controversial pero legalmente correcta”.

También dijo que la acción de la corte simplemente proporcionó una medida provisional para proteger a los beneficiarios de DACA, pero ha dado “luz verde para futuras batallas políticas que se realizarán en esta corte en lugar de donde pertenecen legítimamente: en los poderes del gobierno”.

Los líderes católicos se unieron a más de 35 otros grupos para presentar informes de amigos de la corte instando a la corte a apoyar el programa DACA. Muchos líderes católicos reaccionaron positivamente con declaraciones y tuits inmediatamente después de anunciarse la decisión.

“Gracias a Dios, la Corte Suprema reconoció la dignidad humana de los beneficiarios de #DACA”, tuiteó el obispo John E. Stowe de Lexington, Kentucky, mientras que el arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio tuiteó: “Jóvenes adultos de DACA y familias, hoy sus lágrimas son lágrimas de alegría. ¡Estamos con ustedes!”

La hermana Patricia McDermott, presidenta de las Hermanas de la Misericordia, dijo en un comunicado que la decisión de la corte afirma lo que las Hermanas de la Misericordia “han creído todo el tiempo. ¡Estos jóvenes inmigrantes son nuestros vecinos, comparten nuestros bancos, están en nuestras universidades y están aquí para quedarse!”

Declaración sobre la decisión DACA de la Suprema Corte EE.UU.

Del obispo Mark Brennan

Yo me alegro con los inmigrantes que residen en West Virginia por la decisión reciente de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos, que rechazó la tentativa del gobierno federal de poner fin al programa DACA. La decisión de la Corte dará una medida de alivio a los jóvenes que fueron traídos a este país por sus padres, sin documentos, cuando sus hijos eran menores de edad. Por el momento, estos jóvenes no corren el riesgo de deportación.

Sin embargo, ya que la decisión de la Corte Suprema se basó en la falta, por parte del gobierno, de seguir procedimientos legales en su afán por derro-

car el programa DACA y no tocó la sustancia ni los méritos del programa, ésta no es una resolución adecuada de la situación peligrosa que viven los jóvenes afectados. Nos queda ahora la tarea de abogar de nuevo ante el congreso nacional por una protección más segura, la que una Ley daría a la porción de los ‘soñadores’ que se benefician del DACA. Gracias a Dios, la gran mayoría de los ciudadanos del país apoyan tal legislación para ellos. Ya es tiempo para que el congreso apruebe una ley justa y humana para este grupo de jóvenes, muchos de los cuales nunca han conocido ningún otro país fuera de los Estados Unidos.

Dios nos ha dado el mundo a todos los seres humanos. Este continente ha sido a través de su historia el destino de inmigrantes, desde los indígenas que vinieron del Asia hace miles de años hasta los que vinieron en los siglos más recientes de otros lugares. Los inmigrantes de hoy contribuyen al bienestar de este país, tanto como los del pasado. Los inmigrantes merecen el respeto y el apoyo de los que nacieron aquí. Hace falta una reforma exhaustiva de las leyes migratorias que refleje los valores más acogedores y humanos de esta nación. Que Dios bendiga este proyecto en favor de Su pueblo.

Reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar www.report-bishopabuse.org para informar. Si tiene razones para creer que un obispo se ha involucrado en una conducta sexual inapropiada o ha interferido con una investigación de conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.report-bishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: Póngase en contacto con la policía local; Los números variarán según su ubicación. Si crees que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llama al 911. Para reportar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios para la Protección Infantil de la Oficina de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800-352-6513.

Para informar a la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston: La Diócesis alienta a que se informe ante las autoridades civiles apropiadas, en primer lugar, así como 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 designados al 304- 233-0880. Las extensiones adecuadas se enumeran a continuación: Sr. Ellen F. Dunn, O.P., ext.264; Señor. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Rdo. Tim Bishop, ext. 353. También puede completar un “Formulario de Queja por Alegaciones de Abuso Sexual de un Menor” confidencial recogiendo uno en su parroquia local o solicitando uno por correo a la Coordinadora de Ambiente Seguro, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003. El formulario de queja también está disponible para descargar en el sitio web de la diócesis www.dwc.org, haga clic en Diócesis en la barra de menú, luego haga clic en Oficinas, haga clic en Entorno seguro y haga clic en la sección “Descargar archivos y formularios”. Está listado como “Formulario de Queja”. Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la Diócesis: Dr. Patricia M. Bailey: 304-242-6988

Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp> Policía del Estado de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Delitos contra los Niños, Crímenes de Internet contra los Niños

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"It's been a long time coming," Donald Swearingen said. "Despite all that has happened God remains my rock and salvation (Psalm 62:7)."

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