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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Golna Ordained to Priesthood

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. Schuekens, 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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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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INrSIDE: Catholic Schools Plan to Welcome Students Back in August, Page 2 | A Letter from Bishop Brennan on Diocesan Restructuring, Page 3
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.

“This will be the sixth year that 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 completely different kind of 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 scheduling 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,” said Deschaine. “At the same time, we 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 cleaning.

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, Parkersburg. With residence at St. Joseph the Worker rectory in collaboration with Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkers, 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.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities 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 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.

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Diocesan Restructuring Announced

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

1311 Byron Street
Past Office Box 230
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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 ongoing 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 Consultants, and Diocesan Finance Council. The major elements of that plan are:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 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, has 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 Diocese 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 Wheeling-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 all things work for good for those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose.

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The challenge before us is to believe what St. Paul tells us: God is able to make all things work for good for those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose.

We can become richer in faith and learn as we move forward, to use the resources we have been and still are encouraged to continue charitable outreach to the community during the pandemic, with special emphasis 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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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 drinks to be served. Any handouts must be taken home by those in attendance or discarded before leaving. Use projection devices when possible.
   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. However, 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 emphasis 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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Fraternally in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan
Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

June 29, 2020

Office of the Bishop

Diocesan Restructuring Announced

The Catholic Spirit 3
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.

“Our is really a sacrament ordered to the service of others, our brothers and sisters who are, through their baptism, 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 upcoming 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 faithful 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

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“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

Congratulations Father Golna & Deacon Szabo on your Ordinations

Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton
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 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 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, coworker, 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.

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 the 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.

“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 donot 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 accountabili- ty – 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) 253-0880 for assistance.

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 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.
Marists Leave Buckhannon’s Holy Rosary Church after 118 Years

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 appreciate, 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 Missionaries, 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

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

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.

“DACA is a promise that 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 Mari E. Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration.

The bishops urged the president to “strongly reconsider terminating DACA,” noting “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 parsimony and puts the 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 that denies 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 “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 determinations of the APA against a third country are not one of them.” Faith leaders and other immigrant advocates have long called for an end to this policy, labeling it “a back-door 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 “abandoned 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, which have not taken place since 2003, and said the executions would use a single drug protocol. The federal execution, which has been urged by the Department of Justice, 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 “abandoned 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.

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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 the 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 at 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 Senora 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 sadden 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, noting that he was “privileged” to consecrate 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 problems of the past are “wounding the country over historical monuments are important.”

“His 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 St. 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. Junipero 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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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.
The Catholic Spirit

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 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 area 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 sacrifice 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 Sts. 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 will have an Introduction to 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 Elkis will have Introduction to Catechesis Aug. 16.

In the Martinsburg Vicariate a Zoom session will be available Aug. 22, and Assumption of Our Lady Parish 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 catechists to share 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…”

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8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley, Bluefield, Lewisburg
10:00 WTOV MEV Wheeling, Steubenville
3:30 WVFX FOX 10 Clarksburg, Fairmont, Morgantown
10:00 DireTV 367 World Harvest Television
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,” he 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 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 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 overcame 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, 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 see “Family” on Page 14.

Do you know an exceptional Catholic in West Virginia, someone or a group who are shining examples of #FaithInWV? Email Joyce Bibey your feature idea to bibey@dwc.org. Visit FaithInWV.org and every issue of The Catholic Spirit to read more inspiring stories.
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, catechism 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.
Christ 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, Virginia should do? Maul responded, asked about what Catholics in West Virginia should do? Maul responded, asked about what Catholics in West Virginia should do? Maul responded, Progress made in communications 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.

Publish...
Cont’d from Page 1
be removed and the e-mail to send the e-version of the newspaper. By joining the e-mail distribution list, readers will receive the weekly e-version as well as the electronic version of the monthly print edition of The Catholic Spirit.
The electronic version of every issue of The Catholic Spirit is available under “Downloadable Spirit” at thecatholicspiritwv.org.

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 liturgies, no coffee, donuts or other gatherings are permitted in halls, gymnasia or other church properties.
g. Bingo: Bingo is not permitted to resume at this time.
h. Rentals: Parish halls and gymnasia 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 8: 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Agnes, Charleston and St. Anthony, Charleston, at St. Agnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 8: 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug. 12: 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (4:00 Mass if necessary)</td>
<td>St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Aug. 12: 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Leo, Inwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 15: 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Agnes, Shepherdstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug. 16: 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Joseph, Martinsburg (to be held at St. James Parish, Charles Town)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug. 16: 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Sebastian, Kingwood; St. Zita Mission, Mason; St. Edward the Confessor, Mission, at St. Sebastian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Aug. 21: 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Peter Welch and Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan, at Sacred Heart Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 22: 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Francis de Sales, Beckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug. 23: 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Corpus Christi, Warwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug. 29: 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>See page 18 for the times and locations of other confirmations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 seguidos de la justicia en los tribunales, Donald Trump entró a una corte de Estados Unidos, que rechazó la tentativa de fin de la política de Trump, y su padre, sin documentos, cuando sus hijos eran menores de edad. Por el momento, estos jóvenes no tienen la capacidad legal de tramitar sus documentos, y sus padres, sin documentos, cuando sus hijos eran menores de edad.

El obispo Mark Brennan, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, usó el obispo auxiliar de Washington, Mario E. Dorsonville, presidente del Comité de Migración de USCIS, los obispos exhortaron al presidente Trump a “reconsiderar fuertemente la terminación de DACA”. La medida de cancelación de la concesión de DACA es inadmisible. No tenemos los mismos jóvenes a los que dijimos en el pasado, y tampoco tenemos la intención de confiar en los jóvenes a los que en el pasado dijimos.

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 Supremo 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, esta decisión es un calvario y en el futuro pensaremos en nuestros jóvenes sin la guía y el apoyo que podríamos ofrecer. En lugar de poder terminar con DACA, pero no lo hizo razonables aceptables para terminar el programa. También dijimos que la secretaria interna de Seguridad Nacional, Elaine Duke, en sus esfuerzos para desmantelar DACA en 2017, no usó todos los medios disponibles para limitar el programa y no consideró cuánto importante era para los participantes. Aquí la agencia no tuvo en cuenta los problemas concretos de si se debe mantener el perdon y que hacer con respecto a las dificultades para los beneficiarios de DACA”, sostuvo el 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 a DHS (el departamento de seguridad nacional) para que pueda considerar el problema nuevamente.”


Trump respondió a la decisión de la corte con un tuit: “¿Tienen la impresión de que a la Corte Suprema no le agradó? 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 opinion disidente, Clarence Thomas escribió: “La decisión de hoy debe ser reconocida por lo que es: un esfuerzo por evitar una decisión política-mente controvertida.”

También dijo que la corte 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”. Muchos líderes católicos reaccionaron positivamente a un declaraciones y tuvieron inmediatamente después de anunciarse la decisión.

“Gracias a Dios, la Corte Suprema reconoció la dignidad humana de los ‘soñadores’”, dijo el obispo John E. Bowe, de Suffern, New York, 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 derogar el programa DACA y no tocó la sustancia ni los méritos del programa, esta no es una resolución adecuada de la situación peligrosa que viven los jóvenes afectados. Nos queda ahora la tarea de abogar por una ley que proporcione un camino a la ciudadanía para los ‘soñadores’. La protección legislativa permanente que supera el partidismo y el nacionalismo puede considerar el problema nuevamente.

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 nuestro país. Los inmigrantes que contribuyen al bienestar de este país, tanto como los del pasado. Los inmigrantes merecen el respeto y el apoyo de los que llegamos. Dios nos ha bendecido para que nuestros hijos, hoy sus lágrimas son lágrimas de algaría: ¡Estamos con ustedes!”


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 alientamos a utilizar wire reportbishop.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.reportbishop.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: Póngase en contacto con la policía local. Los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para reportar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comunícense con la Oficina de Servicios para la Protección Infantil de la Oficina de Núcleos 211, una línea gratuita 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 a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, en primer lugar, así como a las autoridades eclesiásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los designados al 304-233-0880. Las extensiones adecuadas se enumeran a continuación: Sr. Ellen E. Dunn, O.P., ext. 264; Sr. 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”.

Dios bendiga éste proyecto en favor de Su Santidad.
Family…

Cont’d from Page 11

would be entering the Church formally on Pentecost — the birthday of the Church.

“It was a very unique and memorable entrance into the Church,” he said. “Any ceremony at the cathedral is going to be an amazing one, at least for me. The cathedral is strikingly beautiful, and the style of music really makes the atmosphere holy and reverent.”

The Mass on Pentecost was emotional for the family. For Donald it was a long time coming, something he had longed for years and finally accepted as the greatest gift. For Jessica, when she received Communion, she felt the loving presence of her late father. Cailee too was overcome with emotion as she received the Sacred Body of Christ, as thoughts of her grandfather rushed over her.

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

ASSOCIATE IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY
MORGANTOWN, WV

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Associate Immigration Attorney for its Migration and Refugee Office located in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Responsibilities include: assists in the development and provision of services to immigrants and refugees in West Virginia; provides legal advice and representation in accord with the best practice of the profession; assists with all internal and external reporting and with the supervision of assigned interns/volunteers; interviews individuals seeking legal assistance and advises the client as to possible options through proper interpretation of current laws; and provides ongoing legal representation to the client commencing with the initial intake interview, drafting of documents, correspondence and client applications/petitions.

Required job qualifications: Law Degree (J.D.) required. Admission to the practice of law in any state and/or Washington, DC required. Completion of Continuing Legal Education required, in addition to any and all licensing requirements for the Jurisdiction where the attorney is licensed to practice. A year of experience practicing immigration law preferred. Bilingual (English and Spanish or French) preferred; public speaking skills in English and Spanish or French preferred. Ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks at once. Excellent interpersonal, team, and communication skills. Strong organizing skills and attention to details, especially with regard to immigration laws, guidelines, and policies. Ability to work effectively with diverse populations. Tolerance and sensitivity necessary in dealing with people with hardships. Must have a valid driver’s license and be able to drive and travel to court hearings.

Please send cover letter, resume and three references to Beth Zarate, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities WV, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, or bethzarate@ccwva.org. Applications will be accepted through July 6, 2020.

MIGRATION OUTREACH WORKER (Part-time)

Migration and Refugee Services, Morgantown Office Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a part-time Migration Outreach Worker (14 hours per week) to be located in Morgantown, WV. The Outreach Worker’s responsibilities include: Provide initial resettlement services with the Remote Placement Program and Cooperative Agreement guidelines. Provide continuous outreach services through the Refugee Support Services program to eligible populations via ORR guidelines. Develop a Resettlement Plan with each client, assist in job placement, and provide an action plan for self-reliance. Collaborate with the CCWVa Immigration Attorney for assistance with refugee permanent residency, work authorization documentation, family reunification petitions, and citizenship. Other duties as assigned.

Required qualifications include: Bilingual preferred (fluent in Spanish and English, or English and Arabic). Bachelor’s Degree preferred. Previous experience working with immigrant and/or refugee population required. Prior experience preferred working across cultures, in particular with trauma survivors. Ability to work independently, strong organizational skills and attention to detail, and ability to link clients to existing resources. Must have a valid driver’s license.

Please send cover letter, resume and three references to Beth Zarate, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities WV, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, or email tobethzarate@ccwva.org. Applications will be accepted through July 6, 2020.
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Dr. David Burkland
Medical Director of the Emergency/Trauma Department

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