

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Eastern Panhandle Producers Donate Truckloads of Food and Supplies for Flood Victims

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—Two truckloads of food and a third truck filled with cleaning supplies for victims of the recent catastrophic flood in Valley Grove, Triadelphia, and parts of Elm Grove arrived in Wheeling on June 30. The delivery was a collaborative effort between Community Markets Inc. (CMI) in Shepherdstown, St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, and Eastern Panhandle organizations and producers who donated the food and supplies after learning of the devastation left by the flood.

“They responded quickly,” said CMI Operations Manager Mark Peiffer, who helped deliver the food and supplies. “We pulled this together with the help of St. James, Simon of Cyrene Trucking, and Deacon Dave’s (Galvin) support and got it all here today.”

“We’re all West Virginians trying to help each other,” he added. “So, from the Eastern Panhandle to the north, here we are.”

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston provided funding as well as 15 volunteers (all diocesan employees at the chancery who helped unload the trucks) to help make the donation possible. And that donation included a wide variety of food from many generous Eastern Panhandle producers who wanted to help.

“Our farmers came through, and a lot of folks helped out to make this happen,” Peiffer said as trucks were being unloaded that day. “We have a whole variety of vegetables from Morgan County. From Berkeley County, we have peaches and meats from different butchers in the area. We have cheese from a goat at Shepherd’s Whey Creamery in Martinsburg as well; and jam and sweet breads, prepared and baked in Martinsburg.”

The trucks also brought in stacks of 40-pound bags of potatoes; boxes of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and other vegetables; bags of lettuce; crates of milk; boxes of bread; and more which were delivered to the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling.

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Colleen Rowan photo
Mark Peiffer, operations manager at Community Markets Inc. (CMI) in Shepherdstown, stands beside a stack of 40-pound bags of potatoes donated by Eastern Panhandle producers for flood victims in Ohio County. The bags were among food and supplies donated by these producers and delivered to the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling for the flood victims on June 30.



Colleen Rowan photo
Trucks filled with food and supplies for Ohio County flood victims arrive at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling on June 30 courtesy of Community Markets Inc. (CMI) in Shepherdstown, St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, and Eastern Panhandle organizations and producers.

Inside:



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To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.


Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below, at left, are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.





2025 Print Issues and Dates: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19



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Flood ...

Cont'd from Page 1

"This is one of the largest food donations we've ever seen, and it's coming at such a critical time," said Katie Hinerman-Klug, chief mission officer for Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa). "We're incredibly grateful for this outpouring of support for flood survivors in our community."

"Through collaborations with our community partners, we're ensuring this food reaches as many people as possible, in the most efficient way," she said.

CCWVa has partnered with several organizations in Wheeling to which it will distribute the food. They are Youth Services System, Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, the House of Hagar, the Wheeling Soup Kitchen, Life Hub Homeless Shelter, Laughlin Memorial Chapel, Salvation Army, and Chef Adam Luiso.

Hinerman-Klug said CCWVa will be working with others in the days to come.

"We'll also be dispersing food at two of the flood relief sites in affected areas," she said. "And we've expanded our food pantry guidelines to better meet the needs of those affected. Typically, our pantry clients must meet income requirements, and they can visit once a month on designated distribution days. But in response to this disaster, anyone impacted by the flooding can come to our pantry at any time, as often as needed."

The third truck, filled with recovery supplies, was taken to Wheeling University's McDonough Center which is a designated site for donations and distribution to flood victims. The truck brought tarps, shovels, crow bars, utility knives, work and disposable gloves, new socks, disinfectant wipes, contractor bags, storage bins, buckets, trash cans, scrub brushes, brooms, duct tape, muck boots, mops, bleach, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner, spray bottles, sponges and rags, hoses, and squeegees.

Peiffer said plans were to also deliver provisions to Marion County which also experienced severe flooding on June 15.

The June 14 flood in Ohio County left nine people dead. The hardest hit communities were Triadelphia and Valley Grove where homes, cars, businesses, and roads were washed away.

A special collection to support flood recovery efforts in Ohio and Marion counties will be held at Masses this weekend, July 5-6, at parishes and missions of the diocese. Diocesan officials said all of the money collected will remain in West Virginia and will be managed by Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) to support immediate and long-term needs met by CCWVa and affiliated Catholic agencies.

Donations can also be made on the diocese's website. Click here to visit page.



Above: Stacks of vegetables donated by Eastern Panhandle producers for flood victims stand at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling June 30. From the top right and down, diocesan employees unload the trucks: Cayla Morando from the Communications & Development departments carries a box of peaches; Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving, takes a box of vegetables passed along by Gregory Gust, assistant director for Marriage and Family Life; and Kathy Barton, director of the Social Ministries Office and interim director of Prison Ministry, and David Hanes, Technology Network engineer, carry boxes of jams into the center. Below: A stack of 40-pound bags of potatoes is unloaded from the trucks.

Colleen Rowan photos



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Charleston's St. Agnes Parish Brings Christ to State Capitol in Procession to Holy Year Pilgrimage Site



Courtesy photos

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 22, St. Agnes Parish in Charleston led a 4.3-mile Corpus Christi procession from the parish church to one of the diocese's designated pilgrimage sites — the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. From top left: Father Phillip Szabo, administrator of St. Agnes, and the faithful gather and pray for government employees and elected officials at the state Capitol; and the procession begins at St. Agnes Church.

By Joyce Bibey

Many parishes across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi in June with spectacular yet solemn, peaceful, and reverently prayerful processions, but one procession literally went the extra mile.

St. Agnes Parish in Charleston led a 4.3-mile Corpus Christi procession from St. Agnes Church all the way to one of the Diocese's designated Year of Hope pilgrimage sites — the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

More than 100 faithful of all ages participated with about 65 people walking the entire distance in extreme temperatures and humidity that day.

Local police officers guided the group as they

made the trek that crossed the Kanawha River. On the way to the Co-Cathedral, there was a significant pause. The group stopped at the state Capitol where an altar was set up on the Capitol steps, Father Phillip Szabo, administrator of St. Agnes, and the faithful gathered and prayed for government employees and elected officials.

Benediction was held at Sacred Heart. According to the faithful in the state's capitol city, "Charleston has never seen such a powerful witness of our faith!"

In the St. Agnes Parish bulletin for last week, June 29, Father Szabo shared as he noted, "just one of what I imagine will be many miracles that came from the procession:

"As we neared the Capitol building where we stopped to pray for our government leaders

and bless the Capitol complex, we passed a woman who was kneeling on the sidewalk as we went by. She ended up following us the rest of the way and told us a very surprising story after everything was over. She is a Catholic and explained that she had come to Charleston on that very day just to pray at the Capitol by herself, because of the increasing amount of unrest in the world.

"She had no idea that, on the one day she chose to pray at the Capitol, she would be met by Jesus Himself and all of us who were there to do the same thing!"

In closing, as Father Szabo says to his parishioners, "May God bless you all and may He bless us all with a growing love for His presence in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist!"

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Parish Collection will be July 19 & 20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Catholic Charities West Virginia is honored to serve as the social arm of our Diocese and to lead the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) in our state. We are deeply grateful for your faithful support and kindly ask for your continued generosity during this year's annual CCHD appeal on the weekend of July 19-20.

Founded by the U.S. bishops in 1969, CCHD addresses the root causes of poverty by supporting community-driven initiatives that foster independence and dignity. Recent grantees include organizations advocating for civil rights, creating access to childcare and healthcare, and launching community businesses like food co-ops and recycling centers.

In West Virginia alone, over \$500,000 has been awarded in re-

cent years. Current funding supports HOH-Share, Inc. in Wheeling, helping individuals experiencing homelessness obtain vital documents for employment and connect with second-chance job opportunities. Past recipients include Grow Ohio Valley and Coalfield Development.

With over 11% of Americans living in poverty, this campaign offers hope and lasting change. Your parish donations make it possible. Contributions can be made during the appeal weekend or afterward. Please make checks payable to your parish with CCHD in the memo line.

Thank you for your continued prayers, compassion, and support as we work together to uplift our neighbors in need.


Respectively,
 William (Bill) Hagy
 Diocesan Director for CCHD
 Director of Donor and Parish Relations
 Catholic Charities West Virginia

U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph Novitiate Engage in an Appalachian Immersion Retreat in Wheeling



Courtesy photo


Recently, Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters in Wheeling welcomed the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Novitiate for an Appalachian Immersion Retreat. The novitiate is one of the steps women from across the country take as they move towards becoming vowed Sisters of St. Joseph. Three novices, along with other members of the community, traveled from New York to Wheeling where they took part in the retreat experience, led by Sister Kathleen Durkin. Together they joined in prayer, visited local ministries, and learned about the Appalachian area. The group is pictured above.



Annual CCHD Collection


Within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Catholic Charities West Virginia and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) have been working for social change across the United States for over 50 years. Created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCHD works with a two-pronged approach. One arm educates Americans about the realities of poverty. The other arm confronts the unique challenges of those living in poverty by funding community and economic development projects. These organizations work in innovative ways to build self-reliance and power for those in poverty.

The annual Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston collection for CCHD is the weekend of July 19th and 20th.




Your support for this collection makes a difference in the lives of West Virginians living in poverty.

HOH-Share a project of the House of Hagar, empowers those who are most vulnerable, the homeless and poor, with a proactive approach to community organizing.



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Morgantown Parishioners Make a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral for Jubilee Year of Hope



Courtesy photo

Parishioners of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown are pictured with their pastor, Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, S.T.D., (third from left), during their pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling June 22.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling welcomed parishioners from St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown June 22 for a tour of the cathedral as part of their pilgrimage to Wheeling.

“It was a joy to share the beauty and history of our spiritual home with fellow pilgrims in this Jubilee Year of Hope!” cathedral officials said.

The cathedral is one of four of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Pilgrimage Sites in West Virginia for the Jubilee Year of Hope. The additional sites are the Basilica

of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, St. Patrick Church in Weston, and St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg.

From now to December 28, 2025, Catholics from all over West Virginia are invited to visit any and all of these locations and obtain a Jubilee Indulgence called for by the late Pope Francis. A Jubilee Indulgence is obtained after having completed:

1) Make a brief pilgrimage to one of the four locations designated as a pilgrimage site within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as a sign of

your deep desire for true conversion and hope in the Lord’s Goodness.

2) Pray. Devoutly participate in one of the following at any of the four locations: Holy Mass, Liturgy of the Hours (office of readings, lauds, vespers), Via Crucis (Way of the Cross/Stations of the Cross), and Rosary.

3) Confess in the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days before or after your pilgrimage.

4) Receive Holy Communion, reflecting on the hope God gives.

5) Pray for the Pope and for the intentions that he bears in his heart

for the good of the Church and of the entire world. Any prayer may be said, according to personal devotion, but the Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

Additionally, important to note, the Plenary Indulgence can be applied for yourself or souls of the deceased, but not other living souls. Further, a Plenary Indulgence can be gained only once per day. Though, a second can be obtained if it is applied to the souls in purgatory.

For information and updates, visit: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025.

‘We Pray Through Song’ - New Scripture Study Series to be Offered at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston

SOUTH CHARLESTON—Join John Shawler beginning Sunday, July 20, for a lively four-week journey that uncovers how beloved Catholic hymns echo the heartbeat of the Psalms. The goal of this series is to help Scripture speak to us long after Mass ends and to empower us to pray for the Psalms more confidently—whether we’re in the pews, with the choir, or at home with a playlist.

Each week we’ll break open a different hymn — “You Are Near” (Ps 139), “As the Deer Longs” (Ps 42), “On Eagle’s Wings” (Ps 91)—and any favorites you bring to the table. Together we’ll: Listen to the hymn, then trace its lyrics back to the biblical text. Learn a bit of musical and scriptural background so the words come alive with fresh meaning. Reflect on what the Psalm is saying to our lives right now. Pray and sing the hymn again—this time with deeper insight and shared voices.

Shawler hopes the series will spark ongoing conversation about how music shapes our faith and strengthens our parish’s sung prayer during Mass. Come join us in room 2 between the Masses from 10:15-11 a.m. All are welcome, parish officials said.

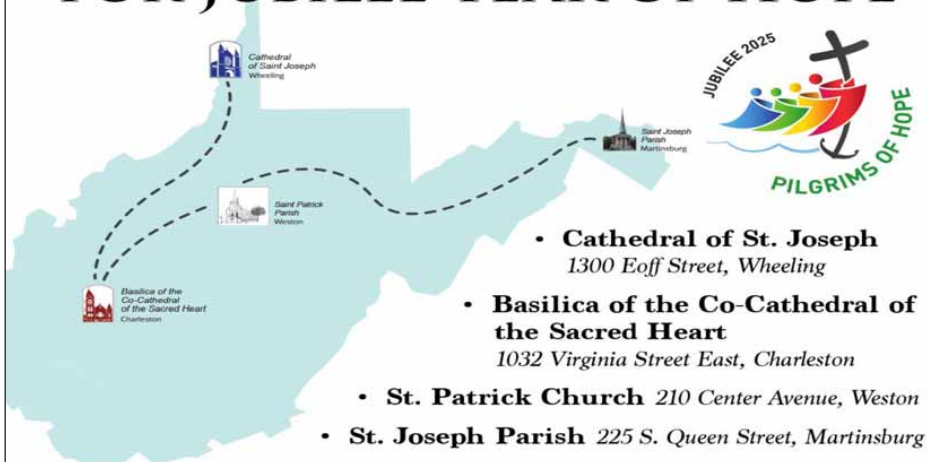
Fourth Annual St. Agnes Car Show to be Held July 12 in Shepherdstown

SHEPHERDSTOWN—The Fourth Annual St. Agnes Car Show is set for Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Rain Date: Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

St. Agnes Parish officials said the event is back by popular demand and will take place in the church parking lot. There is no fee to enter a car, but donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be dash plaques for the first 50 entries, and trophies will be awarded. Refreshments will be for sale as well. Registrations will be accepted the day of the show.

“We are looking for volunteers to assist with set up, clean up, and various needs during the event. We are also looking for donations for door prizes,” parish officials said. To help with the car show or to donate a door prize, contact Bill Donahue at the office or by email (formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

**DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
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- **Cathedral of St. Joseph**
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**
1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** (at site): Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

Faith Community Congratulates Father Anderson on Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood

Congratulations to Father William A Anderson, D. Min, PhD on his 62nd anniversary of ordination to the priesthood this June 23rd!

Born in Brooklyn, NY to Angor and Kathleen Anderson, he is the second oldest of nine siblings. Ordained a redemptorist priest 62 years ago, he came to West Virginia to minister 57 years ago.

During the years, he (1) conducted workshops and courses for catechists as well as being a Catechist himself, (2) was a pastor, (3) served on the first Diocesan Evangelization Commission, (4) wrote a commentary concerning the gospel reading for the Catholic Spirit for a number of years, (5) was an instructor and an academic coordinator in the first diocesan permanent Diaconate program, (6) taught extension courses for Wheeling Jesuit University in Christology and Ecclesiology, (7) taught in the Diocesan Religious Education Institute Summer program (REI) for several years, (8) was a long time chair of the Diocesan Art and Architect Committee as well as serving on the Presbyteral Council for 40 years, (9) was a Vicar and a consultant, and (10) authored 20 commentaries on the Old and New Testament (Liguori Publications), a Catechism, In His Light, a high school Church History Book, and books concerning the RCIA, Marriage Preparation, and Infant Baptism Preparation.

Since leaving parish administration, he has conducted parish missions, retreats, serves as a spiritual director, and conducts courses regarding the Catholic Faith on Facebook, has a YouTube Channel, and authors weekly Sunday reflections on the gospels.

He also has established Jacob’s Well Faith Group which gathers monthly, and he continues to celebrate the sacraments and Eucharistic liturgy.

In addition, he was responsible for the building of Saint Brendan in Elkins and for the establishment of Jacob’s Well House of Prayer. He earned two doctorates.

He has served in the following parishes/missions: Saint Francis de Sales (Beckley), Saint Brendan (Elkins), Saint John Bosco (Huttonsville), Saint Zita (Mason-town), Saint Sebastian (Kingwood), Saint Edward the Confessor (Terra Alta), Saint Patrick (Coalton), and celebrated Liturgy at United Hospital Center Chapel for eleven years. He also served at Saint Philomena in Rowlesburg, Saint Joseph in Howesville, Resurrection of Our Lord Mission in Belington, Tunnelton, and Wheeling Island.



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Archbishops Must Promote Unity, Seek New Ways to Share Gospel, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Archbishops around the world can provide by their example the fraternity and unity in diversity the entire Catholic Church needs today, Pope Leo XIV said.

“The whole church needs fraternity, which must be present in all of our relationships, whether between lay people and priests, priests and bishops, bishops and the pope,” he said during his homily at Mass on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul June 29.

“Fraternity is also needed in pastoral care, ecumenical dialogue and the friendly relations that the church desires to maintain with the world,” the pope said.

“Let us make an effort, then, to turn our differences into a workshop of unity and communion, of fraternity and reconciliation, so that everyone in the church, each with his or her personal history, may learn to walk side by side,” he said.

The feast day celebration in St. Peter’s Basilica included the traditional blessing of the pallium, the woolen band that the heads of archdioceses wear around their shoulders over their Mass vestments and symbolizes an archbishop’s unity with the pope and his authority and responsibility to care for the flock the pope entrusted to him.

Pope Leo revived a tradition begun by St. John Paul II in 1983 by personally placing the pallium around the shoulders of the recently named archbishops.

Pope Francis had changed the ceremony starting in 2015. The late pope had invited new archbishops to concelebrate Mass with him and be present for the blessing of the palliums as a way of underlining their bond of unity and communion with him, but the actual imposition of the pallium was done by the nuncio and took place in the archbishop’s archdiocese in the presence of his faithful and bishops from neighboring dioceses.

The Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff issued a formal notification June 11 that on June 29 Pope Leo would preside over the Eucharistic celebration, bless the palliums and impose them on the new metropolitan archbishops.

According to the Vatican, 54 archbishops from more than two dozen countries who were named over the past 12 months received the palliums. Eight of them were from the United States: Cardinal



CNS photo/Pablo Esparza
Cardinals and archbishops pray during a Mass marking the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican June 29.

Robert W. McElroy of Washington; Archbishop W. Shawn McKnight of Kansas City, Kansas; Archbishop Michael G. McGovern of Omaha, Nebraska; Archbishop Robert G. Casey of Cincinnati; Archbishop Joe S. Vásquez of Galveston-Houston; Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob of Milwaukee; Archbishop Richard G. Henning of Boston; and Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Detroit.

The pope blessed the palliums after they were brought up from the crypt above the tomb of St. Peter. Each archbishop then approached Pope Leo by the altar and either knelt or bowed their head as the pope placed the pallium over their shoulders. Each shared an embrace with the pope and a few words.

In his homily, the pope reflected on Sts. Peter and Paul — two saints who were martyred on different days and yet share the same feast day.

Sts. Peter and Paul were two very different people with different backgrounds, faith journeys and ways of evangelizing, Pope Leo said. They were at odds over “the proper way to deal with gentile converts” and would debate the issue.

And yet, they were brothers in the Holy Spirit, and they both shared “a single fate, that of martyrdom, which united them definitively to Christ,” he said.

Their stories have “much to say to us, the community of the Lord’s disciples,” he said, especially regarding the importance of “ecclesial communion and the vitality of faith.”

“The history of Peter and Paul shows us that the communion to

and at times argued with one another with evangelical frankness. Yet this did not prevent them from living the ‘concordia apostolorum,’ that is, a living communion in the Spirit, a fruitful harmony in diversity,” he said.

“It is important that we learn to experience communion in this way — as unity within diversity — so that the various gifts, united in the one confession of faith, may advance the preaching of the Gospel,” Pope Leo said.

Sts. Peter and Paul challenge Catholics to follow their example of fraternity and to think about “the vitality of our faith,” he said. “As disciples, we can always risk falling into a rut, a routine, a tendency to follow the same old pastoral plans without experiencing interior renewal and a willingness to respond to new challenges.”

The two apostles were open to change, new events, encounters and concrete situations in the life of their communities, the pope said, and they were always ready

See “Unity” on Page 10

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Unity ...

Cont'd from Page 9

“to consider new approaches to evangelization in response to the problems and difficulties raised by our brothers and sisters in the faith.”

In the day’s Gospel reading, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” which he continues to ask his disciples today, “challenging us to examine whether our faith life retains its energy and vitality, and whether the flame of our relationship with the Lord still burns bright,” the pope said.

“If we want to keep our identity as Christians from being reduced to a relic of the past, as Pope Francis often reminded us, it is important to move beyond a tired and stagnant faith,” he said, and ask: “Who is Jesus Christ for us today? What place does he occupy in our lives and in the life of the church? How

can we bear witness to this hope in our daily lives and proclaim it to those whom we meet?”

“Brothers and sisters, the exercise of a discernment born of these questions can enable our faith and the faith of the church to be constantly renewed and to find new paths and new approaches to preaching the Gospel. This, together with communion, must be our greatest desire,” he said.

Keeping with a long tradition, a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, led by Orthodox Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis of Chalcedon, was present at the Mass. Also present were members of the Synod of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The pope and the Orthodox metropolitan also descended the stairs below the main altar to pray at St. Peter’s tomb.

“I would like to confirm on this solemn feast that my episcopal

ministry is at the service of unity, and that the church of Rome is committed by the blood shed by Sts. Peter and Paul to serving in love the communion of all churches,” Pope Leo said before praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter’s Square.


“The New Testament does not conceal the errors, conflicts and sins of those whom we venerate as the greatest apostles. Their greatness was shaped by forgiveness,” he said. “The risen Lord reached out to them more than once, to put

them back on the right path. Jesus never calls just one time. That is why we can always hope. The Jubilee is itself a reminder of this.”

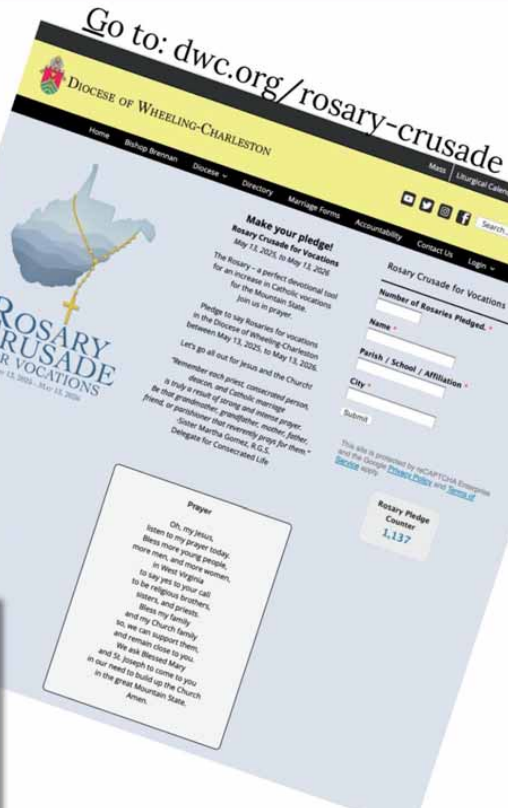
In fact, “those who follow Jesus must tread the path of the beatitudes, where poverty of spirit, meekness, mercy, hunger and thirst for justice, and peace-making are often met with opposition and even persecution,” he said. “Yet God’s glory shines forth in his friends and continues to shape them along the way, passing from conversion to conversion.”

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Supreme Court Says Parents Can Opt Kids out of Classroom Instruction with LGBTQ+ Themed Books

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The Supreme Court on June 27 ruled in favor of an interfaith group of Maryland parents who sought to opt their children out of classroom instruction pertaining to books containing LGBTQ+ themes to which they object on religious grounds.

A coalition of parents, including Muslims, Catholics and other Christians, and Jews, sued Montgomery County Public Schools' board when it refused to allow parents to opt their children out of classroom instruction using some materials containing LGBTQ+ themes.

The parents argued that the school board violated their First Amendment rights in doing so, as they objected to the materials on religious grounds.

Previously, a federal judge found that Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland's largest public school system and one of the country's most religiously diverse counties, does not have to give advance notice to parents so that they may opt their children out of classroom discussion and reading of the books in question while they pursued a challenge to the policy.

However, in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, the Supreme Court reversed the lower court's ruling, arguing that "the parents have shown that they are entitled to a preliminary injunction."

"A government burdens the religious exercise of parents when it requires them to submit their children to instruction that poses 'a very real threat of undermining the religious beliefs and practices that the parents wish to instill,'" Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the 6-3 majority.

"And a government cannot condition the benefit of free public education on parents' acceptance of such instruction," he said.

In a dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that public schools "offer to children of all faiths and backgrounds an education and an opportunity to practice living in our multicultural society."

"That experience is critical to our Nation's civic vitality," she said. "Yet it will become a mere memory if children must be insulated from exposure to ideas and concepts that may conflict with their parents' religious beliefs."

Sotomayor argued the ruling will create "chaos for this Nation's public schools." She said requiring schools "to provide advance notice and the chance to opt out of every lesson plan or story time that might implicate a parent's religious beliefs will impose impossible administrative burdens on schools."

In a statement, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the U.S. Conference of

Catholic Bishops' Committee on Religious Liberty, said, "Parents have a right to direct their children's education, especially regarding subjects that touch on faith and morals."

"Public schools in our diverse country include families from many communities with a variety of deep-seated convictions about faith and morals," Bishop Rhoades said. "When these schools address issues that touch on these matters, they ought to respect all families. Parents do not forfeit their rights as primary educators of their children when they send their kids to public schools. The parents in Montgomery County did not seek to impose their religious viewpoints on others; they simply asked to opt out of a program that was offensive to their faith."

"To be sure, children should not be learning that their personal identity as male or female can be separated from their bodies," he said. "But if a public school chooses to offer these kinds of programs, it ought to respect those who choose not to participate. The school board was wrong to interfere with the rights of the parents, and I am grateful that the Supreme Court has moved to rectify this injustice."

Eric Baxter, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, a religious liberty law firm representing the parents, welcomed the high court's decision.

"This is a historic victory for parental rights in Maryland and across America. Kids shouldn't be forced into conversations about drag queens, pride parades, or gender transitions without their parents' permission," he said in a statement.

"Today, the Court restored common sense and made clear that parents — not government — have the final say in how their children are raised," he said.

The Trump administration backed the interfaith coalition of parents. In comments at the White House on June 27, President Donald Trump called the ruling "a great ruling for parents."

"It's really a ruling for parents," he said.



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Supreme Court Limits Judges' Ability to Block Trump on Birthright Citizenship

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The U.S. Supreme Court on June 27 limited the ability of federal judges to issue nationwide injunctions in a case concerning the Trump administration's executive order to end birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to parents without legal status or temporary visa holders, without addressing whether or not the order itself is constitutional.

The high court, in a 6-3 decision, found that universal injunctions issued by federal judges to block that order resulting from lawsuits filed over it "likely exceed the equitable authority that Congress has granted to federal courts."

The ruling will allow — in part — an executive order President Donald Trump signed within hours of returning to the Oval Office in January that sought to end the practice of birthright citizenship for these children to be enforced. However, it also left in place the ability for judges to constrict it for those parties in lawsuits over it.

After Trump signed the order, it was promptly challenged in court by some parents of children whose citizenship would be impacted, who argued it unlawfully violated the 14th Amendment. The Trump administration argued that federal judges improperly blocked the order amid those lawsuits.

Writing for the majority, Justice Amy Coney Barrett said, "Federal courts do not exercise general oversight of the Executive Branch; they resolve cases and controversies consistent with the authority Congress has given them."

"When a court concludes that the Executive Branch has acted unlawfully, the answer is not for the court to exceed its power, too," Barrett

See "Citizen" on Page 12

Supreme Court Upholds Online Age Verification Laws to Protect Kids

By **Kurt Jensen, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — In upholding a Texas law requiring age verification to view online pornography, the U.S. Supreme Court June 27 aligned with an earlier proposal from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In 2023, Texas enacted a law requiring certain commercial websites publishing sexually explicit content that is obscene to minors to verify that visitors are 18 or older. The law applies to any website whose content is considered one-third or more "harmful to minors."

The justices were asked, in *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton*, to decide whether the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals should have applied a standard called strict scrutiny.

Representatives of the pornography industry sued Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, claiming that the law was unconstitutional under the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment, and that the statute hindered the

ability of adults to access online pornography sites.

But the justices ruled in a 6-3 decision that the law "only incidentally burdens the protected speech of adults" and does not fall under the strict scrutiny standard.

In the 50-page document "Create in Me a Clean Heart," revised several times, most recently in May to mark the 10th anniversary of its issuance, the bishops exhorted civil leaders, "Require age verification requirements on pornographic websites to protect children who are particularly vulnerable to exposure at earlier ages than ever before."

They emphasized that statement with a quote from the 18th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew: "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

Pornography used, the document continued, "hurts the user

See "Laws" on Page 12

Citizenship ...

Cont'd from Page 11 said. Barrett argued that a universal injunction against the order was not strictly necessary to provide those with standing to sue for relief from the order.

"Here, prohibiting enforcement of the Executive Order against the child of an individual pregnant plaintiff will give that plaintiff complete relief: Her child will not be denied citizenship," Barrett said. "Extending the injunction to cover all other similarly situated individuals would not render her relief any more complete."

Barrett, however, stressed, "The applications do not raise — and thus we do not address — the question whether the Executive Order violates the Citizenship Clause or Nationality Act."

In a dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote, "Children

born in the United States and subject to its laws are United States citizens. That has been the legal rule since the founding, and it was the English rule well before then."

Trump's order to effectively rewrite the long-standing legal interpretation of birthright citizenship, she said, was to "repudiate" the practice.

"The Government does not ask for complete stays of the injunctions, as it ordinarily does before this Court," Sotomayor said. "Why? The answer is obvious: To get such relief, the Government would have to show that the Order is likely constitutional, an impossible task in light of the Constitution's text, history, this Court's precedents, federal law, and Executive Branch practice. So the Government instead tries its hand at a different game. It asks this

Court to hold that, no matter how illegal a law or policy, courts can never simply tell the Executive to stop enforcing it against anyone. Instead, the Government says, it should be able to apply the Citizenship Order (whose legality it does not defend) to everyone except the plaintiffs who filed this lawsuit."

"The gamesmanship in this request is apparent and the Government makes no attempt to hide it," she added. "Yet, shamefully, this Court plays along."

Sotomayor argued, "No right is safe in the new legal regime the Court creates."

"Today, the threat is to birthright citizenship," she said. "Tomorrow, a different administration may try to seize firearms from law-abiding citizens or prevent people of certain faiths from gathering to worship. The majority holds that, absent cumbersome class-action lit-

igation, courts cannot completely enjoin even such plainly unlawful policies unless doing so is necessary to afford the formal parties complete relief. That holding renders constitutional guarantees meaningful in name only for any individuals who are not parties to a lawsuit."

In comments to reporters at the White House, Trump celebrated the ruling, arguing, "We've seen a handful of radical left judges effectively try to overrule the rightful powers of the president to stop the American people from getting the policies that they voted for in record numbers."

Trump said as a result of the ruling his administration would "promptly file to proceed" with several policies he said "have been wrongly enjoined at a nationwide basis, including birthright citizenship, ending sanctuary city

funding, suspending refugee resettlement, freezing unnecessary funding, stopping federal taxpayers from paying for transgender surgeries and numerous other priorities of the American people."

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Law ...

Cont'd from Page 11 by potentially diminishing his or her capacity for healthy human intimacy and relationships. It presents a distorted view of human sexuality that is contrary to authentic love, and it harms a person's sense of self-worth. Occasional use can turn into more frequent use that can then lead to an addiction to pornography."

For the protection of children, the bishops recommended that educators "should prohibit all (nonemergency) use of mobile devices during school hours; teach about the harms of porn beginning in middle school; be mindful and pastoral with students, parents, staff, and volunteers exhibiting signs of loneliness, isolation, or other symptoms of unhealthy private behavior" using a "theology of the body curriculum adapted for appropriate ages."

The Supreme Court opinion was written by Justice Clarence Thomas, with Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissenting.

Thomas wrote, "The power to require age verification is within a state's authority to prevent children from accessing sexually explicit content." He said the Texas law "is a constitutionally permissible exercise of that authority."

The law's sponsors, he noted, were concerned with minors' easy access to "hardcore pornographic content and videos," many of which depict "sexual

violence, incest, physical aggression, sexual assault, non-consent, and teens." He said they also asserted that "such pornography is 'addictive,' has harmful 'developmental effects on the brain,' and leads to 'risky sexual behaviors.'"

The law requires pornography sites to "use reasonable age verification methods ... to verify that an individual attempting to access the material is 18 years of age or older." This can include requiring verification through driver's licenses or state-issued ID cards.

"At least 21 other states have imposed materially similar age-verification requirements," Thomas noted, later adding, "Most states to this day also require age verification for in-person purchases of sexual material."

He wrote that the appellate court viewed the law as a "regulatio(n) of the distribution to minors of materials obscene for minors," which only incidentally implicates "the privacy of those adults" seeking to access the regulated content.

"History, tradition, and precedent recognize that states have two distinct powers to address obscenity," Thomas said. "They may proscribe outright speech that is obscene to the public at large, and they may prevent children from accessing speech that is obscene to children."

In their dissent, Justices Kagan, Sotomayor and Jackson wrote, "No one doubts that the distribution of sexually explicit speech to children, of the sort

involved here, can cause great harm. Or to say the same thing in legal terms, no one doubts that states have a compelling interest in shielding children from speech of that kind. What is more, children have no constitutional right to view it."

But the requirements of the Texas law, they argued, "interfere with — or, in First Amendment jargon, burden — the access adults have to protected speech: Some individuals will forgo that speech because of the need to identify themselves to a website (and maybe, from there, to the world) as a consumer of sexually explicit expression."

The Texas statute, they wrote, leads "under well-settled law, to just one conclusion: H.B. 1181 (the law at stake) is subject to strict scrutiny. Take a law burdening protected speech based on its content ... and the standard of review follows in its wake."

In November 2024, the USCCB filed an amicus brief in the case, with a particular focus on the use of smartphones by children increasing their potential exposure to the dangers of online pornography.

"Given the rise of smartphones," it stated, "if states like Texas cannot respond legislatively to the increased risks of ubiquitous pornography in the hands of children, then parents and religious communities will be left to fight this vicious plague alone. And it is likely to be a losing battle."

(Kurt Jensen writes for OSV News from Washington.)



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Slain Minnesota Lawmaker, Husband Remembered for Lives Lived ‘with Purpose, Meaning’

By OSV News

MINNEAPOLIS (OSV News) — Democratic State Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, who were shot dead in their home June 14, were remembered at their funeral Mass June 28 for living their lives “with purpose and meaning.”

“They lived lives in service of others, in community with those they loved, their family and their friends,” Father Daniel Griffith said in his homily during the Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, where he is pastor and rector.

“We honor the memory of Melissa and Mark Hortman, we honor the God who created them, redeemed them and gifted them,” said the priest, who also was the main celebrant of the liturgy.

To the couple’s grown son and daughter, Colin and Sophie, and other family members, he said, “Our hearts go out to you today and we will continue to be praying for you and with you and accompanying you in your grief.”

Over 1,000 people filled the basilica for the funeral — some media estimates put the attendance at 1,500. Former President Joe Biden and former Vice President Kamala Harris sat in a front pew. Other Mass-goers included Melissa Hortman’s fellow state lawmakers, as well as Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan and former Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton.

Gov. Tim Walz, who attended with his wife, Gwen, was a pallbearer and delivered a eulogy after the Mass.

The Hortmans were killed in their home in the western Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Park. Before they were fatally shot, state Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, were each shot multiple times in nearby Champlin. They underwent surgery, and John Hoffman is still recovering in the hospital. Yvette was released June 20.

After a nearly two-day manhunt that authorities described as the largest in state history, on June 15 police arrested a suspect in the shooting, Vance Boelter, 57. He was apprehended in a field near his home in Green Isle, Minnesota, officials said. State officials, including Walz, have said

they believe Boelter’s actions were politically motivated.

Boelter has been charged by the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office with two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of attempted second-degree murder.

Melissa Hortman, 55, was killed amid her 11th term in the Minnesota House of Representatives, where she served as the House Democrats’ leader from 2017-2019 and as speaker of the House from 2019-2025.

On June 27, she became the first woman to lie in state at the Minnesota Capitol rotunda. Alongside her were husband Mark and the couple’s beloved golden retriever, Gilbert, who was wounded in the attack before being euthanized, according to NBC News. Thousands paid their respects at the Capitol rotunda.

“Friends, God is present here in this basilica,” Father Griffith said in his homily. “The Catholic Mass is imbued with the love of God, who accompanies us at all times including in our grief and in our hope for new life. God is present here. God loves each of us, every one of us here, with a deep and abiding love, a transformative love. We need to hear this more often. It’s true.”

Father Griffith praised the Hortman’s children for their “grace and courage in the wake of the tragic death of your parents,” calling it extraordinary.

“Thank you both for your courage and for being a source of light and hope in the darkness,” he said.

Father Griffith said that in meeting with the late couple’s family and in exchanges with friends and colleagues, “two things stood out powerfully” about them. “There were two lights that guided them — service and community,” Father Griffith said. “Service and community are antidotes to our present afflictions as a state and as a nation.”

He said Sophie and Colin rightly “communicated that this funeral Mass should be a celebration” of their parents’ lives, but they also allowed him to comment on the state of the nation in light of what many have described as a politically motivated shooting that took their lives.

Sadly, the priest said, Minnesota has “been the ground



OSV News photo/Tim Evans, Reuters

The caskets of senior Democratic state assemblywoman Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, lie in state June 27, 2025, at the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul. The couple was shot dead in their home in a Minneapolis suburb June 14. A funeral Mass for them was celebrated June 28 at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis.

zero place” for racial injustice, with the 2020 killing of George Floyd “just miles from our church ... and now we are the ground zero place for political violence and extremism. Both of these must be decried in the strongest possible terms, as they are, respectively, a threat to human dignity and indeed our democracy.”

Racial disparities, some of the most acute in the country, persist here in Minnesota,” Father Griffith noted. “But friends, Minnesotans, this can be a ground zero place for restoration and justice and healing, but we must work together, and there is much more work to be done. Your presence here is a sign that we can do that work.”

The Hortmans are an example of how a commitment to service and community can bring about the common good, promoting “personal and collective flourishing, with always care for those on the margins.”

Melissa and Mark shared “similar values and interests, a rich humanity,” Father Griffith said. “Both manifested a dynamic pairing of head and heart — that is a powerful combination.”

“The family told me that their neighborhood was and is

an extraordinary place of community, and Mark and Melissa were the first to really foster that community,” he added, with the couple regularly hosting friends on the deck at their home for happy hours, card games or monthly gourmet dinners.

“The Hortman home and their commitment to intentional communities is a contrast to the idol of autonomy at all costs in our American culture, individualism and loneliness that many suffer from,” he said.

Father Griffith also spoke of Gilbert, the couple’s dog. The Hortmans had worked with a local nonprofit, Helping Paws, to help train service dogs for veterans.

“They trained one successfully to go on to be a service dog,” he said. “The other, Gilbert, had quite an attachment to Melissa. ... When Gilbert had to go into service, Melissa was wrecked and emotional, and the family wonders if Gilbert maybe failed that assignment on purpose so he could head back to the Hortman house.”

At the end of the Mass, Colin Hortman offered a prayer with his fiance standing next to him. He recited the Prayer of St. Francis, which begins: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love.” His mother kept a worn copy of the prayer in her purse.

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Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

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- Work irregular hours including weekends and evenings.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Collaborates with the Office of Faith Formation and the Charleston Vicariate in offering joint young adult ministry opportunities.

- Participate in and attend Vicariate, Diocesan, and other professional enrichment gatherings.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise support staff of the center.

- Support ministry volunteers and committees.

SUPPORT VOLUNTEER PEER MINISTERS.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

- M.A. in Theology, Religious Education or related field preferred.

- C.C.M.A. Certification preferred.

- Working knowledge of USCCB CM document "Empowered by the Spirit."

- Sound knowledge of the Theological tradition of the Catholic Church.

- Practical experience and theoretical knowledge of young adult Catholics and the special needs, concerns, and developmental tasks which are theirs.

- Experience in and knowledge of campus life.

- Interpersonal communication skills.

- Word processing and related computer skills.

- Effective presentation skills.

- Ability to organize and facilitate meetings.

- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Click here for full job description and to apply.

Los arzobispos deben promover la unidad y buscar nuevas formas de compartir el Evangelio, dice el Papa

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) -- Los arzobispos de todo el mundo pueden proporcionar con su ejemplo la fraternidad y la unidad en la diversidad que toda la Iglesia Católica necesita hoy, dijo el Papa León XIV.

"Todos necesitamos de esa fraternidad. Lo necesita la Iglesia, lo necesitan las relaciones entre los laicos y los presbíteros, entre los presbíteros y los obispos, entre los obispos y el Papa", dijo el Santo Padre durante su homilía en la Misa en la fiesta de San Pedro y San Pablo el 29 de junio.

"Así como lo necesitan la vida pastoral, el diálogo ecuménico y la relación de amistad que la Iglesia desea mantener con el mundo", dijo el Papa.

"Comprometámonos a hacer de nuestras diversidades un taller de unidad y comunión, de fraternidad y reconciliación para que cada uno en la Iglesia, con la propia historia personal, aprenda a caminar junto con los demás", dijo.

La celebración de la fiesta en la Basílica de San Pedro incluyó la tradicional bendición del palio, la banda de lana que los prelados que lideran de arquidiócesis llevan alrededor de los hombros sobre sus vestiduras de Misa y que simboliza la unidad de un arzobispo con el Papa y su autoridad y responsabilidad para cuidar del rebaño que el Papa le ha confiado.

El Papa León revivió una tradición iniciada por San Juan Pablo II en 1983 al colocar personalmente el palio sobre los hombros de los arzobispos recién nombrados.

El Papa Francisco había cambiado la ceremonia a partir de 2015. El difunto papa había invitado a los nuevos arzobispos a concelebrar Misa con él y a estar presentes en la bendición de los palios como forma de subrayar su vínculo de unidad y comunión con él, pero la imposición del palio en sí la realizaba el nuncio y tenía lugar en la arquidiócesis del arzobispo en presencia de sus fieles y de obispos de diócesis vecinas.

La Oficina para las Celebraciones Litúrgicas del Sumo Pontífice emitió una notificación formal el 11 de junio en la

que informaba de que el 29 de junio el Papa León presidiría la celebración eucarística, bendeciría los palios y los impondría a los nuevos arzobispos metropolitanos. Según el Vaticano, 54 arzobispos de más de dos docenas de países que fueron nombrados en los últimos 12 meses recibieron los palios. Ocho de ellos procedían de Estados Unidos: el cardenal Robert W. McElroy de Washington; el arzobispo W. Shawn McKnight de Kansas City, Kansas; el arzobispo Michael G. McGovern de Omaha, Nebraska; el arzobispo Robert G. Casey de Cincinnati; el arzobispo Joe S. Vásquez de Galveston-Houston; el arzobispo Jeffrey S. Grob de Milwaukee; el arzobispo Richard G. Henning de Boston; y el arzobispo Edward J. Weisenburger de Detroit.

El Papa bendijo los palios tras sacarlos de la cripta sobre la tumba de San Pedro. A continuación, cada arzobispo se acercó al Papa León junto al altar y, arrodillados o inclinando la cabeza, el Papa les colocó el palio sobre los hombros. Cada uno compartió un abrazo con el Santo Padre e intercambiaron algunas palabras.

En su homilía, el Papa León reflexionó sobre los santos Pedro y Pablo, dos santos que fueron martirizados en días diferentes y que, sin embargo, comparten la misma fecha festiva en el calendario de la Iglesia. Pedro y Pablo eran dos personas muy diferentes, con antecedentes, itinerarios de fe y modos de evangelizar distintos, dijo el Papa León. Estaban en desacuerdo sobre la forma adecuada de tratar a los gentiles convertidos y debatían sobre el tema.

Sin embargo, eran hermanos en el Espíritu Santo, y ambos "fueron llamados a vivir un único destino, el del martirio, que los asoció definitivamente a Cristo", dijo.

Sus historias tienen mucho que decirnos a nosotros, "la comunidad peregrina de los discípulos del Señor en nuestro tiempo", dijo, especialmente sobre la importancia de "la comunión eclesial y la vitalidad de la fe".

"La historia de Pedro y Pablo nos enseña que la comunión a la que el

Señor nos llama es una armonía de voces y rostros, no anula la libertad de cada uno", dijo el Papa León.

"Nuestros patronos han recorrido caminos diferentes, han tenido ideas diferentes, a veces se enfrentaron y discutieron con franqueza evangélica. Sin embargo, eso no les impidió vivir la 'concordia apostolorum', es decir, una viva comunión en el Espíritu, una fe cunda sintonía en la diversidad", dijo.

"Es importante aprender a vivir la comunión de ese modo, como unidad en la diversidad, para que la variedad de los dones, articulada en la confesión de la única fe, contribuya al anuncio del Evangelio", dijo el Papa León.

Los santos Pedro y Pablo desafían a los católicos a seguir su ejemplo de fraternidad y a reflexionar sobre "la vitalidad de nuestra fe", dijo. "En la experiencia del discipulado, de hecho, siempre existe el riesgo de caer en la rutina, en el ritualismo, en esquemas pastorales que se repiten sin renovarse y sin captar los desafíos del presente".

Los dos apóstoles estaban abiertos al cambio, a nuevos acontecimientos, encuentros y situaciones concretas en la vida de sus comunidades, dijo el Papa, y siempre estaban dispuestos dejarse "interrogar por los acontecimientos, los encuentros y las situaciones concretas de las comunidades, de buscar caminos nuevos para la evangelización partiendo de los problemas y las preguntas planteados por los hermanos y hermanas en la fe".

En la lectura del Evangelio del día, Jesús preguntó a sus discípulos: "¿Quién dicen que soy yo?", que sigue preguntando a sus discípulos hoy, desafiándonos a examinar si nuestra vida de fe conserva su energía y vitalidad, y si la llama de nuestra relación con el Señor sigue ardiendo, dijo el Papa.

"Si no queremos que nuestro ser cristiano se reduzca a una herencia del pasado, como tantas veces nos ha advertido el Papa Francisco, es importante salir del peligro de una fe cansada y estática", dijo, y preguntarse: "¿Quién es hoy para nosotros Jesucristo? ¿Qué lugar ocupa en nuestra vida y en la ac-

ción de la Iglesia? ¿Cómo podemos testimoniar esta esperanza en la vida cotidiana y anunciarla a aquellos con quienes nos encontramos?".

"Hermanos y hermanas, el ejercicio del discernimiento, que nace de estos interrogantes, le permite a nuestra fe y a la Iglesia que se renueven continuamente y que experimenten nuevos caminos y nuevas prácticas para el anuncio del Evangelio. Esto, junto a la comunión, debe ser nuestro primer deseo", afirmó. Siguiendo una larga tradición, una delegación del Patriarcado Ecuménico de Constantinopla, encabezada por el metropolitano ortodoxo Emmanuel Adamakis de Calcedonia, estuvo presente en la Misa. También asistieron miembros del Sínodo de la Iglesia greco-católica ucraniana. El Papa y el metropolitano ortodoxo bajaron también las escaleras bajo el altar mayor para rezar ante la tumba de San Pedro.

"Quiero ... confirmar en esta fiesta solemne que mi servicio episcopal es servicio a la unidad y que la Iglesia de Roma está comprometida por la sangre de los santos Pedro y Pablo a servir, en el amor, a la comunión entre todas las Iglesias", dijo el Papa León antes de rezar el Ángelus con los reunidos en la plaza de San Pedro.

"El Nuevo Testamento no esconde los errores, las contradicciones, los pecados de aquellos que veneramos como los más grandes apóstoles. Su grandeza, en efecto, ha sido modelada por el perdón", dijo. "El Resucitado los fue a buscar, más de una vez, para traerlos de nuevo a su camino. Jesús no llama una sola vez. Es por esto que todos podemos esperar siempre, como también nos recuerda el Jubileo".

De hecho, "quien sigue a Jesús se encuentra recorriendo el camino de las bienaventuranzas, en el que la pobreza de espíritu, la mansedumbre, la misericordia, el hambre y la sed de justicia, y el trabajo por la paz encuentran oposición e incluso persecución", dijo. "Y, sin embargo, la gloria de Dios brilla en sus amigos y a lo largo del camino los va modelando, cada vez que se convierten".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación.

Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911.

Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual

de la diócesis al 833.230.5656.

Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381.

EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida.

Enlaces e información:

Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

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