After Fever Subsides, Pope Undergoes Scans That Rule out Infection

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recovering from colon surgery, Pope Francis briefly ran a fever late July 7, leading his doctors to perform a CT scan of his abdomen and chest the next morning to check for signs of infection.

The results of the scan were negative, as were the results of “routine and microbiological examinations,” the Vatican press office said July 8.

“His Holiness Pope Francis spent a quiet day, eating and moving unassisted,” the press office said in its daily update on how the pope is recovering after undergoing a three-hour surgery July 4 at Rome’s Gemelli hospital.

As with any operation, but especially intestinal surgery, infection is a major post-op concern.

Before the passing fever, the press office said, Pope Francis had sent a message of “paternal closeness” to the “young patients in the nearby pediatric oncology and children’s neurosurgery wards.”

See “Pope” on Page 2

Madonna Students Join Pro-Life Group in Fourth of July Parade

Students from Madonna High School in Weirton carry the banner in the city’s Fourth of July Parade (above). Students are also pictured before the parade begins. The students marched for the Weirton Catholic Pro-Life Group.

Courtesy Photos
Vatican Has No Automatic Transfer of Powers with Pope in Hospital

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The organization of the universal Catholic Church has a precise hierarchy, but there is no such thing as a “vice pope,” who steps in when the reigning pontiff is traveling abroad, ill or under anesthesia.

Although hospitalized since July 4, when he underwent a three-hour surgery on his colon, Pope Francis is still the supreme pontiff and fully in charge.

Some news outlets, like the Italian agency ANSA, reported that with the pope in Rome’s Gemelli hospital, “the cardinal camerlengo,” or chamberlain, has taken on the role of administrative head of the Vatican.

The current camerlengo is U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Diacony for Laity, the Family and Life.

But according to the apostolic constitution, “Universi Dominici Gregis,” issued by St. John Paul II in 2007 and updated by then-Pope Benedict XVI in 2013, the camerlengo’s duties begin only with the reported death of a pope.

“We are not in that situation,” Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, told Catholic News Service July 7. “The pope is fully lucid; he can call anyone. If there is anything urgent, a person can go to him.”

Neither the apostolic constitution nor the Code of Canon Law make provisions for an automatic transfer of any of the papal powers when a pope is away from the Vatican or incapacitated, he said.

With the pope in the hospital, officials of the Vatican and of the Diocese of Rome, whose bishop is the pope, continue with the responsibilities he delegated to them by appointing them in the first place.

Bishop Arrieta said Pope Francis can, at any time, delegate special powers to someone in the Roman Curia. But until and unless he does so, the “temporal affairs” of the Vatican are handled by the Secretariat of State.

Pope ...

Cont’d from Page 1

“At this particular moment, he looks toward all those who suffer, expressing his closeness to the sick, especially those most in need of care,” the press office said.

The Vatican’s July 7 midday bulletin, issued before the pope’s temporary temperature, said the doctors had removed his intravenous drip, and that “the post-operative progress of His Holiness Pope Francis continues to be regular and satisfactory.”

“The Holy Father has continued to eat regularly, and infusion therapy has been suspended,” it added.

Announcing that the pope had arrived at the Rome hospital July 4, the Vatican had said he was to undergo “a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon.”

The next morning, the Vatican said the surgery lasted three hours and included “a left hemicolectomy,” the removal of the descending part of the colon, which can be recommended to treat diverticulitis, when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestine or colon become inflamed or infected.

Three days after surgery, the Vatican said, “the final histological examination has confirmed a severe diverticular stenosis with signs of sclerosing diverticulitis,” a hardening of the tissue. The statement seemed to indicate that the biopsy showed no cancerous cells.

“Pope Francis is touched by the many messages and the affection received in these days, and expresses his gratitude for the closeness and prayer,” the Vatican message said.

Pope Francis is expected to remain in the hospital at least until July 11. Since the pontificate of St. John Paul II, the Gemelli hospital, part of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, has maintained a suite of rooms on the 10th floor for use by the pope.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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 enforce- ment: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report an incident 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 1.888.434.6257 or 304.233.0800: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuilkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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Vatican Indicts Cardinal Becciu, Former Officials Involved in London Deal

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an unprecedented move, Vatican prosecutors have indicted 10 individuals and entities, including Cardinal Angelo Becciu, former prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, on charges ranging from embezzlement to money laundering and abuse of office.

The indictment included charges against “ecclesiastical and lay personnel of the Secretariat of State and senior figures of the former Financial Information Authority, as well as external figures active in the world of international finance,” the Vatican said July 3.

Their trial at the Vatican was set to begin July 27. In a statement released by his lawyers shortly after the announcement, Cardinal Becciu declared his “absolute innocence,” saying he was “the victim of a plot hatched against me.”

Cardinal Becciu said the accusations exposed him to “an unparalleled media pillory to which I did not defend myself, suffering in silence.” However, in November, he filed a lawsuit against the Italian magazine L’Espresso, claiming their reporting resulted in him losing his chance at becoming pope.

“Only by considering this great injustice as a test of faith can I find the strength to fight this battle for truth,” the cardinal said. “Finally, the moment of clarification is coming, and the court will be able to find the absolute falsity of the accusations against me and the dark plots that have evidently sustained and fed them.”

In April, the pope updated the laws governing the Vatican’s civil judicial system, stating that cardinals and bishops accused of a crime could be tried in a Vatican court, which, as it turned out, paved the way for the indictment against Cardinal Becciu.

The new law requires the pope’s approval before a cardinal can be indicted, approval Pope Francis gave for charging Cardinal Becciu.

The charges stem from a Vatican investigation into how the Secretariat of State used $200 million to finance a property development project in London’s posh Chelsea district and incurred millions of dollars in debt.

The investigation, which spanned across several countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Great Britain, the British island of Jersey, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Switzerland, “brought to light a vast network of relationships with financial market operators that have generated substantial losses for the Vatican finances, also drawing from resources destined for the personal charitable works of the Holy Father,” the indictment stated.

Cardinal Becciu was forced to offer his resignation to the pope in September, after he was accused of embezzlement and the expenditure of an estimated $100,000 euros ($116,361) of Vatican funds and redirecting them to Spes, a Caritas organization run by his brother, Tonoino Becciu, in his home Diocese of Ozienni, Sardinia.

According to several Vatican sources, a meeting of the Council of Cardinals was held in the Diocese of Ozienni, Sardinia, in an attempt to return Spes to Bishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Ozienni, Sardinia. In an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera in October, Mauro Carlino, the former secretary of then-Archbishop Becciu when he served as “sostituto,” said No. 3 position in the Vatican Secretariat of State, who is accused of extortion and abuse of office; and Fabrizio Tiraboschi, a former official at the Secretariat of State accused of corruption, extortion, embezzlement, fraud and abuse of office.

Enrico Crasso, a long-time investment manager who worked with the Vatican, faces the most charges, including embezzlement, extortion, corruption, extortion, money laundering, abuse of office, forgery and falsifying documents.

Two companies owned by Crasso — Prestige Family Office SA and Sogener Capital Investment — were included in the indictment.

Several other players involved in the majority stake purchase of the London property were also indicted, including Gianlugi Torzi, an Italian broker who served as the middleman in the development deal, and London-based Italian financier Raffaele Minciante, the owner of the London property who is accused of embezzlement, fraud, abuse of office, misappropriation of funds and money laundering.

Torzi faces several charges, including the extortion of $17 million from the Vatican as payment for the majority stake and his role in brokering the deal. Nicola Squillace, a Milan-based lawyer who helped broker the London property deal, was also indicted on charges of fraud, embezzlement, and money laundering.

Cecilia Marogna, an Italian political analyst who allegedly was hired as a consultant by Cardinal Becciu, was also indicted on charges of embezzlement through a humanitarian organization she ran in Slovenia. The organization, Logisticharitnane Dejavnosti, was also indicted in the indictment.

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The discovery of vaccines is “one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine,” but the global community is facing the dual challenges of giving everyone access to them and overcoming “vaccine hesitancy,” especially when it is based on false information, said the Pontifical Academy for Life and the World Medical Association.

The academy and the association of national physicians’ groups had been planning a major conference on vaccination in general when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. While the conference may take place in the future, the Pontifical Academy for Life, World Medical Association and German Medical Association held an online webinar July 1 to look specifically at the COVID-19 vaccine.

At the end of the meeting, the groups called on governments, pharmaceutical companies, religious groups and others to work together to “ensure equitable global access to vaccines, which is a key prerequisite for a successful global vaccination campaign, and to confront vaccine hesitancy by sending a clear message about the safety and necessity of vaccines and countering vaccine myths and disinformation.”

Dr. Frank Ulrich Montgomery, chair of the council of the World Medical Association, told reporters July 2: “There is probably no other invention in medicine that has saved more lives and prevented more suffering than vaccination.

We have eradicated smallpox, we have saved more lives and prevented more suffering than vaccination. The academy described as “exaggerated individualism” an attitude that insisted on one’s personal rights while not taking into account that behavior’s impact on others.

He also said the webinar highlighted how “vaccine hesitancy” has a variety of motivations and a person who is “vaccine hesitant” and could benefit from counteracting vaccine myths and necessity of vaccines and prevention because of the ignorance or reluctance of their parents.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, academy president, told reporters at a Vatican news conference that there is an obvious difference between a person who has a firm “ideological” position against vaccination and a person who is “vaccine hesitant” and could benefit from more information and encouragement.

In response to questions about the COVID-19 vaccine’s connections to abortion, Archbishop Paglia repeated the response of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which urged Catholics to pressure pharmaceutical companies to stop using cells derived from fetuses aborted decades ago to manufacture or test vaccines, but also said when no other effective vaccines are available, “the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive.”

Presssed by a reporter about making vaccines obligatory, Archbishop Paglia said he never framed the question in terms of obligation, but of “responsibility,” because people must realize that refusing a vaccine not only places their health at risk, but also the health of people around them who, for medical reasons, cannot be vaccinated.

The archbishop described as “exaggerated individualism” an attitude that insisted on one’s personal rights while not taking into account that behavior’s impact on others.

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

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Dolan: Religious Freedom is a Human Right and ‘Essential’ to Human Dignity

By Ann Carey, Catholic News Service

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame observed the conclusion of Religious Freedom Week in the U.S. with a Religious Liberty Summit June 28-29 that invited ecumenical leaders and scholars from around the nation to discuss the various challenges to religious liberty.

Religious Freedom Week is observed June 22 to June 29 each year. The annual observance, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, always begins on the feast of two English martyrs who fought religious persecution, Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, and ends with the feast of two apostles martyred in Rome, Sts. Peter and Paul.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, set the tone for the Notre Dame conference in his keynote address, observing that religious freedom is a human right, “essential to the dignity of the human person and the flourishing of all that is noble in us.”

He noted that defending religious freedom used to be “a nonconfrontational no-brainer,” as American as “mom, apple pie, the flag and Knute Rockne.” Now, he continued, defense of religious liberty has become “caricatured” as an “oppressive, partisan, unenlightened, right-wing crusade,” even considered by some to be discrimination.

This false narrative must be corrected, Cardinal Dolan stressed, and he proceeded to do so by discussing the concept of religious freedom enshrined in the founding documents of the United States. He made four major points in his keynote, titled “Correcting the Narrative.”

First, he said that we advocate for religious freedom not primarily because we are believers, but because we are “Americans, patriots, rational human beings.” Religious freedom is a fact of the American experiment that has been cherished and defended by people of all faiths.

Second, religious liberty is not a conservative issue, but historically considered part of a movement that is “progressive and reforming.” Cardinal Dolan, who has a doctorate in American church history, observed that freedom of religion is “the first line of defense of and protection of all human rights.”

Further, religious liberty has been “the driving force of almost every enlightening, unshackling, noble cause in American history,” he said, including movements such as abolition of slavery and the campaigns for voting rights and civil rights.

Third, “religious freedom is enshrined not to protect the government from religion, but religion from the government,” Cardinal Dolan explained.

The various religious groups who first settled in this country did not want special treatment from the government, but rather just wanted to relish the right to practice their faith, worship in their tradition and follow their consciences in the public square. Thus, freedom for religion became a keystone in the country’s founding documents.

Fourth, throughout most of our history, American culture welcomed religious voices in the public square, Cardinal Dolan said. Then the culture moved to neutrality before arriving at the present moment, in which believers face “downright antipathy,” he said, and the message that we must leave our conscience behind when we enter the public square.

Panelists of various faiths who spoke at the conference noted disagreements with Cardinal Dolan’s assessment, and in fact stressed the necessity for all people of faith to work together to defend and promote religious liberty in this country and abroad.

In a panel on “Overcoming Polarization of Religious Liberty,” Asma Uddin, a Muslim attorney and scholar, said that people of various faiths have to stop berating each other if believers are to move forward in obtaining and preserving religious freedom.

The author of “The Politics of Vulnerability: How to Heal Muslim-Christian Relations in a Post-Christian America” (Pegasus Books, 2021), Uddin said that people will feel less threatened if we stop emphasizing our differences and focus on our common status as human beings.

A panel on “International Threats to Religious Liberty” featured international speakers, including a representative of the Aid to the Church in Need, Marcela Szymanski. She reported that 62 countries present a danger to their citizens when it comes to religious liberty, even though most of those countries have signed the International Treaty on Human Rights.

Suppressing religious freedom is always part of a “power-grabbing strategy” with no consequences to the perpetrators, she said.

A panel on “Religious Liberty and the Press” included representatives of the secular media and one Catholic spokesperson. Gretchen Crowe, editorial director for Our Sunday Visitor periodicals, explained that the Catholic press seeks to form and inform its readers to advance the mission of the church. That can include filling in gaps, correcting misinformation from the secular media and providing clarity on significant issues, she said.

 Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who is a member of the bishops’ religious liberty committee, welcomed participants to the diocese and praised the Notre Dame Law School for establishing the Religious Liberty Initiative.

That initiative, begun by Dean G. Marcus Cole of the law school, will assemble international scholars to study the issue, train law students to defend religious freedom by pursuing claims in the courts, and organize events like the June summit. Two future summits are planned for Rome in 2022 and Jerusalem in 2023.

Bishop Rhoades told the conference that not only was the initiative a great service to the Catholic Church and to all communities of faith, but also a service to our nation at a time when not just freedom to worship is threatened, but so too is the freedom to live out our faith and bear witness to its moral truths in social services, schools and other institutions that serve the common good.

“Religious freedom allows the church and all religious communities to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all,” Bishop Rhoades said.
By Colleen Rowan

HUNTINGTON—On July 17, a St. Joseph Prayer Breakfast will be held in Huntington with hopes of many more to come.

Organizers said the gathering will be a “hearty breakfast and opportunity for fellowship” right after the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Huntington. The gathering will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, which is located across the street from the church.

An added treat will be the featured speaker, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarian Ryan Budd, who will present a talk on “St. Joseph, Pillar of Families.”

“Tbat is my favorite title of his in the Litany,” Budd said, “probably because my stepfather Mike is himself a master carpenter. A pillar is something that holds the roof up in a house, preventing its collapse; it must be strong to bear all the weight. But it would also never be able to fulfill its function if it were not on a strong foundation (cf Matthew 7:24-29). Therefore, St. Joseph represents the man’s duty both to be strong for his family and his friends and his community while also relying completely on Jesus Christ, without whom we can do nothing (John 15:5).”

Budd, who is currently assigned to St. Joseph Parish, said the prayer breakfast is an initiative spearheaded by St. Joseph’s parishioners Danny Vance, Dick Simmons, Jim Jeffreys, Michael Owens, and Tony Barber.

“Danny is donating the food and Tony is contributing to materials,” Budd said. They will be cooking a hearty breakfast for between 25 to 40 people. The men were part of the Christ Renews His Parish program at St. Joseph more than 20 years ago, and have ever since been fast friends, Budd said.

For many years they organized and cooked men’s breakfasts and men’s dinners to promote authentic, Christian male friendships within the parish and, as people are returning to regular Mass and gatherings in their parishes, this seemed like the perfect time to begin the St. Joseph Prayer Breakfast.

“Hoping to take advantage of folks’ desire to re-enter community,” Budd said, “this breakfast (which is open to both men and women) is hopefully the first of many community meals we’ll be sharing together here in Huntington.”

The prayer breakfast also is being held appropriately in the Year of St. Joseph, which began in the diocese on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Budd currently attends Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., and will be serving at St. Joseph Parish at least through December, he said. He is enjoying his time at the parish and with the pastor, Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer, V.F., from whom he is learning a lot.

AWARD-WINNING ROSE WINDOW Afghan Raffle Will Help Fund Paving of Parish Parking Lot

By Michael Owens

Seminarian Ryan Budd

“He’s a phenomenal mentor, and I am very blessed,” Budd said.

Those interested in attending the prayer breakfast must RSVP to Budd by July 12 e-mail to rbudd@stjoeshuntington.org.

The Sacred Heart Ladies Guild is raffling off an award-winning Rose Window Afghan, hand-crafted by parishioner Norma Harlan.

The drawing will be Sunday, Aug. 15, at noon. The cost of the tickets is $1 for one ticket and $5 for six tickets. Members of the Ladies Guild will be selling tickets on the first and third weekend of each month after Mass. Tickets can also be purchased at the parish office during office hours.

For more information, call (304) 387-3760 or the parish office at (304) 387-0198.
The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop and share their God-given gifts and talents.
Kids Enjoy Summer Fun, Grow in Catholic Faith at Camp Carlo

Kids are enjoying summer fun while growing in their Catholic faith at Camp Carlo in Huttonsville this summer. On this page are images of their time at the camp. This week, July 11-17, the camp will welcome rising freshmen to seniors in high school. The following week, July 18-24, the camp has a “catch all week” for kids in third to 12th grade (camp is full). Rates have been reduced to $100. For more information, visit campcarlowv.org.

Courtesy Photos
A Visit with Catholic School Leadership in Fairmont

Bishop Mark Brennan is pictured with the leadership of Fairmont Catholic Grade School. Next to the bishop are Father Joseph M. Konikattil, designated pastor of the school, and Principal Diane Burnside. Also pictured are Joyce Evans, director of Curriculum and Instruction, and her husband Donnie Evans, at left; and Tom Mainella, a member of school advisory council, and Maika Merriman, PTO president, at right.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE
Fall 2021
Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima to be Held in Nutter Fort Park

CLARKSBURG—Make a sacrifice to Our Lady of Fatima by joining in praying the Rosary on Tuesday, July 13 at noon at Nutter Fort Park, Clarksburg. All are invited to join. “Don’t miss the opportunity,” organizers said.
Wheeling University Recognized as Best Small College in West Virginia by AcademicInfluence.com

WHEELING—AcademicInfluence.com identified 20 institutions of higher education in West Virginia, with 13 meeting the service's criteria. Wheeling University was scored the eighth best overall in West Virginia Best Colleges ranking, and it received high ratings in four other categories.

“Ranking services continue to acknowledge the high quality, faith-based, liberal arts education we provide students who attend Wheeling University. Since our founding in 1954, this university has remained true to its core principles – to educate young men and women to be leaders and servants in their communities. I am proud that AcademicInfluence.com recognizes that our faculty are teaching our students to excel in their given major, while instilling in each student they have a responsibility to serve others,” said Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University.

Unlike other ranking services, AcademicInfluence.com determines its rankings through the people affiliated with the institution based on a “concentrated influence.” The concentrated influence takes the combined influence score of a university’s top academic influencers, including faculty and alumni, and divides the score by the school’s total number of undergraduates. Using concentrated influence as the determining factor, small and mid-sized schools have an opportunity to shine by taking away the size advantage of larger universities.

The ranking service also named Wheeling University the third best West Virginia Christian College. The Best Christian Colleges must offer four-year undergraduate degrees, as well as must self-identify as Christian, are fully accredited, offer a broad range of bachelor degrees programs, and have a graduation rate greater than 30 percent.

“As the only campus-based Catholic university in the state, this institution continues to instill in all its students the Ignatian values and traditions thanks to the support of our Jesuit community. Wheeling University was founded in 1954 to provide the men and women of Appalachia an affordable, Catholic education. Sixty-six years later, this university continues to be recognized for remaining true to those core values,” Favede added.

Wheeling also was rated the third best West Virginia Private College. To be placed in this category, colleges and universities must be private, non-profit institutions, be fully accredited, offer a broad range of bachelor's degrees and have a graduation rate greater than 30 percent.

Finally, Wheeling University was selected the sixth best West Virginia Liberal Arts College and Best Small College. “Academic Influence’s approach highlights undergraduate colleges and universities based truly for rank of excellence, regardless of the size of the institution. As a small university, Wheeling prides itself on providing its students an excellent education, and this ranking shows we are meeting that goal,” Favede added.

To read more about Wheeling’s ranking go to the AcademicInfluence.com website.

W.Va. Institute for Spirituality Presents ‘The Wisdom Jesus’ Zoom Book Study

CHARLESTON—“The Wisdom Jesus” Book Study is a six-week guided book study via Zoom.

“You are invited to participate in a guided book group exploring The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault (available through any bookseller),” organizers said. “Our initial meeting will be held on Monday, July 12. We will then begin our study of the book for the next six weeks (seven meetings total) with our final meeting on August 23.”

Two book groups are available, both groups will meet via Zoom on Mondays with one from noon to 1 p.m. and the other from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (both Eastern). This program is sponsored by WVIS and will be led by Jerry McMahon.

“In The Wisdom Jesus, Bourgeault suggests that if you put aside what you think you know about Jesus and approach the Gospels as though for the first time, something remarkable happens: Jesus emerges as a teacher of the transformation of consciousness rather than a purveyor of doctrine, inviting us to follow his path of self-emptying love,” organizers said. “Each chapter of the book builds a thoughtful and insightful guide to Jesus’ vision and innovative, scriptural-based ideas about how we might respond to Paul’s exhortation (Phil. 2:5) to put on the mind of Christ.”

Those interested in participating may register at http://wvis.org/whats-happening-at-wvis/.

Each group is limited to seven members, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. In addition to Eventbrite confirmation, McMahon will email participants additional details including the link for Zoom.

The Donation for this program is $60 (plus the cost of the book). Participants can pay by credit card or check. Please note - sending a check does not guarantee a place in the group – one must register online. If paying by check, please make check payable to WVIS and mail to 1601 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25311.

The registration deadline is today, July 9. This program will be held via Zoom – link will be provided after one registers.

For more information about the program or with questions, contact McMahon at gmcmahon52@gmail.com.

Your gift to the Catholic Sharing Appeal assists Catholic Charities West Virginia

Your gift will support work with vulnerable seniors, immigrant and refugee families, emergency services such as food, rent and utilities, and guidance to help people improve their family circumstances.

DONATE TODAY AT DWC.ORG/CSA.

Wheeling Funeral Home

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Funeral Home

www.312-212-5110

10 The Catholic Spirit July 9, 2021
Helping Vulnerable Individuals Reconnect with Their Community

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Regional Director; and Siobhán Bertone, CCWVa Program Assistant

In December, Catholic Charities West Virginia Martinsburg Program Assistant Siobhán Bertone received a letter in the mail from an inmate at the Eastern Regional Jail (ERJ). “Ann,” who is nearly 70, had been incarcerated for 14 months, and her release date was quickly approaching. She had no family or friends nearby, nowhere to go, no winter clothes to wear, no ID, no money, and several serious medical issues.

Siobhán requested assistance from several Catholic Charities’ partners through the Eastern Panhandle Reentry Council, and they answered her call to help assist the new mutual client. Everyone signed consent forms, and the partners met with Ann, via Zoom, the following week. The meeting provided Ann with an opportunity to express what she would need upon release, and each partner agency agreed to take specific pieces. This included completing applications for Medicaid and Medicare, applying for a new social security card, and taking steps to obtain identification.

Siobhán helped with the social security card application and applied for a new birth certificate on Ann’s behalf, something Catholic Charities does and pays for on a regular basis. Siobhán also worked with the medical staff at ERJ to ensure that Ann would have a month’s supply of her needed medication and made a health care appointment for Ann. She worked with DHHR to secure Ann’s food stamps and to address issues with her Medicare.

The community responded to an appeal for clothes, food and other items, and Catholic Charities received numerous donations to help Ann. Catholic Charities also received Ann’s mail, as she had no other address.

Currently, Ann is staying in a hotel while the West Virginia Coalition for the Homeless finds housing that is more permanent for her. In the meantime, Siobhán continues to work with Ann to ensure that her basic needs are met.

“Catholic Charities has been a Godsend, and they’ve really helped me get on my feet and get things together,” said Ann. “Because on my own, I was going nowhere. They’ve given me direction, helped me get my food stamps, health care, insurance, medications, my check. If anyone has a chance to connect with them who needs help, please do.”

This story is about a community coming together to help one person. For our team at Catholic Charities, this work provides us with an opportunity to live the principles of Catholic Social Teaching while providing professional services to those who are so often unseen.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

Ann said Catholic Charities “has been a Godsend” as she reintegrates into society after her incarceration.
Vaticano, Asociaciones Médicas Buscan Formas de Promover la Vacunación

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—El descubrimiento de 19 millones de tanques logros de la medicina moderna, pero la comunidad mundial enfrenta al doble desafío de darles a todo su asesor y superar la indecisión de personas de vacunarse, especialmente cuando escuchan información falsa, dijeron la Pontificia Academia para la Vida y la Asociación Médica Mundial.

La academia y la asociación de grupos médicos habían estado planeando una importante conferencia sobre vacunación en general cuando llegó la pandemia de COVID-19. Si bien la conferencia puede tener lugar en el futuro, la Academia Pontificia para la Vida, la Asociación Médica Alemana y el seminario web en línea el 1 de julio para analizar específicamente las vacunas contra el COVID-19.

Al final de la reunión, los grupos pidieron a los grupos religiosos y otros, que trabajen juntos para "garantizar un acceso mundial equitativo a las vacunas, que es un requisito previo clave para una campaña mundial de vacunación exitosa, y para hacer frente a las dudas sobre las vacunas mediante enviar un mensaje claro sobre la seguridad y la necesidad de las vacunas y contrarrestar los mitos y la desinformación sobre las vacunas".

El doctor Frank Ulrich Montgomery, presidente de la academia, dijo a los reporteros en una conferencia de prensa en el Vaticano que incluso con el enfoque en poner fin a la pandemia de coronavirus, "debemos evitar que la pandemia de COVID-19 atienda la atención hasta un punto en el que parece, aunque con razones válidas, la más urgente".

"No debemos olvidar, por ejemplo, que la malaria y la tuberculosis cobran muchas más víctimas en África que el COVID-19", dijo, ni que la falta de necesidades básicas como el saneamiento y el agua potable amenazan la salud de millones de personas en todo el mundo. También llamó a los medicos a decirles a la resistencia a las vacunas tiene una variedad de motivaciones y que muchas de esas razones entre las comunidades históricamente desfavorecidas son válidas.

"De hecho", dijo el arzobispo, "las vacunas tienen una historia que está marcada por la injusticia y la opresión. Es difícil pedir la confianza a personas que han tenido que lidiar con la victimización sistemática por parte de los países que generalmente son los productores de vacunas. Muchas acciones del pasado ahora están teniendo consecuencias en estos países, dijo. En respuesta, "un esfuerzo único no es suficiente. Para generar una cultura saludable, necesitamos políticas que incluyan una visión integral del desarrollo y relaciones internacionales más justas".

Cuando se le preguntó sobre el uso del término peyorativo "anti-vacuna", Montgomery dijo que al promover las vacunas, existe una diferencia obvia entre una persona que tiene una posición "ideológica" firme contra la vacunación y una persona que es "renuente a las vacunas" y se podría mostrar más información y esfuerzo.

En respuesta a preguntas sobre las conexiones de la vacuna COVID-19 con el aborto, el arzobispo calificó de "individualismo exagerado" una actitud que insiste en los derechos personales de una persona sin tomar en cuenta el impacto de ese comportamiento en los demás.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles ante todo se ha cometido un delito. También alienta a utilizar www.reportbishopbuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que el obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien cometió un delito que se ha cometido un delito, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800-352-6513.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles ante todo se ha cometido un delito. También alienta a utilizar www.reportbishopbuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que el obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopbuse.org.


Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes sobre conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o de cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, haga clic en “Diócesis” en la barra de menú, luego en “Opciones”, luego en “Ambiente seguro”, luego “Descargar archivos y archivos”. El formulario se titula “Formulario de queja para denunciar de abuso sexual de menores”. El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Obituary—Sister Dolores Marie Schmidt, OSF (formerly Sister M. Constance)

Sister Dolores Marie Schmidt, OSF (formerly Sister M. Constance) was born April 11, 1925 in Buffalo, N.Y. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Amelia (Kauer) Schmidt. Sister Dolores Marie died on July 4, 2021 at Niagara Hospice House, Lockport, N.Y., at the age of 96.

Sister Dolores Marie entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara September 14, 1941 and was professed August 18, 1943.

Before moving to the Stella Niagara Health Center on June 30, 2021, Sister Dolores Marie resided with the San Damiano Community, Amherst, N.Y., while continuing to volunteer at Sacred Heart Academy.

Sister Dolores Marie is survived by her sister, Marjorie Lester, as well as many devoted nieces and nephews, as well as her Sisters in the Stella Niagara Community.

She was predeceased by three brothers, Charles, James and George.

Mass of Christian Burial was Thursday, July 8.

Interment was at Stella Niagara Cemetery.

Job Opening
Outreach Worker; Northern Region - CCNC

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

Outreach Worker; Northern Region - CCNC

This position is responsible for representing the agency in assisting the economically disadvantaged and others seeking needed services.

This is a full-time Temporary position through December 30, 2021 (non-exempt), located at Catholic Charities Nutritional Center, Wheeling, WV.

• Essential Job Duties
  Complete emergency assistance applications in Wheeling office; screening for and enrolling eligible clients for state and federal benefits; accepts and makes referrals to and from other organizations; maintains client and other records as required; maintains documentation of all requests for assistance; contacts appropriate utility companies, pharmacies, landlords, etc.; maintains a log of donations and volunteers.

• Qualifications
  High School or equivalent, plus sufficient experience in the social service field; Bachelor’s degree preferred; ability to work with economically disadvantaged clientele with compassion, understanding and a positive attitude; ability to use Microsoft office programs, including Word, Excel, and Outlook; must have transportation to travel as needed; ability to work collaboratively in a team setting and be supportive of Catholic social teachings.

• How to Apply
  Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by July 21, 2021 to: maphillips@ccwva.org

Application materials can also be delivered to:
Mark Phillips; Northern Regional Director
Catholic Charities WV
2000 Main Street
Wheeling, WV 26003

How much do you love me?

JOIN THE STATE-WIDE TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST FAMILY FOR RE-Tec

A Re-Boot and Renewal of TEC in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV

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

Please visit dwc.org/tec-reunion to register.

The “Fourth Day” of TEC Never Ends!

How much do you love me?
Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry Opening

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire an Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry. The Executive Director is responsible for serving as a catalyst and ongoing resource to the Bishop, diocesan staff, pastors and parishes in developing and maintaining effort which link direct service, advocacy, action and empowerment toward concerns of local and global justice, respect for all human life and environmental concerns.

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

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

Please submit resume, references and cover letter to: Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov

Position will stay open until filled.

Child Care Resource Center, Morgantown
Administrative Assistant Needed

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

The Administrative Assistant is a full time position and is located in Morgantown, WV. This position is responsible for providing information to clients and providers about the services we offer and otherwise relieving Director and Supervisor of clerical duties and minor administrative business details.

Essential Job Duties

Maintain completed provider and client packets; maintain a supply of materials and inventory needed for staff; maintain accurate mailing lists for providers, clients, community members, etc.; assist individuals seeking to become providers in receiving information needed to enroll; assist clients seeking child care referrals; liaison with DHHR monitor staff in regards to potential providers.

Qualifications

Applicants must have at least a high school diploma or GED, minimum of one (1) year experience in a secretarial position, ability to follow directions and work well with others, ability to prioritize and multitask, knowledge of office equipment and understanding of sound basic office procedures including computers and programs, good typing and editing skills, able to work with others of various socio-economic backgrounds, ability to maintain confidentiality; good written and oral communication skills; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by July 16, 2021 to: Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov

Application materials can also be delivered to:

Brittany Lucci, Program Director
965 Hartman Run Road, Suite 1103
Morgantown, WV 26505

Child Care Resource Center, Wheeling
Early Childhood Specialist Needed

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

This is a full-time, non-exempt position and is located in Wheeling, WV.

The his position is responsible for providing professional development on Core Knowledge/Core Competency areas and the WV Early Learning Standards Framework through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, coaching/mentoring group or individual sessions, problem-solving, follow-up through materials and coaching to other professional development opportunities, and provision of materials and resources to support developmentally appropriate practice.

Essential Job Duties

Work collaboratively in a team environment as well as independently; develop and conduct professional development trainings relevant to the needs of the child care providers in Region I; develop technical assistance materials for child care providers related to early childhood development.

Qualifications

Must have at a minimum, current WV STARS credential and meet the qualifications to be at least an affiliate trainer through the West Virginia Early Care and Education Professional Development System. All newly hired early childhood specialists must meet one of the following: Preferred: Master's degree in early childhood, elementary education, special education, educational psychology, or child development. Standard: A Bachelor's degree in early childhood, elementary education, special education, or child development.

Ability to work with persons from varied socio-economic backgrounds; willingness to work with people of cultural, ethnic and racial diversity; ability to maintain confidentiality; good written and oral communication skills; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

How to Apply

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by July 12, 2021 to: Brittany.K.Lucci@wv.gov

Application materials can also be delivered to:

Brittany Lucci
Child Care Resource Center of Catholic Charities
2000 Main Street
Wheeling, WV 26003

Elementary School Teacher Sought
St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

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

If you are interested in working in a rewarding, faith-filled environment, please email a résumé and cover letter to Principal Pat Blanc at pb lanc@sjswv.org.
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Contact Colleen Rowan at crowan@dwc.org

Dr. David Burkland
Medical Director of the Emergency Trauma Department

WHEELING HOSPITAL

OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.
Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don’t ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We’ll protect you, and take good care of you.