

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Deacon Candidates Installed as Lectors



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan installs the 20 deacon candidates for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as lectors at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 5. The candidates come from parishes all over the diocese. They began their formation in the diocesan diaconate formation program in August 2020 and have been meeting one weekend each month with visiting faculty from the St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana. They have two more years of preparation before being ordained deacons in June 2024. The candidates are: William Richard Allen III, Dr. John Anthony Basil, Emarjun Capuno Brucal, Michael Brumley, John David Butler, Victor Francis Cwynar, Michael A. Kawash, William Klug, Robert Joseph Krall, Jacob Manning, James David McCullough, Thomas Joseph McFadden, Patrick Michel, Jason Scott Miller, Anthony Michael O'Leary, Ronald Piaskowski, Tommy Bryan Ross, Aaron Talbott, Bryce Burl Timberlake, and David Andrew Torlone.

Inside: U.S. Bishops Urge Congress to Address Gun Violence, Page 3

Incredible Success Achieved by the Class of 2022, Page 5

Catholics and Babies

A Healthy Approach to Family Planning

June 25, 2022
10:00AM– 12:00 Noon | St. John Marist Hall
1610 Webster Rd, Summersville, WV 26651
 Please register on or before June 20, 2022
 by calling the Parish Office at 304.872.2554.
 Lunch will be served.

Presenters Philip and Jaimie Althage are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville, WV—they will celebrate nine years of marriage this June, and they have three children. They moved to Clay County, WV from Texas a couple of years ago, where they take care of Jaimie's grandfather and manage the family farm. They are both certified NFP promoters through the Couple to Couple League, and are passionate about sharing the message of NFP, and God's plan for Christian marriage, with other couples.

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 Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, 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. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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U.S. Bishops Urge Congress to Address Gun Violence

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In response to the multiple mass shootings in recent weeks, the chairmen of four U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees sent a letter to Congress urging lawmakers to "stop the massacres of innocent lives."

"We urge all members of Congress to reflect on the compassion all of you undoubtedly feel in light of these tragic events and be moved to action because of it," the bishops wrote in a June 3 letter.

They said finding a way to stop ongoing acts of violence as demonstrated in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, to name just a few examples, requires a broad response that examines "mental health, the state of families, the valuation of life, the influence of entertainment and gaming industries, bullying and the availability of firearms."

And although they see a need for broad reform, they focused on guns in particular, stressing that "among the many steps toward addressing this endemic of violence is the passage of reasonable gun control measures."

The letter was signed by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Washington, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education.

These committee leaders noted that even though work needs to be done to address the root causes of

violence, there were practical steps Congress could take right now by supporting legislation to expand background checks for gun sales.

They also criticized Congress for its lack of action on gun control, noting that in the 10 years since the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, "very little has been done by Congress to regulate these weapons and prevent another catastrophe."

"We urgently call on members of Congress to work together in a bipartisan fashion to make these horrific attacks less likely to happen again," they wrote.

The bishops said the USCCB has long supported measures to address gun violence and continues to do so.

Looking at specific measures, they said they support a total ban on assault weapons and limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines. They also cited their support for universal background checks for all gun purchases.

"We ask that Congress pass a federal law to criminalize gun trafficking," the bishops added, saying this was particularly important because the United States "not only suffers from domestic gun violence but is a major international exporter of weapons."

The church leaders also said they support proposals for a more appropriate minimum age for gun ownership and a ban on bump stocks — additional gun parts which dramatically increase the guns' rate of firing.

They pointed out that while "strengthened gun laws could reduce mass-casualty events, not even the most effective gun laws, by themselves, will suffice to address the roots of these violent attacks in our country" and stressed the need for improved mental

health care access and resources as well as "peacebuilding in our communities through restorative justice models."

"Bipartisanship is never more important than when it is required to protect life and end the culture of death. We invite you to support these measures and to be part of building up the culture of life that is so needed in our society, not just as elected officials but as mothers and fathers, grandparents, and aunts and uncles of little children or teachers whom you expect to return home safely today," they wrote.

The bishops' letter was sent to Congress the day after President Joe Biden addressed the nation from the White House June 2 pleading with Congress to pass what he described as "rational, commonsense measures" to curb gun violence. He said it was time to put an end to the "carnage" and loss of American lives.

The president called for the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines to be reinstated and said the minimum purchasing age for semi-automatic weapons should be raised from 18 to 21.

He also called for a strengthening of background checks and red-flag laws aimed at keeping guns away from those with mental illness. He also urged a repeal of the immunity that shields gun manufacturers from liability.

While Biden was addressing the nation, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee passed a gun control package following heated discussion. The legislation, called Protecting Our Kids Act, includes eight bills related to gun control, expected to be on the House floor the week of June 6.

The measure would raise the age of purchasing semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21, create new requirements for storing guns in a home with children, prevent gun trafficking, require firearms to be traceable and regulate bump stocks.

It was expected to pass in the House but not the divided Senate, where it needs 60 votes.

Republicans in Congress have criticized Democrats for rushing to pass gun legislation and have blamed recent mass shootings on mental health issues and an overall lack of family values.



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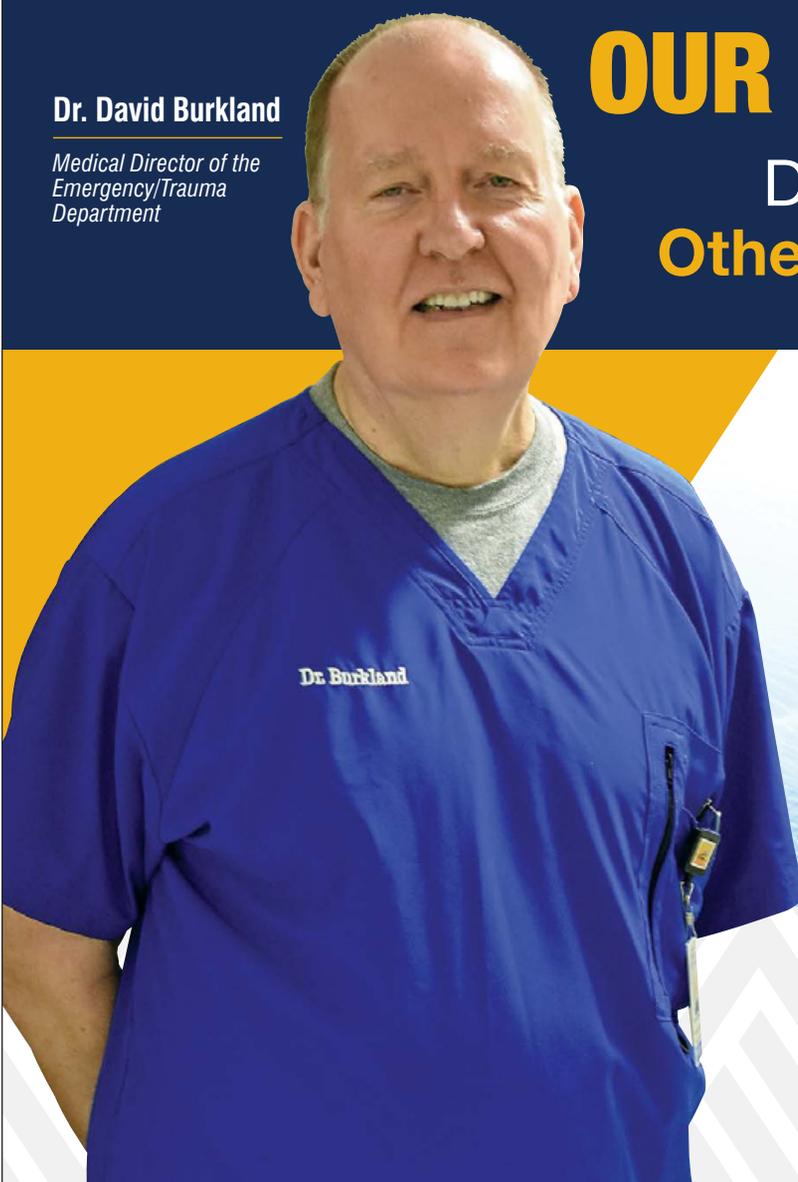
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Bishop Visits WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrated Mass in the Wheeling Hospital Chapel June 2 at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. After celebrating Mass last year at the Continuous Care Center, the bishop made a special request to perform a Mass in the hospital. Following the Mass, Bishop Brennan visited with staff in the ER, ICU and Covid unit, offering words of comfort and understanding. Pictured in the ER, from left, are ER Director Heather Merkel, RN Angela Casey, Receptionist Ronda Marsh, RN Kelsey Folda, Bishop Brennan, RN Aleshia Schramm, ER Nurse Manager Dustin Coates, Tech Brandon Gonchoff, RN Elizabeth Tirpak, Advanced Tech Carolyn Clutter, and Tech Pam Baker.



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WHEELING HOSPITAL

Incredible Success Achieved by the Class of 2022

By Colleen Rowan

The 232 graduates of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's six Catholic high schools in West Virginia have achieved incredible success. Each school—Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, Charleston Catholic High School; Madonna High School in Weirton; Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, Parkersburg Catholic High School, and St. John Central Catholic High School in Huntington—has reported the great accomplishments of their graduates and wish them well as they now move on to higher education and other endeavors.

According to the diocese's Department of Catholic Schools, the six high schools had a 99.7 graduation rate and 99 percent of graduates were accepted into colleges. Graduates were accepted into more than 270 colleges and universities and were offered more than \$22.7 million in scholarships.

The following showcases the achievements of each school's graduating classes.

The 48 members of the class of 2022 from Charleston Catholic have been offered \$9.7 million merit-based scholarships with three of the graduates named National Merit semi-finalist. The graduates this year have been accepted to 112 colleges and they will be attending 29 colleges in 16 states.

"I am thrilled to celebrate the Charleston Catholic class of 2022," said Colleen M. Hoyer, principal. "Despite their many hardships throughout their high school career, they persevered and focused on their bright futures. They were like a family who supported one another and we are so excited to see all they will accomplish."

Charleston Catholic also had a 100 percent graduation rate and a 100 percent college acceptance rate for this year's class.

Throughout their time at the school, the students engaged in 2,638 hours of service to their community.

"Congratulations class of 2022," a school supporter posted on Charleston Catholic's Facebook page. "Go out and rock the world!"

Parkersburg Catholic High School had 18 students in its graduating class. Together, they earned more \$2.2 million in merit and athletic based scholarships, school officials posted on the PCHS Facebook page. The school had a 100 percent graduation rate and 100 percent college acceptance.

The 18 PCHS graduates were accepted to 33 colleges and 40 percent of the class received the Promise Scholarship.

In Wheeling, Central Catholic High School graduated 64 students this year who have been accepted into 69 colleges and universities.

Principal Becky Sancomb said the class was offered was \$5.5 million in four-year scholarships. Twelve graduates received the Presidential Scholarship or Honors College. Forty nine of the graduates are West Virginia residents and 47 percent qualified for the Promise Scholarship.

One of the students received a NROTC Full Ride Scholarship for \$200,000, Sancomb said.

"Congratulations to the CCHS class of 2022! A beautiful ceremony honoring an amazing group! We know you will do wonderful things!" school officials posted on Central's Facebook page.

Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg had 37 graduates this year who received more than \$2 million in scholarships. The school reported a 100 percent graduation rate with 41 percent qualifying for the Promise Scholarship, including two AP scholars with honors and three Eagle Scouts.

"To say we are proud of them all is an understatement. Each one of them will be missed more than they know and now hold the honored title of a Notre Dame alum!" school officials posted on Notre Dame's Facebook page.

Madonna High School in Weirton had 40 grad-



Courtesy Photo

The 37 members of the class of 2022 from Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg toss their caps following commencement.



Courtesy Photo

Graduates of St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington process at the end of baccalaureate Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Huntington.

uates this year who were offered \$2.6 in scholarships for four-year schools. Fifty-two percent of the class is college-bound West Virginia residents who earned the Promise Scholarship, school officials said.

In their four years at Madonna, the students completed 1,989 service hours. They also earned 492 college credit hours earned as dual credit before graduation.

Members of the class have been accepted to 29 colleges and universities with 31 of them going to a four-year school, four going to a two-year trade school, four entering the workforce, and one who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

A total of \$1.7 million in scholarships was



Courtesy Photo

Graduates of Parkersburg Catholic High School join hands in prayer during baccalaureate Mass at the school.

earned by members of the graduating class from St. Joseph Central High School in Huntington. They also graduated with 481 dual credit hours through Marshall University.

The class also has one H.S.T.A graduate who will receive a full ride to any school in West Virginia.

St. Joseph's also reported 100 percent college acceptance and a 100 percent graduation rate.

Congratulating the graduates, school officials posted on St. Joseph's Facebook page: "The hard work that each and every one of them put in over the past four years is something everyone that knows each of them should be proud of. Congratulations to the St. Joseph Catholic High School class of 2022!"

CELEBRATE FAITH AND FAMILY WITH US!



**Wednesday
June 22nd**

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

6:00pm – Mass
Bishop Brennan presiding
Music by Mark Haas

Speakers and Reception to Follow

Speakers:
Tim Bishop
Nick Chancey
Colleen Criste

**Thursday
June 23rd**

St. Leo Catholic Church
Inwood, WV

6:00pm – Mass
Fr. Alfred Obiudu presiding
Music by Ross Semler

Speakers and Reception to Follow

Speakers:
Joyce Bibey
Tim Bishop
Nick Chancey
Tyler and Sydney Kilbane

**Friday
June 24th**

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center
Charleston, WV

6:00pm – Mass
Monsignor Samuel Sacus
Music by Mark Haas

Speakers and Reception to Follow

Speakers:
Tim Bishop
Colleen Criste
Daniel Maul

**Saturday
June 25th**

St. Francis De Sales School
Morgantown, WV

All Day Festival
with Food, Kids Activities, Confession,
and Adoration/Benediction

5:15pm & 8:00pm – Mass
Msgr. Cincinnati presiding
Music by Donna Kinsey

Speakers:
Deacon Walter Calabrese
Tim Bishop
Colleen Criste
Seth Johnson
Micah Schlittenhardt

**Sunday
June 26th**

Cathedral of St. Joseph
Wheeling, WV

3:00pm – Mass
Bishop Brennan presiding
Music by Matthew Berber

Speakers and Reception to Follow

Speakers:
Joyce Bibey
Nick Chancey
Daniel Maul



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Fairmont State and Wheeling University Establish Partnership to Impact Health Care

WHEELING—On June 6, representatives from Wheeling University and Fairmont State University signed an articulation agreement to establish a partnership amongst the institutions, which aims to produce more quality health care professionals to serve patients in the State of West Virginia and across the country.

“This partnership will allow eligible students from Fairmont State University to make a seamless transition each year into Wheeling University’s Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program,” said Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University. “More importantly, by producing well trained physical therapists, there will be more health care professionals grounded in our mission to serve others in Appalachia and in our region.”

The agreement between the two institutions will allow for up to three stu-

dents per year from Fairmont State’s Exercise Science program to be accepted into Wheeling University’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program, pending qualifications and academic requirements.

According to Dr. Alison Kreger, PT, DPT, Ed.D., director of Wheeling’s Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, “This agreement will help bring more graduates from West Virginia colleges and universities into the University’s DPT program. By partnering, Wheeling and Fairmont will help both institutions facilitate the training of physical therapy professionals who can provide high quality patient care.”

The Fairmont State Exercise Science program integrates the theories and practicalities of exercise physiology in preparing graduates for a career in the field of health and fitness, while also providing the foundation required for the successful application into several professional pathways, including physical therapy.

“We are grateful for the efforts from both institutions that have brought this partnership to fruition,” said Fairmont State University Health & Human Performance Department Chair, Jan Kiger. “We’re excited to work together to engage our students in further professional degree programs, physical therapy in particular, which is a highly sought-after degree.”

Wheeling University’s DPT program emphasizes a whole person approach to the investigation of clinical issues using a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) format. PBL encourages teamwork, open discussion, and researching appropriate resources to acquire the essential didactic knowledge. Through this unique learning format, Wheeling’s physical therapy graduates demonstrate exemplary professionalism, exceptional skills and problem solving, as well as the ability to access and utilize knowledge, reflective of a commitment

to life-long learning.

“This partnership will allow Fairmont State Exercise Science majors to move forward in their careers by easing the transition into a professional degree pathway,” said Fairmont State University College of Education, Health & Human Performance Dean, Amanda Metcalf. “Through this partnership we are not only building a relationship that will benefit our students, but one that will benefit the community and local workforce. We are thrilled our students will have the opportunity to con-

tinue their educational journey and positively impact health care settings.”

Fairmont State University Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, Dianna Phillips, echoed Metcalf’s comments, “At Fairmont State University we center student success at the heart of everything we do. Engaging in this partnership with Wheeling University allows us to continue providing a transformative impact to our students, while also strengthening health care throughout our region and beyond.”

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'Life and Dignity for All' is Theme of USCCB's Religious Freedom Week

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Life and Dignity for All" is the theme of this year's Religious Freedom Week of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The observance opens June 22, the feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, both English martyrs who fought religious persecution. The week ends June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, which is June 24.

"This year, as we approach the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*," the USCCB "is especially mindful of the debates around our country about abortion," said a news release about Religious Freedom Week. "The Catholic Church plays a crucial role in bearing witness to the Gospel of life and serving all who will be affected by these discussions and their outcomes."

The *Dobbs* case involves a Mississippi law banning abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy. An initial draft of a Supreme Court opinion in the case that was leaked May 2 indicated the high court is set to overturn its *Roe v. Wade* decision, which 50 years ago legalized abortion nationwide.

The court also is expected to overturn its 1992 ruling in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which affirmed *Roe* and prohibited regulations that created an "undue burden" on women seeking an abortion.

If the final ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturns *Roe* and *Casey*, the issue of abortion would be returned to the states.

Another a major area of concern continues to be protecting the religious freedom of U.S. Catholic institutions, such as schools, hospitals and child welfare service providers, "to carry out their missions with integrity" and in accordance with their religious beliefs, the USCCB news release said.

"In particular, protecting Catholic adoption and foster care will become even more vital, as we take new steps in building a culture of life and dignity for all in the United States," it said.

"To build a culture of life and dignity for all," the Catholic Church "must support women and children," the release added.

To that end, the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities in 2020 launched the "Walking with Moms in Need" nationwide initiative. Its aim is "to engage every Catholic parish in providing a safety net to ensure that pregnant and parenting moms have the resources, love and support they need to nurture the lives of their children."

In starting the initiative, the U.S. bishops said they want to ensure "our Catholic parishes are places of welcome for women facing challenging pregnancies or who find it difficult to care for their children after birth, so that any mother needing assistance will receive life-affirming support and be connected to appropriate programs and resources where she can get help."

Among its goals is to help Catholics "recognize the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in their communities, enabling parishioners to know these mothers, to listen to them, and to help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves

and their children."

Another focus of Religious Freedom Week is international, the USCCB release said. The USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty has collaborated with the Office of International Justice and Peace "to raise awareness about religious liberty in China and in solidarity with people throughout the world who suffer for their faith."

The USCCB provides "Pray-Reflect-Act" resources at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek. Each day focuses on different religious liberty topics and this year's daily themes intersect with life issues.

"Through prayer, education and public action during Religious Freedom Week, the USCCB continues to advocate for the essential right of religious freedom for Catholics and for those of all faiths," the release added.

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June 26th – July 2nd, A "catch all week" from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

July 3rd – July 9th, Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.

July 10th – July 16th, Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.

July 17th – July 23rd, A "catch all week" from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

July 24th – July 30th, "A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation" free program for 7-12 year olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Charities.

Contact Assistant Director, Sadie Shields, for more information: sshields@dwc.org or 1 (304) 476-9015



Catholic Lawmakers Who OK'd Colorado Abortion Bill Asked to Not Take Communion

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

In a June 6 open letter, the Catholic bishops of Colorado asked those Catholic legislators “who live or worship in the state” and voted for Colorado’s Reproductive Health Equity Act “to voluntarily refrain from receiving holy Communion.”

They urged this action “until public repentance takes place and sacramental absolution is received in confession.”

“The burden from their decision does not rest upon the shoulders of priests, deacons or lay extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist,” they wrote. “It rests upon the consciences and souls of those politicians who have chosen to support this evil and unjust law.”

The Reproductive Health Equity Act is considered one of the nation’s most permissive abortion measures. Gov. Jared Polis quickly signed it into law April 4 just after it finally passed the state House and Senate.

It permits on-demand abortion for a full 40 weeks of a pregnancy; allows abortion based on discrimination of sex, race or children with disabilities such as Down syndrome; and removes the requirement that parents of minors be notified if their minor receives an abortion.

It also enshrines in law that “a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent or derivative rights” under state laws and prohibits any regulation of abortion based on concerns regarding the health of the woman or baby.

Signing the letter were: Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila of Denver, Bishop Stephen J. Berg of Pueblo, Bishop James R. Golka of Colorado Springs and Auxiliary Bishop Jorge H. Rodriguez of Denver.

“The recently concluded 2022 legislative session was difficult for many Coloradans who watched in dismay as their state legislators rushed one of the most extreme abortion bills in the country through the chambers of the Capitol and to Governor Polis’ desk for his signature,” the prelates wrote.

As the bill moved ahead in the Legislature, “there was a strong outcry against it,” they said. “Thousands of people wrote to their lawmakers. Over 350 people testified against RHEA (Reproduc-

tive Health Equity Act) in the House and more than 215 testified against it in the Senate into the early hours of the morning.”

The four prelates were among hundreds of people who offered testimony in opposition to the bill in hourslong hearings on it.

Some lawmakers who supported the bill said it “is designed to make our state an abortion destination and ‘safe haven,’” they said. “They expect pregnant mothers to come flooding in from surrounding states for abortions if Roe v. Wade is overturned. It causes us profound sadness and distress to know that some Catholic legislators voted for this.”

“We have a strong desire to discuss the spiritual and cultural impact of laws like RHEA with politicians of both parties who say they are Catholic and who represent people in our state,” the bishops continued. “As their shepherds we want to ensure that they understand the church’s teaching on receiving holy Communion and the proper spiritual disposition for doing so.”

“Efforts have already been made to speak with several of these lawmakers, but unfortunately, very few of them have accepted the invitation to meet.”

By their public votes, the bishops wrote, it was clear several Catholic lawmakers believe “pre-born babies are worth less than those who have had the gift of being born, according to this morally bankrupt logic.”

The bishops thanked Sens. Barbara Kirkmeyer, Kevin Priola and Jim Smallwood and Rep. Andres Pico, who are Catholic and voted “to protect the unborn and against allowing our state to strip them of their God-given right to life.”

“Voting for RHEA was participating in a gravely sinful action because it facilitates the killing of innocent unborn babies, and those Catholic politicians who have done so have very likely placed themselves outside of the communion of the church,” they wrote.

The prelates quoted from “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” a 26-page statement approved by the body of bishops last November.

It did not call for barring Catholic politicians who support abortion from Communion, but it was

addressed to all Catholics in the United States and explained “the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the church.”

“To receive the body and blood of Christ while in a state of mortal sin represents a contradiction,” Colorado’s bishops wrote, quoting the document. “The person who, by his or her own action, has broken communion with Christ and his church but receives the Blessed Sacrament, acts incoherently, both claiming and rejecting communion at the same time.”

“Moreover,” the bishops said, “receiving the Eucharist in a state of mortal sin is sacrilegious because it is ‘a failure to show the reverence due to the sacred body and blood of Christ.’”

“Finally,” they said, “when other Catholics see public figures receiving Jesus in such a spiritual state their resolve to be faithful to the Gospel can be weakened. A

Catholic politician or public figure leading or encouraging others to do evil is a failure to respect the souls of others and is what the church defines as ‘scandal,’” as the document stated.

“We pray that this letter and our request to refrain from receiving Jesus in the Eucharist spurs sincere reflection and conversion in the hearts of those who have participated in allowing this grave act of injustice to become law,” they said.

This request was not one they made “lightly,” they said, but was made out of their “duty to safeguard the faith and care for the souls of all the faithful — including these politicians.”

“We are always willing to engage in conversation with any Catholic politician to whom this applies,” they concluded, “and we want you to know that we regularly pray for all who hold public office.”

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Brutal Attack on Worshipers in Nigeria is Called Attack on ‘Entire Church’

By **Catholic News Service**

NEW YORK (CNS) — The brutal attack on people at a Catholic church in Nigeria on Pentecost Sunday is “an attack on the entire church,” said a U.S. official of Aid to the Church in Need, an international Catholic charity.

According to the Reuters news agency, gunmen fired at people inside and outside St. Francis Xavier Church in Owo, located in the southwestern state of Ondo. At least 50 people were reportedly killed during Mass June 5. Dozens more were injured and rushed to nearby hospitals.

“We extend our prayers for the victims, the wounded, their families and the entire Catholic community of Owo,” said George Marlin, chairman of the board of Aid to the Church in Need/USA, which is based in New York. “We stand with the Diocese of Ondo to help treat the wounded and those traumatized by this horrible tragedy.”

“This is the latest in the ongoing wave of brutal attacks on Nigeria’s Christians,” he said in a June 6 statement. “Political and religious leaders around the world must condemn this barbarism and put pressure on Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to do what it takes finally to stop the violence and protect the Nigerian people.”

Marlin called it “imperative” that the U.S. State Department “reinstate Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern that violates religious freedom. Christians are not the only victims of faith-based violence in Nigeria, but they are the principal target,” he stated.

On Nov. 17, 2021, as required by the International Religious Freedom Act, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken identified 10 “Countries of Particular Concern” — those who are in severe violations of religious freedom — but he omitted Nigeria. The announcement was met immediately with severe criticism by human rights and religious

rights organizations.

On June 2 of this year, in releasing the State Department’s 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom, Blinken noted that in Nigeria, “several state governments are using antidefamation and blasphemy laws to punish people for expressing their beliefs.”

No group had claimed responsibility for the attack in Owo as of June 6.

Aid to the Church in Need, which serves “the suffering and persecuted church” around the world, “will come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in Nigeria in solidarity of prayer and support,” Marlin added.

Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, sent a letter of solidarity to the president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Nigeria.

According to a June 8 USCCB release, Bishop Malloy reiterated in the letter the committee’s solidarity with the Catholic Church in Nigeria “amid the unabated violence” in that country and in particular the attacks on Catholics.

“Nigeria has sadly become all too familiar with such growing violence,” the bishop said. He noted that the U.S. bishops international policy committee “has supported the church in Nigeria for many years in its effort to stop terrorist attacks by Boko Haram and armed groups, to build peace between herders and farmers, and to ensure credible and transparent elections.”

The committee’s members “have visited Nigeria and have received their church leaders in Washington,” he said, and now join the pope “in commending the souls of the dead to the loving mercy of God and imploring ‘divine healing and consolation’ upon those who are grieving.”

“The committee remains prayerfully determined

as ever to support our brothers and sisters of the church in Nigeria,” Bishop Malloy added.

In other U.S. reaction, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York also noted that the attacks in Owo are the latest “in a growing number of attacks on Christians in Nigeria,” but he called the June 5 attack “especially horrific” because at least 50 worshippers “were slaughtered merely for gathering to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost,” recognized traditionally as the “birthday of the church.”

“We pray for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives in this attack, and for the comfort of all who mourn for them,” the cardinal said in a June 6 statement.

He added that New York Catholics’ prayers “are all the more fervent” as they recall that Bishop Jude Arogundade of Ondo was “a beloved pastor here in the Archdiocese of New York” before he returned home to Nigeria to serve as bishop.

Cardinal Dolan called “on the world community, including the United States, to take notice of this rising tide of anti-Catholic and anti-Christian attacks taking place in Nigeria, and work to restore protection for the fundamental right of religious liberty wherever and whenever it is threatened.”

Father Roger Landry, national chaplain for Aid to the Church in Need/USA, noted that the vestments a priest wears to celebrate Mass on Pentecost are “red, signifying the fire of the Holy Spirit.”

“Little did the Catholics at St. Francis Xavier in Owo, on the feast celebrating the church’s birthday, know that their garments would similarly be drenched red in blood,” he said in a statement.

But “our beloved brothers and sisters in the faith, including the little children, have not died in vain,” the priest added. “Their blood will fertilize the soil of the faith in Nigeria and their martyrdom has already inspired and emboldened believers around the world.”

Man Arrested for Making Death Threats against Justice Kavanaugh

By **Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A man threatening to kill Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh was arrested near the justice’s Maryland home June 8, carrying a gun, a knife and zip ties.

The threat against the 57-year-old justice, who has been on the court since 2018, was first reported by The Washington Post and confirmed by a Supreme Court spokesperson.

Officers with the Montgomery County Police Department in Maryland arrested Nicholas John Roske, a 26-year-old from California who is said to have arrived by taxi just after 1 a.m. outside Kavanaugh’s home in Chevy Chase, a Washington suburb.

A criminal complaint and affidavit filed in federal court in Maryland said Roske had a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray, duct tape and other items and told police he planned to break into Kavanaugh’s house and kill him and then

planned to kill himself.

The Associated Press reported that Roske was upset by a leaked draft opinion suggesting the Supreme Court could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the court’s 1973 decision which legalized abortion nationwide, in its highly anticipated ruling in an abortion case from Mississippi.

He also said he was upset about the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and thought Kavanaugh would vote to loosen gun control laws. The gun control comment is likely in reference to a current challenge awaiting a Supreme Court decision over New York’s permit requirement for carrying concealed guns.

Two U.S. Marshals — part of the security provided to the justices since the leak of the draft opinion in May — spotted Roske, but he was not apprehended until he called 911 saying he was having suicidal thoughts and planned to kill Kavanaugh, AP reported.

“This kind of behavior is obviously behavior we will not tolerate,” Attorney General Merrick Garland told reporters June 8. “Threats of violence and actual violence against the justices of course strike at the heart of our democracy and we will do everything we can to prevent them and to hold people who do them accountable.”

Protests at the Supreme Court and near homes at some of the court’s conservative justices started taking place after the May 2 leak of the opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, a case about Mississippi’s ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy with the potential to also overturn *Roe*.

The draft opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito, said *Roe* “was egregiously wrong from the start” and that “*Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled.” *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* is the 1992 decision that affirmed *Roe*.

Following initial protests about the draft, Garland announced May 18 that

he was increasing security at the homes of all of the justices. A security fence also surrounds the Supreme Court building and nearby streets have been closed.

Alito’s draft opinion said the court’s 1973 *Roe* decision had exceptionally weak reasoning “and the decision has had damaging consequences.”

“Far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, *Roe* and *Casey* have enflamed debate and deepened division,” he added.

Politico’s report on the draft said Alito’s opinion was supported by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett and that Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan were working on dissents. It was not clear how Chief Justice John Roberts planned to vote.

A Homeland Security Department report said the draft opinion has unleashed a wave of threats against officials and others and increased the likelihood of extremist violence.

10th Annual Golf FORE Life Tournament Set for July 9

KINGWOOD—The 10th Annual Golf FORE Life Tournament is being planned. This fundraiser is held annually to benefit the life-saving efforts of West Virginians for Life (WVFL). This year's tournament swings into action Saturday, July 9, at Preston Country Club in Kingwood.

Plans for the event are as follows: registration and box lunch at noon, putting contest at 1 p.m., tee time at 1:30 p.m.; MT State Box BBQ/Informal Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m.

There are several ways to participate in the Golf FORE Life Tourna-

ment, including playing in the tournament, sponsoring a hole, donating tournament prizes or gifts, or doing all of the above!

All proceeds benefit the WVFL Educational Trust Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization. Amounts are tax deductible less goods and services received. Checks should be made payable to: WVFL Educational Trust Fund, 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508.

More information about the event can be found on the WVFL website: www.wvforlife.org/events/.

Divorce and Beyond Support Group to be Held at Inwood Parish

INWOOD—Divorce and Beyond is a support group for those who have suffered the loss through a separation or/and divorce.

"Our support group is NOT a social group but rather a group of people journeying together understanding and sharing feelings," group organizers said. "Many people seek professional help via a counselor, some go it alone but all suffer from the same feelings of loss. The emotions and feeling do not have a timetable nor set pattern. Perhaps you have been separated or divorced for years but still have that haunting feeling of loss. How can we help?"

The group provides members with the tools to understand the cause of such feelings and how to cope, all the while sharing and learning with others in the group, organizers said.

A Divorce and Beyond Group will be offered in September at St. Leo Parish in Inwood. For further information contact Richard Hitchcock at (803) 331-2565 or email at rhitchsr@gmail.com.

Franciscan University Hosting Adult Summer Conferences

Free, Select Livestreamed Sessions Also Being Offered

STEBENVILLE, OHIO—This summer, Franciscan University of Steubenville will host five Steubenville Conferences for adults to grow in their Catholic faith through dynamic speakers, engaging workshops, Masses and Holy Hours, and opportunities for fellowship.

The conferences will focus on the theme of jubilee, drawing inspiration from Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. . . and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

The theme coincides with Franciscan University's 75th jubilee anniversary, but it's also fitting following the pandemic and other challenges of the last two years, said Franciscan University Director of Evangelization and Formation John Beaulieu.

"Through our faith in Christ, we can rise above our circumstances and rejoice in the Lord. The world has its struggles, but God's grace is stronger," Beaulieu said. "Steubenville Conferences provide a place where people can encounter the Lord, be renewed in their faith, and come together with a community of other Catholics."

The Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Retreat, June 13–17, will offer renewal, rest, and encouragement for men called to Holy Orders. Speakers include Bishop Scott McCaig, Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, Deacon Ralph Poyo, and Bishop Joseph Espallat.

The St. John Bosco Conference, July 11–14, is geared toward catechists, Catholic school teachers, campus and youth ministers, and others who work to pass on the teachings of the Catholic faith. Speakers include Father Mike Schmitz, Bishop Donald Hying, Dr. Carole Brown, and Father Drake McCalister.

Featuring world-renowned scholars, the Applied Biblical Studies Conference will be held July 27–29. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Scripture while hearing from speakers including Dr. Scott Hahn, Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton, Father Louis Mersone, Dr. John Bergsma, Kimberly Hahn, and Dr. Mary Healy.

Wrapping up the summer conference season is the Defending the Faith Conference on July 29–31. Helping participants to live the Gospel in everyday life will be a lineup of speakers who include Matt Fradd, Dr. Edward Sri, Trent Horn, Dr. Scott Hahn, Patrick Madrid, Steve Ray, Curtis Martin, Derya Little, and Norman Bin Yazid.

To register for a conference or learn more, visit steubenvilleconferences.com.

For those who cannot attend on campus, three of the conferences will also offer a free, livestreamed session featuring a keynote address, followed by a Holy Hour. To access each session, livestream viewers will need to register for free online.

The livestreamed St. John Bosco session will be Tuesday, July 12, at 6:45 p.m. EDT with keynote speaker Father Mike Schmitz.

The livestreamed Defending the Faith session will be Saturday, July 30, at 6:45 p.m. EDT with keynote speaker Dr. Scott Hahn.

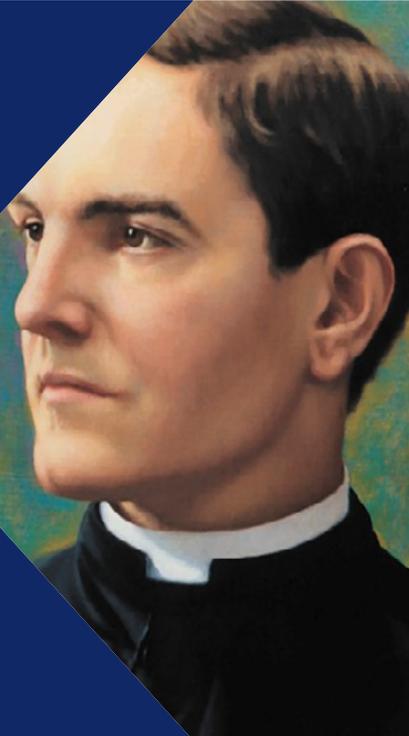
In addition to the adult conferences, Steubenville Conferences will host five youth conferences at Franciscan University, plus 17 regional youth conferences across North America. For the complete 2022 Youth Conference schedule and registration details, visit steubenvilleconferences.com/youth.

Steubenville Conferences is an outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville.

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Preparing for a New Life



Courtesy Photo

Stephanie Harris says she is grateful for the help she received from Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Stephanie Harris enrolled in classes at the Catholic Charities Community Center of Huntington when she was eight months pregnant and living at a recovery house. She did not have many of the items expectant parents excitedly prepare. Our team went to work to break down barriers and determine the best course of action to help Stephanie reach her goals.

We were able to help Stephanie apply for benefits and receive emergency utility assistance. We connected her with community partners, such as RESTORE/Habitat for Humanity, as well as “New Beginnings,” a Christian organization that helps new mothers with counseling, babysitting and car seats. Sacred Heart Church in Huntington provided over \$200 worth of baby items.

Following the birth of her son, CCWVa was able to connect Stephanie to an employment opportunity that allows her to work from home while caring for her new baby boy. Stephanie and her son are thriving!

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

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes, and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center to Host 26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

WHEELING—The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (CCNC) on 18th Street in Wheeling will hold its 26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on June 12th from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The event will feature a curbside take-out style.

“We’re honored to be celebrating the 26th year of this community tradition,” said Diana Bell, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center Coordinator. “Through the generous support of our community, sponsors and volunteers, we are able to continue helping our neighbors overcome the challenges of poverty.”

Since 1969, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center has served those who are poor and marginalized in Ohio and Marshall Counties and surrounding communities. Over the past year, the Neighborhood Center has had the following impact:

- 25,530 meals served to our neighbors on-site,
- 49,952 meals provided through our home-delivered meals program in Wheeling,
- 491 households received food orders through our pantry program,

- More than \$101,000 in utility and rental assistance to 220 clients, and

- 20 families received case management services that helped them identify barriers in their lives and work to create realistic goals and action steps to overcome those barriers.

Proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner will support the vital services the Neighborhood Center provides to ensure all people can access the services they need to be happy, healthy and reach their full potential.

Spaghetti Dinner meals will include spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad and dessert. Dinners will be delivered to cars curbside outside of the Neighborhood Center at 125 18th Street in Wheeling.

Members of the community are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at <https://catholiccharitieswv.org/26th-annual-neighborhood-center-spaghetti-dinner/> or by contacting the Neighborhood Center at (304) 232-7157.

For more information, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.



Courtesy Photo

Volunteers prepare spaghetti dinner meals during the 2021 fundraiser.

Teachers, St. Joseph School

Martinsburg, W.Va.

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, W.Va., is seeking a middle school math/science teacher for the 2022-23 school year.

Candidates must hold or be eligible to hold West Virginia professional teaching certification. A long-term substitute with a bachelor's degree or first-class permit may be considered if there is a lack of fully qualified candidates.

Preferred applicants are practicing Catholics in good standing with Church precepts who will act as examples of and motivators toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. Ideal candidates are expected to be familiar with the official teachings, doctrine and laws of the Catholic Church, and to integrate those concepts in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Email résumés and three letters of reference to pblanc@sjsvw.org.

Third Grade Teacher, Corpus Christi School

Wheeling, W.Va.

Corpus Christi School, a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has a rich history of providing faith-based, Catholic education to students Preschool through 8th grade, for over 106-years. The school is located in Wheeling, W.Va. Our school is seeking positive, energetic, qualified individuals to fill the following position for the starting the 2022-2023 school year.

- Third Grade Teacher (FULL TIME)

Qualifications: Must hold a valid WV teaching certificate

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and three references to Principal Shannon Wall at swall@ccwheeling.net

Resumes will be accepted until June 15, 2022.

Teachers, St. Vincent de Paul Parish School

Wheeling, W.Va.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling is seeking qualified and energetic candidates for the following positions for the 2022-23 school year:

- Full Time Kindergarten Teacher
- Full Time Kindergarten Aide
- Full Time 3rd Grade Teacher
- Full Time Middle School English-Language Arts Teacher
- Part-Time Development Director

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School is a Catholic school that exists to serve the community through exceptional education grounded in responsibility to Catholic values by embracing individual needs. For over 100 years, SVS has served students and families in a faith-filled and vibrant environment, framed by academic excellence, family spirit, and the formation of the whole person. We work to provide students the tools they need to lead positive, productive, and purposeful lives. We do this through spiritual development, relevant classroom experiences, real-world application, character development, and the use of well-rounded academic and technological resources. The school is part of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and currently enrolls approximately 130 students in preschool through eighth grade. We offer a vibrant work environment framed in a positive culture and climate.

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and list of 3 professional references to the 2022-23 Principal Jarett Kuhns at jkuhns@stvincentschool.org. A complete job description can be emailed upon request.

Staff Accountant, Parish and Schools

Wheeling, W.Va.

The Staff Accountant, Parish and Schools, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Staff Account is responsible for financial reporting and oversight of functions related to both parishes and schools.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

- Processes and is cross trained in general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, deposits and loans, utilizing QuickBooks and Temporalities.
- Prepares various reports throughout the fiscal year.
- Reconciles bank and trust statements as well as general ledger accounts.
- Communicates with Director of Parishes and schools on the status of multiple accounts.
- Provides information and assists the external auditors during the annual audit process.
- Participates in the planning and review process with regard to parishes and schools.
- Works with parishes and schools to monitor and budget process throughout the year.
- Participate in training on QuickBooks for all parish and school locations.
- Receives, reviews, prepares and processes vouchers for payment.
- Interacts with persons by various means of communication and correspondence in matters related to parish and school accounts for the Diocese.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in accounting or equivalent.
- Three (3) years' experience in general accounting, payroll preferred.
- Firm knowledge and understanding of accounting principles.
- Knowledge and experience working with accounting software (i.e.. QuickBooks) and ledger applications.

Please send resumes and cover letter to Michael Walsh, Director of Human Resources, mwalsh@dwc.org.

Closing date June 24, 2022

Principal, St. Patrick Catholic School

Weston, W.Va.

St. Patrick Church of Weston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Patrick Catholic School, pre-school through eighth grades.

The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF form to Julie Link, jlink@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until June 30, 2022.

Papa dice estar entristecido por atentado de Pentecostés en Nigeria

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco expresó su solidaridad y cercanía con los católicos en Nigeria después de que hombres armados asaltaron una iglesia y, según informes, mataron al menos a 50 personas durante una Misa de Pentecostés.

"Mientras se aclaran los detalles del incidente, el papa Francisco reza por las víctimas y por el país, dolorosamente afectado en un momento de celebración, y encomienda a ambos al Señor, para que envíe su Espíritu a consolarlos", dijo Matteo. Bruni, director de la oficina de prensa del Vaticano, en un comunicado el 5 de junio.

Según la agencia de noticias Reuters, hombres armados dispararon contra personas dentro y fuera de

la iglesia St. Francis Xavier en Owo, ubicada en el estado suroccidental de Ondo. Ningún grupo se había atribuido la responsabilidad del ataque hasta el 6 de junio.

Además de los que murieron, decenas más resultaron heridos y fueron trasladados a hospitales cercanos.

El padre Augustine Ikwu, director de comunicaciones de la diócesis de Ondo, dijo que el ataque "ha dejado a la comunidad devastada".

También dijo el 5 de junio que "todos los sacerdotes de la parroquia están a salvo y ninguno fue secuestrado", como se informó en varios sitios de redes sociales.

"Sigamos orando por ellos y por la buena gente de Owo y el estado en general", dijo el padre Ikwu. "Recurrimos a Dios para que consuele a las familias de

aquellos cuyas vidas se perdieron en este angustioso incidente, y rezamos para que las almas de los difuntos descansen en paz".

En una serie de tuits publicados poco después del ataque, Rotimi Akeredolu, gobernador del estado de Ondo, dijo: "El ataque vil y satánico" fue "un ataque calculado contra el pueblo amante de la paz de (Owo) que ha disfrutado de una paz relativa durante los últimos años."

"Quiero expresar mis condolencias a quienes perdieron a sus seres queridos en este espantoso asesinato. Esta es una gran masacre", tuiteó Akeredolu. "Nuestra gente en el estado de Ondo no bajará la guardia. Esto no volverá a suceder. He instado a los jefes de las agencias de seguridad a tomar todas las medidas necesarias".

Papa critica la obsesión por lucir 'siempre joven'

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) -- ¿Por qué los ancianos son despreciados y vistos como inútiles cuando cargan con tanta sabiduría sobre la vida y pueden abrir la puerta a la ternura de Dios? preguntó el papa Francisco.

Criticando la obsesión de tratar de permanecer eternamente joven en apariencia, dijo que las personas no deben ocultar o tratar de deshacerse de sus arrugas.

"Las arrugas son un signo de experiencia, un signo de vida, un signo de madurez, un signo de haber hecho un camino. No las toques para volverte joven, para que tu rostro luzca joven", dijo el papa el 8 de junio en su audiencia general semanal en la Plaza de San Pedro.

"Lo que interesa es toda la

personalidad, lo que interesa es el corazón, y el corazón permanece con esa juventud del vino bueno, que cuanto más envejece mejor es", dijo entre aplausos.

El papa continuó su serie de charlas sobre la vejez examinando el relato de San Juan sobre Nicodemo (Jn 3, 1-21). Jesús trata de explicarle al anciano fariseo la necesidad de nacer de nuevo.

Jesús dice que para ver el reino de Dios se necesita "nacer de lo alto", que significa "renacer de lo alto con la gracia de Dios" y no "renacer físicamente" como si esta vida hubiera sido un desperdicio de tiempo o un "experimento fallido" que necesitaba ser borrado y rehecho, dijo el papa.

"Esta vida es preciosa a los ojos de Dios, nos identifica como seres amados tiernamente por Dios", dijo el

papa.

El encuentro de Jesús con Nicodemo tiene algo que enseñar a las personas de hoy, que, como Nicodemo, no entienden lo que es y debe ser el "renacimiento" a la luz de la fe, dijo.

Hoy, dijo, existe un "sueño de una eterna juventud" y un "mito que nos hace querer volver al vientre de nuestra madre para volver siempre con un cuerpo joven".

El mundo, que muestra "una preocupante tendencia a considerar el nacimiento de un niño como el simple asunto de la producción y reproducción biológica del ser humano", también cultiva este "mito de la eterna juventud como la desesperada obsesión por un cuerpo incorruptible", él dijo.

La tecnología ha intervenido para ayudar a que,

mientras la gente espera "la derrota de la muerte, podamos mantener vivo el cuerpo con medicinas y cosméticos que ralentizan, disimulan, borran la vejez", añadió. "Tanto maquillaje, tantas intervenciones quirúrgicas para parecer joven".

"Alimentar el mito de la eterna juventud" no debe confundirse con el loable esfuerzo de mantenerse saludable y promover el bienestar, dijo.

El papa citó a la actriz italiana Anna Magnani, quien dijo: "Por favor, no retoquen mis arrugas. He tardado toda una vida en conseguirlas".

Hay una misión propia de la vejez, dijo, que es ayudar a mostrar a las personas la esperanza y el amor que vienen con "estar destinados a la eternidad en Dios" y caminar hacia el destino final con la sabiduría de la experiencia

vivida.

Ser viejo no es un obstáculo "para el nacer de lo alto del que habla Jesús, sino que se convierte en el momento oportuno para iluminarlo" y hacerlo creíble para los demás, dijo el papa.

El tipo de ternura que los abuelos muestran a sus nietos "abre la puerta para comprender la ternura de Dios", dijo, "y la vejez nos ayuda a comprender este aspecto de Dios que es la ternura".

Dijo que la gente debería preguntarse por qué "esta cultura del descarte decidió tirar a los ancianos, considerándolos inútiles".

"Los ancianos son los mensajeros del futuro, los ancianos son los mensajeros de la ternura, los ancianos son los mensajeros de la sabiduría de la experiencia vivida. Avancemos y miremos a los ancianos", dijo.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesísticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

June 25: St. Brendan, Elkins, 5 p.m.



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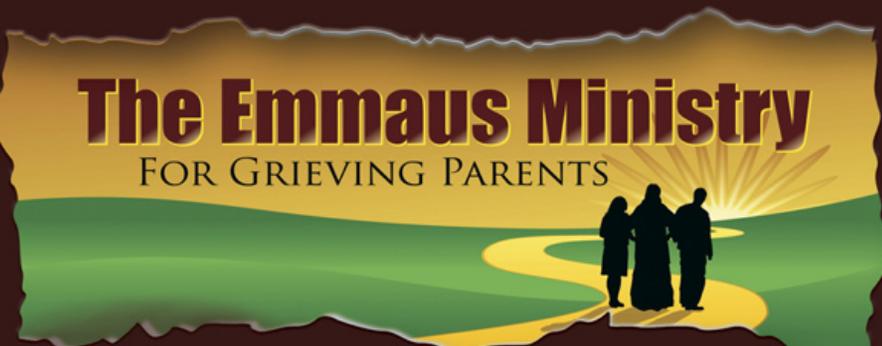
6:30 WOWK 13	Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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