June 12, 2026 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Vol. 56, No. 25

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

U.S. Bishops Consecrate Nation to Sacred Heart of Jesus

Screenshot

U.S. bishops gather for Mass June 11 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in Orlando to consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, during the nation's 250th anniversary year.

By Gigi Duncan (EWTN NEWS)

ORLANDO, Florida — The U.S. bishops consecrated the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, entrusting the United States to Christ's merciful love during a solemn Mass as part of their spring plenary assembly.

"We gather not first to celebrate ourselves, but to consecrate, to entrust… and to place our whole nation into the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ," Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore said in his homily.

The liturgy took place on the final day of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring plenary meeting, during the nation's 250th anniversary year.

In the hours leading up to the Mass, bishops concluded their assembly with reflections that centered on the meaning of devotion to the Sacred Heart in contemporary life.

Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland, Oregon, described the devotion as a response to modern forms of spiritual strain, including loneliness and the pressure to measure personal

See "Sacred Heart" on Page 4

Inside:

All Saints Parish Remembering Father Charles Carroll's Deep Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Page 3

Pray a Novena for Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala Leading up to His Installation as 10th Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

"Your prayers for others are the most powerful way that you can bring the Mercy of God into this world."

-St. Faustina

Catholic faithful across the Diocese are invited to join in a Novena for Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, beginning June 23rd, leading up to his Installation on July 2nd as Tenth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston.

The entire Novena is available on dwc.org with a link directly on the homepage under the "Welcome Bishop-Designate Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala" photo. We also have a booklet version available if you'd like to print copies for your church.

Contact Tim Bishop at tbishop@dwc.org for those. Please consider joining us as we prepare to welcome Bishop Evelio Menjivar to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston!

Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Martin E. Francis is appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Boniface Parish, Camden, and Good Shepherd Mission, Glenville, with residence at the parish rectory, effective immediately.

Father Clifton Mastran is appointed Vice Rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, Wheeling, and Parochial Vicar of St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling, with residence at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish rectory, effective June 17, 2026.

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. At right are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2026 Print Dates:
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, July 7
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
Triumph of the Cross, September 11
Month of the Rosary, October 9
Advent, November 20
Christmas, December 18

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

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

The Catholic Spirit
June 12, 2026
Vol. 56, No. 25
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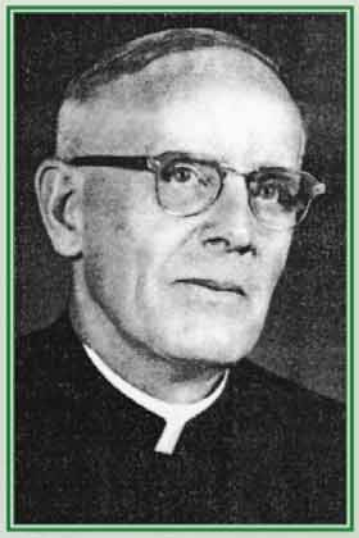
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc.

Published every Friday by e-mail & printed 10 times a year. All issues sent to each registered Catholics free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are $25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

All Saints Parish Remembering Father Charles Carroll's Deep Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Father Charles R. Carroll
Born: November 25, 1904
Baptized: December 19, 1904
Ordained: June 10, 1933
Died: December 6, 1993

Thomas said to him: "Master, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus told him: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." John 14: 5-6

The scripture text "I am the way and the truth and the life" from John 14 above was chosen by Father Carroll to be carved into the base of the Sacred Heart statue (left) that stood in front of the 1954 All Saints Catholic Church, and is now located near the entrance to the 1992 church.

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops is consecrating the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 2026.

All Saints Parish, Bridgeport, celebrates this action by remembering the deep devotion to the Sacred Heart of its founding pastor.

Here is an excerpt from the July 4, 1982 parish bulletin written by Father Carroll.

Last week on the last Sunday in June, the month of the Sacred Heart, we talked about the origin of this devotion, the revelations concerning His Sacred Heart that were made to Saint Mary Margaret Alacoque, a French Visitation nun. In this area for nearly 50 years we have urged greater devotion to that Sacred Heart, and increased participation at Mass and other devotions on the First Friday of each month, and the joyful making of the nine First Friday Communions of reparation called for by the Lord to make up for the "coldness and indifference, sacrilege and contempt" He receives from the greater number of people, especially in the Holy Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament of His love. Several people have asked where the Twelve Promises to persons having devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which were communicated to Sister Margaret Mary by Christ the Lord in 1675 might be found. Here they are:

1/ I will give them all the graces necessary in their state in life.
2/ I will establish peace in their home.
3/ I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4/ I will be their secure refuge during life and, above all, in death.
5/ I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6/ Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7/ By devotion to my Heart tepid souls shall grow fervent.
8/ Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9/ I will bless every place where a picture of my Heart shall be set up and honored.
10/ I will give priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11/ Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart, never to be blotted out.
12/ I will grant the grace of final penitence to those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months.

Please pray for the Cause of **Father Charles R. Carroll**.
For more information: revcrcarroll@gmail.com

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Sacred Heart ...

Cont'd from Page 1

worth by achievement or failure. Drawing on Pope Francis' encyclical Dilexit Nos, he said contemporary culture often unsettles identity itself.

"The Sacred Heart of Jesus answers that question decisively," Archbishop Sample said. "When we know that we are loved by Christ, we no longer need to build our identity on achievements or failures."

He added that devotion to the Sacred Heart offers freedom from fear, self-centeredness, despair, and superficiality while also calling believers to bring that love into public life. "The world needs witnesses whose hearts resemble the heart of Jesus," he said.

Archbishop Shelton Fabre of Louisville, Kentucky, reflected on the Sacred Heart as a source of communion within the Church, emphasizing that unity within the Church is not built on shared preference but on divine initiative and grace. He described the Church as "a brotherhood not created by personal preference, affinity, or ideology but by the providence of God and the will of Jesus Christ."

Archbishop Bernard Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis pointed to the devotion as a path of interior renewal grounded in prayer and sacramental life. Citing St. John Henry Newman's phrase "cor ad cor loquitur" ("heart speaks to heart"), he said the deepest encounter with Christ takes place in a personal, interior communion shaped by prayer and the Eucharist.

Shortly before the Mass, bishops spent time in Eucharistic adoration and benediction and venerated the relics of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the 17th-century French nun whose visions helped spread devotion to the Sacred Heart throughout the Church.

'The Sacred Heart does not divide'

In his homily, Archbishop Lori placed the consecration within the broader moral and spiritual tensions of Church and national life, framing it as an act of trust rather than achievement.

"To love as Christ loves is the true measure of Christian discipleship, and it is the true measure of our humanity," he said.

He acknowledged that this measure has often not been lived out. "Indeed, it has sometimes obscured it almost beyond recognition," he said, noting the reality of division, sin, and failure alongside moments of grace.

Archbishop Lori said the act of entrustment is not an assertion of strength but an admission of dependence on mercy. "We cannot come to the heart of Christ while pretending we have no need of his mercy," he said.

The future, he emphasized, cannot ultimately be secured by human systems or planning. "The future belongs to God, not to political movements, economic forces, or human plans," he said.

He then described the Sacred Heart as the source of reconciliation itself, not merely a devotional image but a living reality that reshapes those who turn to it.

"The Sacred Heart does not divide, it reconciles," he said. "It does not harden hearts, it transforms them. It does not simply invite us to receive love; it sends us forth to share it."

Reflecting on the Gospel, he described Christ as fully entering the human condition with "a heart that has known joy and sorrow, friendship and betrayal, suffering and sacrifice."

"The Sacred Heart reveals a savior who desires not merely our obedience, but our friendship," he said. "Not simply our service, but our communion with him."

That communion, he added, is meant to shape the whole of Christian life. "To remain in his love and allow that love to shape everything we do," he said.

Prayer of entrustment

Following the homily, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, led the solemn prayer of consecration, placing the moment within a wider historical and theological tradition.

He recalled that 127 years earlier Pope Leo XIII consecrated the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, presenting the Orlando liturgy as a continuation of that same act of entrustment.

"In that same spirit, we now consecrate the United States of America," Archbishop Coakley said, noting that Christ "in his own blood has removed all divisions and made of many nations one people of God."

He led repeated invocation throughout the prayer: "Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us."

The consecration prayer addressed Christ as the "Desire of Nations and Center of History," asking him to bless the United States, heal the nation's wounds, and bring reconciliation, justice, and peace where they are lacking.

It also gave thanks for the blessings bestowed upon the country, affirmed the dignity of every person as a gift from the Creator, and made reparation for offenses against God and human dignity.

The prayer further asked that the Church in the United States be a visible sign of Christ's presence in the world, pointing "all people to [his] infinite love." It prayed for peace in families and communities, the reconciliation of broken relationships, the repair of injustices, and the healing of the nation through a deeper union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

'A powerful moment in our national story'

President Donald Trump also issued a message marking the consecration, calling it "a powerful moment in our national story" and linking it to Bishop John Carroll's post-Revolutionary consecration of the United States to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He described the moment as part of a broader spiritual inheritance, noting that American history has long been shaped by public expressions of faith.

"As Catholic bishops consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in this 250th year of our independence, we recommit ourselves," he said, calling for renewed attention to the nation's "spiritual identity and great civilizational inheritance."

Trump called the consecration "a poignant reminder that America has always been guided by the loving hand of God," framing it as both reflection and renewal during the semiquincentennial year.

(Gigi Duncan is a staff writer for the National Catholic Register based in Washington, D.C. https://www.ewtnnews.com)

Child Protection, Sainthood Causes, World Youth Day on U.S. Bishops' Spring Meeting Agenda

By Julie Asher

ORLANDO, Fla. (OSV News) — Headlining the June 10 public session of the U.S. bishops' spring plenary in Orlando were addresses by the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the new apostolic nuncio to the United States, along with a preliminary presentation on proposed updates to the bishops' landmark document on protection policies for children and minors.

A highlight in the afternoon was a report on World Youth Day 2027, accompanied by a gift of traditional Asian paper fans for each bishop from South Korea — whose capital, Seoul, will host the international event.

In a morning presentation, Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, said the bishops are reviewing proposed updates to the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," seeking to define key terms while balancing care for victim-survivors with accused clergy's right to a presumption of innocence until proven otherwise.

The suggested changes would keep the charter focused "exclusively" on clergy abuse of minors, with a new document being developed to address abuse involving vulnerable adults, Bishop Knestout said. Voting on the agenda item was scheduled for June 11.

He said the revised text includes a glossary of terms in response to diocesan requests, and — drawing on canon law — the integration of "the right of an accused to the presumption of innocence."

Following the presentation, Archbishop Shawn McKnight of Kansas City, Kansas — citing several factors, and calling for a "more synodal approach" — asked if it would be possible to suspend the vote on the revisions pending further consultation among presbyteral councils and diocesan review boards.

At the start of the public session, Msgr. Michael J.K. Fuller, the USCCB's general secretary, read a message from the U.S. bishops to Pope Leo XIV thanking him for his new encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas" and for shining "the light of the Gospel and the tradition of the Church on the new opportunities and challenges posed by the rise" of artificial intelligence and "emerging technologies."

The bishop said the pope's teaching is a timely reminder that human life and dignity must remain at the center of technological development. Marking the first year of Pope Leo's pontificate, they prayed that he would continue to be a guiding light for both the Church and the wider world.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City gave his first address to the body of bishops as USCCB president, having been elected during the conference's annual fall meeting in November 2025.

The Church must "put out into the deep" and "create hope in Christ," he said. He told the bishops he was "especially pleased to recognize the impact" of the USCCB's special message on migration, released during the conference's November 2025 plenary assembly amid the Trump administration's hardline crackdown on immigration, which has seen sweeping mass detentions and deportations.

The USCCB message "demonstrated our united concern as pastors for the dignity of every person, especially our migrant brothers and sisters," said Archbishop Coakley.

Archbishop Gabriele G. Caccia gave his inaugural address to the bishops as nuncio to the U.S.

He was named to his new post in March, after having previously served as the Holy See's permanent observer to the United Nations.

In his remarks, he highlighted the consecration of the U.S. Church to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, urged the bishops to fulfill their mission as missionary disciples by welcoming immigrants in their midst, and reminded his brother bishops he is there for them, especially in moments when their responsibilities as episcopal shepherds leads them to feel isolated.

"My service here is one of listening, trust, and shared discernment within the Church that we are all serving together," Archbishop Caccia said.

In the late afternoon, as chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas gave a report on World Youth Day 2027, which is to take place Aug. 3-8 in Seoul, and he introduced Auxiliary Bishop Paul Kyung Sang Lee of Seoul, general coordinator for WYD 2027, who brought traditional Asian folding fans as a gift to the bishops.

Bishop Burns said some 10,000 to 15,000 young pilgrims will travel to South Korea, a number he said would be comparable to the U.S. presence at WYD in Brazil

See "Meeting" on Page 6

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Meeting ...

Cont'd from Page 5

(2013) and in Panama (2019).

Bishop Lee said he hopes all U.S. bishops will inspire young people of their dioceses to participate in the global event. The bishop detailed how the Catholic Church of Korea began in the hands of the laypeople, became strengthened by the blood of 10,000-plus martyrs, and served as a sanctuary for democracy and human rights.

"I have a simple hope that by the end of this presentation, Seoul will feel a little less far away," Bishop Lee said. After the Korean War (1950-1953), he said, "Korea was one of the poorest countries of the world. In 80 years, Korea moved from devastation to renewal. The hardships did not have the final word. Hope can renew and heal a nation."

Bishop Lee also spoke about three special WYD events that are to take place with Pope Leo XIV — a meeting with people facing hardships, interreligious dialogue, and prayers for world peace.

World Youth Day promises to be a "powerful opportunity" for young people from across the globe to witness how "God's love never ceases, regardless of circumstances," the bishop said.

The bishops also heard from mathematical biologist Santiago Schnell, a Catholic scientist and provost of Dartmouth University. He was invited to speak June 10 by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, USCCB secretary and chair of its Committee on Priorities and Plans.

The talk anticipated the bishops' discussion of the 25th anniversary of the USCCB's implementation of "Ex Corde Ecclesia," St. John Paul II's apostolic constitution on Catholic universities.

The Catholic imagination needs to be reawakened in academic life to nurture leaders who can become "voices for the Catholic Church," Schnell advised the nation's bishops.

During his presentation, Schnell — formerly dean of the University of Notre Dame's College of Science — warned that Catholics were, as his presentation title asserted, "educated, yet absent" from American intellectual life.

"The Catholic paradox is that we have a massive infrastructure of higher education with average outcomes," said Schnell. "We are not educating sufficient Catholics in our Catholic higher educational system. And we're not educating them, actually, to become leaders."

The bishops also heard a preliminary presentation on portions of two texts for consideration: a new edition of the Lectionary for Mass, which provides the Scripture readings and psalm for each day's liturgy; and the 2025 Roman Missal-Liturgy of the Hours Supplement.

In a voice vote they showed support for the local advancement of two separate American canonization causes: Bishop Daniel J. Felton of Duluth, Minnesota, gave a presentation on the cause opened in his diocese for pioneer missionary priest Msgr. Joseph Buh and Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami presented the cause of entrepreneur-turned-evangelist John Rick Miller.

The consultation of a body of bishops — at either the regional or national level — is required by Church legislation governing the canonization process as a cause gets underway.

(Julie Asher is senior editor for OSV News. Contributing to this story were Gina Christian, Jean Gonzalez and Michael R. Heinlein.)

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

Men today need a band of brothers – other Catholic men to share in that call, who walk together on the journey towards something better.

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On Corpus Christi, U.S. Parishes Show Solidarity with Migrants, Refugees and Urge Their Protection

By Nicole Olea / Catholic Standard, OSV News

WASHINGTON — The noonday sun shone over Columbia Heights in Northwest Washington as people moved between corner markets and families pushed strollers past Salvadoran pupuserías, Dominican and Mexican restaurants, pho shops and fruit vendors shaded beneath bright umbrellas.

In that same neighborhood, every pew inside the Shrine of the Sacred Heart was filled June 7 as worshippers gathered beneath mosaic-covered walls where immigrants have prayed for more than a century.

"The Jesus who gives himself to us in the Eucharist is also present in each one of his sons and daughters, especially in those who suffer, the vulnerable, the forgotten and those who carry heavy burdens," Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala said in his homily connecting the celebration of the Eucharist to the suffering and dignity of immigrants.

Bishop Menjivar, a Washington auxiliary bishop appointed by Pope Leo XIV May 1 as the new bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, celebrated the Spanish-language Mass for the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi Sunday.

Bishop-designate Emilio Biosca Agüero — the Sacred Heart pastor named by the pope May 13 as the new bishop of Venice, Florida — concelebrated the Mass along with priests from across the Archdiocese of Washington.

OSV News photo/Mihoko Owada, Catholic Standard

Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala carries the Eucharist during a Corpus Christi procession from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle June 7 in Washington. Bishop Menjivar was a Washington auxiliary bishop until his appointment by Pope Leo XIV May 1 as the new bishop of Wheeling-Charleston.

Following the Mass, hundreds of Catholics joined in a Eucharistic procession, walking in solidarity with immigrants from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

The Mass and procession in the nation's capital were part of the Season of Faithful Witness rooted in prayer and Eucharistic devotion to show solidarity with immigrants amid the Trump administration's hardline immigration enforcement policies and mass deportation push. This witness, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Corpus Christi, has been observed across the country.

In Pittsburgh, members of Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi gathered for a Corpus Christi prayer vigil.

Nearly 250 people in New York City processed through the city to publicly affirm the dignity of every person. The witness drew clergy, religious, lay leaders, parishioners and community members.

In La Crosse, Wisconsin, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration partnered with Viterbo University to host a Eucharistic procession. The daylong Wisconsin event began with Mass at the university's San Damiano Chapel, and the procession through the city made prayer stops focused on access to healthcare, education and housing. It ended with Eucharistic adoration and Benediction at Mary of the Angels Chapel at the Franciscans' convent. More than 80 people participated in the event, which concluded with a shared meal and fellowship.

In Washington, Bishop Menjivar said in his homily that immigrant families often walk paths marked by uncertainty and sacrifice while searching for safety, work and dignity, trusting only in the providence of God.

Drawing from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Bishop Menjivar said in his homily that the Eucharist unites Catholics not only to Jesus Christ, but to one another.

"We are the body of Christ," he said. "And if we are one body, then when one member suffers, all suffer with that member. ... We cannot adore Jesus in the monstrance and then ignore him when he appears in the face of the migrant, the refugee, the poor and the fearful."

"The Eucharist moves us beyond ourselves so that we may accompany those most in need of our closeness," he said. "It calls us to build communities where no one feels like a stranger, where no one is left alone in suffering, and where all may discover that they are beloved sons and daughters of God."

Hundreds of faithful participated in a Eucharistic procession along 16th Street and Rhode Island Avenue following the Mass. Along the route, the

See "Parishes" on Page 8

Parishes ...

Cont'd from Page 7

procession stopped at various stations of prayer, where testimonies were shared about the difficult situation faced by many immigrants who lack legal authorization to live and work in the U.S.

Some prayed the rosary while others sang hymns in Spanish and English. Families carried banners, pushed strollers and held photographs of loved ones and community members detained or deported amid immigration proceedings.

Incense smoke drifted upward from thuribles carried by altar servers as pedestrians stopped to watch, record the procession on their phones or ask, "What's going on?" as it passed by.

Organized by the archdiocese's Office of Justice and Peace, the procession was rooted in the Catholic belief that Jesus Christ is truly present — body, blood, soul and divinity — in the Eucharist.

Beneath a white-and-gold canopy, Bishop Menjivar, Bishop-designate Biosca Agüero and Bishop-designate Robert P. Boxie — the latter was named by Pope Leo on May 1 to be a new auxiliary bishop of Washington — took turns carrying the monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament during the nearly two-mile procession.

At several points along the route, the procession paused at temporary altars prepared by parish communities and ministries from across the archdiocese, including St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Jaime Ortiz, a member of the Knights of Columbus at Sacred Heart, stated that accompanying the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of the U.S. capital represents a gesture of solidarity with thousands of people who are migrants and who have been detained or deported.

"The feast of Corpus Christi reminds us that we must defend the dignity of people, strengthen our parish communities, and bear witness to hope," said Ortiz, according to reports from El Pregonero, the Spanish-language news outlet of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Among the participants were Alexander and Sulma Cruz, a Salvadoran couple from the St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg, who attended with their young daughter.

"We want to show that we are a living Church in solidarity with our migrant brothers and sisters who are suffering today. We also wish to pass on to our daughter the faith we received from our parents and grandparents," the couple said.

For Jorge Cabanilla, a leader of the Brotherhood of the Lord of Miracles of Washington and a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of the Americas, the presence of bishops, priests and religious sisters in the procession was a sign of pastoral closeness to the Hispanic community.

"There is fear of immigration raids, family separation and unemployment, which affects many households. Today we feel that we are not alone and that, through prayer, hope for a dignified solution always emerges," Cabanilla said.

Arthur Laffin, a member of Holy Redeemer Parish in Washington and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Movement, carried a sign reading, "Love your neighbor means welcome the immigrant. Don't detain and deport them."

Laffin said public Eucharistic processions give Catholics an opportunity to stand in solidarity with immigrants and others in need.

"We're sending the message that we are all part of the body of Christ, and when one suffers, we all suffer," he told Catholic Standard, the English-language newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese.

"What we've seen over the last several months is that many Catholics are looking for ways to connect their faith to the pressing challenges facing their communities," said Sergio Lopez, national director of mission and leadership formation at Catholics in Communion, one of the groups behind the Season of Faithful Witness.

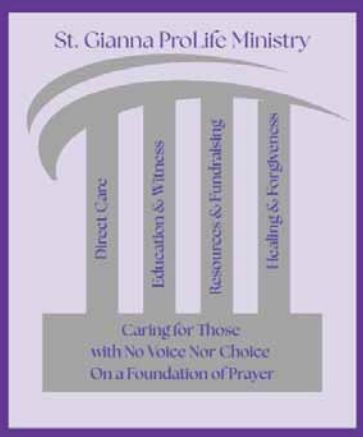
The "season" began on Ash Wednesday and ended on Corpus Christi, but the feast day "is not the finish line for this work — it's a milestone," Lopez said in a statement.

"As we move forward, we'll continue supporting public witness," he said, "strengthening Catholic leadership, accompanying immigrant families and other vulnerable communities, and helping Catholics live out their responsibility to participate in public life in ways that advance human dignity and the common good."

(Nicole Olea is a reporter at Catholic Standard, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Washington. This story was originally published by the Catholic Standard and distributed through a partnership with OSV News. Miguel Vivanco, assistant editor of El Pregonero, the Spanish-language news outlet of the Archdiocese of Washington, contributed to this story.)

Dare to be Different!

The 2026 Dobbs Day Conference



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Rebekah Cohen Morris of Aim Women's Center

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Interested in having a table at the conference? Please call Amy Carlson Miesel, (304) 312-9051.

Six Diocesan Catholic School Eighth Graders Win Golden Horseshoe Award

By Father William K. Matheny Jr.

WEST VIRGINIA— The Golden Horseshoe exam is annually administered to all West Virginia eighth graders. This test determines their knowledge of West Virginia history, geography, culture, government, and personalities. The name "Golden Horseshoe" refers to the prize that the governor of territorial Virginia gave his explorers who travelled across the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1716 to study the unknown western territory, which became the State of West Virginia in 1863. The Golden Horseshoe test, first administered in 1931, is the oldest of its kind in the United States. The top scoring eighth graders in each county earn the Golden Horseshoe medal. This year six eighth grade students from diocesan Catholic schools earned the coveted prize. They received their award at a ceremony at the West Virginia Cultural Center in Charleston on June 9, 2026. The six winners are:

Valentina DiBacco (Weirton Madonna H.S), president of the Madonna Junior High Student Council who participates in athletics and drama. Her West Virginia Studies teacher was Patrick McGeehan.

Liliana Gilot (Saint Michael School, Wheeling), class salutatorian and a member of the Wheeling Central Junior High swim team. Her teacher was Brian Dubil.

Liam Harris (Charleston Catholic High School), member of the middle school soccer and tennis teams, West Virginia History Bowl, and a winner of the Young Writers' Contest in Goldenseal magazine. His teacher was Drew Cable.

Lillian Magruder (Saint Francis Central School, Morgantown), class valedictorian, trumpeter in the middle school band, West Virginia History Bowl, and Aquinas Medal winner. Her teacher was Daniel Berry.

Lyla Santorine (Saint Michael School, Wheeling), plays on the school volleyball team, serves on the Student Council, and participates in speech/debate. Her teacher was Brian Dubil.

Audrey Westfall (Saint Patrick School, Weston), "A" Honor Roll, 2nd place in the Regional Social Studies Fair, and first place in the VFW Lewis County Essay Contest. Her teacher was Sydney Bush.

Courtesy photos

Clockwise from above: Audrey Westfall, Liam Harris, Lillian Magruder, Valentina DiBacco, Lyla Santorine, and Lilianab Gilot.

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Wheeling University Alumnus Pledges $1.5 Million to Newly Formed Wheeling University Foundation

WHEELING – The newly established Wheeling University Foundation has received its initial pledge of $1.5 million from alumnus John A. Mitchell class of 1962 to establish a new scholarship fund to benefit students attending his alma mater.

This pledge from John Mitchell will establish the Martin J. Mitchell Scholarship, in honor of his father. The Foundation will receive his gift upon his passing.

According to John Mitchell, the Martin J. Mitchell Scholarship will help students from West Virginia attend Wheeling University. In addition to John Mitchell, his sister, Mary Lu (Mitchell) Gormley, attended Wheeling and her spouse, Michael Gormley '67, is a graduate of Wheeling University, as well.

After earning his undergraduate degree in History from Wheeling, John Mitchell earned a law degree from Georgetown University. He is one of 16 members of the Class of 1962 who became lawyers. He is a retired attorney for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

"The members of the Wheeling University Foundation are grateful to John Mitchell for his generous gift to the Wheeling University Foundation. This gift by John will provide scholarships to students from West Virginia to attend his alma mater," said Vince Gallagher, chair of the Wheeling University Foundation Board.

John Mitchell explained that his father, Martin Mitchell, had lost both of his parents by the age of 15. Having to raise and support himself in his teens, Martin worked at various jobs during the day and attended high school during the evenings at the Boston School of Commerce. As a young adult, he began working in the shoe business, where he had a successful career. He first worked for Walkover Shoes, follow by Endicott-Johnson, and finally with the Childs Corporation. Martin retired from the Pittsburgh-based Childs Corporation, rising to the position of Executive Vice President.

Martin's childhood circumstances prevented him from pursuing a college education, but he was a generous supporter of his children's alma mater until his death in 1973.

"This gift by Mr. Mitchell is a beautiful legacy to his father. We thank Mr. Mitchell for his support which will provide future scholarships to students wishing to attend Wheeling University," said Wheeling University President, Dianna Vargo, Ed.D.

Vargo added, "The establishment of scholarships provide our students with the opportunity to live the Wheeling University mission of life, leadership, and service, while strengthening our partnership with the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission."

Moundsville Native Shares Her Experience as One of 37 Wheeling University Graduates from the Mountain State

WHEELING — Wheeling University graduate Kaitlyn Cochran finished her academic career at the institution with high honors and accolades. The credit for her success, she believes, should be given to the faculty.

Cochran, who is from Moundsville, is one of 37 students from across West Virginia to earn degrees from Wheeling University this year. The University awarded nearly 200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees in 2026.

During the May Commencement exercises, Cochran received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education degree and was recognized for earning the second highest grade point average among all graduates of the Bachelor of Arts programs. Cochran also was given the Elementary Education Student of the Year Award during the annual Honors Convocation.

"I really enjoyed my classes at Wheeling. I had great professors who took the time to help me in and outside the classroom," Cochran explained. "I would not be a teacher today if it were not for my professors. They made sure I was successful in the classroom and during my student teaching. Most of all, they cared about me personally."

Cochran gave praise to Cindy Burke, Assistant Professor of Education. "Mrs. Burke was amazing. She taught me so much about being in the classroom, but also how to do the follow up work outside the classroom. She taught me many skills necessary for teaching that I have been able to apply during observation placements and while student teaching. Her support has meant so much to me."

Burke said during her student teaching, Cochran displayed "professionalism, a willingness to reflect and grow, and the ability to take feedback and immediately apply it to improve instruction. She was a good student, and I know she will be an exceptional teacher." She noted that Cochran also plans to teach in West Virginia.

The recent graduate also liked the small classes, which provided an intimate experience that allowed her to grow personally and professionally. "I don't think I would have the same learning experience at a larger university," Cochran said. "I also got the chance to learn about different cultures from my classmates that came to Wheeling from countries around the world."

In fact, she chose to attend Wheeling University because of the small class sizes. She also liked that the institution was close to home. "Family is very important to me, so it was important to attend a school that would allow me to be close to my family."

Outside events and activities also provided her with the chance to grow in her profession. Cochran was a mentor with the Help Enrich Someone Special (HESS) program. Through HESS, she worked with seventh grade students from Wheeling Middle School throughout the 12-week program.

Cochran admits, the four years at Wheeling University went by fast. "It was surreal walking across the stage. I watched the three previous commencements waiting for my turn and I didn't expect for the time to go so fast. I'm proud of myself. I worked hard and earning a degree was quite an accomplishment."

Courtesy photo

Wheeling University graduate Kaitlyn Cochran is shown following May Commencement exercises.

Welcome Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala in a special issue of The Catholic Spirit

Parishes, Catholic schools, and Catholic groups and organizations are invited to purchase ads of welcome and congratulations to our new bishop in the July 7 print edition of The Catholic Spirit. All of the proceeds help provide The Catholic Spirit free of charge to all Catholics in West Virginia. The deadline to purchase ads is Friday, June 26. We can create the ad for you or you are welcome to send in your own design.

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To purchase an ad, send e-mail to crowan@dwc.org with "Welcome ad" in the subject line.

$70B Immigration-Enforcement Funds Exclude Bishops-Supported Migrant Protections

By Kate Scanlon

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — President Donald Trump signed legislation June 10 providing $70 billion to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol.

Prior to the bill's passage, the U.S. bishops were among those who urged lawmakers to make immigration policy reforms aimed at protecting the dignity of migrants, such as efforts to prevent the separation of families.

However, after months of debate over possible reforms, none of those measures were ultimately included in the final bill as negotiations in Congress fell apart.

Called the Secure America Act, the approximately $70 billion legislation would fund ICE and CBP for the next three years, through the end of Trump's second term in the White House, and was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in a narrow 214-212 vote the previous day.

The bill's Senate passage earlier in June came after Trump's attempt to attach a controversial $1.8 billion "weaponization fund" stalled it the previous month. Senators on both sides of the aisle raised strong objections to that attempt and it was scrapped.

In a June 9 statement, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., argued, "Here's the end result of Democrats' record-setting obstruction: CBP and ICE will now be funded for the remainder of President Trump's term and Democrats will have no ability to defund these agencies in the 119th or 120th Congresses."

In June 9 comments on the House floor, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., argued the bill was "a blank check to ICE without any guardrails, any oversight or any accountability."

"Immigration enforcement in this country should be fair, it should be just and it should be humane," he said.

Catholic immigration advocates beyond the bishops had also sought reforms to immigration enforcement during debate over the bill, and some raised concerns about the party-line measure that ultimately passed.

Kevin Appleby, senior fellow for policy and communications at the Center for Migration Studies of New York and the former director of migration policy for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told OSV News, "DHS now has an almost unlimited amount of funding to build a mass deportation infrastructure with no guardrails or accountability."

"We will continue to see families separated, pregnant women and children detained, and due process rights violated," Appleby said. "Immigrants, including those with legal status, will be afraid to attend Mass, violating their right to practice their faith."

Appleby urged the bishops and the faithful to "stand up even more forcefully for the rights of immigrants during this dark period."

Dylan Corbett, executive director of the Hope Border Institute, a group that works to apply the perspective of Catholic social teaching in policy and practice to the U.S.-Mexico border region, told OSV News, "This year's months-long dispute over Congress's additional funding for immigration enforcement reflected a rare, bipartisan alarm after the deaths of U.S. citizens during ICE and Border Patrol operations in Minnesota and a broader string of reported abuses, constitutional concerns, and an alarmingly high number of deaths in immigrant detention over the past year."

"People across the political spectrum urged sensible limits and accountability for agencies with sweeping powers," he continued. "Yet, following a historic infusion of resources in 2025, Congress and the Trump administration are poised to authorize still more enforcement capacity without commensurate oversight.

"We are failing to address the deeper policy failures at the heart of our immigration system while worsening legal erosion, community strife and the real human harms — sometimes fatal — that oversight is meant to prevent," he added.

In a June 1 letter, Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, wrote to the top senators on the Committee on Appropriations that he hoped they would consider key policy reforms aimed at protecting the dignity of migrants, such as efforts to prevent the separation of families.

"Whatever disagreements may arise on specific policy questions, migration is fundamentally about the movement of human persons, each of whom is created in the image and likeness of God," he wrote. "In the course of contemporary debate, this reality is frequently overlooked or dismissed entirely, paving the way for dehumanizing rhetoric and policy responses that fail to advance the common good."

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, June 14: St. Matthew / Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, June 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood, 6 p.m.

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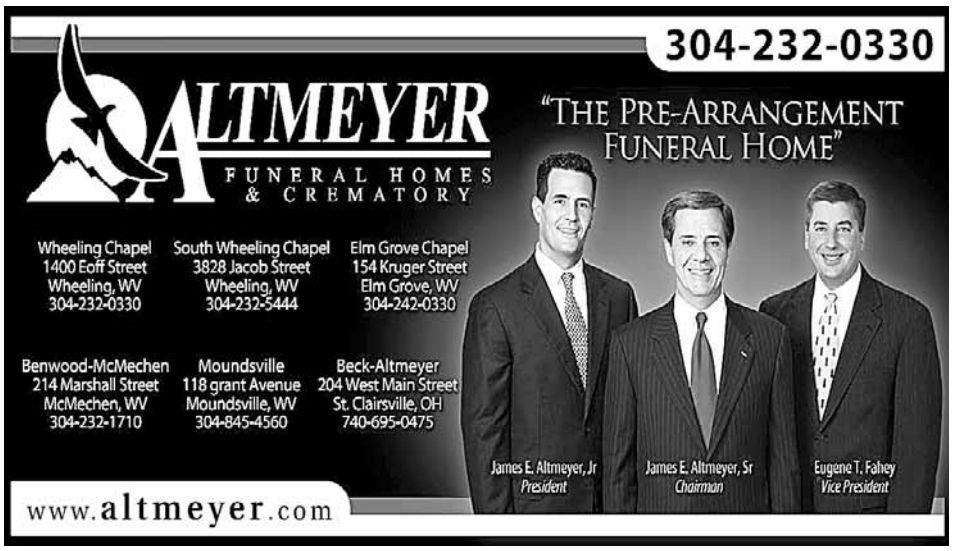

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Feast of Corpus Christi in Huntington

Father Paul Vazhappilly, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Huntington, and parishioners lead a Eucharistic Procession in the neighborhood following Mass on June 7, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Courtesy photo

Diocese Welcomes New Priest

CAMDEN — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston welcomes Father Martin Francis, a priest from the Archdiocese of Calicut in Kerala, India. He has been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Boniface Parish in Camden and Good Shepherd Mission in Glenville.

Father Martin was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 2003, for the Diocese of Calicut. He has Bachelor of Arts in sociology, history, and politics as well a Bachelor of Philosophy and a Bachelor of Theology.

In the Diocese of Calicut, Father Martin served as associate at a parish for two years and at another parish for 15 years. He was also rector to a minor seminary for three years, was a member of the Diocesan Educational Council from 2012-2021, diocesan director for the Laity Commission from 2017-2020, and diocesan director of the Pastoral Commission in 2022.

In his appointment, Father Martin resides at the parish rectory in Camden.

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6 Things to Know About the Sacred Heart Devotion

(OSV News) — As the U.S. bishop prepare to consecrate the United States to Jesus' Sacred Heart June 11 during their spring meeting in Orlando, Florida, here are six things to know about devotion to the Sacred Heart.

1. The devotion has ancient roots. When the Roman soldier struck the crucified Jesus with his sword, blood and water flowed from his side. That blood and water have long been understood to symbolize an outpouring of God's grace. Over the centuries, saints and theologians produced writings reflecting on the Sacred Heart, but it remained a personal devotion.

2. The devotion spread due to the visions of a young French nun. Beginning in 1673, Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque of the Visitation order at Paray-le-Monial, France, experienced a series of visions of Jesus over the span of 18 months. In those visions, Jesus displayed his Sacred Heart as a symbol of his love, and he told her to work to universalize devotion to his heart. These visions are the basis for the First Friday devotions and the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we have today. The image of the Sacred Heart as a wounded heart afire, encircled by a crown of thorns and surmounted by a cross, also came from those revelations. St. Margaret Mary was canonized in 1920.

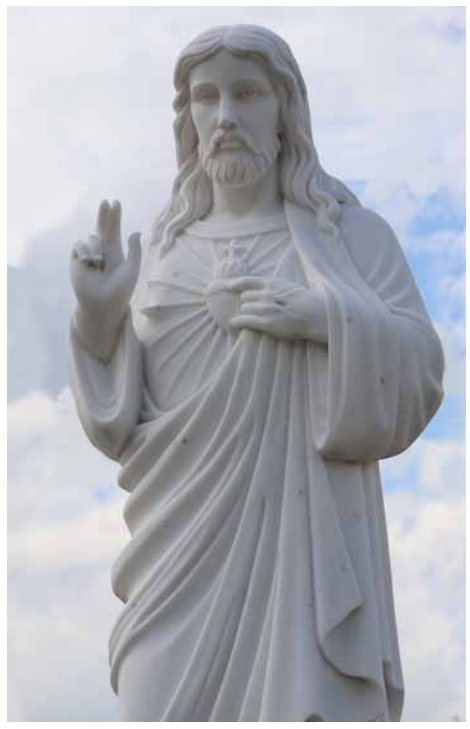
3. The devotion is rooted in prayer, liturgy and acts of reparation. St. Margaret Mary said Jesus told her that despite loving mankind so much that he gave his life for them, he was being treated with irreverence, coldness and ingratitude. He wanted the world to recognize the love he continually poured out for them symbolized by his Sacred Heart and for mankind to make amends for their ingratitude. Jesus urged St. Margaret Mary to begin a personal devotion to his divine heart by receiving holy Communion every first Friday and spending an hour in prayer the night before, both focused on seeking his pardon and making prayerful reparations for mankind's desertion of his love.

4. The devotion includes 12 promises. Jesus shared with St. Margaret Mary 12 promises he pledged to those who developed and shared a devotion to his Sacred Heart. They are: I (Jesus) I will give them the graces necessary for their state of life; I will establish peace in their homes; I will comfort them in all their afflictions; I will be their strength in life and especially in death; I will bless their undertakings; sinners shall find in my heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy; tepid souls shall grow fervent; fervent souls shall quickly advance toward perfection; I will bless every place where an image of my heart is honored; I will give priests the gift of reaching even the most hardened hearts; those who promote this devotion will have their names written in my heart; those who receive Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays will receive the grace of final perseverance."

5. Jesuits helped the devotion gain official approval. When St. Margaret Mary first attempted to explain the visions, many around her were skeptical. It was St. Claude de la Colombiere, her Jesuit spiritual adviser, who recognized her holiness, fervor and sincerity. However, even when she was believed, as a cloistered nun there was little she could do to foster her visions outside of her order. The devotion was also promoted by the non-Jesuit priest St. John Eudes, a former Oratorian who founded the Congregation of Jesus and Mary and Sisters of Charity of the Refuge. Universal approval eventually came from the Vatican in August 1856 during the reign of Pope Pius IX. In 1899, Pope Leo XIII, encouraged by Catholics around the world, consecrated the human race to the Sacred Heart. The Jesuit order officially decreed in 1883 that its members had a particular role in promoting Jesus' Sacred Heart, and in 1915, it linked this work to the Apostleship of Prayer, now known as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, which is entrusted to the order.

6. The annual feast of the Sacred Heart occurs in June. The solemnity of the Sacred Heart falls on the third Friday following the feast of Pentecost, this year June 12. In one vision, Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary to establish a Church feast day to honor his Sacred Heart. On that day, those faithful to Jesus would attend Mass, receive holy Communion, profess their love and offer reparations for the way he had been insulted by mankind. A solemnity is the highest ranking feast on the Church calendar. The Church also dedicates First Fridays and the month of June to the Sacred Heart.

(This story draws from "How Jesus' visits to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque spread love of his Sacred Heart" by D.D. Emmons and "How to conform to the love of Jesus with the Sacred Heart" by Leonard J. DeLorenzo.)



Colleen Rowan photo

The statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus stands at Sacred Heart Prayer Garden at Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton.

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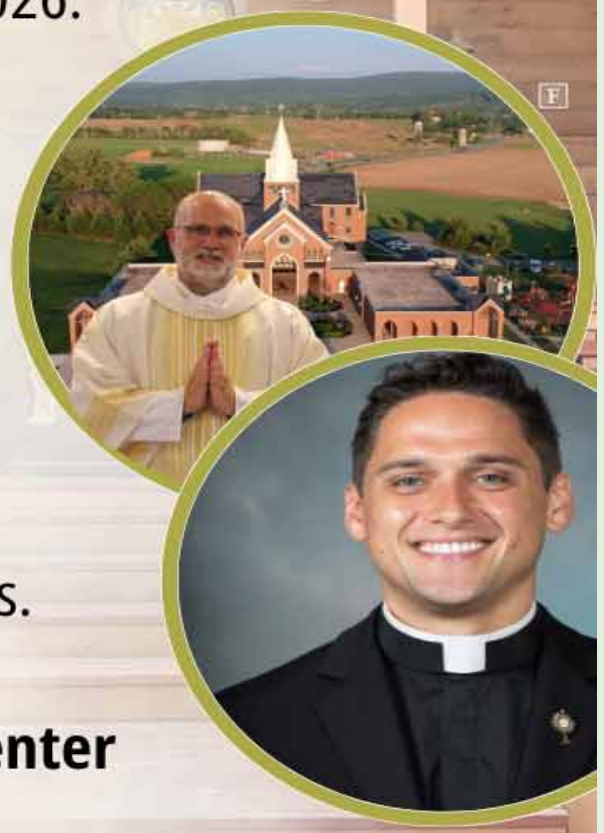

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Program Assistant, Keith Eddy, got to work right away. He reached out to community partners and also sent the neighbor home with a list of local agencies and churches that might be able to help. Over the next few days, Keith stayed in touch by phone, checking in and continuing to look for solutions.

Not long after, the power was shut off. Without electricity, the neighbor was left without air conditioning during a stretch of intense summer heat. The days were difficult, and the nights brought little rest.

As support from partner churches began to come together, Keith called to share the news. With their help, along with support from the Sisters Health Foundation, Catholic Charities West Virginia was able to cover the remaining balance and restore his power.

Relief came quickly. “I am so tired because I haven’t been able to sleep much at night with the heat,” he shared, “but now I’m excited to get home and get some sleep in the AC.”

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Seis cosas que hay que saber sobre la devoción al Sagrado Corazón

(OSV News) — Mientras los obispos de Estados Unidos se preparan para consagrar el país al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús el 11 de junio, durante su reunión de primavera en Orlando, Florida, aquí compartimos seis cosas que conviene saber sobre la devoción al Sagrado Corazón.

1. Esta devoción tiene raíces antiguas. Cuando el soldado romano atravesó con su espada a Jesús crucificado, de su costado brotaron sangre y agua. Desde hace mucho tiempo, se entiende que esa sangre y esa agua simbolizan el derramamiento de la gracia de Dios. A lo largo de los siglos, santos y teólogos escribieron reflexiones sobre el Sagrado Corazón, pero la práctica permaneció como una devoción personal.

2. La devoción se difundió gracias a las visiones de una joven religiosa francesa. A partir de 1673, sor Margarita María Alacoque, de la Orden de la Visitación en Paray-le-Monial, Francia, experimentó una serie de visiones de Jesús a lo largo de 18 meses. En ellas, Jesús mostraba su Sagrado Corazón como símbolo de su amor y le pedía que trabajara para universalizar la devoción a su corazón. Estas visiones constituyen la base de las devociones de los Primeros Viernes y de la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús que celebramos hoy en día. La imagen del Sagrado Corazón — un corazón herido y ardiente, rodeado por una corona de espinas y coronado por una cruz — también surgió de esas revelaciones. Santa Margarita María fue canonizada en 1920.

3. Esta devoción se fundamenta en la oración, la liturgia y los actos de reparación. Santa Margarita María relató que Jesús le dijo que, a pesar de amar tanto a la humanidad como para dar su vida por ella, era tratado con irreverencia, frialdad e ingratitud. Él deseaba que el mundo reconociera el amor que continuamente derramaba sobre los hombres — simbolizado en su Sagrado Corazón— y que la humanidad reparara su ingratitud. Jesús instó a Santa Margarita María a iniciar una devoción personal a su Divino Corazón, recibiendo la Sagrada Comunión cada primer viernes de mes y dedicando una hora a la oración la víspera; ambas prácticas debían centrarse en buscar su perdón y en ofrecer reparaciones, mediante la oración, por el abandono de su amor por parte de la humanidad.

4. La devoción incluye 12 promesas. Jesús reveló a Santa Margarita María 12 promesas destinadas a quienes cultivaran y difundieran la devoción a su Sagrado Corazón. Son las siguientes: Yo (Jesús) a las almas consagradas a mi Corazón les daré las gracias necesarias para su estado de vida; estableceré la paz en sus hogares/familias; los consolaré en todas sus aflicciones; seré su amparo y refugio seguro durante la vida y, especialmente, en la muerte; derramaré bendiciones abundantes sobre sus empresas; los pecadores encontrarán en mi Corazón la fuente y el océano infinito de misericordia; las almas tibias se harán fervorosas; las almas fervorosas e elevarán rápidamente a gran perfección; bendeciré todo lugar donde la imagen de mi Sagrado Corazón esté expuesta y sea honrada; daré a los sacerdotes el don de llegar incluso a los corazones más endurecidos; quienes promuevan esta devoción tendrán sus nombres escritos en mi corazón; y quienes comulguen durante nueve primeros viernes consecutivos recibirán la gracia de la perseverancia final.

5. Los jesuitas contribuyeron a que la devoción obtuviera la aprobación oficial. Cuando Santa Margarita María intentó explicar las visiones por primera vez, muchas personas de su entorno se mostraron escépticas. Fue San Claudio de la Colombière, su director espiritual jesuita, quien reconoció su santidad, fervor y sinceridad. Sin embargo, aun cuando se le creyó, al ser una monja de clausura, poco podía hacer para difundir sus visiones fuera de su orden. La devoción también fue promovida por San Juan Eudes — sacerdote no jesuita y antiguo oratoriano —, quien fundó la Congregación de Jesús y María y las Hermanas de la Caridad del Refugio. Finalmente, el Vaticano otorgó la aprobación universal en agosto de 1856, durante el pontificado de Pío IX. En 1899, el Papa León XIII, alentado por católicos de todo el mundo, consagró el género humano al Sagrado Corazón. La Compañía de Jesús decretó oficialmente en 1883 que sus miembros tenían un papel especial en la promoción del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y, en 1915, vinculó esta labor al Apostolado de la Oración --conocido actualmente como la Red Mundial de Oración del Papa (Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network) —, cuya gestión está encomendada a la orden.

6. La fiesta anual del Sagrado Corazón se celebra en junio. La solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón tiene lugar el tercer viernes después de la fiesta de Pentecostés; este año, cae el 12 de junio. En una visión, Jesús pidió a Santa Margarita María que estableciera una fiesta litúrgica para honrar su Sagrado Corazón. En ese día, los fieles a Jesús asistirían a Misa, recibirían la Sagrada Comunión, profesarían su amor y ofrecerían actos de reparación por las ofensas que la humanidad había cometido contra Él. La solemnidad es la celebración de mayor rango en el calendario de la Iglesia. La Iglesia también dedica los Primeros Viernes y el mes de junio al Sagrado Corazón.

(Esta nota se basa en los artículos "How Jesus' visits to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque spread love of his Sacred Heart" (Cómo las visitas de Jesús a Santa Margarita María Alacoque difundieron el amor a su Sagrado Corazón), de D.D. Emmons, y "How to conform to the love of Jesus with the Sacred Heart" (Cómo asemejarnos al amor de Jesús con el Sagrado Corazón), de Leonard J. DeLorenzo.)

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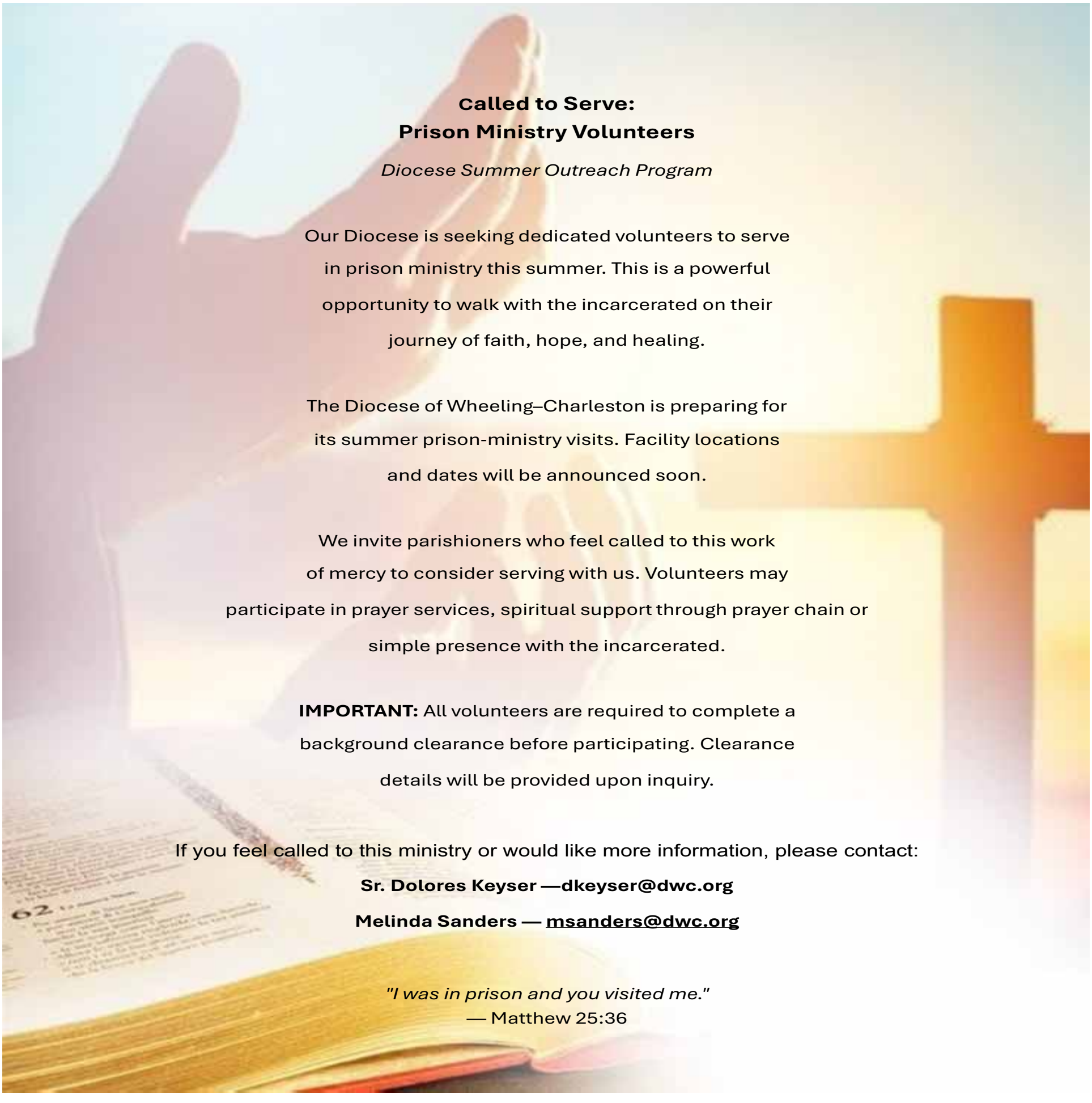

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Prison Ministry Volunteers

Diocese Summer Outreach Program

Our Diocese is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve in prison ministry this summer. This is a powerful opportunity to walk with the incarcerated on their journey of faith, hope, and healing.

The Diocese of Wheeling–Charleston is preparing for its summer prison-ministry visits. Facility locations and dates will be announced soon.

We invite parishioners who feel called to this work of mercy to consider serving with us. Volunteers may participate in prayer services, spiritual support through prayer chain or simple presence with the incarcerated.

IMPORTANT: All volunteers are required to complete a background clearance before participating. Clearance details will be provided upon inquiry.

If you feel called to this ministry or would like more information, please contact:

Sr. Dolores Keyser —dkeyser@dwc.org

Melinda Sanders — msanders@dwc.org

"I was in prison and you visited me."
— Matthew 25:36

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