

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Visit Cathedral of St. Joseph

WHEELING — From Wednesday, June 18, through Friday, June 27, the Cathedral of St. Joseph will host the Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. An initiative of the Knights of Columbus, the Pilgrim Icon offers the faithful a special opportunity to reflect on the profound mercy and love of Christ through devotion to His Sacred Heart.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has shared that, as Knights bring these icons across the world to parishes, “they will invite their families — and all families — to See “Icon” on Page 2



Knights of Columbus photo
The Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is shown above.

Nicene Creed Presents ‘the Mystery that Unites’ Christians, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recognizing the essential tenets of faith that Catholics and Orthodox share should be the lens through which they discuss the issues that continue to separate them, Pope Leo XIV said.

“Through theological dialogue and with the help of God, we will gain a better understanding of the mystery that unites us,” he told Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Catholic scholars and bishops June 7.

The bishops and theologians met June 4-7 in Rome for a conference

marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and its implications for future church unity.

Pope Leo began his remarks to the group apologizing for being late and asking for their patience. “I am not yet one month into the new job, so there are a lot of learning experiences,” he said.

Marking the anniversary of the council, he said, is not simply about recalling the past. Especially because the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed still is the basic profession of Christian faith, the council “must continue to

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Twelve Men Installed as Candidates for the Diaconate



Courtesy photo

Bishop Mark Brennan and clergy are gathered with the 12 men the bishop installed as candidates for the diaconate for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on June 7 at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. The candidates are, from left, Matthew Allen Vester of St. John University Parish in Morgantown, Robert Willard Rogers of St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood, Joaquin Maya Flores of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, John Thomas Shawler of Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston, Jose Rizal Torres Pangilinan of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling, Michael David Flanigan of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, Isaias Martinez of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, Ramiro Escamilla Martinez of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, Daniel Mangino of St. Leo Parish in Inwood, Mark Anthony Lendearo of Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson, Nelson Ronald Mascarenhas of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, and Richard Elee Byrd of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town. Clergy with them are, in the back, from left, Deacon John Yaquinta, coordinator of the diocese’s Deacon Formation Program; Deacon Rick Allen; Deacon Dennis Nesor; Bishop Brennan; Father Bill Pietro; and Deacon Tony O’Leary.

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Diocesan Official Appointment

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointment:

Father Jourden Travis Moger is appointed parochial vicar of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town and St. Peter Chapel in Harpers Ferry with residence at his home in Round Hill, Va., effective June 18, 2025. In addition, he is appointed chaplain to Shepherd University in Shepherdstown.

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.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

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



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Icon ...

Cont'd from Page 1

consecrate their homes and themselves to the Sacred Heart." He further noted, "In the Heart of Christ, we see the Heart of the Father. And we ask Our Lord to help us make His Heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what He sees and loves in us."

This year marks the 350th anniversary of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque's final revelation from Jesus, in which He revealed His infinite love for humanity. This powerful message sparked the widespread devotion to the Sacred Heart, and its images have since become cher-

ished by Catholics around the world.

During this time, parishioners and visitors will have the opportunity to enthrone the Sacred Heart in their homes. Enthronement packets will be available at the Cathedral for all who wish to participate. This is a beautiful way to invite the Sacred Heart into your home and to make His love and mercy a central part of your family life.

The Pilgrim Icon will remain at the cathedral through the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on June 27. All are invited to visit, participate in this moment of spiritual renewal, and honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV greets Orthodox Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon, a bishop of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate, during a meeting in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican June 7 with participants attending a conference on the ecumenical implications of the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

Creed ...

Cont'd from Page 1

guide us towards the full visible unity of Christians."

"By celebrating together this Nicene faith and by proclaiming it together, we will also advance towards the restoration of full communion among us," Pope Leo said.

The pope quoted the Catholic International Theological Commission's document on the Nicaea anniversary, saying the celebrations represent "an invaluable opportunity to emphasize that what we have in common is much stronger, quantitatively and qualitatively, than what divides us. Together, we believe in the Triune God, in Christ as truly human and truly God, and in salvation through Jesus Christ, according to the Scriptures read in the Church and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Together, we believe in the Church, baptism, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal life."

"I am convinced," the pope told the group, "that by returning to the Council of Nicaea and drawing together from this common source, we will be able to see in a different light the points that still separate us."

The Council of Nicaea also set a common date for all Christians to celebrate Easter, but, the pope said,

"sadly, differences in their calendars no longer allow Christians to celebrate together the most important feast of the liturgical year, causing pastoral problems within communities, dividing families and weakening the credibility of our witness to the Gospel."

As St. Paul VI and the popes since then have done, Pope Leo told the bishops and scholars, "I would reaffirm the openness of the Catholic Church to the pursuit of an ecumenical solution favoring a common celebration of the Lord's resurrection and thus giving greater missionary force to our preaching of the name of Jesus and the salvation born of faith in the saving truth of the Gospel."

Pope Leo ended the audience by asking participants to stand as he used a prayer from the Orthodox tradition to ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of unity.

The prayer read:

"O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things;

Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life,

Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One." Amen.



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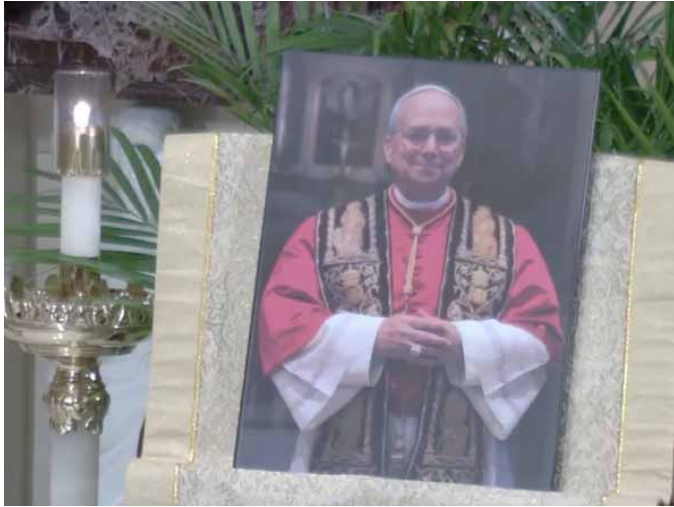
Masses in Wheeling and Charleston Gather Faithful to Pray for Pope Leo XIV

By Colleen Rowan

West Virginia's Catholic faithful joined together in prayer on June 10 in both the northern and southern regions of the state to pray for Pope Leo XIV and his papacy. Mass was celebrated simultaneously at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling by Bishop Mark Brennan and at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston by Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F., rector.

Joining the bishop as concelebrants were seven area priests, including the diocese's vicar general Very Rev. John Rice, V.G., V.F. Four priests joined Father Higgs to concelebrate the Mass. And both celebrations had two deacons serving.

The bishop and Father Higgs welcomed all who gathered at both celebrations to thank God for Pope Leo's election and to pray for him.



Clockwise from top left: A portrait of Pope Leo XIV stands at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston during the June 10 Mass for the pope; Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F., rector of the basilica, administers holy Communion to the faithful during the Mass; and Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates the June 10 Mass for the pope at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. Courtesy photos



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6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 DC News Now	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

Martinsburg-Area Catholic Students Invited to Join Junior Legion of Mary This Summer

MARTINSBURG—St. Joseph School Principal Maria Byrd is starting a Junior Legion of Mary this summer and invites all Catholic students entering grades 4-9 to join. Byrd is president of the Legion of Mary Curia at her home parish, St. James the Greater in Charles Town, and has been actively involved in religious education throughout her life. The Junior Legion of Mary teaches children about the Catholic faith and encourages them to develop a personal relationship with God and the Holy Trinity through Mary, spouse of the Holy Spirit. They are taught to spiritualize everything around them and, above all, to see and serve Christ in everyone they meet. They minister to the community by visiting nursing homes, where they also recite the rosary with residents; take statues of the Virgin Mary to homes of people who request it and pray with them; make and distribute cards and rosaries; and attend public events to represent the group. The SJS Junior Legion of Mary will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesdays from June 11 to July 30 in the STEM lab. If your child is interested, please email mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

Juneteenth Celebration in Martinsburg Will be Sponsored by Sumner Ramer Heritage, Inc.

MARTINSBURG — A Juneteenth celebration will be held in Martinsburg sponsored by Sumner Ramer Heritage, Inc. The celebration will be held June 22 from 1-5 p.m. in the Square & 100 block of S. Queen Street.

Juneteenth commemorates the day when enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, learned they were free 21 and a half years after the passing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Leonard Harris is the Sumner Ramer Heritage Museum's founder and curator. He and his wife Helen are parishioners of St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown. Their parish was excited to announce the celebration in the bulletin.

announce the celebration in the bulletin.

"This annual event is a time for our community to come together in joy, reflection, and unity—celebrating the rich contributions of African Americans to our nation's history and the enduring journey toward freedom," the parish said. "In the past, we gathered with hundreds of community members for a day filled with music, culture, education, and fellowship."

Those who are crafters or have a food truck, should contact Helen at (304) 261-0196 or by e-mail to hlharrismusic@gmail.com.

Shepherdstown's St. Agnes Parish Will Host Maryland State Boychoir Concert June 19

SHEPHERDSTOWN—St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown is excited to welcome back The Maryland State Boychoir for their Summer Camp Concert on Thursday, June 19, at 7 p.m. The Maryland State Boychoir is a touring group of young boys, with amazing voices, based in Baltimore. Maryland's "Official Goodwill Ambassadors" is comprised of approximately 130 choristers, ages 7 to 20, who represent a wide range of ethnic, socioeconomic, and religious backgrounds.

Their annual Summer Camp will be at Shepherd University before the performance at St. Agnes.

"So, mark your calendar and let's show our appreciation by filling the church to hear these young boys and men perform," the parish said.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Watch an excerpt from last year's concert on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIQPHtZgglE>.

Join Mary in Praying for our Priests :

Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests

Friday, June 27th - 7:00PM
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Martinsburg, WV

Join us for Adoration, praying the rosary, uniting with our country and encircling the world in prayer for our priests.

Light Refreshments to follow.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is a designated Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee Year 2025. A Jubilee Indulgence can be obtained this day

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DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

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

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

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

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

From Ruin to Restoration: Mark's Journey

On September 27, 2024, the winds of Hurricane Helene swept through Mercer County, leaving behind a trail of destruction—and a call to compassion. For Mark, whose home of more than 30 years was struck by a falling tree, the storm marked the beginning of a long and uncertain road to recovery.

What began with homeowner's insurance and FEMA assistance soon turned into a much bigger challenge when Mark learned his entire home would need to be rewired due to water damage. Overwhelmed but determined, he reached out for help—and found a lifeline through Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Lora Pierce, our Disaster Services Specialist, walked alongside Mark every step of the way. "Disaster recovery is a long process," Lora shared. "We walk with people for as long as it takes."

Over the course of nearly seven months, Cath-

olic Charities helped Mark connect with trusted contractors, secure vital funding, and—most importantly—offered him the compassionate support that reminded him he wasn't alone.

"They really stuck their neck out to make it possible for me to get my kitchen fixed," Mark said with gratitude. His joyful update came in a heartfelt text to Lora:

"The stove is in and my kitchen is complete. Thanks to you wonderful and blessed people for loving and caring and taking time to help people in need."

Now back to cooking in his fully restored kitchen, Mark is filled with hope—and a renewed sense of purpose. Inspired by the care he received, he's eager to support and give back to Catholic Charities' Disaster Services; ready to bring that same light and healing to others walking through their own storms.

Join in Our Mission to



Before



After

Courtesy photos

Reduce Poverty in West Virginia.

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in our mission, as we look forward to extending our reach and making a

lasting difference in the lives of those confronting adversity.



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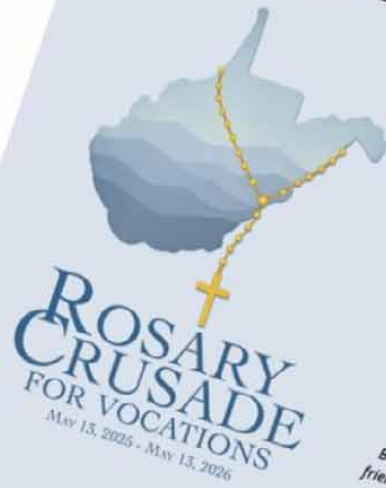


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Let's go all out for Jesus and the Church!

"Remember each priest, consecrated person, deacon, and Catholic marriage is truly a result of strong and intense prayer. Be that grandmother, grandfather, mother, father, friend, or parishioner that reverently prays for them."
-Sister Martha Gomez, R.G.S., Delegate for Consecrated Life

Rosary Crusade for Vocations

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Parish / School / Affiliation

City

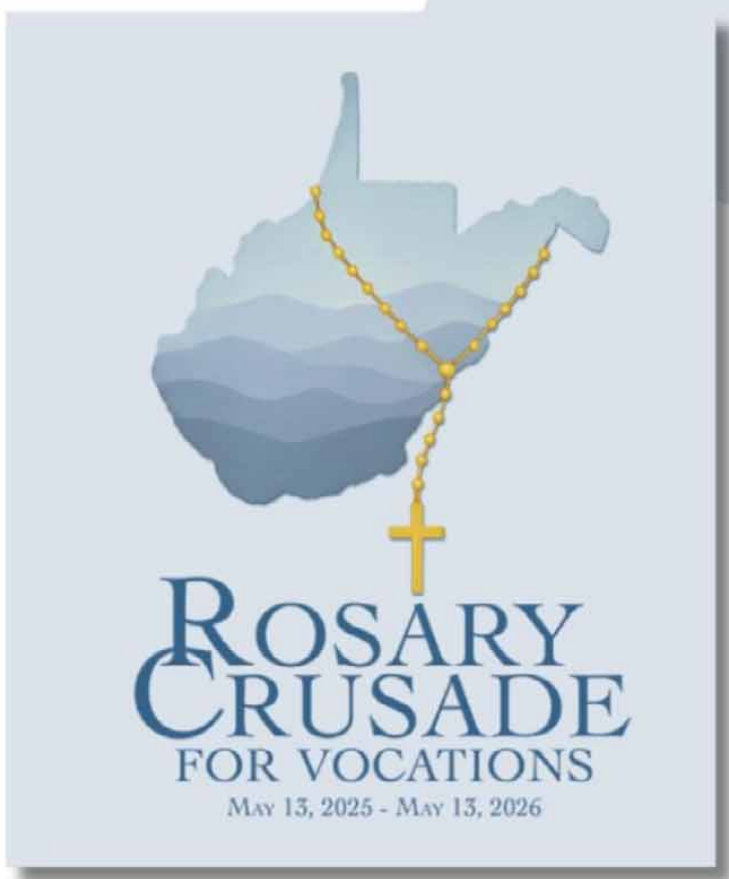
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Prayer

Oh, my Jesus,
listen to my prayer today,
Bless more young people,
more men, and more women,
in West Virginia
to say yes to your call
to be religious brothers,
sisters, and priests.
Bless my family
and my Church family
so, we can support them,
and remain close to you.
We ask Blessed Mary
and St. Joseph to come to you
in our need to build up the Church
in the great Mountain State.
Amen.

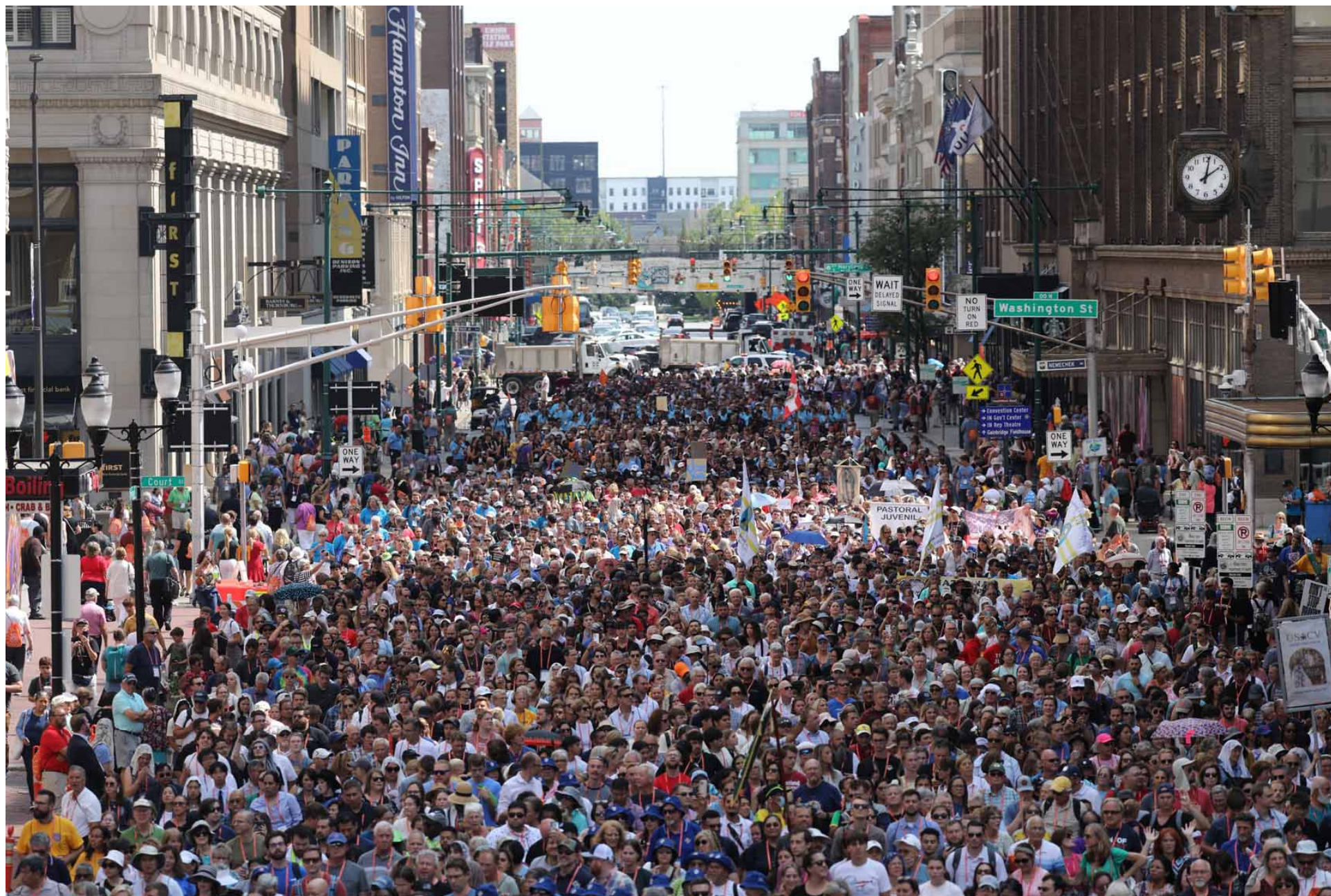


From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

PRAYER WORKS!

Step up for Jesus and His Church!

Pledge. Share. Pray.



OSV News photo/Bob Roller

Thousands of pilgrims join the final Eucharistic procession of the National Eucharistic Congress in downtown Indianapolis July 20, 2024.

As Revival's Year of Mission Draws to Close, Organizers Look Back — and Ahead

By Kimberley Heatherington, OSV News

(OSV News) — In the same way that a relationship with Christ is not about something but someone, the organizers of the National Eucharistic Revival will tell you that their movement is not just something faithful Catholics do, but something that they are — a grace from God, stirring up the hearts of his people.

The National Eucharistic Revival — a three-year initiative of the U.S. bishops aimed at reviving Catholic belief in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist — began in 2022.

Its launch nurtured a spark of urgent motivation: In August 2019, the Pew Research Center reported "just one-third of U.S. Catholics agree with their church" that the Eucharist is the body and blood of Christ. Nearly 7 in 10 Catholics (69%) told Pew they personally believe the bread and wine they receive at Mass are only symbolic.

While a later study conducted by Vinea Research proposed the wording of Pew's survey was problematic — its 2024 results indicated 69% of Catholics believe in the Real Presence — adherence is still not universal.

"I think that Pew study ... was a catalyst that got our church moving," said Kris Frank, vice

president of growth and marketing at the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., or NEC. "But whether it was a lack of belief or just indifference, I think what the revival did was bring the Eucharist front and center — and reminded us of what a gift we have in the person of Jesus Christ."

That gift literally took a road trip, when — from May 17 to July 16, 2024, on routes north, south, east and west — a total of 250,000 participants processed 6,500 miles in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage across America. The routes eventually converged on Indianapolis for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress from July 17-21, 2024, which was attended by more than 60,000 participants.

But Jesus' journey wasn't done.

This year, in a second National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, Christ has once again been on the move, traveling since May 18 from Indianapolis to Los Angeles. A June 22 Mass, Eucharistic procession and festival in Los Angeles will mark the feast of Corpus Christi and the end of the pilgrimage.

The 11th National Eucharistic Congress is expected to be held in 2029, with the date to be announced in the near future.

"I do think that we are seeing an increase in belief," Frank said. "But I think more than that, we're seeing a renewed vigor and excitement around the Blessed Sacrament."

"And," he added, "I think that's also a fruit of the revival."

The NEC team has remained busy since the 2024 congress in Indianapolis concluded.

"This past year, we've really been working on how we send people forward in the spirit of the National Eucharistic Revival," explained Joel Stepanek, NEC vice president of programming and administration. "And a lot of that has taken the form of preparing the Eucharistic Missionary initiative and the Walk With One initiative."

They began planning immediately after returning from Indianapolis.

"We invited attendees of the congress — and then, folks at parishes that had been following along with the National Eucharistic Revival — to walk with one individual," explained Stepanek.

Why just one?

"Sometimes it can feel really overwhelming to think, 'How am I going to share Jesus with a
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Mission ...

Cont'd from Page 8

bunch of people?" But everybody can walk with one person. Bishop Cozzens — at the end of the Congress — really challenged people with that," said Stepanek, referring to Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, who founded and is the first president of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc. and oversaw the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

"And so over the past year, we've had different trainings and webinars for folks to learn a little bit more about how they might walk with different groups of people — from people hurting from the church, to friends and family," Stepanek continued.

"That's been really well received," he added. "And that's been a big part of the initiative — just go accompany one person."

In mid-May, the NEC released its Eucharistic Missionary formation program, "which is a more intentional commitment to live out the spirit of the National Eucharistic Revival — even as the bishops' initiative comes to an end on the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ on June

22," Stepanek said. "And so that's an invitation for people to undergo a few weeks of formation — and in those few weeks, take up some daily practices they'll continue as they live out life as a Eucharistic Missionary."

Those things include making a Holy Hour every week; attending a daily Mass, in addition to the Sunday obligation; joining a small group; continuing the Walk With One initiative; finding ways to serve in family, neighborhoods and parishes; and offering daily prayers and fasting for both those they are accompanying and for ongoing Eucharistic revival in the United States.

Through the NEC's Manna platform, additional materials are also offered for Eucharistic Missionaries to continue to pray, learn and grow in their faith.

"So that's sort of where we've been and where we're going as far as the Year of Mission, and how we carry the Spirit moving forward," Stepanek said.

It is an accomplishment the U.S. prelates could perhaps only hope for in 2022.

"Eucharistic Missionaries is one of the things that the bishops have always dreamed of, from the beginning of the three-year Eucharistic Revival," said Frank.

The dedicated materials on Manna have proved popular: "I know the Diocese of Venice (Florida) has over 400 people going through that program alone," he reported.

Tanner Kalina — NEC's mission outreach manager and an actor who takes the lead in EWTN's "James the Less" series — has discerned another outcome of their efforts.

"What I've seen — and what I sense — is a shift in how people are viewing their communities. More of, 'How can we go deeper in this together? How can I bring someone closer to the Lord? How can I get outside of myself?'" he said, "which is really cool."

Not only is it cool, it's metanoia — a change of heart.

"It's kind of like people's gaze has turned outward a little bit this last year — and we're really hoping that, come Corpus Christi and with all that we have on the horizon, that just continues to unfold," Kalina said. "We are — like Pope Francis promoted so often during his papacy — a church that goes out to the margins and continues to accompany people."

NEC's popular seven-part video study "Jesus and the Eucharist" — produced a couple of years ago with the Augustine Institute — has

been met with what Kalina characterizes as "just tremendous feedback; hundreds of thousands of hours of play."

The just-released five-part "Become" study is designed to equip believers to transform into Eucharistic Missionaries.

"We ultimately just want to make our Eucharistic Lord known," Kalina said. "So we will continue doing whatever we can to draw people back to him. And that's through ongoing pilgrimages; continuing to work with dioceses and parishes; and providing resources that will help people embrace their missional identity."

While the National Eucharistic Revival was originally scheduled for 2022-2025, Frank said there is still work to do.

"I think that's exactly where God is pointing us, and I think that's what we're seeing. I think we're just now beginning to see the fruit of this work — and I don't think the work stops until every Catholic has a deep and living relationship with our Eucharistic Lord," he said. "So I think until that happens, the work of the revival needs to continue."

(Kimberley Heatherington writes for OSV News from Virginia.)




“

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Amid Unrest in LA over ICE Raids, Faithful Urged to Pray for Peace in Streets, City



OSV News photo/John Rueda, courtesy Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez leads an Interfaith & Community Prayer Vigil for Family Unity at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles June 10 as protests against federal immigration sweeps continued. The archbishop called for June 11 to be a day of prayer for peace and unity marked by Masses, and parishes across the Los Angeles Archdiocese were invited to commit to prayer in the days ahead.

By Kate Quiñones, CNA

LOS ANGELES — Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles called for a day of prayer amid growing violence during protests against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) following arrests of unauthorized immigrants living in the city.

The archbishop has instructed parishes across the archdiocese to hold special Masses for peace and unity, encouraging both Catholics and non-Catholics to pray for peace amid the rioting.

Father Juan Ochoa, who runs the archdiocesan worship office, in a message to parishioners encouraged people to look to Christ.

“In this time of unrest and uncertainty, we turn our hearts to God, the source of all peace,” Ochoa said in the June 10 message.

The priest encouraged parishes to offer special intentions and suggested people partake in prayerful observances such as Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic adoration, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The message also encouraged people to pray the rosary as a family, fast, read sacred Scripture, and pray the Sacred Heart novena.

“As followers of Jesus and members of his Church, we are called to be instruments of reconciliation, healing, and hope,” he said.

The archbishop celebrated Mass at noon on June 11 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels saying “we bring our cares and anxieties to Jesus today, and to his Mother, Our Lady of the Angels.”

“Today we are united with parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in praying for peace in our streets and in our city,” Archbishop Gomez said in his homily. “We are facing a challenging moment in our city and many of our neighbors are frightened. There is too much tension, too much uncertainty and violence. So, we bring our cares and anxieties to Jesus today, and to his Mother, Our Lady of the Angels.”

The prelate “invites all Catholics and people of goodwill to pray for our nation, and especially for our immigrant and local community during this tumultuous time,” Father Ochoa said.

The archdiocese is also encouraging Catholics to participate in a candlelight prayer vigil.

Michael Donaldson, senior director for the archdiocesan Office of Life, Justice, and Peace, invited residents of the city to light a candle at 6 p.m. on June 10 “so that through prayer, wherever we may be, we are united for peace in our communities.”

Neighbors gathered in Grand Park for a peaceful interfaith prayer vigil in the evening, according to a social media post by the archdiocese.

An interfaith prayer vigil had previously been scheduled for Sunday evening at Los Angeles City Hall but was postponed amid escalating violence.

“With so many in fear, we are hoping to share a message of peace and hope, uniting our prayers with others throughout Southern California to end the violence, bring healing, and for a path toward reform of our broken immigration system,” Donaldson said.

As tensions escalated over the weekend, Archbishop Gomez in a statement called for “restraint and calm,” also calling on Congress to fix the nation’s “broken” immigration system.

After ICE raids at multiple work sites, unrest began on June 6 and escalated as conflicts between protesters and law enforcement intensified over the weekend.

On Saturday night, President Donald Trump deployed the National Guard despite California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s opposition.

The president has since deployed hundreds of Marines to the state to join National Guard troops in protecting federal property and personnel and providing security to ICE agents.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass enacted a curfew in parts of the downtown area.

(Contributing to this story was OSV News.)

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Bishops Urge Lawmakers to Protect Medicaid as Senate Considers Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill'

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — As the Senate began its consideration of a sweeping package for President Donald Trump's agenda, the U.S. bishops and other Catholic leaders urged lawmakers not to cut programs such as Medicaid or SNAP.

In May, House Republicans passed what Trump calls his "one big, beautiful bill" — and as such, later named the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — which would enact key provisions of his legislative agenda on tax and immigration policy, and Trump has called for the Senate to follow suit by July 4.

But whether the Senate will do so remains to be seen, as some rural state members of the Republican majority have raised objections to Medicaid cuts, among other sticking points, such as artificial intelligence regulation.

Senate Majority Leader

John Thune, R-S.D., has reportedly convened working groups to iron out divisions among the Senate GOP, with cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, among remaining issues.

Republicans hold 53 seats in the upper chamber, and can only afford three defections from their members if they are to pass the bill.

Catholic leaders have alternately praised and criticized various provisions in the House's version of that package, which has drawn fire from some critics over its cuts to Medicaid, while drawing praise from others for promises to eliminate funds to health providers who also perform abortions.

In a June 9 message, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked its supporters to urge their senators "to oppose cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and programs that help low-in-

come people, keeping in mind how budget and tax decisions will impact families, especially those most vulnerable. Budget reconciliation should be used to support the needs of children and families experiencing poverty."

The message said that changes to the House's version of the bill "must be made to protect poor and vulnerable people," objecting to provisions the USCCB said would raise taxes on the working poor and reduce assistance to low-income families.

The White House argued the legislation "protects Med-

icaid for Americans who truly need it."

"This bill eliminates waste, fraud, and abuse by ending benefits for at least 1.4 million illegal immigrants who are gaming the system," a White House document about the bill said.

But Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, wrote in a June 4 post on X, "Known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the legislation is anything but beautiful, at least from the perspective of Catholic teaching."

"It basically steals from the poor to give to the rich, and it

will leave millions of low-income U.S. citizens struggling to survive," he said.

The USCCB previously also urged lawmakers to preserve a provision to eliminate funds to health providers who also perform abortions.

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

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6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Break/Book Signing
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Session 2/7 Sorrows Rosary

Saturday, July 26, 2025

8:00 a.m. - Mass
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Session 3/Procession to Mary
(Bring Flower from Home for Consecration to Mary)
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Break/Book Signing
11:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Session 4
12:30 p.m. - Retreat Ends



Info: **Angelle** angelle@immaculee.com
Ana Bone communications@stjameswv.org

Situation in Gaza Reaches ‘Catastrophic Levels,’ Warns Catholic Humanitarian Organization

By **Barb Frazee, OSV News**

(OSV News) — Food insecurity in the Gaza Strip “has reached catastrophic levels,” a Catholic humanitarian organization has warned.

In his monthly update on the situation in Gaza in late May, Joseph Hazboun, regional director for CNEWA-Pontifical Mission for Palestine and Israel, painted a bleak picture that includes overcrowding at Gaza’s two Christian churches and an “increasingly dire” health situation.

Nearly 2 million people, about 90% of Gaza’s population, have been “displaced and living in overcrowded, unsafe conditions,” he said.

“With limited access to basic needs such as clean water, food and sanitation, health conditions are rapidly deteriorating,” he said. “Vulnerable groups, including infants, the elderly and pregnant women, are facing heightened risks of disease, malnutrition and preventable deaths.”

Israel’s continued military bombardments since October 2023 have left the health care system in shambles, with a shortage of medicine and health care professionals, he said.

An estimated 96% of the population is facing extreme levels of food insecurity, and some families are surviving on fewer than two meals a day.

“As of mid-May, more than 90 community kitchens have been forced to close due to a lack of fuel and supplies, with the remaining kitchens ... unable to provide sufficient meals to meet the nutritional needs of the population,” Hazboun reported.

The Catholic Near East Welfare Association, or CNEWA, established in 1926 by Pope Pius XI to support the Eastern churches, administers the Pontifical Mission, which was founded as the Pontifical Mission for Palestine by Pope Pius XII in 1949 to care for Palestinian refugees. The mandate of the mission, which was subsequently placed under CNEWA’s direction, has been extended by several pontiffs to care for all those affected by war and poverty in the Middle East.

In a May 29 statement, Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said that since the attack on Israel by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, “the situation has reached tragic levels beyond anyone’s worst fears.”

“The horrific massacre of innocent Israelis and the subsequent response from Israel has resulted in unimaginable loss of life and human suffering,” said the archbishop, who has been a

vocal advocate for peace.

Regarding the Israeli-Hamas war, Archbishop Wester has signed on to joint letters calling for an end to the war, including a letter in January 2024 that he and Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, now archbishop of Washington, issued a statement calling for an “immediate and total” ceasefire.

On Oct. 7, 2023, the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which governs the Gaza Strip, launched an attack on southern Israel. Nearly 1,200 people were killed, including more than 700 Israeli civilians, and Hamas took 251 hostages into Gaza. In retaliation, Israel launched an attack on Gaza that has killed at least 53,655 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry.

Many Christians have fled or tried to flee Gaza since the war began, Hazboun said, but leaving has been difficult.

Approximately 400 people have sought shelter at the compound of Holy Family Church, the only Catholic church in Gaza. Hazboun said limited humanitarian aid is only distributed twice a month, and more than 100 people have chosen to return to their damaged homes because of overcrowding.

“Despite these challenges, the church remains committed to supporting the community,” he said. “It provides vital psychosocial support to children through structured programs and has set up a small school and kindergarten to ensure some continuity in education during this crisis.”

St. Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church is sheltering about 150 people and, as with Holy Family Church, some have returned to their partially damaged homes because of overcrowding.

“The church continues to provide critical support to both those sheltering within and to vulnerable families in the surrounding area,” said Hazboun. “For children, small-scale recreational activities offer a brief respite from the ongoing trauma, although these efforts are constrained by the severe shortage of resources.”

The United Nations reports more than 1 million children in Gaza require immediate psychosocial support. In addition, nearly 85% of Gaza’s schools have been damaged or destroyed.

“Thousands of students have been unable to sit for their matriculation exams, further compounding the impact on their future,”

Hazboun said.

Partner organizations in Gaza have requested assistance from CNEWA-Pontifical Mission for food for displaced families and for basic health care and psychosocial programs for adults and children.

Working with the Near East Council of Churches, CNEWA-Pontifical Mission distributes fresh vegetables when available at the two churches as well as to people living on their own. Pontifical Mission has long supported Anglican-run al-Ahli Arab Hospital and, since January, has partnered with the hospital to provide urgent medical services.

“These services are vital as Gaza faces an alarming rise in injuries, trauma cases, burn victims and widespread infectious diseases due to unsanitary conditions and unsafe water. The hospital, now operating 24/7, is overburdened, using every available space for patient care,” Hazboun said.

At the end of his general audience at the Vatican May 28, Pope Leo XIV pleaded for peace in Gaza.

“In the Gaza Strip, the cry of mothers, of fathers who clutch the lifeless bodies of children and who are continually forced to move in search of a little food and safer shelter from bombing, rises ever more intensely to the sky,” the pope said.

In an interview with Vatican News a day earlier, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, called for an end to the bombardments of Gaza, for necessary aid to be allowed to reach the people, and for Hamas to immediately release all remaining hostages.

For his part, Archbishop Wester said that Oct. 7, 2023, “was a day of unspeakable darkness and hate” and that “The last 20 months in Gaza have been more of the same.”

He asked: “How many more innocent people must die, how many children must be orphaned, and how many tears must be shed before the leaders of Hamas and Israel learn that light and love are the only weapons that will bring lasting peace to the land we call holy? How long, O Lord? How long?”

(This report was originally published in ONE Magazine of CNEWA-Pontifical Mission and distributed through a partnership with OSV News. Barb Frazee writes for ONE Magazine. OSV News contributed to this report.)

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El Credo Niceno presenta 'el misterio que une' a los cristianos, dice el Papa

Por Cindy Wooden,
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Reconocer los principios esenciales de la fe que católicos y ortodoxos comparten debería ser el lente a través de la cual se discutan los asuntos que continúan separándolos, dijo el Papa León XIV.

"A través del diálogo teológico y con la ayuda de Dios, obtendremos una mejor comprensión del misterio que nos une", dijo a los eruditos y obispos ortodoxos, ortodoxos orientales y católicos el 7 de junio.

Los obispos y teólogos se reunieron del 4 al 7 de junio en Roma para celebrar el 1700 aniversario del Concilio de Nicea y sus implicaciones para la futura unidad de la Iglesia.

El Papa León comenzó su intervención disculpándose por el retraso y pidiéndoles paciencia. "Aún no llevo ni un mes en el nuevo trabajo, así que me queda mucho por aprender", dijo.

El aniversario del Consejo no consiste simplemente en recordar el pasado. Especialmente porque el Credo Niceno-Constantinopolitano sigue siendo la profesión básica de la fe cristiana, el concilio "debe seguir sirviéndonos de guía hacia la plena unidad visible de los cristia-

nos".

"Celebrando juntos esta fe de Nicea y proclamándola juntos, avanzaremos hacia el restablecimiento de la completa comunión entre nosotros", dijo el Papa León.

El Papa citó el documento de la Comisión Teológica Internacional Católica sobre el aniversario de Nicea, afirmando que las celebraciones representan "una oportunidad inestimable para subrayar que lo que tenemos en común es mucho más fuerte, cuantitativa y cualitativamente, que lo que nos divide: todos creemos en el Dios Trinidad, en Cristo verdadero hombre y verdadero Dios, en la salvación en Jesucristo, según las Escrituras interpretadas en la Iglesia y bajo la moción del Espíritu Santo. Todos creemos en la Iglesia, el bautismo, la resurrección de los muertos y la vida eterna".

"Estoy convencido", dijo el Papa al grupo, "de que volviendo al Concilio de Nicea y aprovechando juntos esta fuente común, seremos capaces de ver bajo una óptica diferente los puntos que todavía nos separan".

El Concilio de Nicea también fijó una fecha común para que todos los cristianos celebraran la Pascua, pero, dijo el Papa, "lamentablemente, la diferencia en sus calendarios ya no



CNS/Vatican Media

El Papa León XIV saluda a los participantes en una conferencia sobre las implicaciones ecuménicas del 1700 aniversario del Concilio de Nicea, el 7 de junio de 2025, en la Sala Clementina del Palacio Apostólico del Vaticano.

permite a los cristianos celebrar juntos la fiesta más importante del año litúrgico, lo que provoca problemas pastorales en las comunidades, divide a las familias y debilita nuestra credibilidad como testigos del Evangelio".

Como han hecho San Pablo VI y los papas desde entonces, el Papa León dijo a los obispos y eruditos: "Quisiera reafirmar la apertura de la Iglesia católica

para buscar una solución ecuménica que favorezca una celebración común de la resurrección del Señor, dando así mayor fuerza misionera a nuestra proclamación del 'el nombre de Jesús y la salvación que nace de la fe en la verdad salvífica del Evangelio'".

El Papa León concluyó la audiencia pidiendo a los participantes que se pusieran en pie mientras él utilizaba una oración de la

tradicción ortodoxa para pedir al Espíritu Santo el don de la unidad.

La oración rezaba: "Rey celestial, Consolador, Espíritu de la Verdad, que estás en todas partes y todo lo llenas, Tesoro de bienes y Dador de la vida, ven y mora en nosotros, y purifícanos de toda mancha

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de la diócesis al 833.230.5656.

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

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

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

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



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