The Catholic Spirit

Eucharistic Processions Bring Christ Where He is Needed Most

By Colleen Rowan

From the State Capitol to the streets of West Virginia's rural communities, Eucharistic processions brought Christ where He is needed most—to the people. In these processions, as they joyfully do each year, priests and parishioners heralded our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (June 7).

The Eucharistic procession in Charleston this Corpus Christi Sunday was especially meaningful with a stop at the State Capitol. Under a massive "America 250" banner celebrating the nation's semiquincentennial, Father Phillip Szabo raised the monstrance holding our Lord and blessed the statehouse which was adorned in red, white, and blue. Gathered with him on the steps were the faithful who walked in the procession from St. Agnes Church, were he serves as pastor.

"It was especially nice this year to take Our Lord to our state's capitol because of the 250th anniversary of our nation," Father Szabo said. "Bringing Jesus to the place where so many important decisions are made, and then blessing the entire complex, was one of the most important things we could have done for our country. Although Satan is working hard to corrupt everyone who has power and authority in our government, he is no match for Jesus!"

See "Christ" on Page 4

Courtesy photo,
The Eucharistic procession in Charleston on Corpus Christi Sunday makes a stop at the State Capitol, which was blessed by Father Phillip Szabo. Members of St. Agnes Parish and neighboring parishes joined in the procession.

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Pope Leo XIV Approves New Statutes For Child Protection Commission

By Junno Arocho Esteves , OSV News

(OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV approved new statutes for the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors that seek to balance its integration with the Roman Curia while preserving its independence.

The updated statutes, which were published by the Vatican June 13, detail the commission's role within the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was mandated by Pope Francis' 2022 apostolic constitution on the reform of the Roman Curia, "Praedicate Evangelium" ("Preach the Gospel").

However, while departments within a dicastery report to the pope via their respective prefects, the statutes state that "in matters within its competence, the commission reports directly to the Holy Father."

According to the Vatican, the pope approved the statutes May 20 during an audience with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and adopted "ad experimentum," or on a trial basis, for a period of three years.

In a statement published by the commission, Archbishop Thibault Verny of Chambéry, the commission's president, said the new statutes marked "an important step in deepening our shared responsibility to protect and care for the most vulnerable."

"They reflect listening to victims and survivors, to safeguarding experts, and to the experience of local Churches, and reaffirm that safeguarding remains a central priority," he said.

The commission, or PCPM, noted that the statutes, which replace those published in 2015, offer a "clearer mandate" that clarifies its role as "one of guidance rather than governance."

Among the responsibilities formalized in the statutes is the PCPM's role in ensuring the establishment of "stable and easily accessible systems for reporting abuse" in dioceses and eparchies worldwide.

Those systems include listening and support centers and offer spiritual, therapeutic, and psychological assistance. The statutes note that in the event of repeated failures by dioceses to establish such systems, the commission can "submit assessments and recommendations" to the relevant dicasteries "so that they can exercise their responsibilities."

The document also reiterates the commission's responsibility in preparing its annual report, which assesses safeguarding procedures and protocols implemented by Vatican dicasteries and local churches. The report is then submitted to the pope for approval before publication.

"The commission may also submit recommendations to Dicastery Prefects, in coordination with the Secretariat of State, and, in cases of repeated violations or serious shortcomings in local safeguarding systems, may submit assessments directly to the competent dicastery," the PCPM said.

The new statutes mark a milestone for the commission, which has faced criticism from former members and survivors over its lack of enforcement power. In a video message posted after the publication of the statutes, Archbishop Verny said the commission knows that "trust cannot be rebuilt by words alone" but requires "consistent action, humility and accountability."

"These statutes are one step in an ongoing journey. Our commitment remains clear: to help ensure that the Church is a safe place for all," the French archbishop said.

(Junno Arocho Esteves is an international correspondent for OSV News.)

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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 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

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Bishop Brennan Named the 2026 Recipient of the Mary Virginia De Roo Ecumenical Award

By Joyce Bibey

WEST VIRGINIA — Congratulations are in order for Bishop Mark!

The West Virginia Council of Churches announced June 18 that Bishop Mark E. Brennan is the recipient of the 2026 Mary Virginia De Roo Ecumenical Award.

Executive director of the WVCC wrote, "Throughout his episcopal ministry in West Virginia, Bishop Brennan has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Christian unity, compassionate leadership, and faithful service to the people of our state. His support of the West Virginia Council of Churches, his willingness to engage across denominational boundaries, and his steadfast witness to the Gospel have strengthened not only the ecumenical movement in West Virginia but also the relationships that bind us together as followers of Christ."

The ecumenical award "recognizes individuals whose lives and ministries embody the spirit of ecumenism through leadership, collaboration, and a deep commitment to the unity of Christ's Church. Bishop Brennan's years of dedicated service have exemplified these values in countless ways, making him a most deserving recipient."

Bishop Mark will formally receive the award at the WVCC's 2026 Annual Assembly on Nov. 16.

Bishop Brennan Receives a Special Blessing

Courtesy photo

Bishop Mark Brennan receives a special blessing during Shabbat Shalom service at Temple Shalom in Wheeling by Rabbi Joshua Lief June 5. A beautiful friendship built on respect and love of God's creation. Across the diocese's social media platforms, the photo received more than 14,000 views, 76 shares, and 674 interactions.

Courtesy photo

Father Phillip Szabo, pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Charleston, blesses the State Capitol and the faithful during the Eucharistic procession in Charleston on Corpus Christi Sunday.

Courtesy photo

The Eucharistic procession moves through downtown Buckhannon on Corpus Christi Sunday.

Christ ...

Cont'd from Page 1

This was the second annual Corpus Christi procession from St. Agnes to the capitol which continued on to the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of Sacred Heart for benediction.

The procession brought together people of all ages and members of neighboring parishes to walk part or all of the journey as a sign of their love for Jesus and one another, Father Szabo said.

"Along the way, we got a few angry looks, and some revved their engines to try and drown out our singing, but the majority of folks understood what we were about," he said. "Their joyful expressions, waving hands, and happy beeps encouraged us on the long, 4.3-mile walk."

The faithful participating wanted "to show others how much we love Jesus so that they might come to love him too," Father Szabo added.

Eucharistic processions remind communities that Jesus is here, Father Szabo said, and that there are still communities gathering together to worship Him.

"Our smiles and joyful voices made it clear that we were all doing this out of the goodness of our hearts!" he said.

Joining St. Agnes parishioners were members of the young adult group who come from many parishes in the Kanawha Valley as well as basilica co-cathedral parishioners, many of whom served as support drivers, set up the altar at the capitol building, and prepared everything at the basilica co-cathedral, Father Szabo said, adding that he is grateful for all of their help.

In Buckhannon, Mayor Robbie Skinner declared Sunday, June 7, "Corpus Christi Sunday." Members of Holy Rosary Parish were present for the May 4 announcement at the Buckhannon City Council meeting.

A little over a month later on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, members of Holy Rosary followed their pastor, Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, and the Knights of Columbus in a Eucharistic procession through the streets of downtown Buckhannon.

"We had about 75 parishioners both young and old that took part in the procession," Father Tetteh said. "...we stopped and prayed in the front of our courthouse, City Hall and Jawbone Park for our country, city and the world."

Courtesy photo

Buckhannon Mayor Robbie Skinner (fourth from right) declares June 7 as "Corpus Christi Sunday" at the May 4 City Council meeting. With him are Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon (fifth from right), and parishioners.

This is the third year Holy Rosary held the Eucharistic procession, which Father Tetteh has been committed to since he was appointed to the parish.

"We continue to publicly and proudly profess our Catholic faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, especially in Upshur County where Catholics are one of the minority churches."

The procession ended back in the church with benediction.

A luncheon was provided by the Catholic Daughters of the parish in Marist Hall.

Conference Will Challenge Catholics to 'Dare to be Different'

'Be informed and equipped to build a culture of life amidst the current landscapes of abortion practices and legal changes'

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—"We still have a long way to go and a lot of work to do to create a culture of life," said Amy Miesel of the St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry in Wheeling. The group aims to help people get involved in this work at its upcoming "Dare to be Different! The 2026 Dobbs Day Conference" on Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wheeling University's Erickson Alumni Center, located in the CET Building.

The goal, Miesel said, is to help attendees "be informed and equipped to build a culture of life amidst the current landscapes of abortion practices and legal changes."

Speaking about this will be featured presenters and panelists Dr. Wanda Franz, director of West Virginians for Life; Rebekah Cohen Morris, executive director of Aim Women's Center in Steubenville, Ohio, which is a full-service, pregnancy resource center; and Morgan David, Ohio coordinator of Her Plan, an organization that helps moms and their babies. Sen. Laura Wakim Chapman (R-Ohio) will also speak about the state legislative process. Local ministries and service providers will have information tables sharing a little about their mission and work. Among them will be Young Lives of the Ohio Valley, an organization that supports teen parents; WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital's Labor and Delivery Department; Aim Women's Center; and Her Plan.

Miesel said the need to hold the conference came from recognizing a widespread belief that because Roe v. Wade was overturned, there's nothing left to do. That decision returned abortion law back to the states, she said, bringing improvement in some and deterioration in others. It also brought new challenges.

"Even in states where abortion is prohibited, a lot of parents who find themselves facing crisis pregnancies are going to neighboring states where it is legally permitted," Miesel said, "and that's become referred to as 'abortion tourism.'"

Another significant change in the abortion landscape is the shift from mostly surgical abortions to largely chemical abortions, Miesel said.

"This involves the mother taking a sequence of two pills, mifepristone and misoprostol," she said. "These have often been obtained through telemedicine appointments, without even a physical exam. Regardless of how the pills are obtained, the mother experiences the procedure at home."

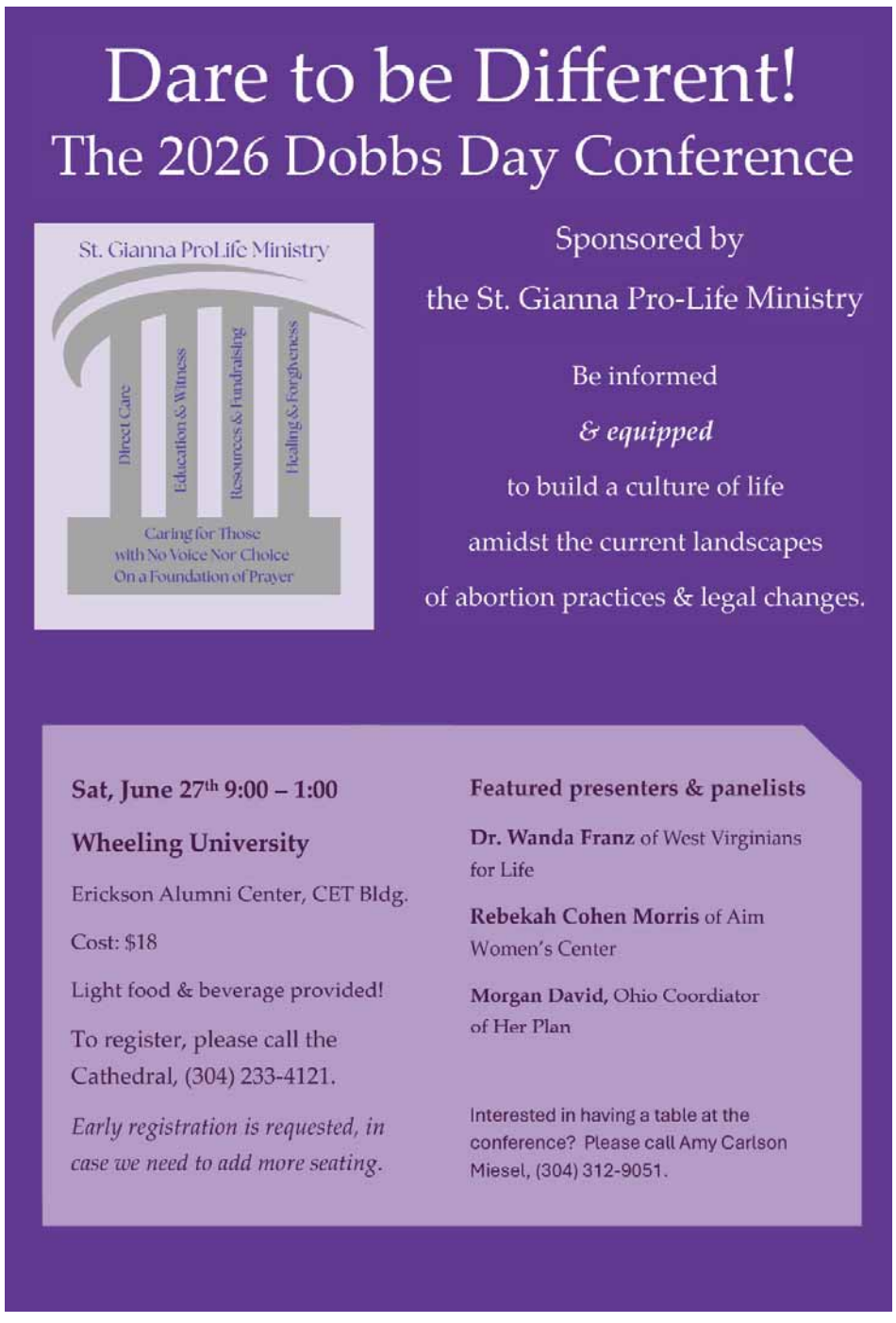
Also at focus is the modern culture which promotes the pursuit of pleasure, she said, which has brought "sky-high rates of unintended and crisis pregnancies."

In planning the conference, members of the St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry (which is a joint ministry of the Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling), said that Catholics must "Dare to be Different." Through the conference attendees will learn how to do just that— push back on the negative messages of the culture by being "messengers of sexual stewardship," be aware of the resources in the Upper Ohio Valley that are available to help those faced with crisis pregnancies "and bringing that young life into the world," and to be people who those in need of help can turn to.

"We want people to leave the conference with more tools in their own toolkit, so to speak … to help build a culture of life," Miesel said.

"There are a lot of resources in our community," she added. "There's more than most people are aware of."

The cost of the conference is $18. Light food and beverage will be provided. To register, call the cathedral at (304) 233-4121.



Novena Prayer for Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala

Leading up to the Installation as Tenth Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

June 23- July 1, 2026

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
St. Joseph, pray for us.

DAY 1: For Bishop Evelio to continue serving with a shepherd's heart, modeled after the Good Shepherd.
"A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away....I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep."
John 10:11-15

After daily scripture recite:
Prayer for our new Bishop

Heavenly Father, you have called your servant, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, to lead the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Bless him with courage, wisdom, and care as he leads your Church here in West Virginia.
May he be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be guided in words and actions with truth and love. Lord we ask you to keep him humble yet strong in faith.
May he be a shepherd like Christ, and work for unity and mercy, hope and justice, and care for all entrusted to him.
Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Our Father....
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Continued on Page 7

Novena Prayer Continued from Page 6

DAY 2: For Bishop Evelio to have strength and perseverance in his leadership.
"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil." -Ephesians 6:10-11

DAY 3: For unity among the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in welcoming our new Bishop.
"with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4: 2-6

DAY 4: For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.'" Matthew 9:37-38

DAY 5: For Bishop Evelio to have courage and wisdom in times of challenge or difficulties.
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

DAY 6: For Bishop Evelio's Ministry to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name - he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you." John 14:26

DAY 7: For Bishop Evelio to preach the truth with love, grace, and charity.
"proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching." Ephesians 4:2

DAY 8: For Bishop Evelio's health, well-being, and personal intentions.
"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Philippians 4:6

DAY 9: That Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala may be filled with a spirit of Evangelization to bring the Good News to every corner of our Diocese.
"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20

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Find the Novena Booklet at dwc.org

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as the 10th Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston
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Organ and Vocal Music
to celebrate our nation's
250th
birthday
SATURDAY
JULY 4
–12 NOON–
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of St. Joseph
EOFF ST.
WHEELING, WV
Organist Robert Troeger
will be joined by
other guest musicians.
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OPEN TO ALL!
Come out and sing along
on your favorite
patriotic tunes!
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Religious Freedom 'Rooted in Human Dignity,' Says Expert Ahead of U.S. Bishops' Observance

By Gina Christian

(OSV News) — Ahead of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual observance of Religious Freedom Week, OSV News spoke with Emily Schumacher-Novak, associate director of education and outreach for the USCCB's Secretariat of Justice and Peace.

Schumacher-Novak explained that this year's observance — which begins June 22, the feast of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, and ends June 29 — is more timely than ever, with the accompanying USCCB novena prayers reflecting on specific threats to religious freedom both in the U.S. and abroad.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

OSV News: How would you sum up the purpose of the USCCB's Religious Freedom Week?

Schumacher-Novak: The week is really a chance for the Church in the United States to consider, as we sometimes say, our first freedom as Americans — to live out our faith in public and serve the good of all, and to reflect on how religious freedom helps us to think about all the other freedoms that we have.

One of the things I really appreciate about it is the opportunity to remind ourselves that it (religious freedom) is rooted in our human dignity.

It is our human dignity that is being protected when we are seeking to live out our faith in public, and we have the right to seek God, to look for who God is to us, and to do that in freedom.

As for why it is a whole week, there are a lot of issues that our country is facing, both domestically and internationally, and so this is a chance for us to pray through several of those that are of particular focus over the next couple of days.

OSV News: The U.S. bishops have observed Religious Freedom Week — whose predecessor was the USCCB's "Fortnite for Freedom" — for several years now. Have you found that this observance is taking root at the parish level?

Schumacher-Novak: Yes. We get questions about it every year — "When is the Religious Freedom Week stuff coming out? Are you guys ready? Has it come in, and are you ready to share it?"

So we do hear from folks in the pews who are interested in the novena that goes along with Religious Freedom Week, and we get great engagement on the novena. That is a great example of the people of God taking this up and incorporating it into their lives of faith and their prayer life through the course of Religious Freedom Week.

We also have Scripture reflections, and this year Religious Freedom Week falls right after the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Those readings from the lectionary are a really great opportunity to think about how we are called to witness to the faith. How does Christ call us to do that?

We hear from parishes that priests will sometimes include Religious Freedom Week in their homilies or consider it as they're thinking about preaching for the weekend and the days ahead.

OSV News: The novena covers an array of issues related to religious freedom — political and anti-religious violence, concerns over immigration enforcement, religious discrimination, parental choice in education, gender ideology, federal grants and the persecution of faith in Africa and Nicaragua. How did the U.S. Catholic bishops discern these issues and this sequence for the novena?

Schumacher-Novak: Each year, the USCCB's religious liberty committee puts together an annual report that looks at both the opportunities and challenges of religious freedom — sort of the status of religious freedom in the United States and around the world.

How do we as Americans sort of engage in that? These (novena intentions) are examples to pray through those challenges and opportunities that the bishops identify at the end of each year.

Sometimes it's a chance for Catholics to think about issues we might not always consider as religious freedom issues. Immigration enforcement is a huge human dignity issue. The bishops have spoken prophetically about accompanying our brothers and sisters who are immigrants and doing so with dignity and humanity.

And then there's this additional religious freedom piece of it, in that many immigrants have been detained, and haven't had access to the sacraments.

So there are all of these levels relating to why our human dignity is essential in our call to be Catholics in public life. Religious freedom is obviously a big piece of that, and it has implications all over the place.

OSV News: The novena has prayer intentions for Africa and Nicaragua, which would seem to remind participants that human dignity transcends national borders, correct?

Schumacher-Novak: Yes. I do think that our call as the bishops' conference is to help the people of God in their dioceses think about the broad spectrum of the way human dignity is lived out, and to protect human dignity.

I don't know that we would say religious freedom is taken for granted in the U.S., but it is something that we are constantly called to remember and incorporate into our both public and private lives.

I would say also that there are moments when there is renewed attention to the issue. Our committee chairman, Archbishop Alexander Sample, has spoken very beautifully recently about the antisemitism that has been experienced by our Jewish brothers and sisters, and how it's very incompatible with our Catholic life, faith and our take on religious freedom.

These opportunities that — sometimes fortunately and sometimes unfortunately, depending on the issue — really bring it to the attention of Catholics, for them to remember that this is a way that we live out our faith.

OSV News: Any thoughts on how Catholics can develop that holistic perspective of religious freedom as intrinsic to human dignity?

Schumacher-Novak: Catholics in the United States have a lot of religious freedoms and they're enshrined in law, so we have this great protection. And we ought to be attentive to that, and then also utilize that in order to speak out on behalf of our brothers and sisters around the world who don't have those protections.

When you look at what's happening in Nigeria, for example, or across Africa, where Christians and people of faith generally are really targeted in a particular way, it is our responsibility as Catholics to care that our brothers and sisters don't have the opportunity to seek God in a free way. We ought to be both praying for a change of hearts, and also contacting our legislators to the extent possible, engaging our foreign policy colleagues to say, "This is not right."

We need to be leveraging the good of the United States and our belief in the freedom of all people to participate in their societies in a holistic way. We need to offer our voices and lend our support for that to happen.

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Subcommittee on African American Affairs

JUNETEENTH: A PASTORAL REFLECTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE

by Bishop Daniel E. Garcia and Bishop Roy E. Campbell

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free"
- Luke 4:18

As we approach the observance of Juneteenth, we find ourselves reflecting on its history, its enduring significance, and why this observance speaks to my heart as Shepherds of the Church. As we commemorate Juneteenth, what we are celebrating is an opportunity to remember and to recommit ourselves to the ongoing work of racial justice. As Catholics, we can share the light of our commitment to all human dignity.

To fully appreciate the importance of Juneteenth, one must first understand what we commemorate and why it continues to hold such deep meaning.

On June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Major General Gordon Granger and Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of slavery and the Civil War. Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, many enslavers in the South continued to unlawfully enslave African Americans. The events of that day marked a significant turning point. Over time, Juneteenth has come to represent liberation and the ongoing struggle for justice and civil rights in our nation. On June 17, 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday, though it had long been commemorated—especially in Texas—by those who understood its significance.

Juneteenth invites us to confront the painful history and legacy of racism in our country. The institution of slavery, often referred to as America's "original sin," continues to cast a long shadow. The consequences of the enslavement of Africans and African Americans are still evident today, particularly through the persistent sin of racism in our systems, communities, and hearts. (*Open Wide Our Hearts*, pg. 5) This sin has inflicted deep wounds on the dignity of the human person and has obscured the fundamental truth that every individual is created in the image and likeness of God (Imago Dei). Juneteenth offers us an opportunity to remember this history and acknowledge the ways in which its effects continue to shape our present reality.

At the same time, Juneteenth calls us forward. It challenges us—as individuals, as a society, and as the Church—to renew our commitment to racial justice, reconciliation, and peace. In his encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that true peace is inseparable from justice:

"All of us, at every level, can contribute to building the foundation of peace, which is justice. We do not merely seek any kind of peace—such as an absence of conflict at any cost—but instead, the true peace born of justice. Do you therefore wish to attain peace? Then practice justice! Let us never grow weary of seeking justice!" (no. 215)

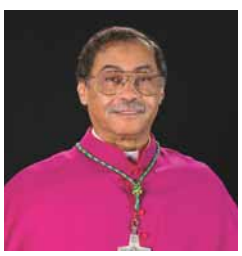
This teaching underscores the moral responsibility we share in confronting injustice in all its forms, including racial injustice. Each of us has a role to play in promoting the work of racial justice and healing. We encourage our Catholic brothers and sisters to read the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*. This important pastoral letter highlights foundations for understanding both the historical and moral dimensions of racism in our society, and why we, as Catholics, are called to work together in pursuit of true justice for all people.

May we continue to be inspired by the witness of the "Saintly Seven" and all those who have labored for racial justice, especially in the Church. And may we, grounded in our faith and guided by the Gospel, continue striving toward a society that more fully reflects the dignity of every human person.

In Christ,

Bishop Daniel E. Garcia
Chairman, Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Bishop Roy E. Campbell
Chairman, Subcommittee on African American Affairs



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Subcommittee on African American Affairs

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National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's Baltimore Leg Pays Tribute to U.S. founders, First Cathedral

By George P. Matysek Jr./ Catholic Review

BALTIMORE (OSV News) — Carrying a golden monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, Father Michael DeAscanis paced his 227-step climb up downtown Baltimore's Washington Monument June 10, repeatedly praying one complete "Glory Be" for every 10 steps until he reached the top.

The steady spiral ascent brought the priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore more than 120 feet above the city to a lookout inside the historic monument. There, framed by windows facing in every direction, he raised the monstrance and traced the Sign of the Cross — blessing Baltimore from north, south, east and west.

Below, more than 200 people gathered outside the monument, designed in 1815 by American architect Robert Mills, who later designed the Washington Monument in Washington.

As Father DeAscanis offered a prayer for Baltimore and the nation, the crowd — wet from morning showers — sang religious and patriotic hymns, including "God Bless America."

The poignant moment was part of the June 9-11 Baltimore leg of the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which began May 24 in St. Augustine, Florida, and is making its way up the East Coast to Maine and then back down to Philadelphia as part of celebrations surrounding America's 250th anniversary. Nine young adults, known as "perpetual pilgrims," are on the route and plan to travel every mile.

Held under the theme "One Nation Under God," the pilgrimage arrived in the Baltimore Archdiocese June 9. The June 10 events in Baltimore began with morning Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the United States' first Catholic cathedral.

OSV News photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review

Father Michael DeAscanis, pastor of St. Louis Church in Clarksville and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Fulton, presents the Blessed Sacrament to pilgrims participating in the Archdiocese of Baltimore's segment of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, themed "One Nation Under God." The blessing took place at the Washington Monument in Baltimore City June 10.

Kathy Bentz, a parishioner of Our Lady of Hope in Dundalk, Maryland, took a day off from work to attend the pilgrimage. Faith is needed more than ever, she said, because people are "looking for hope."

"I need to be around people who get me and I get them," she said. "And that's why I'm here. I feel like I'm in the presence of good and it makes me want to do better."

A young man from Glen Burnie, who helped carry an ornate baldacchino sheltering the Blessed Sacrament as it processed through the streets, called it an honor. He declined to give his name but said he came to pray for the nation — and was looking ahead to June 11, when U.S. bishops planned to consecrate the U.S. to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during their spring plenary assembly in Orlando.

"I think that the consecration to the Sacred Heart is going to make a tangible difference in our country," he said. "I care about our country."

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage began its journey through the Baltimore archdiocese with a June 9 procession at the site of the nation's first monument to George Washington — a stoic stone tower in Boonsboro, just off the Appalachian Trail in Washington Monument State Park.

As the nine perpetual pilgrims followed the Eucharist under a baldacchino to the monument, they were joined by 130 others from all over the archdiocese and beyond to watch Father Jeffery Dufresne of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis take the holy Eucharist to the top of the monument and down, before presenting it on the altar.

"It was extremely beautiful to see Jesus overlooking the valley that he created," said Zachary Robinson, a Catholic from Westminster, Maryland, as he hiked back. He called it "an experience of God

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Pilgrimage ...

Cont'd from Page 11

just delighting in the beauty of his creation."

From Boonsboro, the pilgrimage traveled to Hagerstown, where close to 450 people attended Mass at St. Mary June 9 before joining a procession on the streets around the church.

From Hagerstown, the pilgrimage went to Baltimore for the June 10 morning procession and then continued to Severna Park for an afternoon retreat focused on the Sacred Heart. The pilgrims ended the day in Annapolis, Maryland's capital and home to the U.S. Naval Academy, with a procession beginning at the city's historic St. Mary's Church, followed by sunset Eucharist adoration.

St. Mary's campus includes the birthplace of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. Charles Carroll was the cousin of Archbishop John Carroll, the first bishop of Baltimore.

While a thunderstorm greeted everyone as they arrived at St. Mary, only a few raindrops were falling when the Eucharistic procession to the State House began. Singing songs and saying prayers in both English and Spanish, participants waved white flags, carried signs saying "Jesus, I Love You" and smiled at those gathered to watch the procession.

As they walked, the nine perpetual pilgrims reached out to those lining the parade route asking if they knew what the procession was about and sharing information about the Eucharist.

"It's part of our ministry," said pilgrim Raymond Martinez II of the personal encounters, noting that along the way he has met both non-Catholics and Catholics who have lapsed in their faith.

The pilgrimage continued from the Archdiocese of Baltimore into the Diocese of Wilmington, which encompasses the state of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, June 11-12. Events there are expected to include a procession on the boardwalk in Ocean City, Maryland.

Pilgrims then plan to spend the June 12-14 weekend in the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey, with a stop in Gloucester City to commemorate Fort Nassau, the state's first European settlement.

Since its Pentecost Sunday launch, the pilgrimage has traveled through the dioceses of St. Augustine, Florida; Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; and Arlington, Virginia; and the Archdiocese of Washington.

(George P. Matysek Jr. is the managing editor for Catholic Review, the newspaper of the Baltimore Archdiocese. Contributing to this story was Catholic Review Media news correspondent Katie V. Jones and OSV News. This article was published in Catholic Review and distributed in partnership with OSV News.)

With Focus on Sacred Heart, Bishops Make Moves to Strengthen Church's Mission at Spring Assembly

By Peter Jesserer Smith

(OSV News) — At their spring assembly in Orlando, Florida, the U.S. bishops focused on strengthening the Church's mission and addressing challenges while keeping the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the key to personal and public transformation in focus.

The June 10-12 assembly was animated in particular by its culminating event, the national consecration of the United States during a June 11 Mass at Orlando's Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

"To consecrate ourselves to the Sacred Heart is ultimately to accept Christ's invitation to remain in his love and to allow that love to shape every aspect of our lives, public and private," Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, the homilist for the Mass, said. "It is a declaration that the future does not belong merely to political movements, economic forces, or human plans. The future belongs to God."

The opening session of the U.S. bishops' meeting June 10 had two addresses that reflected on the Church's evangelizing mission and the Sacred Heart.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, in his first address to the bishops as USCCB president, spoke of how "the truth of Christ must be proclaimed all the more confidently" to restore hope that is under threat from wide-ranging attacks on human dignity and polarization "within our country, and even within our Church."

In response, he called for preaching that "life is a gift from God," the "cultivation of interpersonal relationships and conversations between those who may disagree," and acting on the bishops' mission directive "to reach out to the disaffiliated and the unaffiliated." But above all, Archbishop Coakley reminded his brother bishops, "It is the love flowing from the Sacred Heart of Jesus that feeds our hope."

Archbishop Gabriele G. Caccia gave his inaugural address to the bishops as nuncio to the U.S. and also highlighted the consecration of the U.S. Church to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He urged the bishops to fulfill their mission as missionary disciples by welcoming immigrants in their midst, and reminded the bishops his ministry is there to support them.

The start of the public session also included a message from the U.S. bishops to Pope Leo XIV thanking him 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" through his new encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas."

Other presentations that day also lifted up exemplars of the Church's witness and opportunities to strengthen that witness.

Mathematical biologist Santiago Schnell, provost of Dartmouth University, addressed the bishops on "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," St. John Paul II's 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic universities, and invited them to explore how they can reawaken the Catholic imagination in academic life and nurture leaders who can become "voices for the Catholic Church."

The bishops heard a report on World Youth Day 2027, which is to take place Aug. 3-8 in Seoul, with 10,000-15,000 pilgrims expected to travel to South Korea from the U.S. Seoul Auxiliary Bishop Paul Kyung Sang Lee, general coordinator for WYD 2027, shared with the bishops that the Catholic Church in Korea began with the laypeople, became strengthened by the blood of 10,000-plus martyrs, and served as a sanctuary for democracy and human rights.

The bishops also gave a unanimous consent June 10 to support the advancement of two American canonization causes: Duluth, Minnesota's pioneer missionary priest Msgr. Joseph Buh, and upstate New York's entrepreneur-turned-evangelist John Rick Miller.

Duluth Bishop Daniel J. Felton spoke of how Msgr. Buh is a model for how "missionary discipleship demands courage, sacrifice, perseverance and complete availability to God's will." Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski spoke of Miller — who worked to re-evangelize Latin American countries and have them consecrated to the Sacred Heart — as having "lived the baptismal call to holiness in an exemplary way."

On the second day of public sessions, the U.S. Catholic bishops approved portions of two texts with near unanimity: 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.

The bishops also ultimately agreed to move ahead and approve updates to their landmark document on protection policies for minors. The revision commits the Church to "act on the presumption of the sincerity of those who bring forth a complaint of sexual abuse" while also maintaining "a corresponding presumption of innocence on the part of the accused until guilt is proven."

The bishops voted on the floor to add a further revision that would commit themselves to form future clergy in "trauma-informed" pastoral care.

Sara Larson, executive director of Awake, a community of abuse survivors, Catholic advocates and other allies, issued a statement following the vote commending the "important progress" the Catholic Church in the U.S. has made in two decades in protecting children, but emphasized it was important for the bishops to extend that protection to adults who "continue to experience devastating abuse in situations of vulnerability like confession, spiritual direction, pastoral support, religious life, and employment."

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Bishops ...

Cont'd from Page 13

"Awake encourages Church leaders throughout the United States to continue building upon the progress already made by xtending safeguarding efforts to adults, implementing trauma-informed practices, and engaging survivors as valued partners in the Church's ongoing work of reform and healing," she said.

While the scope of the charter's revision did not address adults, and stayed within its mandate to focus exclusively on protecting minors, Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, told OSV News in an interview that they anticipate possible related developments in this area coming from the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

"The U.S. Catholic Church stands ready once those documents do come forward," he said.

But the revised charter saw animated debate — not so much around the proposed changes, but rather over the process of consultation. Following the June 10 presentation, Archbishop W. Shawn McKnight of Kansas City, Kansas, asked if it would be possible to suspend the vote on the revisions pending further consultation among presbyteral councils and diocesan review boards. He cited several factors and also argued further consultation was more in line with the synodal style of consultation envisioned for the Church.

Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, chair of the USCCB's Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, acknowledged that the charter is "not a perfect document," but he noted that consultation on the revision has been "occurring for about five years," with "input received on multiple occasions from bishops."

On June 11, ahead of the vote, Archbishop McKnight reiterated his call to postpone the vote, with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio, seconding the motion. But after balloting, the motion failed, and a two-thirds majority voted to approve the revised text.

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt of Hartford, Connecticut, then spoke on behalf of a USCCB task force on the ongoing implementation of synodality in the life of the Church. He provided the bishops June 11 with an update on recent consultations among the bishops, but also invited them to hear directly from Pope Leo himself.

The bishop played a video of the pope addressing some of the U.S. concerns about synodality at a Jubilee 2025 gathering, where Pope Leo emphasized the importance of a patient and proper formation "on every level" about what it means to be a "Church which is synodal." But Pope Leo also affirmed the Church in the U.S. already has many existing structures that "have great potential for being synodal" and encouraged them "to find ways of continuing to transform them into more inclusive kinds of experiences" for the laity, the clergy, and women and men religious, in order that all might feel "a co-responsible sense of belonging, and of leadership and accountability in the life of the Church."

The bishops also heard a presentation on the Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition, where Bishop William A. Wack of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, gave his own personal testimony of serving in prison ministry, and how a prisoner's letter convinced him to "go regularly."

"I invite you to visit, too. You know how important it is for the prisoners to have a visit from a priest, deacon, religious, but especially a bishop?" he said. "Like that prisoner wrote to me, the bishop is their shepherd. They are part of your flock."

Bishop Oscar Cantú of San Jose, California, chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, addressed his fellow bishops June 11 about preparations for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin in five years, and dioceses' participation in the Intercontinental Guadalupan Novena.

Before the bishops headed out to consecrate the U.S. to the Sacred Heart, they heard reflections on the Sacred Heart of Jesus from three of their brother bishops.

The final day of the conference, June 12, was spent in executive session. The remaining bishops then returned home to their own dioceses to carry out the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from their own cathedrals.

(Peter Jesserer Smith is the national news editor for OSV News. Contributing to this report were Julie Asher, Gina Christian, Michael Heinlein, Jean Gonzalez and Tony Gutiérrez.)

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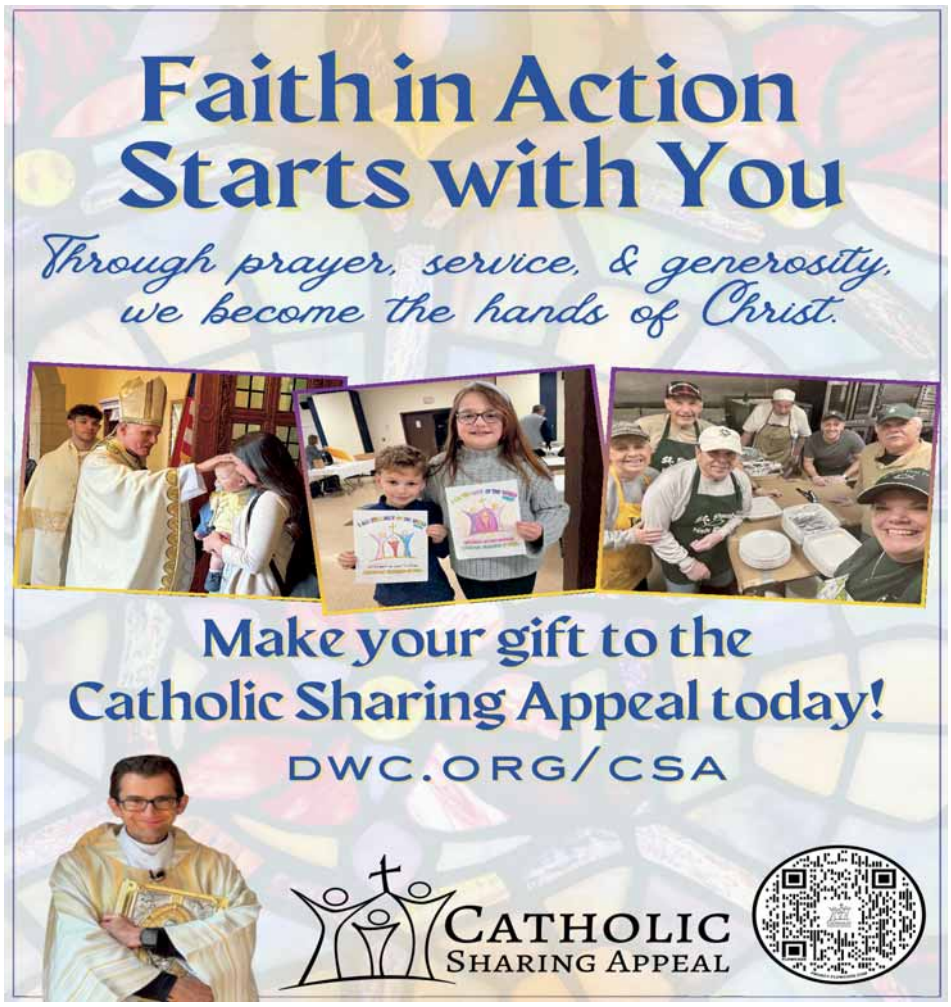
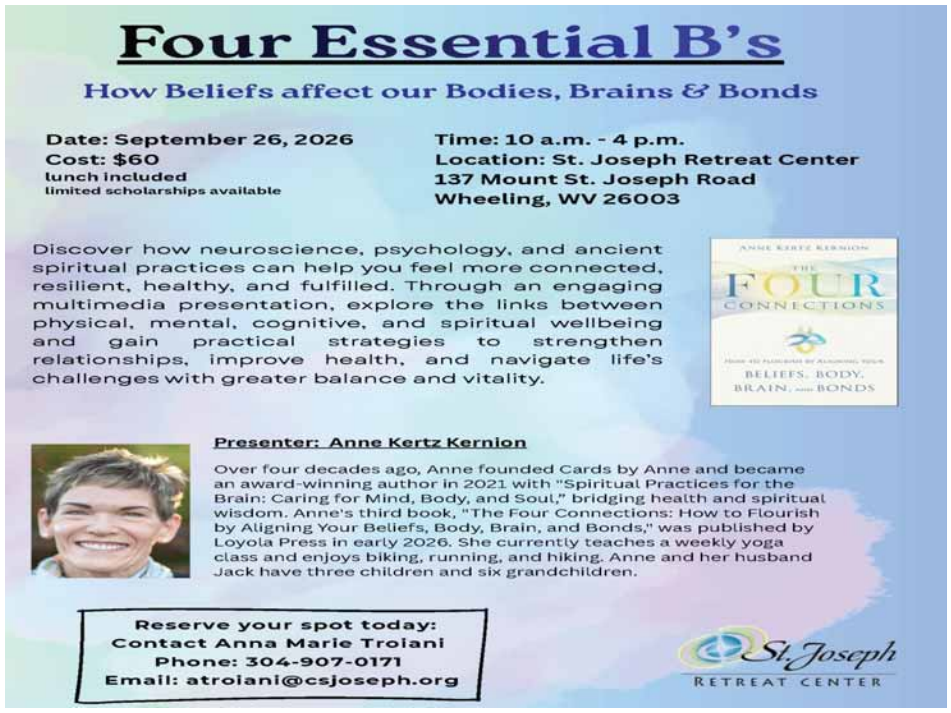
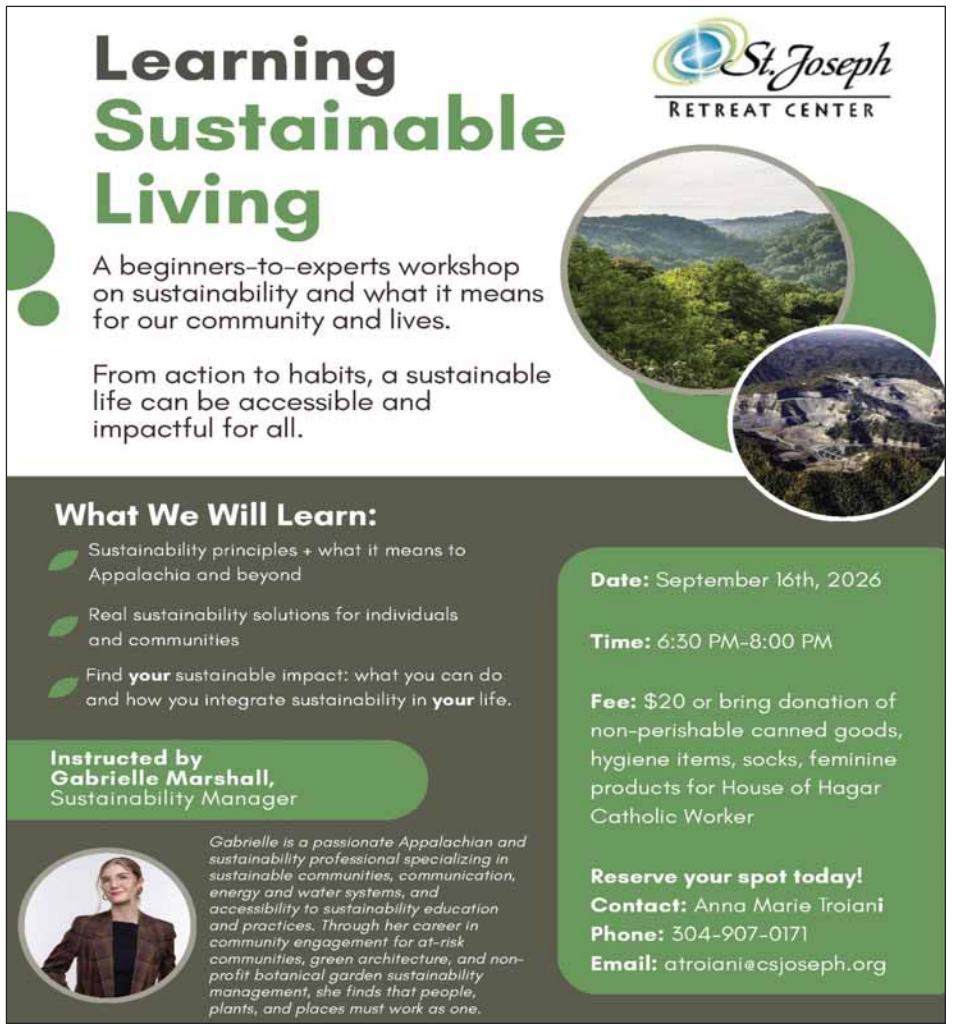






Bishops Look to Our Lady of Guadalupe as Evangelization Model Ahead of Quincentennial

By Tony Gutiérrez

(OSV News) — In preparation for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to St. Juan Diego in five years, the dioceses of the U.S. will be participating in the Novena Intercontinental Guadalupana (Intercontinental Guadalupan Novena).

Bishop Oscar Cantú of San Jose, California, chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, addressed his fellow bishops June 11 during their spring plenary, sharing that one theologian had referred to Our Lady of Guadalupe as the "Queen of Marian Apparitions."

Franciscan Father Stefano Cecchin, president of the Pontifical International Marian Academy, told the bishop during a conference in Mexico City earlier this year that other apparitions talked about the rosary, repentance or unity of the family.

"But the message in Guadalupe included an entire array of theological messages that included ecclesiology, Christology, the role of the laity, the role of the hierarchy, enculturation," Bishop Cantú recalled Father Cecchin telling him.

Four years ago, the Mexican Episcopal Conference began a "Novena of Years" in anticipation of the quincentennial, and they have invited all dioceses throughout the Americas to join them for the remaining five years leading to the quincentennial.

"There is much depth to be plumbed for us in our dioceses and our communities in these five years that remain for this novena," Bishop Cantú said.

The bishop proposed a three-phase plan of pastoral activity. During the first phase, every ordinary will receive a replica of the tilma worn by Juan Diego to be used for veneration in cathedrals or other designated churches. The tilma will have been touched to the original, making it a third-class relic, and it could also journey to different parishes within the diocese.

Catechetical materials already being used in Mexico are in the process of being translated into English for use in the United States.

The National Eucharistic Congress in summer 2029 will kick off the second phase, which will include parish "Encuentros Guadalupanos" through 2031. The third phase would be the national celebration and would continue to the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' death and resurrection in 2033.

After the presentation, Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio commented about how Our Lady of Gaudalupe can be a source of evangelization.

"This relationship with Our Lady of Guadalupe promotes the culture of life, promotes the reality of immigrants — not only from the South but immigrants in general — and also the relationship of the Church and the Blessed Mother with the poor," Archbishop García-Siller said.

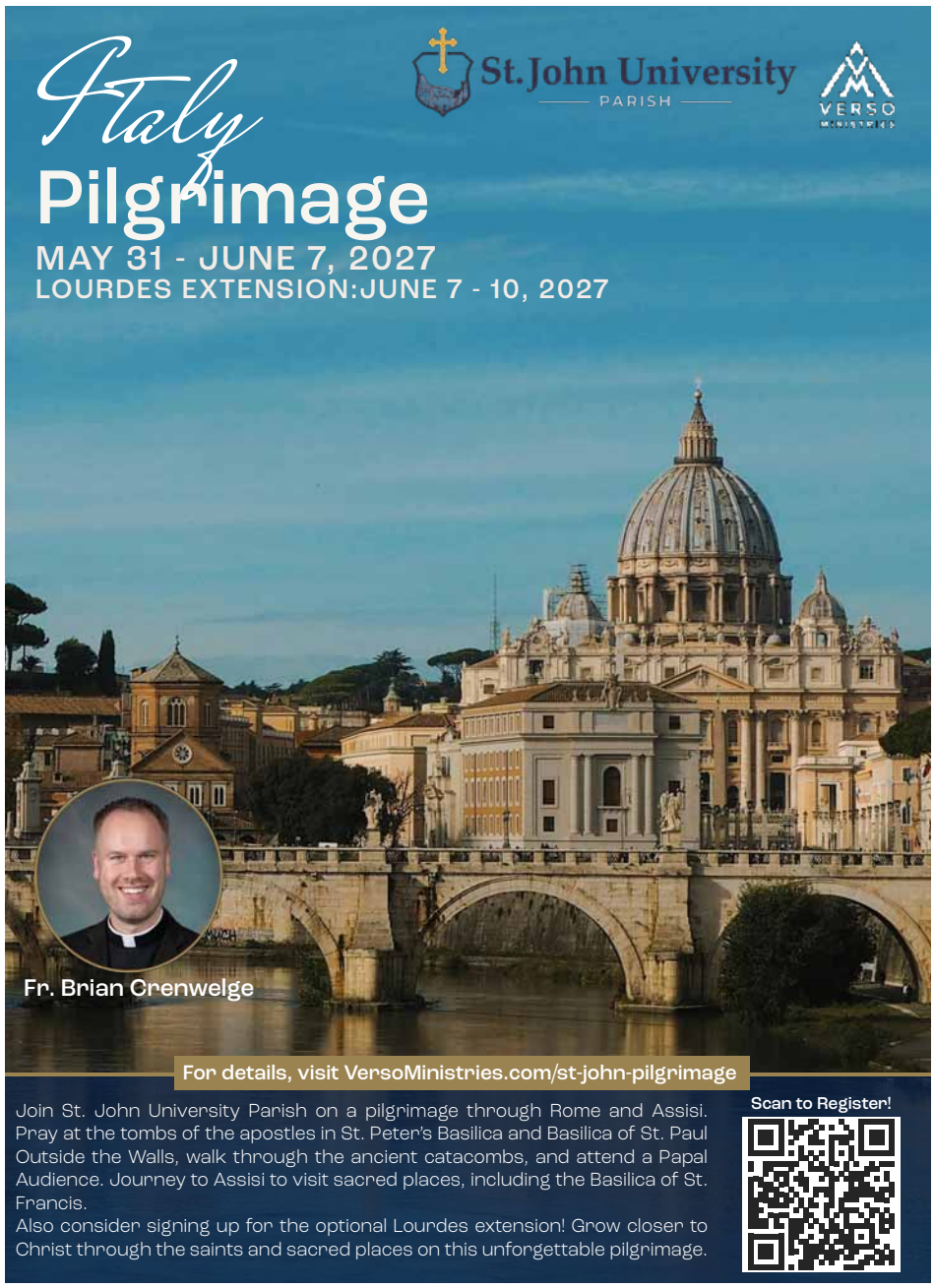
Bishop John P. Dolan of Phoenix shared that his diocese implemented a seven-year plan two years ago called "TILMA" to build a culture of evangelization leading up to the quincentennial.

"This is an excellent opportunity for us to invite people to take ownership of the call to evangelize," he said. "It would be good for us to put Our Lady Guadalupe out there and ask her to lead us in this mission toward a culture of effective and sustainable evangelization."

Recalling St. John Paul II's 1999 apostolic exhortation "Ecclesia in America," Bishop Cantú reflected on the description of Guadalupe as an "example of perfectly inculturated evangelization."

"Those are words that should echo in our hearts as we seek to evangelize our own churches in the United States."

(Tony Gutierrez is an OSV News correspondent based in Texas.)



Confirmation at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont

Bishop Mark Brennan is pictured with confirmands at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont. With them is Father Kishore Babu Varaparla, HGN, pastor. Courtesy photo

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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Obispos de EEUU contemplan a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe como modelo de evangelización de cara al 500.º aniversario

Por Tony Gutiérrez

(OSV News) — En preparación para el 500.º aniversario de la aparición de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe a San Juan Diego, que tendrá lugar dentro de cinco años, las diócesis de Estados Unidos participarán en la Novena Intercontinental Guadalupana.

El obispo Oscar Cantú de la Diócesis de San José, California, quien lidera el Subcomité para Asuntos Hispanos/Latinos de la conferencia episcopal, se dirigió a sus hermanos obispos durante su reunión asamblea plenaria de primavera el 11 de junio para hablar sobre la participación de los católicos del país en esta novena, recordando que un teólogo se había referido a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe como la "Reina de las apariciones marianas".

El padre Franciscano Stefano Cecchin, presidente de la Pontificia Academia Mariana Internacional, le dijo al obispo --durante una conferencia en la Ciudad de México hace unos meses-- que las otras apariciones marianas hablaron sobre el Rosario, el arrepentimiento o la unidad de la familia.

"Pero, el mensaje de Guadalupe incluía toda una gama de mensajes teológicos, incluyendo la eclesiología, Cristología, el papel de los laicos, el papel de la jerarquía y la enculturación", recordó el obispo Cantú que le dijo a él el padre Cecchin.

El obispo también recordó que hace cuatro años que la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano empezó una novena de nueve años en anticipación para el quingentésimo aniversario del Acontecimiento Guadalupano en 2031, durante los cuales se busca profundizar en el mensaje de la Virgen de Guadalupe, promover la evangelización y celebrar esta devoción mariana que une a tantas personas alrededor del mundo.

Según sus organizadores, esta "novena de años" es un proceso espiritual de preparación que tiene como objetivo promover el reencuentro con Dios, a través de Santa María de Guadalupe, "buscando nuevos caminos en la reconstrucción del tejido social y eclesial de nuestros pueblos y comunidades".

Los obispos mexicanos han invitado a todas las diócesis en el continente americano que se unan a ellos durante los cinco años restantes previos a dicha conmemoración, y en la asamblea de los obispos de EE.UU., se habló de las maneras en que las diócesis del país pueden sumarse a estos esfuerzos.

"Hay una gran profundidad que podemos explorar en nuestras diócesis y nuestras comunidades durante estos cinco años que restan de esta novena", añadió el obispo Cantú.

El obispo Cantú presentó una propuesta de un plan de actividades pastorales centradas en la evangelización y actividades misioneras que contaría con tres fases, para fortalecer la participación de los Estados Unidos en esta novena intercontinental. Durante la primera etapa, cada obispo diocesano recibiría una réplica de la tilma de San Juan Diego disponible para veneración en las catedrales u otras iglesias designadas. La tilma será puesta en contacto con la original, convirtiéndose en una reliquia de tercera clase, y podrá recorrer también las parroquias de la diócesis.

La segunda etapa empieza con el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en 2029, e incluye "Encuentros Guadalupanos" en las parroquias hasta 2031. La tercera etapa empieza con una celebración nacional y continuaría de cara a la celebración jubilar del 2000.º aniversario de la Muerte y Resurrección de Jesucristo, en 2033.

El obispo también indicó que hay muchos recursos catequéticos, ya utilizados en México, incluidos devocionales que están disponibles en el sitio de web para la novena. Las traducciones de los recursos al inglés para su uso en Estados Unidos estarán listas en los próximos meses, puntualizó al responder a las preguntas de los obispos en la asamblea. Después de la presentación, el arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio comentó como Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe puede ser una fuente de evangelización.

"La relación con Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe promueve la cultura de la vida, promueve la realidad de los inmigrantes --no solamente aquellos que provienen del sur sino los inmigrantes en general-- y también la relación de la Iglesia y de nuestra Santísima Madre con los pobres", afirmó el arzobispo García-Siller.

El obispo John P. Dolan de la Diócesis de Phoenix compartió que su diócesis ha implementado un plan pastoral de siete años en 2024 que se llama "TILMA" con el fin de construir una cultura de evangelización de cara al quinto centenario.

"Esta es una oportunidad excelente para que invitemos a las personas a asumir como propio el llamado a evangelizar", dijo el obispo Dolan. "Nos haría mucho bien poner a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en frente y pedirle que nos guíe en esta misión hacia una cultura de evangelización efectiva y sostenible".

Foto OSV News/Paul Haring

La imagen original de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, impresa en la tilma de San Juan Diego, se exhibe en la basílica de la Ciudad de México el 13 de febrero de 2016.

Recordando la exhortación apostólica de San Juan Pablo II en 1999, "Ecclesia in America", el obispo Cantú reflexionó sobre la descripción de Guadalupe como un "ejemplo de evangelización perfectamente inculturada".

"Esas palabras deberían resonar en nuestros corazones mientras buscamos evangelizar nuestras iglesias en los Estados Unidos", dijo.

(Tony Gutiérrez es corresponsal de OSV News y reside en Texas.)

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores: La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis 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 ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

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Annual CCHD Collection

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

The annual Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston collection for CCHD is the weekend of July 18th and 19th.

HOH-Share's CCHD project, Uplift WV, helped Ryan overcome homelessness and unemployment. Now he leads others toward recovery, reentry, and stability through service and support.

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