

# Adore Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist, Pope Tells U.S. Catholics

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Catholics need to recover a sense of awe and adoration before the Eucharist, knowing that it is “the real and loving presence of the Lord,” Pope Francis told members of the committees organizing the National Eucharistic Revival and the National Eucharistic

Congress in the United States. Jesus spoke of himself as “the living bread which came down from heaven, the true bread that gives life to the world,” the pope told the group June 19, just three days after leaving the hospital following abdominal surgery.

“This morning, while I was celebrating the Eucharist, I thought about this a lot be-

cause it is what gives us life,” the pope said. “Indeed, the Eucharist is God’s response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life because in the Eucharist Christ himself is truly in our midst to nourish, console and sustain us on our journey.”

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CNS Photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis blesses a four-foot-tall monstrance, a chalice and a paten during an audience with members of the organizing committees of the U.S. National Eucharistic Congress and Eucharistic Revival in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican June 19.

# Bishop Brennan and Religious Leaders Join in a Service of Remembrance and Repentance on Juneteenth

By **Martina Hart**

**CHARLESTON** — Bishop Mark Brennan, clergy and laity of local Catholic parishes joined religious leaders of various denominations and over 80 people at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston on Juneteenth, June 19, for a Service of Remembrance and Repentance for those lynched in West Virginia.

The event had been organized by the Dismantling Racism Task Force of the West Virginia Council of Churches (WVCC), of which Bishop Brennan is a member. It was planned to be held on the steps of the State Capitol but due to steady rain that evening was moved indoors a couple blocks down Kanawha Boulevard.

In his remarks at the gathering, Bishop Brennan recalled growing up in southern Maryland where he experienced racial segregation in various forms.

“We must remember all these things,” he said, “but we also must be committed to doing what we can to overcome that legacy.”

He remembered his father who served in the U.S. Navy planning the annual picnic for his naval unit which included African American servicemen. When told

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Martina Hart Photo

Following the Prayer Service of Remembrance and Repentance on Juneteenth at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston are in the front row, from left, Rev. Jeffrey Allen, Bishop Mark Brennan, Rev. Kay Albright, Rev. Ronald English, and Deacon Raymond Godwin. In the second row, from left, are Rev. Roberta Smith, Ms. Ibtesam “Sue” Barazi, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, and Rabbi Joe Blair.

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# Synod Document Asks How to Increase Unity, Participation, Mission Outreach

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — In a church that “bears the signs of serious crises of mistrust and lack of credibility,” members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be asked to find ways to build community, encourage the contribution of every baptized person and strengthen the church’s primary mission of sharing the Gospel, said the working document for the October gathering.

“A synodal church is founded on the recognition of a common dignity deriving from baptism, which makes all who receive it sons and daughters of God, members of the family of God, and therefore brothers and sisters in Christ, inhabited by the one Spirit and sent to fulfil a common mission,” said the document, which was released at the Vatican June 20.

However, it said, many Catholics around the world report that too many baptized persons — particularly

LGBTQ+ Catholics, the divorced and civilly remarried, the poor, women and people with disabilities — are excluded from active participation in the life of the church and, particularly, from its decision-making structures.

Based on the input from listening sessions held around the world since October 2021 and, especially, from reports submitted from continental and regional synod sessions earlier this year, the working document asks members of the synod to focus their prayer, discussion and discernment on three priorities:

— Communion, asking: “How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?”

— “Co-responsibility in mission: How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?”

— “Participation, governance and authority: What processes, structures and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal church?”

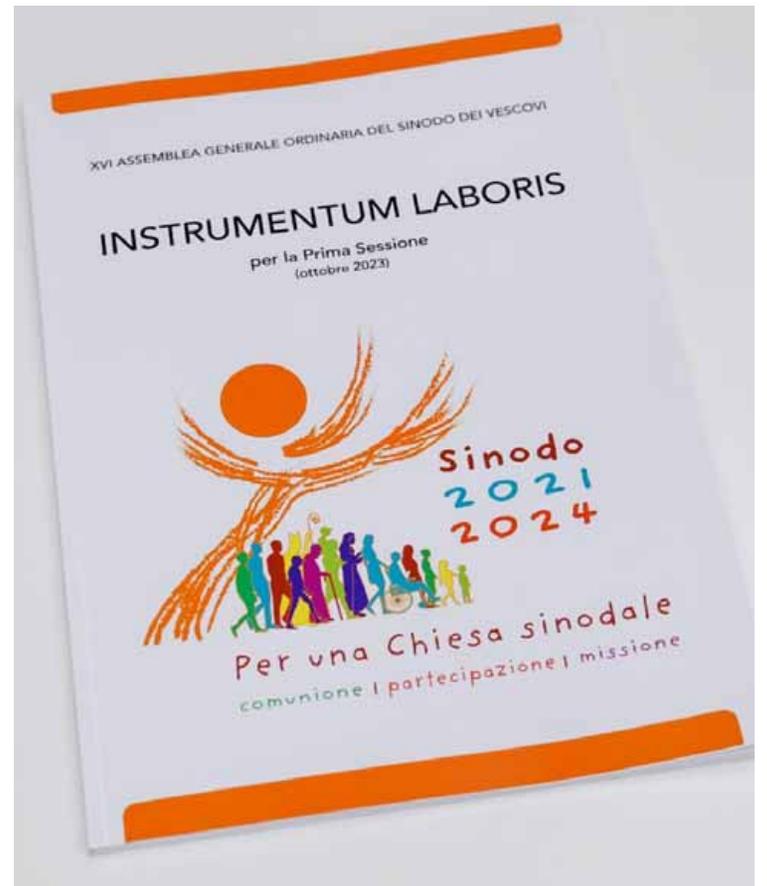
The first synod assembly, scheduled for Oct. 4-29, “will have the task of discerning the concrete steps which enable the continued growth of a synodal church, steps that it will then submit to the Holy Father,” the document said. Some questions, perhaps many of them, will require further discernment and study with the help of theologians and canon lawyers, which is why a second assembly of the synod will be held in October 2024.

Even then, resolving every issue raised in the synod listening sessions is unlikely, the document said. But “characteristic of a synodal church is the ability to manage tensions without being crushed by them.”

The working document includes worksheets with questions “for discernment” that synod members will be asked to read and pray with before arriving in Rome.

One of them asks, “What concrete steps can the church

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CNS Photo/Lola Gomez

A printed copy of the “Instrumentum Laboris,” or working document, for the world Synod of Bishops on synodality is seen in the Vatican press office June 20.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Epararchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with

children: background check; receipt of the Diocese’s Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click “Diocese”, then “Offices,” then “Office of Safe Environment.”

## To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://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](http://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 Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

## To Report to Diocesan Authorities:

The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis

Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment”, then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

## To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator:

please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://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.



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## Eucharist...

Cont'd from Page 1

Pope Francis walked into the library using his cane instead of a wheelchair. And although he sat when he read his prepared text — and added spontaneous comments — he stood to bless the four-foot-tall monstrance, paten and chalice that will be used during the eucharistic congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024.

The group was led by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chair of the U.S. bishops' advisory group for the National Eucharistic Revival, a multi-year process aimed at renewing and strengthening faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and chair of the board of directors planning the eucharistic congress.

Bishop Cozzens told Catholic News Service it was "an incredible privilege" to meet the pope and experience "his love, his passion for the Eucharist and for the work that we're about."

Pope Francis told the group that, unfortunately, today many Catholics "believe that the Eucharist is more a symbol than the reality of the Lord's presence and love."

But, he said, "it is more than a symbol; it is the real and loving presence of the Lord."

"It is my hope, then, that the eucharistic congress will inspire Catholics throughout the country to discover anew the sense of wonder and awe at the Lord's great gift of himself," he said, "and to spend time with him in the celebration of the

holy Mass and in personal prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament."

Pope Francis lamented that many people "have lost the sense of adoration. We need to regain the sense of adoring in silence, adoration. It is a prayer we have lost; few people know what this is, and you bishops need to catechize the faithful on the prayer of adoration," he said, looking at Bishop Cozzens and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, who also accompanied the group.

The pope insisted on the link between celebrating Mass, eucharistic adoration and sharing the Gospel with others.

"In the Eucharist, we encounter the one who gave everything for us, who sacrificed himself in order to give us life, who loved us to the end," he said. "We become credible witnesses to the joy and transforming beauty of the Gospel only when we recognize that the love we celebrate in this sacrament cannot be kept to ourselves but demands to be shared with all."

"This is the sense of mission: You go, you celebrate Mass, you take Communion, you go to adoration — and afterward?" he asked. "Afterward you go out, you go out and evangelize; Jesus makes us this way."

"The Eucharist impels us to a strong and committed love of neighbor," he insisted. "For we cannot truly understand or live the meaning of the Eucharist if our hearts are closed to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor, suffering, weary or may have gone astray in

life."

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said those who believe in the Eucharist must reach out to and visit "the elderly, who are the wisdom of a people, and the sick, who take the form of the suffering Jesus."

Pope Francis prayed that the National Eucharistic Congress would "bear fruit in guiding men and women throughout your nation to the Lord who, by his presence among us, rekindles hope and renews life."

In an interview with CNS following the papal audience, Bishop Cozzens said the ongoing process of the Synod of Bishops on synodality and the eucharistic revival are related since, in the listening sessions for the synod, many Catholics expressed concern about a lack of belief in the real presence and about declining Mass attendance.

"We're probably at an all-time low in the United States in terms of the percentage of Catholics who are actually going to Mass every Sunday," he said, which is "a huge concern that came forward in the synod process."

The listening sessions also pleaded with the bishops to work for the unity of the church in the country and draw everyone together around the sacrament of unity, and communion is the best way to do that, he said. "So, I would argue that the synodal process helped us build the whole thing."

"The Eucharist is the source of our life in the church," the bishop said. "It's the beating heart of the church where we receive the life of Christ as the body of Christ."

## Synod...

Cont'd from Page 2

take to renew and reform its procedures, institutional arrangements and structures to enable greater recognition and participation of women, including in governance, decision-making processes and in the taking of decisions, in a spirit of communion and with a view to mission?"

"Most of the continental assemblies and the syntheses of several episcopal conferences," it said, "call for the question of women's inclusion in the diaconate to be considered. Is it possible to envisage this, and in what way?"

As the synod process has taken place, questions have been raised about the relationship between participation in the life of the church and the call to conversion, the document said, which raises "the question of whether there are limits to our willingness to welcome people and groups, how to engage in dialogue with cultures and religions without compromising our identity, and our determination to be the voice of those on the margins and reaffirm that no one should be left behind."

Another tension highlighted in the process involves shared responsibility in a church that believes its hierarchical structure is willed by Christ and is a gift.

The working document reported a "strong awareness that all authority in the church proceeds from Christ and is guided by the Holy Spirit. A diversity of charisms without authority becomes anarchy, just as the rigor of authority with-

out the richness of charisms, ministries and vocations becomes dictatorship."

But the document asked members to discuss, think and pray about ways that authority can be exercised more as leadership that empowers shared responsibility and creativity.

"How can we renew and promote the bishop's ministry from a missionary synodal perspective?" it asked.

"How should the role of the bishop of Rome (the pope) and the exercise of his primacy evolve in a synodal church?" the document said. The question echoed St. John Paul II's invitation in his 1995 encyclical, "Ut Unum Sint," ("That They May be One"), for an ecumenical exploration "to find a way of exercising the primacy which, while in no way renouncing what is essential to its mission, is nonetheless open to a new situation."

The working document also asked synod members to consider ways more priests, religious and laypeople could be involved in the process of choosing bishops.

Throughout the listening sessions at every level, the document said, people recognized that Catholics cannot share fully in the spiritual discernment needed for true co-responsibility without further education in the Christian faith, Catholic social teaching and in the process of discernment itself and how it differs from simply discussing a problem and voting on possible solutions.

In particular, it said, "all those who exercise a ministry need formation to renew the ways of exer-

cising authority and decision-making processes in a synodal key, and to learn how to accompany community discernment and conversation in the Spirit."

"Candidates for ordained ministry must be trained in a synodal

style and mentality," it said, and the seminary curriculum must be revised "so that there is a clearer and more decisive orientation toward formation for a life of communion, mission and participation."



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Martina Hart Photo

The Prayer Service of Remembrance and Repentance on Juneteenth is held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charleston.

## Juneteenth...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

that the location was a “whites only beach” he responded that the day of the picnic would be “racially integrated” because every member of his unit would attend. Years later, in 1974, then Father Mark Brennan was in a parish in the same area where he would train the first African American altar boy in the parish founded in 1700.

“We can do things to change individually and collectively the legacy of racism,” Bishop Brennan concluded.

Having been celebrated by Black communities for decades, Juneteenth has gained national and cultural prominence only in the recent past, and in 2021 the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act was signed into law, marking June 19 as a federal holiday.

At the service, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church who is also president of the WVCC, recalled historic events surrounding the holiday.

“Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when U.S. federal troops ar-

rived in Galveston, Texas, to take control of the state and to ensure all African Americans were freed,” she said. “The troops arrived there ... two and a half years after the emancipation proclamation had been signed, and today we still continue to work towards freedom of all people.”

“Our call is to take up the good news of liberation for all people in this world, and yet systemic racism in church and society continues,” she said, listing events in the past few years such as murders of Black and Brown people and a dramatic rise in hate crimes against other ethnic and religious groups.

She suggested to listen and read in order to gain greater awareness, to learn more about the realities African Americans face and the contributions they make to society.

Rev. Ronald English, president of the NAACP, Charleston Branch, called it the “most preferred holiday that authentically deals with the experience of African Americans.”

“July Fourth is around the corner, but Juneteenth is in the path of July Fourth,” he said, adding that it marks one of the two holidays, besides Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

“where we celebrate the experience of African Americans, particularly in terms of those who plotted a path to freedom.”

“The preaching of the gospel of Juneteenth deals us a reason that cannot be compromised in terms of telling the authentic story of the African American presence in this country and the reason to rejoice,” Rev. English continued. “It helps us to reveal the authentic roots of an American holiday that comes from the dark side of American history. So, we have come to this place at this time to say thanks be to God and thanks to the spirit of the elders that have helped us ... to keep hope alive.”

During the service, clergy and lay people took turns in reading the names of the 48 persons who had been lynched in the area now comprising West Virginia between 1808 and 2001. Reading some of the names were Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston; Deacon Raymond Godwin, ecumenical officer in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Ecumenism Office who is also permanent deacon at the parishes of

St. Brendan’s in Elkins and St. Anne’s in Webster Springs and St. Patrick Mission in Coalton; and Sister Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ, of the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters in Wheeling.

Together the congregation recited prayers of repentance for the sin of racism and of commitment, as members of different faith communities, to stand up against all forms of racism and contribute to reconciliation.

The program was interspersed by the singing of African American spirituals and freedom songs. As part of their Theological Statement, the WVCC Dismantling Racism Task force emphasized that all people are created in the image of God and that Jesus taught to love our neighbor as ourselves.

“As part of our repentance we acknowledge the history of lynching in West Virginia, our too often failure to speak out, the need to remember and lift up the names of those persons so brutally murdered, and the suffering of their families,” they stated.

Plans are underway for a permanent memorial on the grounds of the West Virginia State Capitol.



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# Pope Declares ‘Venerable’ Mother Lange and Fátima Visionary

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)**

— Recognizing they lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way, Pope Francis has declared venerable Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, founder of the first Catholic order of African American nuns, and Sister Lúcia dos Santos, who, with her cousins, reported seeing Mary when she was a child in Fátima, Portugal.

The pope signed the decrees recognizing their heroic virtues June 22. A miracle attributed to their intercession is still necessary before they can be beatified.

Meeting with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis also recognized the martyrdom of Father Manuel González-Serna Rodríguez and 19 other diocesan priests, laymen and laywomen killed in 1939 during the Spanish Civil War. The recognition of martyrdom clears the way for their beatification without a miracle.

Mother Lange, who was born in Cuba to Haitian parents, came to the United States around 1813, settling

CNS Photo/courtesy of the Catholic Review

At right: a painting depicts Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first Catholic order of African American nuns, who work largely in the Baltimore area.



CNS photo courtesy of Shrine of Fatima  
At right: Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos is seen in this May 16, 2000, file photo. Sister Lucia, the eldest of three Portuguese children to receive apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal, died Feb. 13 at the age of 97.



near Baltimore, and saw how the children of other immigrants needed education.

“She was determined to respond to that need in spite of being a black woman in a slave state long before the Emancipation Proclamation,” according to the official website of her sainthood cause. “She used her own money and home to educate children of color.”

With the encouragement and support of a priest and Archbishop James Whitfield of Baltimore, she and three other women made promises of poverty, chastity and obedience in 1829, found-

ing the Oblate Sisters of Providence, an order that continues today. Mother Lange died in 1882.

The other notable decree of heroic virtues involved a religious sister who died much more recently. Sister Lúcia dos Santos died in Coimbra, Portugal, in 2005 at the age of 97. Pope Francis canonized her cousins, Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto, in 2017.

Sister Lúcia was 10 years old when she and her cousins first saw Mary at Fátima on May 13, 1917.

But her sainthood cause examined her entire life and the huge volumes of corre-

spondence she wrote as a cloistered Carmelite nun.

Much of that correspondence involved her attempts to clarify what became known as the “secrets” of Fatima, which Sister Lúcia made known. In the 1930s, she shared the first two parts. They included a vision of hell shown to the children, along with prophecies concerning the outbreak of World War II, the rise of communism and the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially in Russia if the country was consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

Sister Lúcia wrote down

the third part of the message, sealed it in an envelope and gave it to her local bishop. The message was sent to the Vatican in 1957, where successive popes read it, but decided not to reveal its contents.

St. John Paul II ordered the so-called “third secret” of Fatima to be published in 2000; he believed the secret, actually a vision, referred to the 20th-century persecution of the church under Nazism and communism and spoke of the 1981 attempt to assassinate him. The pope was shot May 13, 1981, the anniversary of the first of the Fatima apparitions.

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# At Assembly, U.S. Bishops Advance Pastoral Initiatives to Strengthen Church amid Discussions on Eucharist, Priesthood, Synodality

By Peter Jesserer Smith, Kate Scanlon OSV News

**ORLANDO, Fla. (OSV News)** — Meeting in Orlando for their spring assembly, the U.S. bishops moved ahead on some efforts to advance the church's mission in the U.S., including new pastoral initiatives aimed at activating Catholics as missionary disciples. The gathering's June 15-16 plenary sessions proved relatively smooth, but featured moments of vigorous discussion at a few points, particularly around the formation of priests.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services gave his first address as U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops president presiding over the bishops' plenary assembly. He covered a variety of issues of concern to Catholics, such as the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform and for an end to Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

"We cannot fail to see the face of Christ in all of those who need our assistance, especially the poor and the vulnerable," he said.

The papal nuncio to the U.S., Archbishop Christophe Pierre, made his case to the U.S. bishops June 15 that synodality, oriented to Jesus Christ as their "true north," unleashes missionary activity.

"The purpose of walking this synodal path is to make our evangelization more effective in the context of the precise challenges that we face today," Archbishop Pierre said in his address at the U.S. bishops' spring plenary assembly in Orlando.

The archbishop also singled out Auxiliary Bishop David G. O'Connell of Los Angeles, who was shot to death earlier this year, as "a model of synodal service, combined with Eucharistic charity."

The U.S. Catholic bishops gathered voiced their approval for the advancement of a cause to canonize five missionary priests from Brittany, France, known as the "Shreveport martyrs."

"They demonstrated heroic charity during the third worst pandemic in U.S. history," said Bishop Francis I. Malone of Shreveport, noting they were all young men who voluntarily sacrificed their own lives to journey with the dying and bring the Eucharist to the faithful.

In their message to Pope Francis, the bishops also strongly con-

demned an execution that the state of Florida carried out June 15 in the evening following their meeting.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, updated the bishops on the progress of the 2023-2024 global Synod on Synodality. Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, presented on the National Eucharistic Revival, and outlined how the "small group initiative" in the parish year could help deepen people's relationship to Christ in the Eucharist.

"We all know how much our church needs to move from maintenance to mission ... this is really the heart of what we're attempting to do," he said.

Most votes taking place had near unanimous approval, such as the agenda items related to retranslating the Liturgy of the Hours into English, including having the future edition include some prayer texts in Latin.

The bishops approved the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Latino Ministry with 167 in favor and 2 against and 2 abstentions. The 62-page plan seeks to respond to the needs of about 30 million Hispanic/Latino Catholics in the U.S. and strengthen Hispanic/Latino ministries at the national, local and parish level.

Ahead of the vote, Bishop Oscar Cantú of San Jose, California, chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, told OSV News there was a great need to "get moving so that (the new pastoral plan) can be implemented in our dioceses and parishes."

A day before the vote took place, Detroit Auxiliary Bishop J. Arturo Cepeda, who chairs the USCCB's Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, called the plan a sign of the times that recognizes Hispanic/Latino Catholics — who account for more than 40% of U.S. Catholics — as "missionaries among us" that can reinvigorate the life of the church.

The most contentious discussion took place regarding the proposed second edition of the "Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests." Some bishops took to the floor to object they had not had time to read the document, or that it was so lengthy priests would likely not read it and dismiss its contents.

Other bishops expressed concern that the discussion on "spiritual fatherhood" needed to be

fleshed out, expressing concern that otherwise it could fuel the "narcissistic tendencies" and "hubris" of some priests.

Bishop Steven R. Biegler of Cheyenne, Wyoming, said he appreciated the document's beautiful description of the Christian relationship to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "What I find lacking is that communal relationship to the Body of Christ ... that puts us in solidarity with one another as brother and sister," he said.

However, other bishops pushed back against delaying the document, noting the hard work that went into developing it, and that the document was meant to be a guide adapted to the realities of local churches.

Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, ordained as a priest for the Servants of the Eucharist and Mary, who is an auxiliary for the Archdiocese of

Hartford, Connecticut, said the term "spiritual fatherhood" is "actually a term that is more familiar and clear for those who are younger in the priesthood."

Ultimately, the bishops approved the formation document with 144 voting in favor, 24 against, and 8 abstentions.

The discussion and vote on priorities for the 2025-28 USCCB strategic plan were put on hold so that the bishops could reflect upon and, presumably, include some of the discussion from the synod conversations.

In a voice vote, the bishops approved beginning the process of consultation and revision of ethical directives for Catholic health care facilities to guide them in caring for people suffering from gender dysphoria and who identify as transgender.

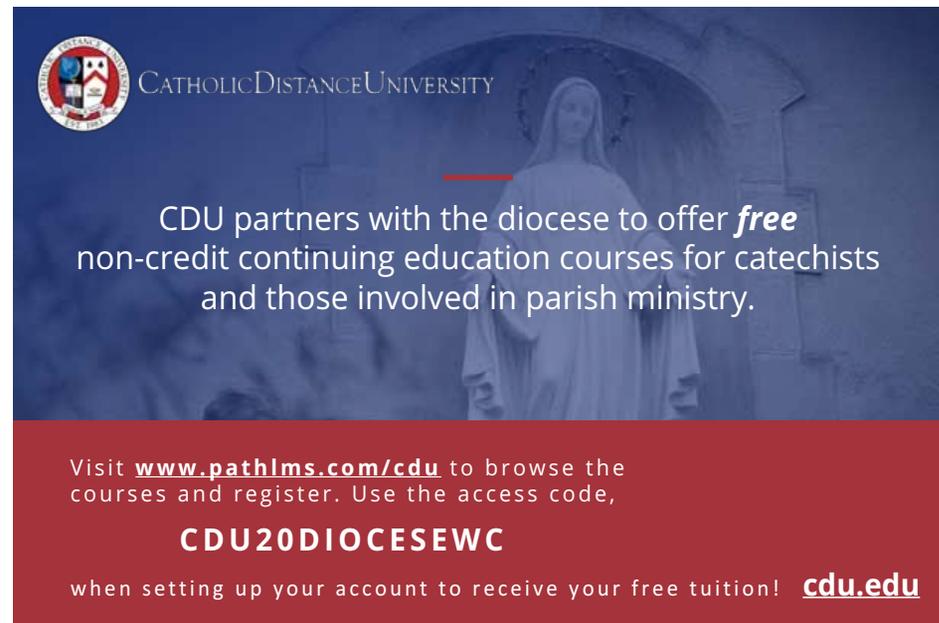
See "Bishops" on Page 7



**Daily Living**  
with Fr. Chapin  
**Sunday Mornings**

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
7:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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# Bishops...

Cont'd from Page 6

Bishop Flores said potential changes would be "limited and very focused" in nature, and involve extensive consultation. He praised the calls from bishops on the floor for a "pastorally sensitive" approach to the complex topic.

The U.S. bishops also voiced approval for the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth to move ahead on drafting a new pastoral statement for persons with disabilities.

"We do believe a new statement is needed to address disability concerns in the 21st century," Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, the committee's chair, told the bishops June 16. The intended statement aims to emphasize the giftedness of persons with disabilities, eliminate outdated forms of referring to persons with disabilities, and would be inclusive of persons who have mental illnesses.

During the discussion, Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston joined Bishop John T. Folda of Fargo, North Dakota, in noting the importance of Catholics being allied with the disability community against assisted suicide, and the cardinal asked for more attention to support parents of children with autism.

The bishops also heard an update on the upcoming World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, and were encouraged to have their own stateside events for youth and young adults

"to form them as missionary disciples."

Finally, just before the bishops concluded their assembly, Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Michigan, chair of the bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, discussed The Catholic Project's 2022 study of 10,000 Catholic religious and diocesan priests that found most priests distrust their bishops with only 24% saying they had confidence in bishops in general.

Bishop Boyea encouraged the bishops to help priests "feel kinship and fraternity with us" through better personal communication, such as recognizing important moments in their lives, and better lines of communicating information to them.

"This is not the completion, but a beginning, to heal our relationship," he said of the report.

At the conclusion of their assembly, recognizing it was the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the bishops prayed together the Litany of the Sacred Heart, invoking Jesus' heart repeatedly to "have mercy on us."

(Peter Jesserer Smith is the national news and features editor for OSV News. Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington. Contributing to this report were Jean Gonzalez, projects editor for The Florida Catholic Media in Orlando; Tony Gutiérrez, writing for OSV News from Arizona; and Maria-Pia Negro Chin, Spanish editor for OSV News.)

# Employment Opportunity

## Manager of Welty Home/Administrator of Good Shepherd Nursing Home

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Manager/Welty Home for the Aged Inc., and Administrator/Good Shepherd Nursing Home LC, in Wheeling, W.Va., directs and coordinates overall operation of Good Shepherd Nursing Home, The Braddock Apartments, The Welty Home LC, and Welty Apartments LC both internal and external, in order to provide excellent care to the residents served by these facilities. Manages the day-to-day operations of Good Shepherd Nursing Home and keeps the organization on track for its strategic plan, long term goals and organization's mission. Coordinates these activities to ensure compliance with established standards and regulatory requirements. Promotes public relations and a positive public image. Acts as the 'face' of the organization to the governing board, the public, and residents' families; and as a liaison between staff, residents, and families Arranges and obtains transfer and working agreements with other health facilities.

**Qualifications:** Holds a current valid license or an emergency permit issued by the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board. A master's degree in a health care or business-related field is preferred. A bachelor's degree in a health care or business-related field with qualifying experience may be considered. Has a sincere interest in the elderly and their needs. Has the ability to deal with people effectively to carry out objectives of facilities under his/her direction.

This individual must be a Roman Catholic in Good Standing. "Roman Catholic in Good Standing" is an individual who is, as determined by the Diocese: (1) a baptized Roman Catholic who is a registered member of a Roman Catholic parish; (2) agrees with the pastoral and sacramental missions and with the moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church; and (3) agrees with and is committed to maintaining the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, Sixth Edition, including in his or her work connected with such organizations.

**License qualifications and requirements:** Candidate is to submit the name, address, and contact of the State Licensing Board in which they are licensed. Current administrators will submit the most recent three years of State/Federal Survey Reports (CMS Form 2567) for which they were the "Administrator of Record". Reports are to include the deficiency citation, scope, and severity determination of each deficiency.

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# How Your Donation to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Makes a Difference

*Annual Collection is July 15-16 at Masses in the Diocese*

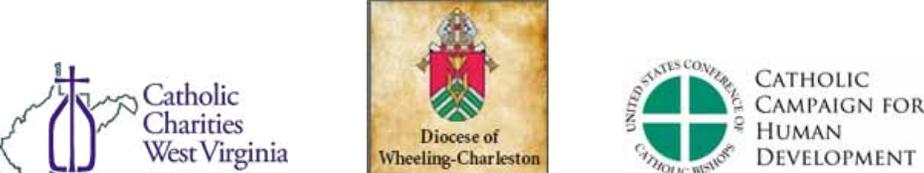
The parishes and missions of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will hold the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) at Masses July 15-16.

The CCHD is the national anti-poverty and social justice program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The CCHD was begun in 1969 as the "national Catholic Crusade Against Poverty" as a response to Pope Paul VI's encyclical "The Progress of Peoples".

The mission of CCHD is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled self-help organizations and through transformative social justice, education, and solidarity between poor and non-poor.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. Parishioners from every parish within the state of West Virginia are essential to its success. YOU, are essential to its success. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes.

In the light of the Catholic Church's moral and so-



**Catholic Charities West Virginia and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been working for social change across the United States for over 53 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.**

**In West Virginia for 2022, CCHD funded:**

**HOH Share and Grow Ohio Valley**

**HOH Share empowers those who are most vulnerable, the homeless and poor, with a proactive approach to community organizing. Grow Ohio Valley sees sustainable agriculture as an economic driver for West Virginia.**

**In the past five years, organizations in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have been granted more than \$455,000 to do the good work of CCHD.**

**The annual collection for CCHD is July 15 and 16, 2023. Your support for this collection makes a difference for West Virginians living in poverty and those across the United States.**



**CCHD is providing funding to HOH Share, Inc. to empower our most vulnerable with a proactive approach to community organizing.**



**CCHD is providing funding to Grow Ohio Valley who sees local food and sustainable agriculture as an economic driver for West Virginia**

cial teachings and tradition, CCHD asks organizations requesting funding to understand and adhere to basic principles which are central to the Catholic mis-

sion. CCHD asks those responsible for seeking and managing funds from CCHD to carefully understand that they must be in full compliance with the

seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. They are: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and

Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation.

Hierarchy within West Virginia for CCHD is USCCB, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Catholic Charities West Virginia, local parishes.

The CCHD grant, awarded annually through the DWC, has a foundation based on: 1. Sustainability...continuity in the availability of opportunities. 2. Productivity... human labor productivity based on human work. 3. Empowerment...to have the power to make choices.

CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities.

YOU and your contribution, are elemental to making lasting and meaningful change within the lives of those lacking hope and living in poverty.

Grants funded are all West Virginia based and authorized by Bishop Mark Brennan and governed by Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Your donation...helps to provide a "hand up", not a "hand out".

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Charities West Virginia and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as we continue to serve the people in West Virginia that are most in need of compassion and assistance. Thank you for your prayers, time and support.

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# Fairmont's Mission Home Repair Ministry in Need of Volunteers

**FAIRMONT** — Mission Home Repair Ministry, the mission team that works in association with the Greater Fairmont Council of Churches, will be gathering to do home repairs on selected sites during the two week period from July 3-14.

Actual work will be undertaken on six of those days, so that days of extreme weather, the holi-

day or other factors can be avoided. A number of projects have already been suggested for action throughout Marion County and these will be assessed in the coming days. What is needed most are volunteers from age 14 and up and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent for the day.

All people of faith are welcome

to participate and the team needs both skilled and unskilled volunteers to help. The group welcomes those who can work one day or all six. Lunches will be provided.

Those who are interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Deacon David Lester, pastoral associate at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont, who will be leading the team and

coordinating the projects. Donations may be made to help defray the costs of building materials, food and other supplies for the work. Contact Deacon Lester at (304) 592- 2693 or e-mail him at davidplester@aol.com. Donations can be mailed to: St. Peter the Fisherman CC, 407 Jackson St, Fairmont, WV 26554 with a notation "Mission Team".

## Deacon Prentiss' Vocation Story Featured on LoL Radio for His 40th Anniversary of Ordination

**MORGANTOWN**—Deacon Joe Prentiss' vocation story was featured on LoL (Light of Life) Radio last Sunday in celebration of his 40th anniversary of ordination to the diaconate.

Deacon Prentiss currently serves as permanent deacon at St. John University Parish in Morgantown.

"We congratulate him and his service to the church and to the St. John University Parish community," said Bob Carubia, president of Light of Life Community.

A reception was held in his honor after the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. John's.

To listen to Deacon Prentiss' vocation story, visit [www.LoLradio.org/ATC/ATC025.mp3](http://www.LoLradio.org/ATC/ATC025.mp3). The interview was conducted by Derek Rader five years ago and rebroadcast on Sunday.

For more information about Light of Life Radio Ministry call (304) 598-0026. Stations are: Morgantown FM 89.7 NorthCentral WV AM 1190 Clarksburg FM 97.5 Wheeling FM 90.7; streaming [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL).



### Symposium on the Sacrament of - Reconciliation -

THE SACRAMENT THAT REVIVES OUR EUCHARISTIC SPIRIT

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023, 6:00PM - 7:30PM**

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

67 Liberty Street, Berkeley Springs, WV

All are invited to experience this unique opportunity to renew and deepen your understanding of the Eucharist and its intrinsic relationship to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fr. Richie Mercado will assist you in examining the spiritual condition of your heart so as to revive your Eucharistic spirit towards God and neighbor.



Our Speaker:  
Fr. Richie Mercado, O.S.A.  
Friar, Order of Saint Augustine  
Canon Law Student, CUA

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# Franciscan University to Host International Marian Symposium

*Scholars Will Explore Blessed Mother's Unique Role in Redemption by Christ*

**STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—**Franciscan University of Steubenville will host an international Marian symposium Sept. 14-15. Entitled *Mother of All Peoples: The Role of Mary in the Redemption by Christ*, this free academic symposium is co-sponsored by Franciscan University and the International Marian Association (IMA).

"This Marian symposium is focused on both 'head' and 'heart'—on outstanding Mariological scholarship, but also on fostering true and lasting devotion to the Mother of Jesus," said Dr. Mark Miravalle, symposium organizer, professor of Mariology at Franciscan University, and president of the International Marian Association. "Thus, the inquiring layperson who seeks to better understand the riches of the Church's teachings on our common Mother and her maternal roles with and under Jesus on behalf of the Church and of the world will benefit as much as the scholar.

"The International Marian Association is honored to team up with Franciscan University's Theology Department for this momentous Marian event, open to the entire Franciscan University family, local community, and to all those who seek to know and love Our Mother more," Miravalle added.

Symposium presenters include: Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Maiduguri, Nigeria; Bishop William John Waltersheid, auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh; Dr. Robert Fastiggi, professor of systematic theology, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, Michigan; Msgr. Arthur B. Calkins, Vatican Commission Ecclesia Dei Emeritus; Father Dwight Longenecker, international speaker and acclaimed author; Dr. John-Mark Miravalle, professor of Mariology, Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland; Dr. Mike Scherschligt '95, founder, Holy Family School of Faith, Kansas City, Kansas; and Father Daniel M. Klimek, TOR, professor of Mariology, Franciscan University.

The International Marian Association (IMA) comprises theologians, bishops, clergy, religious, and lay leaders who seek to promote full Marian truth and devotion throughout the world. With over 100 members from 25 countries spanning the five continents, the IMA operates in obedience to the magisterium of the Catholic Church and is grounded upon the following four pillars: Mariological (advancing serious Mariological scholarship in the Church and in

the world); devotional (promoting authentic Marian devotion within its legitimate global beauty of diversity); episcopal (serving our cardinals and bishops and working in solidarity with them); and evangelical (spreading the full truth and love of Our Lady as part of the Church's New Evangelization).

Admission is free and open to the public. Register online today at [franciscan.edu/mother-of-all-peoples-the-role-of-mary-in-the-redemption-by-christ](http://franciscan.edu/mother-of-all-peoples-the-role-of-mary-in-the-redemption-by-christ).

One of only 15 faithfully Catho-

lic universities endorsed by the Cardinal Newman Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville was founded in 1946 by friars of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, integrates excellent academic programs with a dynamic faith environment to serve 2,500 students from all 50 states and 17 countries on campus and an additional 1,000 students online.

Ranked in the top tier of Midwest universities by U.S. News &

World Report since 1998, Franciscan offers over 100 programs of study including 45 undergraduate degrees, 9 graduate programs, and 17 online programs—all grounded in Franciscan's acclaimed Catholic core curriculum.

For more about Franciscan University of Steubenville and its mission to educate, evangelize, and send forth Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, visit [franciscan.edu](http://franciscan.edu) or connect with Franciscan on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

## Quo Vadis Retreat

Priestfield Pastoral Center

12pm June 26th - 1pm June 29th

Prayer Ropes Course  
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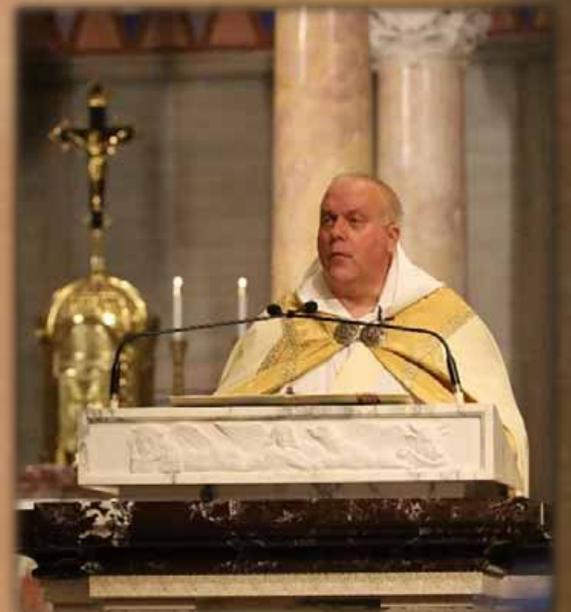
# Catholic Men of West Virginia, Married or Single, Consider the Vocation of a Deacon



Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service, assisting the bishop and his priests in many areas, especially in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opened a new Diaconate Formation Program for all Catholic men who will be 35 by June of 2027. Bishop Mark Brennan has made the 2023-2028 Diaconate Formation Program free to the men who apply, and the cost will be covered by the diocese.

Permanent deacons may be married. They must be faithful Catholics. Most work at secular jobs and must be willing to be open to an assignment outside of their parish.



## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

To apply and for more information, click the link below:

<https://dwc.org/directory-listing/permanent-diaconate-formation-office-of/2275/>



**The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is accepting applications for the next class of permanent deacons.**

Applications may also be obtained by contacting Tina High in the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (888) 434-6237 or for the Wheeling area at (304) 233-0880, ext. 271. Completed applications must be sent to the Office of the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA MISSION MOMENT

## Catholic Charities West Virginia Celebrates Juneteenth with Breakfast at Neighborhood Center in Wheeling

"Juneteenth is a powerful reminder of the enduring pursuit of justice," said Mark Phillips, CCWVa president and chief executive officer. "CCWVa recognizes the imperative to foster a society where every individual is respected, empowered, and uplifted, and we stand with the Black community in striving to create a world where freedom and equality flourish for all."

CCWVa Case Manager Joe Sparksman is president of the group Men of Change in Wheeling. Men of Change's mission is to empower, uplift and educate the community while serving as positive role models and a support system for young Black men. Sparksman suggested the Neighborhood Center host a breakfast to kick off the Juneteenth weekend celebration in the Wheeling area.

"Juneteenth is an opportunity to celebrate the time when slaves were finally freed – years after the Emancipation Proclamation," said Sparksman. "It's important to acknowledge the true history of

Black Americans."

Donations from the breakfast supported the local Underground Railroad Museum.

"While Juneteenth is a celebration of emancipation and Black culture, this day also calls us to recognize the ongoing effects of systemic racism," said Phillips. "Black West Virginians are almost twice as likely to be living in poverty in West Virginia, and disparities persist in education, wages, health, and throughout the criminal legal system. Catholic Charities continues to be committed to compassion and justice for the Black community."

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

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



Courtesy Photo

Catholic Charities' staff and volunteers celebrate Juneteenth with a breakfast at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling.

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Who: Youth ages 13-17 (High school)

# Join in a Pilgrimage with Bishop Brennan

September 29-October 2, 2023

## Itinerary

DAY 1: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

DEPART USA, ARRIVE IN MEXICO

- Depart to Mexico City via independent flights
- Welcome dinner with orientation talk

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- Breakfast at the hotel and then take your bus to the world famous Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- See the miraculous image, the "Tilma" of St. Juan Diego, at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Guided tour: the Shrine, the New Basilica, Old Basilica, Tepeyac Hill, and more
- Celebrate Mass with our pilgrim priests
- Time to pray, shop & explore the grounds of the Shrine
- Dinner presentation: Sisters of Mary programs around the world

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Sisters of Mary Girlstown

- Be inspired as you celebrate Mass with 3,500 girls
- Enjoy an amazing musical performance by the girls
- Lunch with the exceptional Sisters of Mary
- Tour Girlstown and see how the Sisters are transforming lives
- Time to play and enjoy the girls
- Light dinner with the Sisters before departing
- Return to the hotel for wrap-up

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Return to USA

- Return home on independent flights

## Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- The most-visited Marian Shrine in the world!
  - Home of the only true image of our Blessed Mother.
- (A miraculous image created by God)

### PILGRIMAGE PREP SUGGESTIONS

Excellent books:

"Our Lady of Gaudalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love" by Carl Anderson and Eduardo Chavez

"Priest and Beggar" by Kevin Wells

## Sisters of Mary

In 1964, Venerable Fr. Aloysius Schwartz founded the Sisters of Mary to serve the poorest of the poor. Today, 400 Sisters now operate our Boystowns and Girlstowns in seven countries. They have rescued and transformed more than 170,000 of the world's poorest children from the most desperate circumstances.

## Sisters of Mary Girlstown and Boystown

Girlstown and Boystown are safe havens for the current group of 21,000 poor and vulnerable children who have HOPE for a brighter future thanks to the Sisters. In a joyful and loving environment, they thrive as members of a loving family while receiving an education and faith formation. Upon graduation, many receive scholarships to study at universities and others find good jobs. Visit [www.worldvillages.org](http://www.worldvillages.org) to read the amazing success stories and triumphs.

## Testimonials

"It was truly one of the most spiritually important pilgrimages I've ever made."

—Glory Sullivan

"Anyone who goes to Guadalupe and Girlstown will be so grateful for the experience of this faith-filled journey." —Jane Lanier

## To Join in the Pilgrimage

Contact Susan Driscoll at the Sisters of Mary World Villages for Children at [sdriscoll@worldvillages.org](mailto:sdriscoll@worldvillages.org) or call 1-800-662-6316.

A WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE  
TO THE  
**SHRINE OF  
OUR LADY OF  
GUADALUPE**

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2023

PLUS AN **UNFORGETTABLE VISIT** TO  
The Sisters of Mary GIRLSTOWN



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- Be inspired by Mass at the world-famous Shrine
- Walk where the Blessed Mother appeared
- Meet the Sisters of Mary, modern day "miracle workers"
- Witness how the Sisters of Mary Girlstown program is "breaking the cycle of poverty"
- A unique pilgrimage with 100% positive reviews

#### PILGRIMAGE CHAPLAINS

Bishop Mark Brennan - West Virginia

Fr. William Ryan - Togo, West Africa

Fr. Daniel Leary - Chaplain, Sisters of Mary

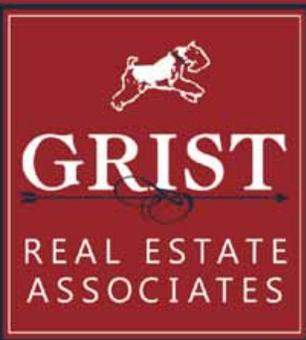




### Confirmation in Princeton

Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan stands with the young people he confirmed at Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton June 11. Bishop Brennan will celebrate the last confirmation of the season on Saturday, June 24, at Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City at 5 p.m.



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- Paul Grist



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WEST VIRGINIA**

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St. Mary's Medical Center, Huntington, WV – This Priest/Chaplain serves as part of an interfaith spiritual care team. He provides a compassionate and pastorally caring presence for patients, families and staff through attentive listening and spiritual counseling interventions, making tangible God's grace and presence amid their present circumstances and is supportive of the Mission and Values of St. Mary's Medical Center.

tion and values of St. Mary's by participation in mission integration activities to further the mission and values which gives the health ministry of St. Mary's Medical Center a foundation which embodies a holistic approach to the healing of body, mind and spirit, a cornerstone of St. Mary's Medical Center.

In addition, the priest/chaplain recruits, trains, and serves as a liaison to Eucharistic Ministers who serve the medical center's catholic patients. The Priest/chaplain will respond to on-call requests and after hour emergencies for chaplain assistance for sacramental ministry to Catholic patients. He is expected to celebrate Mass regularly for the religious community of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, provide sacramental ministry and pastoral support to patients and their families, staff, and the sisters.

Minimum Requirements: Education: An ordained Roman Catholic priest in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church and with the ecclesiastical endorsement of the Bishop of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese. A Master's degree in theology, divinity, pastoral ministry, or spirituality. Completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education accredited by ACPE. Certified or eligible for certification within 2 years of hire. Complete Safe Environment program mandated by the Diocese. Work Experience: 1-year clinical training usually through CPE. Competitive Salary and Benefits offered.

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## Obituary—Sister Gertrude Foley, SC

Sister Gertrude Foley, SC, age 91, was called by God to eternal life on June 16, 2023 at Caritas Christi, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity, Greensburg, Pa., in the 73rd year of her commitment to religious life. Born on March 18, 1932, Sister Gertrude was one of eight children. She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph V. and Stella (Blitzko) Foley; two brothers, Joseph and Thomas; and five sisters, Joanne Foley, Mary Ann Meredith, Eileen Creighton, Margaret Brosmahan, and Rosemary Blashford. She is survived by nieces, nephews and her religious community.

A Pittsburgh native, Sister Gertrude entered the congregation of the Sisters of Charity in 1950 from Saint Mary of the Mount Parish, on Mount Washington in Pittsburgh. She earned a bachelor's degree in classics from Seton Hill University, a master's degree in classics from Duquesne University, a master's degree in theology from Fordham University, and a doctorate of ministry in theology from Aquinas Institute of Theology, Dubuque, Iowa.

For 15 years, Sister Gertrude taught in classrooms at every level, from elementary to higher education, as well as religious education for adults and children. For four years, she was chairperson of the Teacher Enrichment Conference in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Sister Gertrude held a position at the College of Saint Catherine, St. Paul, Minn., where she established and directed a certificate program in pastoral and theological education within the theology department.

While serving as Regional Superior in Arizona, Sister Gertrude accepted a position within the Diocese of Phoenix at the Kino Institute's School of Ministry. The program prepared lay women and men for leadership roles in church ministry. She directed the program for five years, while also serving as an adjunct professor in Pastoral Theology for the University of San Francisco master's program offered at the Kino Institute. She also taught in the program for permanent diaconate candidates before those

men were incorporated into the School of Ministry.

During her four-year term as a member of the Council of the Sisters of Charity, Sister Gertrude designed and directed a Community Formation and Development Program that not only included the formation of newer members but also on-going formation, retirement and retreat committees that engaged a great many of the sisters in participatory leadership for the life of the community. She was elected to the office of major superior/president of the Sisters of Charity for two terms (1993-2002) and oversaw the construction of Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity.

Sister Gertrude ministered in the Diocese of Greensburg as executive director of the Department of Education and Spiritual Formation. She co-authored *Shaping the Coming Age of Religious Life* (Seabury Press). She served in the national office of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and as chairperson of LCWR Region IV. She was a member of the International Union of Superiors General and served on the program advisory committee for the Center for Religious Life in Chicago. She served on the religious leadership executive committee in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the Pittsburgh Synod, and the Westmoreland County Unity Coalition in Greensburg. Sister Gertrude ministered as a facilitator-consultant to religious communities throughout the United States, Canada, South Africa, England, Ireland and Australia.

Sister Gertrude received an honorary doctorate degree in 2002 from Seton Hill University for leading by example and representing the pioneering spirit of the founders of the university, the Sisters of Charity. She received The Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award as an outstanding alumnus for her achievements, contributions to her profession, service to community, and loyalty to Seton Hill University.

In 2006, after fifty-six years in ac-

tive ministry in education and congregational administration, Sister Gertrude thought it was time to slow down, but felt she still had energy to minister to the Catholic Church and its people. She became co-coordinator of Seton Family, a program designed by the Sisters of Charity in 2001, which focused on strengthening lay women and men to reclaim their essential role in the Church of the 21st century. She also was the course designer and facilitator for the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation at the University of Dayton, a "new way of being Church."

Sister Gertrude was the recipient of the Daughters of Charity, Seton Legacy of Charity Award, Emittsburg, Md., in 2009 presented to those who have mirrored the example of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's pioneering spirit through their ministries. She was acknowledged for her leadership and scholarship by the Sisters of Charity Federation for her retreats and lectures in the tradition, spirit and charism of the founders.

Sister Gertrude retired from active ministry in 2021. She received exceptional support and care from the nursing staff and employees at Caritas Christi to whom the Sisters of Charity are grateful.

At the time of her golden jubilee in 2000, Sister Gertrude reflected on her life as a Sister of Charity. "My life has taught me that 'being a sister' is not a state but a process. God is faithful and God's plans are mysterious and amazing. 'Being a sister' requires a lifetime of 'yeses' to God revealed in the humdrum and the ordinary, the challenging and the unexpected. 'Being a sister' has surpassed anything I could have hoped for in my life. I have not regretted a single moment!"

Rest in peace, Sister Gertrude, as your loving and faithful God welcomes you home to be with the Company of Charity.

The funeral liturgy will be live-streamed; access through the link: <https://venue.streamspot.com/2af9e1eb>



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St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking substitute teachers for infants through eighth grade for the 2023-24 school year. Substitutes for infants through prekindergarten classes must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma. Substitutes in grades K-8 must have a bachelor's degree. Experience working with children is a must. The pay is \$12.15 per hour.

If you are interested, please send a résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjswv.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.org).

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Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjswv.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.org).

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# Adoren la presencia real de Jesús en la Eucaristía, dice el Papa a los católicos de EE.UU.

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — Los católicos necesitan recuperar el sentido de asombro y adoración ante la Eucaristía, sabiendo que es "la presencia real y amorosa del Señor", dijo el Papa Francisco a los miembros de los comités que organizan el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional y el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Estados Unidos.

Jesús habló de sí mismo como "el pan vivo que bajó del cielo, el verdadero pan que da vida al mundo", dijo el Papa al grupo el 19 de junio, sólo tres días después de salir del hospital tras una operación abdominal.

"Esta mañana, mientras celebraba la Eucaristía, he pensado mucho en esto, porque es lo que nos da la vida", dijo el Papa. "De hecho, la Eucaristía es la respuesta de Dios al hambre más profundo del corazón humano, el hambre de vida auténtica porque en la Eucaristía Cristo mismo está realmente en medio de nosotros para alimentarnos, consolarnos y sostenernos en nuestro camino".

El Papa Francisco entró en la biblioteca utilizando su bastón en lugar de una silla de ruedas. Y aunque se sentó cuando leyó su texto preparado -- y añadió comentarios espontáneos -- se puso de pie para bendecir la custodia de cuatro pies de altura, la patena y el cáliz que se utilizarán durante el congreso eucarístico en Indianápolis del 17 al 21 de julio de 2024.

El grupo estaba encabezado por el obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota, presidente del grupo asesor de los obispos estadounidenses para el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional, un proceso plurianual destinado a renovar y fortalecer la fe en la Presencia Real de Cristo en la Eucaristía, y presidente de la junta directiva que planifica el congreso eucarístico.

El obispo Cozzens dijo a Catholic News Service que era "un privilegio increíble" conocer al Papa y experimentar "su amor, su pasión por la Eucaristía y por el trabajo que estamos haciendo".

El Papa Francisco dijo al grupo que, por desgracia, hoy en día muchos católicos "creen que la Eucaristía es más un símbolo que la realidad de la presencia y el amor del Señor".

Pero, dijo, "es más que un símbolo; es la presencia real y amorosa del Señor".

"Es mi esperanza, entonces, que el congreso eucarístico inspire a los católicos de todo el país a descubrir de nuevo el sentido de asombro y admiración por el gran don del Señor de sí mismo", dijo, "y a pasar tiempo con él en la celebración de la santa Misa y en la oración personal y la adoración ante el Santísimo Sacramento".

El Papa Francisco lamentó que muchas personas "han perdido el sentido de la adoración. Debemos redescubrir el sentido de adorar en silencio, adorar. (La adoración) es una forma de oración que hemos perdido; poca gente sabe lo que es,

y ustedes, los obispos, tienen que catequizar a los fieles sobre la oración de adoración", dijo mirando al obispo Cozzens y al obispo Kevin C. Rhoades, obispo de Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, que también acompañaba al grupo.

El Papa insistió en el vínculo entre la celebración de la Misa, la adoración eucarística y el compartir el Evangelio con los demás.

"En la Eucaristía nos encontramos con Aquel que lo dio todo por nosotros, que se sacrificó para darnos la vida, que nos amó hasta el extremo", dijo. "Nos convertimos en testigos creíbles de la alegría y la belleza transformadora del Evangelio sólo cuando reconocemos que el amor que celebramos en este sacramento no puede guardarse para nosotros mismos, sino que exige ser compartido con todos".

"Este es el sentido del espíritu misionero: Vas a la celebración de la Misa, recibes la comunión, adoras al Señor y luego, ¿qué haces?", preguntó. "Sales a evangelizar; Jesús nos hace así".

"La Eucaristía nos impulsa a un amor al prójimo fuertemente comprometido", insistió. "Porque no podemos comprender ni vivir verdaderamente el significado de la Eucaristía si nuestro corazón está cerrado a los hermanos, especialmente a los pobres, a los que sufren, a los que están agotados o perdidos en la vida".

Hablando de improviso, el Papa dijo que los que creen en la Eucaristía deben acercarse y visitar a "los ancianos, que son la sabiduría del

pueblo, y a los enfermos, que toman la forma de Jesús doliente".

El Papa Francisco rezó para que el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional "dé frutos para guiar a los hombres y mujeres de toda vuestra nación hacia el Señor que, con su presencia entre nosotros, reaviva la esperanza y renueva la vida".

En una entrevista con CNS tras la audiencia papal, el obispo Cozzens dijo que el proceso en curso del Sínodo de los Obispos sobre la sinodalidad y el avivamiento eucarístico están relacionados ya que, en las sesiones de escucha para el sínodo, muchos católicos expresaron su preocupación por la falta de creencia en la presencia real y por la disminución de la asistencia a Misa.

"Probablemente estamos en el punto más bajo de todos los tiempos en Estados Unidos en cuanto al porcentaje de católicos que realmente van a Misa cada domingo", dijo, lo cual es "una gran preocupación que surgió en el proceso sinodal".

En las sesiones de escucha también se pidió a los obispos que trabajaran por la unidad de la Iglesia en el país y reunieran a todos en torno al sacramento de la unidad, y la comunión es la mejor manera de hacerlo, dijo. "Así pues, yo diría que el proceso sinodal nos ayudó a construir esto".

"La Eucaristía es la fuente de nuestra vida en la Iglesia", dijo el obispo. "Es el corazón palpitante de la Iglesia, donde recibimos la vida de Cristo como cuerpo de Cristo".

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Safe Sitter Class has Resumed at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital



**WHEELING** — The popular Safe Sitter class has resumed at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. Area pre-teens and teens in the daylong class are taught infant and child choking rescue and CPR by practicing on mannequins, and learn childcare for various ages and stages of development. They also participate in mock emergency situations, and learn how to treat minor illnesses/injuries.

Additional classes will be held Friday, July 14, and Saturday, Aug. 12. Preregistration is required two weeks prior to class start date. For more information or to register a child, please contact Melissa McCamic at (304) 243-3235 or via email at [melissa.mccamic@wvumedicine.org](mailto:melissa.mccamic@wvumedicine.org).



Courtesy Photo Illustration  
Participants of the Safe Sitter class at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital are shown in the photos at right.

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