Bishop Brennan Calls for U.S. Bishops to Conduct Local Audits
His Safe Environment Protocols Applauded by National Chairwoman

By Joyce Bibey
WHEELING—Bishop Mark Brennan addressed his brother bishops during the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' virtual Spring General Assembly June 16-18 on the importance of expanded safe environment protocols at the parish level.

Bishop Brennan spoke to advocate for local level audits. “Just before I was named a bishop a little more than four years ago, I was the pastor of a very large, multi-ethnic parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland,” he said. “We had 125 catechists. We had a parish school. We had Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and youth group. We had to go through a lot of training for our volunteers and staff, but I advocate in favor of the on-site visits and on-site audits, because that’s really where you find out what is going on and we need to know what’s going on.”

He said written reports are good, but our parishes and schools deserve better. He gave the analogy of virtual meetings in comparison to in person ones – “they’re better than nothing, but it’s not really the best (we can do).”

To his brother bishops he clearly said without hesitation, Bishop Brennan Calls for U.S. Bishops to Conduct Local Audits His Safe Environment Protocols Applauded by National Chairwoman
See “Audits” on Page 2

Bishop Brennan Encourages Faithful to Return to Mass

By Colleen Rowan
WEST VIRGINIA—In a video message posted on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s social media June 21, Bishop Mark E. Brennan encouraged the faithful to return to in-person Mass. He told them they are missed and they are part of the Body of Christ.

“Come join us for Mass,” the bishop says in his message. “Encourage your family members and friends to do so as well.”

The bishop’s message was made in anticipation of this weekend, June 26-27, as the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday and holy day Masses is lifted. Bishop Brennan announced that he was lifting the dispensation in a June 2 letter to the faithful and in a joint letter with fellow bishops of the Baltimore Province released the same day.

As pastors and parishes welcome the faithful back this weekend, Bishop Brennan said that he is looking forward to celebrating Masses on Sunday at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont and welcoming back those who will be returning there.

“It was a hard decision to close our churches to public Masses for two months last year,” Bishop Brennan wrote in his June 2 letter. Bishop Brennan Encourages Faithful to Return to Mass

See “Mass” on Page 3

Little Follansbee Parishioners Join Bishop in St. Anthony Procession

Lisa June Mowry Photo

Bishop Mark E. Brennan joins little parishioners of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee as well as clergy and many other parishioners in the St. Anthony procession through the community on the saint’s feast day June 13. This was also the 115th anniversary of St. Anthony Parish.

See “Mass” on Page 3

Inside: Bishops Vote to Draft Teaching Document on the Eucharist, Page 4
Audits...

Cont’d from Page 1

“get your team to do on-site audits in your parishes. It’s worth the effort.”

The chair of the USCCB National Review Board (NRB), Suzanne Healy, commended Bishop Brennan for his efforts and challenged his fellow bishops to do all they can to protect youth and young people in their parishes.

Brennan, who previously served as a Victims Assistance Coordinator, working towards healing, reconciliation and support for victim survivors in the Church. The purpose of the National Review Board is to collaborate with the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors in the United States by persons in the service of the Church.

Every year, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston – as well as all other dioceses in the United States – is audited by the USCCB’s independent agency for compliance with its Safe Environment mandate. The diocese undergoes a data collection audit every year and an on-site audit every three years as part of the USCCB process.

Just months after installed as bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Brennan took safety measures a step further and implemented additional protocols to involve Monaca, Pennsylvania-based CSI, an independent organization comprised of experienced professionals from law-enforcement, public safety, academia, and the private sector, who specialize in various services focused upon safety. The added layer of accountability enables CSI representatives to also conduct on-site audits and spot checks to ensure compliance, accuracy, and consistency at the local level as well as fingerprinting for clergy and schools.

“Safe environment trainings, background checks, letters of suitability, and codes of conduct have an impact on creating safe environments and the slow journey on changing the culture,” Healy said.

Brennan noted that efforts are working because of diligent bishops.

“Today the audit has revealed to us that the number of new allegations of ordained clergy is less than one-percent,” she said. “We must perfect our tools and practices in place to minimize the risks of such acts again. Focusing on learned lessons helps to restore trust and to create a culture of safety.

“We still must address the pain of the number of victim survivors still hurting and just coming forward now. Our church’s response to healing and care for the victim survivor has surely evolved over the years and it is still evolving today, and it needs to continue to evolve tomorrow and into the future. We must focus on the areas of healing, reconciliation, accountability, transparency, and ongoing education for all involve in child and youth protection.

“As the pain of child abuse is lifelong, our efforts to heal protect and trust will be lifelong. It is true as long as there is one victim survivor or child or vulnerable adult out there feeling hurt or abandoned, we must continue our primary commitment of healing.”

She referenced a quote from Msgr. Stephen Rosetti, a psychologist and faculty member of Catholic University of America, who spoke to the group in 2018. He said, “We have not yet fulfilled our gospel mandate until we the Church become the voice of the voiceless victims.”

“The NRB encourages further expansion of our reconciliation efforts not only for victim survivors and their families, but to the Catholic community at large,” Healy said.

She said it is the goal of the NRB to continue to enhance the audit process and instituting parish and local level audits can only be seen as a good thing, demonstrating “unwavering commitment to a culture of safety.”
Mass...
Cont’d from Page 1
“It was done for everyone’s protection until we could figure out how to celebrate Mass safely. I lifted the obligation to go to Mass on Sunday and holy days of obligation so that Catholics of tender conscience would not think they were sinning by not going to Mass.”

The bishop said in his letter that he is lifting the dispensation because the pandemic is seeming to subside, but emphasized that it is not over. Because of this the diocese announced in updated directives for public worship, which went into effect this past weekend, that the distribution of the Sacred Cup to the laity remains suppressed until further notice, the sign of peace is allowed but only in a non-tactile greeting, and the use of hand sanitizer is still encouraged upon entering and exiting the church.

With the diocese’s theme United in Faith, Together in Person, churches will welcome back parishioners who have not yet been back to Mass in person since the pandemic began in March 2020. Many of them still have safety concerns and are wearing masks and continuing to practice social distancing. Bishop Brennan has said that those who choose to continue these safety measures should feel comfortable to do so in their parishes.

In response to safety concerns, many parishes have designated a certain number of pews within the churches for those who wish to continue practicing 6-foot social distancing. Earlier this week, Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton announced the following to its members: “For those who prefer being cautious, the last four pews on the left are reserved for you. All sitting in these pews must maintain the 6-foot social distance and wear a mask.”

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, announced that the gathering space and the two rows of pews on the left side of the church will be maintained as every-other pew to accommodate those who still wish to maintain social distance.

Writing to parishioners in the parish bulletin, Father Higgs said: “I look forward to seeing more people attend Mass, while knowing that there are people still unable to attend because of understandable reasons. For those who can, I do encourage you to return and for you to invite your family and friends to return.”

The precept to take part in Sunday or holy day Mass is serious, Bishop Brennan wrote in his June 2 letter. Healthy persons with the ability to go to Mass should do so, he wrote, but recognized that there are situations that could impede one going to Mass, such as taking care of a sick person or fear of bringing home an infection from Mass; traveling a long distance on Sunday (perhaps 100 miles) or being required to work on Sunday with no local Mass fitting into their schedule, to name a few.

“In these and similar situations,” the bishop wrote, “you are excused from taking part in Mass. But sitting at home watching a livestreamed or televised Mass, when you are healthy and could easily go to Mass, is not sufficient to fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation. Those who ignore or scoff at this obligation are certainly not respecting God nor honoring the Lord Jesus.

“Going to Mass in-person is simply better,” Bishop Brennan wrote. “We should be with our fellow Catholics to hear the Word of God proclaimed. We can only receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist by being at Mass. The Lord himself said, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them’ [Matthew 18:20]. We are not isolated individuals, but members of a people and that becomes more real to us when we are together.

“We have missed you and very much wish to see you with us again. Refresh our hearts and your own by coming back to Mass.”

—Bishop Mark E. Brennan, pastoral letter, June 2, 2021

“Wishing our friends and neighbors back beginning June 26-27

For more information visit www.dwc.org/Together
WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops approved by a wide margin a plan to draft a document to examine the “meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church” following a lengthy debate during their spring general assembly.

The action to move forward passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions.

The results, announced June 18, the final day of the virtual spring assembly, allow the bishops’ Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November.

For more than two hours June 17, 43 bishops shared their views on whether such a document was necessary at a time when Catholics are returning to regular Mass attendance as pandemic restrictions ease or if it should even be considered lest it be perceived as fracturing the unity of a church already faced with numerous challenges.

The bishops reached no consensus during the discussion. They voted electronically immediately after the second day of the meeting concluded late in the afternoon.

As expected, viewpoints varied among the bishops.

Most bishops welcomed the idea of strengthening teaching about the Eucharist, especially given that the bishops have embarked on a multyear National Eucharistic Revival initiative that is part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2021-2024 strategic plan, “Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope.”

In a prerecorded presentation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the doctrine committee, reviewed an outline of the document, which would include three parts, subtitled “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Believed,” “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Celebrated” and “The Eucharist, A Mystery to be Lived.”

As proposed, each part includes three topics that would be addressed including, respectively, the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Communion; unity, beauty and identity as the “fount and apex of the whole Christian life”; and moral transformation, eucharistic consistency and missionary discipleship.

He said the document was never intended to present national norms for the reception of the Eucharist, but to serve as a teaching tool for Catholics about the reception of holy Communion as a grace-filled gift.

He said the document was developed in light of the decline in the belief among Catholics in the Real Presence in the Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendance, which may have led people to place less significance of the Eucharist in their lives.

He said the committee wanted to address the “need therefore for a unified and strong revival for the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church.”

During a news conference at the

See “Document” on Page 5
National Eucharistic Revival Aims to ‘Light Fire’ among the Faithful

By Maria Wiering, Catholic News Service

Catholics can expect added emphasis on the Eucharist at all levels of the church beginning next summer, culminating in a large-scale national event in 2024.

Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, detailed the three-year National Eucharistic Revival initiative and announced plans for a national event in his committee update June 18, the last day of the U.S. bishops’ three-day virtual spring assembly.

Called a “Eucharistic Revival: My Flesh for the Life of the World,” the initiative aims to “renew the church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist,” Bishop Cozzens said in a pre-recorded presentation.

The revival is part of the U.S. bishops’ 2021-2024 strategic plan, “Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope,” approved last November. The prelates discussed the revival in USCCB regional meetings in November, Bishop Cozzens said, noting that while some bishops expressed reservations about a national event, “many called it a ‘providential’ moment for us.”

Bishop Cozzens described the revival as “a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist — and sent out in mission for the life of the world.”

“We hope at the end of these three years, we will have formed and sent more than 100,000 missionaries who are ready to share the love of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist with our world,” he said.

The revival is designed to impact every level of the church, from the home and parish to the national stage. It is scheduled to begin next summer with a yearlong diocesan revival focused on “forming and engaging renewal movements and apostolates to provide events in every diocese,” Bishop Cozzens said.

That year will include a national corps of eucharistic preachers available to speak at diocesan and regional events, formation events for priests and diocesan leaders, and online training to form lay “eucharistic missionaries” for parish revival.

“Dioceses could have Corpus Christi celebrations, days of adoration and reconciliation, as well as days of eucharistic evangelization and service,” Bishop Cozzens said in his presentation.

The second year would involve parishes and include small groups and training of eucharistic missionaries, which Bishop Cozzens described as “parish lay leaders who could help to organize and carry out the revival at the parish level, sent forth to evangelize and serve those in need.”

The third year will include the national event, followed by efforts to “animate and strengthen those missionaries who return to their diocese and parishes” and the sending of those missionaries “out to the margins to invite people into our faith and our communities,” Bishop Cozzens said.

Discussion of a National Eucharistic Revival began under Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles, chairman of the USCCB’s evangelization committee from 2017-2020. It was prompted in part by a 2019 Pew Research study that found 69% of Catholics don’t believe the church’s teaching on the Eucharist.

Meanwhile, he said, the church has a 200-year history of rekindling Catholics’ love for the gift of the Eucharist through eucharistic congresses, including an International Eucharistic Congress in Chicago in 1926 and one held Philadelphia in 1976. National eucharistic congresses also held frequently throughout the United States in the first part of the 20th century, and some dioceses continue to hold local congresses.

“Right now, the church in the United States needs the healing and the unity that can flow from rekindling our love for the Eucharist,” Bishop Cozzens said. “We need to rekindle the love of our people so they can become missionaries and reach out to the margins as we are called to do by ‘Fratelli Tutti,’ Pope Francis’ 2020 encyclical.”

The plan for the revival includes five pillars:

— To foster encounters with Jesus through kerygmatic proclamation and experiences of eucharistic devotion.
— To contemplate and then proclaim the doctrine of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist through the truth of the See “Revival” on Page 6

Document... Cont’d from Page 4

conclusion of the day’s meeting, Bishop Rhoades said that the committee had no plans to develop a statement on the Eucharist despite the conference’s strategic plan until Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB president, asked it to develop a document on “eucharistic consistency” earlier this year.

He also told reporters that May 7 correspondence from Cardinal Luis Ladaria, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, to Archbishop Gomez influenced the committee’s thinking on the document.

Cardinal Ladaria in his letter urged the U.S. bishops to proceed with caution in their discussions about formulating a national policy “to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils.”

“We took that (national reference) out even though our intention wasn’t to develop national policy right now,” Bishop Rhoades said.

The third part of the document drew the broadest objections from more than a dozen bishops, who said that it appears to single out a single category of Catholics — those in political life who support keeping abortion legal.

Bishop Robert M. Coerver of Lubbock, Texas, said he was concerned the document was being developed in time to be used as a political cudgel given that congressional elections are on tap for 2022 with a presidential campaign two years later.

Other bishops expressed concern that the process to adopt the document appeared to be “rushed.”

Bishop Rhoades responded during the discussion that the timeline proposed was based on the other factors, including the desire to fall in line with the conference’s strategic plan.

Bishops who expressed concern about the document said they could support it if the third section was dropped in favor of a text that would stress Catholic theology. However, bishops who supported drafting the document said there was no need to drop the third section given the importance for all Catholics to discern how they live the teachings each time before they receive the Eucharist.

They also said they saw no need to delay the document. A consensus seemed to develop around a proposal from Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, who suggested that the bishops convene regional gatherings throughout the summer to discuss the content of the document.

Bishop Rhoades said such gatherings would be welcomed because they would offer the doctrine committee more input on the content of the document. He added that he did not think it would delay development of the document.

Several prelates, among them Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, expressed concern that adopting a document at a time when there is division among the bishops would further threaten the unity of the bishops’ conference and the church overall.

“We need to spend time, personal time, in candid, straightforward conversation together to strengthen the unity within our conference and with our people before taking the next steps on a statement or plan of action,” he said.

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Contact Colleen Rowan at crowan@dwc.org
Revival...
Cont’d from Page 5

church’s teaching, the
beauty of the church’s wor-
ship and goodness of a life of
service.
— To empower grassroots
creativity by partnering with
movements, apostolates,
educational institutions and
parishes.
— To reach the smallest
unit: parish small groups and
families.
— To embrace and learn
from the various rich inter-
cultural eucharistic tradi-
tions.
“This is not simply about
good teaching, but about en-
countering the living person
of Jesus Christ,” Bishop
Cozzens said. “We want to
provide transformational ex-
periences that allow that true
encounter.”
He emphasized that a
plan for the revival has been
developed in consultation
with diocesan and parish
leaders, theologians and
evangelistic leaders. The na-
tional event is key to making
this a national movement,
he said.
“With this national
event, it becomes a pilgrim-
age that we are making to-
gether and it creates the
sense that the whole country
is a part of this revival,” he
said.
Bishop Cozzens said the
revival process would imitate
the V Encuentro process, an
initiative that took place from
2015-2018 in the U.S.
Catholic Church on ministry
to Latino and Hispanic Cath-
olics, by aiming to reach
Catholics on all levels of the
church.
But he noted that leaders
around the country have
“encouraged us to think of a
larger, more missionary
event, that would be more
like a eucharistic congress,
more like the World Meeting
of Families or World Youth
Day.”
“This kind of event could
start a missionary fire across
our country when 100,000
people come together to en-
counter Christ in the Eucha-
rift and be sent out on mis-
sion.”
The evangelization com-
mittee will seek approval for
a plan for the national event
at the bishops’ November
meeting, Bishop Cozzens
said.
In a 33-minute live dis-
cussion of the revival fol-
lowing his report, bishops
shared their enthusiasm
about the plan but asked
about more strongly con-
ecting the Eucharist to pro-
claiming the word of God;
well-celebrated liturgies and
the sacrament of reconcili-
ation; adding regional events
to the revival timeline; and
the revival’s potential rela-
tionship to the synod process
Pope Francis has requested of
dioceses worldwide.
Bishop Jaime Soto of Sac-
ramento, California, said the
connection between the Eu-
charist and Catholic charity
should not be “underesti-
mated” in the revival. Bishop
Oscar Cantú of San Jose, Cal-
ifornia, stressed the impor-
tance of drawing leaders
from different cultures
within the U.S. church.
Archbishop George J.
Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska,
affirmed the plan and em-
phasized the need for
evangelization, including
among Catholics who are ac-
tive in the church but have
never experienced a personal
encounter with Jesus Christ.
He also suggested plan-
ning the revival might be en-
hanced by more research
about why some Catholics
don’t believe in the Real Pre-
ence, what approach would
be most effective in reaching
those Catholics, and how to
measure the revival’s impact.
The report on a National
Eucharistic Revival came the
day after the bishops debated
and voted on a proposal to
draft a teaching document
on the “meaning of the Eu-
charist in the life of the
church.” The vote, an-
nounced June 18, was 168 to
55 to approve the proposal.
There were six abstentions.
Topics it is to address in-
clude the real presence of
the body and blood of Christ in
Communion; unity, beauty
and identity as the “fount
and apex of the whole Chris-
tian life”; and moral transfor-
mation, eucharistic consis-
tency and missionary disci-
plship.
Wiering is editor of The
Catholic Spirit, newspaper of
the Archdiocese of St. Paul
and Minneapolis.
Deacon Named VP of Mission Integration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital

WHEELING—Deacon Paul Lim has been named WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital’s vice president of Mission Integration. Deacon Lim will work to ensure the hospital’s commitment to its Catholic identity, which was part of the structure that was agreed upon between the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and WVU Health System. He will supervise the Pastoral Care Department as well as Social Work and Care Management Services.

Deacon Lim was ordained as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh in June 2020. He has bachelor’s degrees in philosophy, with a theology minor, and social work. His master’s degree in social work was earned at the University of Pittsburgh, and he has an MBA from Chatham University. He is a licensed social worker and former director of Health Management at UPMC St. Margaret in Pittsburgh. Deacon Lim and his wife have four children.

National Catholic Youth Conference Set for November

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is an exciting, biannual four-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes general and concurrent sessions addressing a wide variety of topics including forgiveness, Catholic spirituality and prayer, global issues, sexuality, and leadership. There are also opportunities for liturgy and special activities such as concerts, exhibits, and a thematic activity village.

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) sponsors NCYC. In a distinctly Catholic setting the National Catholic Youth Conference invites participants to: Encounter Christ. Experience church. Be empowered for discipleship.

The 2021 NCYC will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indianapolis Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana on November 18-20, 2021. Visit www.dwc.org for more information.
Twenty-one Diocesan Catholic School Eighth-Grade Students Win Golden Horseshoe Award

By Father Bill Matheny

WEST VIRGINIA—A highlight of the eighth-grade year in West Virginia is the opportunity for a student to become a Knight or Lady of the Golden Horseshoe. Named for the golden horseshoes given to the early explorers of what is now West Virginia by Alexander Spotswood, the Governor of the Virginia colony, the program recognizes students for their knowledge of West Virginia history, geography, government, and current events. Normally, the county winners gather at the West Virginia Center for Culture and History in Charleston on June 25. Because the 2020 ceremony was canceled due to COVID, those winners received their awards June 24, 2021.

The 21 winners for this year from the diocese’s Catholic schools and their West Virginia Studies teachers are as follows:

- Charleston Catholic High School, Ewan Becher, Jonathan DiCocco, Zachary Harrison, Aurelia Kirby, William Salutillo, John Christian Settle (Alicia Phbus);
- Charleston Catholic School in Clarksburg, Hayden Lewis (Jason Lake);
- Fairmont Catholic School, Cameron Harley (Harriet Bartic);
- St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, Claire Freeman, Nathaniel Fusiarski, Lydia Hayes, Colleen Power, Ian Saylor, Abraham Warui (Ryan Cascio, Annette Breen);
- Parkersburg Catholic High School, Sophia D’Erano, Truman Roberts, Helena Teitscher, (Bud Tate);
- St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, Kenneth Goddard (Kelsie Felton);
- St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling, Emily Blatt, Ava Hanson, Luke Tiu (Thomas Olivier).

Four Catholic schools had the most winners in their counties. Charleston Catholic led Kanawha County with three of its four winners, while Parkersburg Catholic had three of Wood County’s seven winners.

Bud Tate, a Charleston Catholic teacher, is pictured. Phebus stated: “The best comparison between the study guides used during the pandemic is navigating uncharted waters. Preparing for the Golden Horseshoe proved to be yet another challenge for both my students and me. The test is held weekly after school review sessions in my classroom or at home to administer the ‘Quick Quiz’ and fill in any essential gaps in knowledge. I spent multiple Zoom meetings with my students to review any gaps in understanding and offer support in their learning. The golden horseshoe test was far beyond the scope of the 8th grade social studies curriculum. You must go the extra mile to win. Thankfully, I have many students who are willing to go the extra mile with me. This marks the third year in a row that Charleston Catholic has led Kanawha County and the State of West Virginia in the number of Golden Horseshoe recipients.”

Annette Breen assists Ryan Cascio in preparing the Saint Joseph students for the test. She met with them three times a week after school for additional study. A former West Virginia Studies teacher at Saint Joseph, Jason Allen, now serves as the coordinator for Social Studies education at Shepherd University. He was selected as an Honorary Recipient of the Golden Horseshoe because the downtown Martinsburg school had ten winners during his teaching tenure there.

Thomas Olivier, in his first year at Saint Michael Parish School, used a study guide provided by a former parish priest, focusing on history, geography, government, and economics. He gave GH mini-quizzes and offered practice tests from the West Virginia Department of Education. They also spent time on the important WV current events of 2019 and 2020, such as the Supreme Court of Appeals changes, the pandemic, the PPP loans, CARES Act funds, and the 2020 election.

With 21 Golden Horseshoe winners, our Diocesan Catholic schools continue to promote academic excellence within the framework of a loving and supporting Christ-centered environment.

Join Weirton Catholic Pro-Life Group in Fourth of July Parade

WEIRTON — The Weirton Catholic Pro-Life group is participating in the Weirton Fourth of July parade Saturday, July 3, at 10 a.m. The group is inviting anyone who wants to join them in the parade to march along with them and help spread the pro-life message to the community.

Participants will arrive at Virginia Avenue around 9:30 a.m. to find out where their spot is.

‘Patriotic Rosary’ to be Prayed at St. Michael’s in Wheeling

WHEELING—A “Patriotic Rosary for the Consecration of Our Nation” will be prayed at St. Michael Church in Wheeling on Saturday, July 3.

Parishioners and friends will pray the rosary at 5:30 p.m. following the 4:30 p.m. Mass. All are invited to join the parish community.

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Catholic Youth Adventure Camp

Grow with us in the infinite love of Christ in the beautiful hills of West Virginia. Are you hoping to grow in your faith? The Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, affectionately known as Camp Carlo, is dedicated to leading young people to Christ & His Church. Join us as we grow in Christ’s love while backpacking up a mountain, horse riding through hidden trails, sliding down mystic waterfalls and humbling ourselves in front of the true Presence of our Lord during Mass and Adoration. We want you to experience His immense love at Camp Carlo for Summer 2021!

June 27th - July 3rd Rising 3rd graders to 5th graders.
July 4th - July 10th Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.
July 11th - July 17th Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.
July 18th - July 24th A “catch all week” from 3rd grade thru 12th grade.

Reduced rate available!
Register at campcarlowv.org
Achieving Educational Goals

By Chad Porter, CCWVa Adult Education Instructor

Austin Bowen passed his Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) exam, used to measure high school equivalency, in late March after enrolling in the Catholic Charities Community Center of Huntington.

“I almost cried tears of joy,” Austin said, upon receiving his High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma in the mail. Obtaining his HSE was imperative for Austin to reach the next rung on his career ladder. Austin was able to ascend to a new position with Tri-State Addiction Recovery Resources as a group facilitator/support staff.

Austin states that he has been embarrassed for over 10 years that he didn’t complete high school. The support of the recovery community and Catholic Charities’ proactive role within that community allowed Austin to find the courage to pursue his goals.

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

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

Obituary — Paula Simmons Taylor

Paula Simmons Taylor, age 64, of Fairmont, WV passed away on Thursday, June 16, 2021 surrounded by her family following a three month battle with cancer. She was President of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

She was born in Lansing, MI on November 23, 1956, a daughter of the late Gordon and Pauline Scott Simmons.

She is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, William G. Taylor, whom she married on January 12, 1980.

Also surviving are her three sisters, Helena Kerns of Clarksburg, Franni Hall and her husband Pete of Pearland, TX, and Sabrina Simmons of Clarksburg; her nieces and nephews, Jessica Wood and husband Matt of Morgantown, Joshua Hall of Pearland, TX, and Maggie Rogers and her husband Jay or Pearland, TX; her great nieces and nephews, Bailey Kerns and Mason Jaggie of Clarksburg, Billy Dean and Claudia Rogers of Pearland, TX, and Jacob and Emmy Wood of Morgantown. Paula is also survived by her many cats that she loved dearly.

Paula passed in death by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ann and Bill Taylor; one nephew, Artie Kerns; as well as her grandparents, 10 aunts and uncles and many cousins and relatives.

Paula was a 1975 graduate of Notre Dame High School and attended WV Wesleyan College where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1979. In 2005 she received her master’s degree in Social Work from WVU.

While in High School, Paula was on the Forensic and Debate Team where she won many awards. She continued to assist with the National Catholic Forensics League Annual Championship as chaperone, judge and tabulation worker.

Paula enjoyed giving and volunteering her time, especially when it involved family and friends. She spent many years and hours volunteering with the Nutter Fort Swim Team as the Finals Judge and in other areas when needed.

She was very well known for her tireless commitment to her jobs and her devotion to protecting children.

She began her career with the WV DHHR as a CPS field worker in 1982, eventually advancing to Child Protective Supervisor. She retired in July 2016 as Community Services Manager.

Paula was a social worker not only by profession, but also by lifestyle. She had dedicated her life to service.

Paula also had other jobs she enjoyed which included Adjunct Instructor at WVU, a Leader and Receptionist at Weight Watchers, Independent Longaberger Home Consultant and working at Heart and Hand.

Paula was a licensed Graduate Social Worker with the WV Board of Social Work. She was Social Worker of the year for 2011 and winner of the Catholic Charities Salt and Light Award in 2012, dedicating every day of her life to serving others in her job as social worker, as well as within the Catholic Community.

Paula was a Catholic by faith and a life-long member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic church in Stonewood. Her devotion and services to the church began in second grade when she was crowned May Queen. She served as CCD teacher, member of Junior Catholic Daughters, CCD Coordinator, member of the Finance Council, and Chair of the Education Committee and the Evangelization Committee. Paula had also previously served on the Pastoral Council, as a Lector, as Director of Altar Ministries and as Minister of Holy Communion.

Paula served the Wheeling Charleston Diocese for many years on the Central Regional Council of the Catholic Charities WV and the Synod Steering Committee and was currently serving as the President of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Paula’s generous spirit had no limitations when it came to her love for God, and she never asked anyone what she was not willing to do herself. She started early planting the seeds of faith in many young minds, first as CCD teacher and then as the Parish Director of Religious Education. Always leading by example while on the Youth Ministry Team, she helped lead a group of teens in raising awareness for the homeless in our area. Ever gracious with her time, Parish leadership was a large part of her life.

One of Paula’s favorite pastimes was playing cards, mainly pinochle, with her mom, cousins and uncles. She also loved spending time with her nieces and nephews. Family was important to Paula, and she always participated in organizing the family reunion.

Paula had a very special gift of showing people she loved them and sharing her love for God with them. The family would like to thank the nurses, social workers, and CNA’s from WVU Hospice for the care they provided to Paula.

Also thanking everyone who called, sent cards, flowers and prayers. Every little thing was appreciated and comforted.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 19 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Stonewood with Father Kumar Reddimasu as celebrant. Interment was in the Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family at www.amoscarveli.com. A service of Amos Carveli Funeral Home.
Self-Righteous Continue to Disturb Christian Community, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ are humble and trust in God, they do not heap conditions upon others or promote themselves as the only “keepers of the truth,” Pope Francis said.

The path of evangelization, the essential characteristics of an evangelist and the risks posed by the self-proclaimed righteous are illustrated in the Letter to the Galatians, the pope said June 23 as he announced the letter would be the topic of a new series of talks at his weekly general audience.

Spider-Man — known as Mattia Villardita when he is not working, according to Vatican News — was among the hundreds of pilgrims and visitors in the San Damaso Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace for the papal audience. After the gathering, Pope Francis spent a few minutes speaking with Villardita, who dresses up in superhero costumes and visits children in hospitals.

In his main audience talk, Pope Francis said St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians is important, “I would even say decisive, not only for getting to know the apostle better, but above all in considering some topics that he addresses in depth, showing the beauty of the Gospel.”

The themes of “freedom, grace and the Christian way of life” in the Letter to the Galatians, he said, are “extremely topical since they touch on many aspects of the life of the church in our days. It is a very relevant letter. It seems written for our times.”

The letter shows St. Paul’s “fiery” concern for the new communities of Christians who were Gentiles but were being pressured by some preachers to adopt Jewish practices such as circumcision.

St. Paul was a pastor, who, “like a father or mother, immediately notices the dangers his children face” as they grow in faith, the pope said. The preachers not only were insisting on things that St. Paul did not insist upon, but they were “even denigrating his person,” the pope said. “They began with doctrine — ‘this no, this yes’ — and then they denigrated the apostle.”

“As we can see,” the pope said, “it is the ancient practice of presenting themselves on certain occasions as the sole possessors of the truth — the pure ones — and trying to belittle the work of others with slander.”

The new Christians were confused and worried, the pope said. “This situation is not far removed from the experience of many Christians today,” he said. “Indeed, today too there is no shortage of preachers who, especially through the new means of communication, can disturb the community. They present themselves not primarily to proclaim the Gospel of God who loves humanity in Jesus, crucified and risen, but to insist, as true ‘keepers of the truth’ — that’s what they call themselves — on the best way to be Christians.”

“They strongly affirm that the true Christianity is the one they adhere to, often identified with certain forms of the past, and that the solution to today’s crises is to go back so as not to lose the genuineness of the faith,” the pope said.

“How can we recognize these people?” Pope Francis asked, before answering that one sign is their “rigidity.”

“Before the preaching of the Gospel which makes us free, which makes us joyful, these people are rigid,” he said.
Propuesta de comunión se aprueba durante reunión de obispos

Por Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Los obispos estadounidenses aprobaron por un amplio margen un plan para redactar un documento para examinar el “significado de la Eucaristía en la vida de la iglesia” tras un largo debate durante la asamblea general de primavera de los obispos de Estados Unidos.

Los obispos no llegaron a un consenso durante la discusión. Votaron electrónicamente si avanzar con la propuesta inmediatamente después de que la reunión concluyó a última hora de la tarde. El recuento estaba programado para ser anunciado cuando los obispos se reunieran nuevamente el 18 de junio.

La mayoría de los obispos acogieron con agrado la idea de fortalecer la enseñanza sobre la Eucaristía, especialmente porque los obispos han embarcado en una iniciativa de avivamiento eucarístico nacional de varios años que es parte del plan estratégico de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos para 2021-2024.

El obispo Kevin C. Rhoades de Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, presidente del comité de doctrina de los obispos, presentó un esquema del documento a los obispos en un mensaje pregrabado. Dijo que el borrador propuesto se desarrolló a la luz de la disminución en la creencia entre los católicos en la presencia real en la Eucaristía, así como las largas ausencias de la asistencia regularmente a la misa, y que puede haber llevado a las personas a darle menos importancia a la Eucaristía en sus vidas.

El documento propuesto fue el enfoque de los primeros momentos de la asamblea de obispos, que comenzó con una discusión sobre cómo procederían con este tema de la agenda.

El documento sobre la Comunión también fue un punto clave de discusión en las conferencias de prensa del 16 y 17 de junio. El 17 de junio, el obispo Rhoades enfatizó que la creación de normas nacionales nunca fueron la intención detrás de la propuesta para escribir una nueva declaración sobre la Eucaristía.

Dijo que el documento estaba destinado a proporcionar orientación a los obispos y que la precaución del comité sobre el desarrollo de cualquier política o norma nacional surgió de la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe durante las recientes visitas “ad litem” de los obispos estadounidenses a Roma.

“Hemos enseñado en los últimos años sobre los católicos en la vida política, la importancia de la adherencia a la enseñanza de la iglesia en el documento sobre la dignidad de recibir la Sagrada Comunión, en 2006”, dijo el obispo Rhoades. “Pero con este nuevo plan estratégico que se enfocará en la Eucaristía, este plan de tres años, tenemos que enseñar esto nuevamente, en diferentes niveles”.

El obispo se refería a una iniciativa de avivamiento eucarístico nacional de varios años que ha estado en las etapas de planificación durante más de un año; Los obispos tenían previsto escuchar una actualización sobre estos esfuerzos el 18 de junio.

En respuesta a las preguntas formuladas durante la conferencia de prensa del 17 de junio, el obispo Rhoades enfatizó que el borrador del documento sobre la Eucaristía será una declaración pastoral que no se aprobará por razones políticas. También dijo que la forma en que se redactará enfatizará que este es un mensaje para todos los católicos, no solo para políticos específicos.

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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso, la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston comuníquese con la Oficina de Protección Infantil de Ninos 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 eclesiásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, 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.


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, diacono, 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, haga clic 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 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 Ninos: 304-293-6400.
Parish Secretary Needed
Corpus Christi Parish, Wheeling

Corpus Christi Church in Wheeling seeks qualified, energetic, and positive individual to fill the position of Parish Secretary. Persons wishing to apply for this part-time position must meet the following criteria:

- Be driven by Catholic faith and willing to fulfill the mission and vision of Corpus Christi Parish.
- Enjoy working with people in a pleasant and welcoming manner.
- Have the ability to work as a team with other parish and school staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers.
- Have good computer and typing skills with a knowledge of Microsoft Office applications.
- Excellent organizational and filing skills.

Qualified individuals may send their cover letter and resume to Father Paul at paulmundu1958@gmail.com.

Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry Opening

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire an Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry.

The Executive Director is responsible for serving as a catalyst and ongoing resource to the Bishop, diocesan staff, pastors and parishes in developing and maintaining efforts which link direct service, advocacy, action and empowerment toward concerns of local and global justice, respect for all human life and environmental concerns.

This person also provides leadership, vision and advocacy for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for Prison, Hispanic ministries and other immigrant groups.

Qualification requirements include a Bachelor’s degree (Master’s preferred), 2-5 years experience in parish Social Ministry, extensive knowledge of Catholic Social Teachings, working knowledge of the operation of the Catholic Church, self-motivated, ability to work in a team environment.

Please submit resume, references and cover letter to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 1311 Byron Street, PO Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003

Position will stay open until filled.

Clarksburg’s Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Central Grade School Job Openings

Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Central Grade School in Clarksburg are searching for the following positions listed below. Ideal candidates should be energetic, creative, highly motivated, and will be able to uphold and promote the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Interested applicants should email a resume and all credentials to Kelly Light at klight@notredamewv.org by Tuesday, June 29.

Full-Time Positions Available:
- Advancement and Enrollment Director – St. Mary’s Grade School and Notre Dame High School
- Finance Director – St. Mary’s Grade School and Notre Dame High School
- Secretary Administrative Assistant – St. Mary’s Grade School
- Instructional Aid – St. Mary’s Grade School
- Athletic Director – Notre Dame High School

Elementary School Teacher Needed
St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is seeking a certified elementary school teacher. We are blessed to have a high volume of students, so hiring another teacher will allow us to keep our class sizes small.

If you are interested in working in a rewarding, faith-filled environment, please email a résumé and cover letter to Principal Pat Blanc at pblanc@sjswv.org.
OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.

Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don’t ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We’ll protect you, and take good care of you.