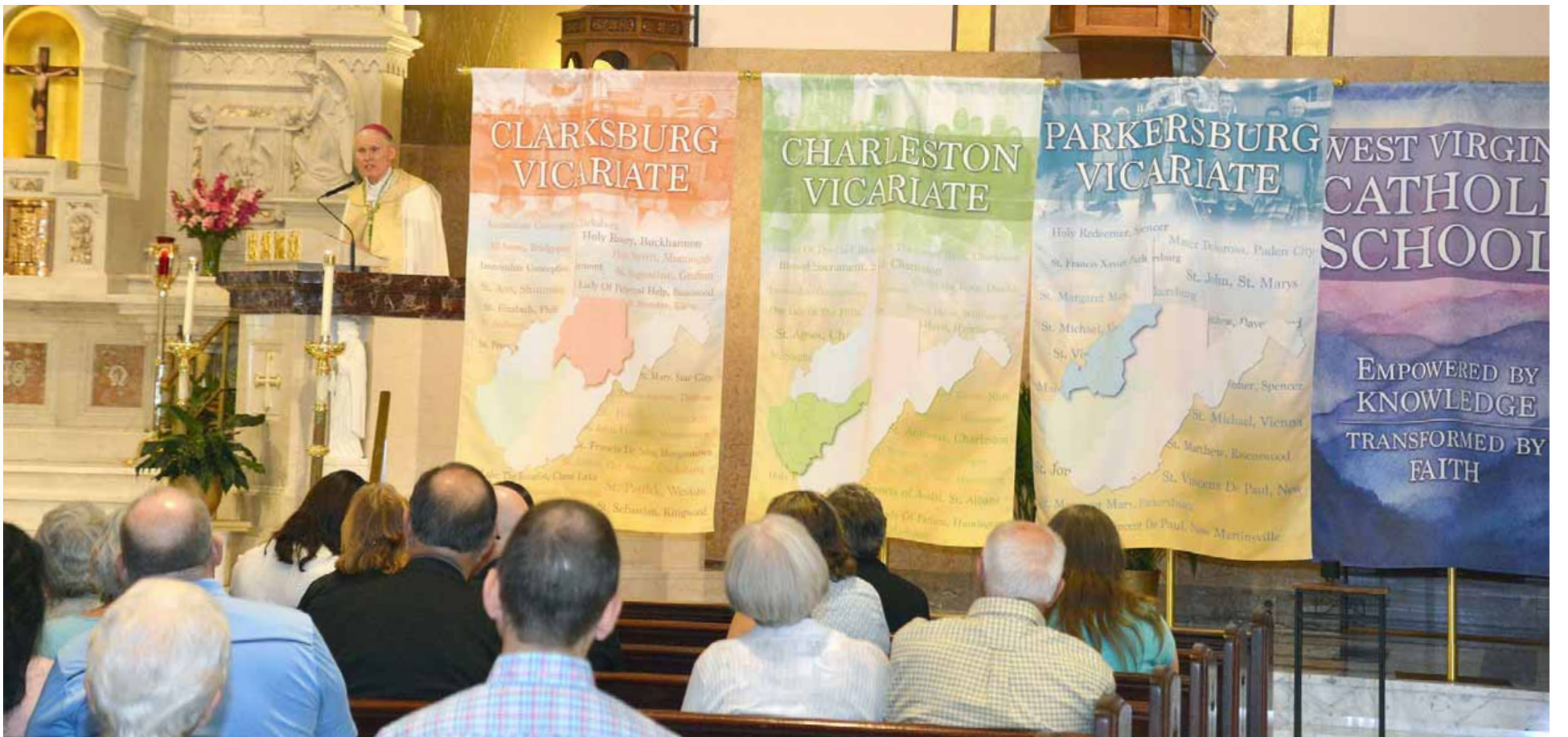


THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Third Eucharistic Congress Draws More Than 300 Catholic Faithful to Charleston



Martina Hart Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan and the faithful gather for morning prayer during the Eucharistic Congress at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 3.

**By Martina Hart**

**CHARLESTON** — Over 300 Catholics from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston gathered at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 2 and 3 for the third and final West Virginia Eucharistic Congress.

The first two congresses were held in April in Charles Town and Wheeling, all part of the diocesan phase of a three-year National Eucharistic Revival, a movement in the United States to restore understanding of and enkindle a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

“It is an essential part of our Catholic faith to recognize that Jesus Christ fulfills his promise to be with us always, and not to leave us orphans, by giving himself to us personally in the Holy Eucharist,” Bishop Mark Brennan said to those gathered during the Morning Prayer Service on Saturday. “This is

a great mystery, not one to be figured out but one to enter into and receive from it the benefit of our faith in the Lord’s promise and the reality of that promise made flesh and blood in the Eucharist.” Bishop Brennan encouraged those gathered to use the day to reflect on **See “Congress” on Page 3**

## Corpus Christi Sunday Eucharistic Processions Will be Perfect Start to National Eucharistic Revival’s Parish Year

**By Colleen Rowan**

**WEST VIRGINIA** — This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (June 11) also known as Corpus Christi Sunday, and West Virginia’s Catholic faithful will be joining in Eucharistic processions to publicly show our belief in Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist—the perfect start to the Na-

tional Eucharistic Revival’s Parish Year.

The goal is to foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening liturgical life through faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit, according to eucharisticrevival.org.

Catholic faithful are encouraged to join in

their parish’s Eucharistic procession this weekend to bring Christ out into their communities and to show our belief that the Eucharist is Christ—body, blood, soul, and divinity.

“Because the Eucharist is the hub of our Catholic faith, we are reminded to take Christ into the world,” said Father Bill Matheny, **See “Processions” on Page 2**



## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father John Rice** is reappointed as chaplain of the West Virginia State Council of the Knights of Columbus for the Fraternal Years 2023-2024, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg and St. Monica Mission in Lu-beck.

**Father Martin Smay** is reappointed as chaplain to the Boy Scouts of America, effective June 12, 2023, for a term of three years. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy Mission in Parsons.

## Processions...

Cont'd from Page 1

pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Chester and Immaculate Conception Parish in New Cumberland. Eucharistic processions are held at all three Masses at the parishes on Corpus Christi Sunday each year.

For the rest of 2023, Father Ma-theny said his homilies will center on the Eucharist and explaining the parts of the Mass.

The Eucharistic procession at Sacred Heart begins following the 5 p.m. Saturday evening Mass (June 10). The Eucharistic processions at Immaculate Conception will be held on Sunday (June 11) following 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses.

Very Rev. Casey B. Mahone, V.F., has always had Eucharistic proces-sions in the parishes he has served from his first parish of Immaculate Conception in Fairmont to most re-cently in Clarksburg at Holy Cross Cemetery and around the neigh-borhood at Immaculate Conception Parish, where he currently serves as pastor.

"Here in Clarksburg," he added, "we even get a trolley so that those who cannot walk that far can also follow along and join in the prayers

and songs along the route and at each station."

Father Mahone and the parish are inviting all Catholics to join in this year's neighborhood Eucharistic procession on Corpus Christi Sun-day (June 11) immediately following 11 a.m. Mass.

Ever since the days of St. Justin Martyr, Catholics have explained our belief about the Eucharist, Father Mahone said. He pointed to the words of St. Justin in his "First Apol-ogy" a defense of Christian faith in 155: "And this food is called among us Eucharistia [the Eucharist], of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things which we teach are true, and who has been washed with the wash-ing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but in like manner as Jesus Christ our Saviour, having been made flesh by the Word of God, had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so likewise have we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who

was made flesh. For the apostles, in the memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us what was enjoined upon them; that Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, said, 'This do ye in remembrance of Me, this is My body;' and that, after the same manner, having taken the cup and given thanks, He said, 'This is My blood;' and gave it to them alone."

Father Mahone stressed what St. Justin said from the earliest days of Christian faith: "...not as common bread and common drink do we re-ceive these...."

The way the Catholic faithful celebrate, receive, reverence, adore and even process with the Eucharist in public, Father Mahone said, teaches Catholics, other Christians and even those of no faith that the Blessed Sacrament is more than "common bread."

"It is Christ Himself, our hope and our salvation," Father Mahone said. "St. Justin Martyr died for this truth. We should never do or say anything that makes the Martyrs look foolish. Indeed, our Eu-charistic processions stand on the shoulders of saints like Justin the Martyr."

**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 encour-age 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 Bu-reau for Children and Families' Child Protective Ser-vices by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

**To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The dio-cese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil au-thorities first and foremost if a crime has been com-mitted. 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, con-tact 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 Envi-ronment, Diocese of Wheeling- Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assis-tance 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, addi-tional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Dio-cese 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 au-thorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Depart-ment 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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June 9, 2023, Vol. 54, No. 24

**Publisher:** Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....  
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**Member**  
Catholic Press Association  
West Virginia Press Association  
National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



Published on the first Friday of each month. All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of produc-ing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 an-nually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dio-ceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protec-tion 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 volun-teer—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 work-shop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environ-ment, please go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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**“God gave us his true presence in Holy Communion because love desires communion, and he loves you.”**

— Father Joseph Freedy, Diocese of Pittsburgh, keynote speaker for the Eucharistic Congress in Charleston

## Congress...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

this mystery and on “all that flows from that, the life that is faith and joy and service to our neighbor.”

Representatives of each of the diocese’s six vicariates carried banners for their region in procession and presented books of intentions from the various parishes to Bishop Brennan. The congress had begun Friday evening with a prayer service in the style of Taizé, characterized by meditative music in the candlelit basilica.

Saturday’s program included an exhibit of worldwide Eucharistic Miracles, guided tours of the basilica and breakout sessions related to the Eucharist facilitated by 11 presenters. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the Charleston Catholic High School Chapel throughout the day, inviting participants to spend some quiet time with Jesus in adoration and prayer.

Breaks throughout the day, coffee and donuts in the morning and lunch at the CCHS Commons provided opportunities for fellowship and sharing.

A highlight of the congress was the keynote address by Father Joseph Freedy from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who was also available for a question-and-answer session after lunch.

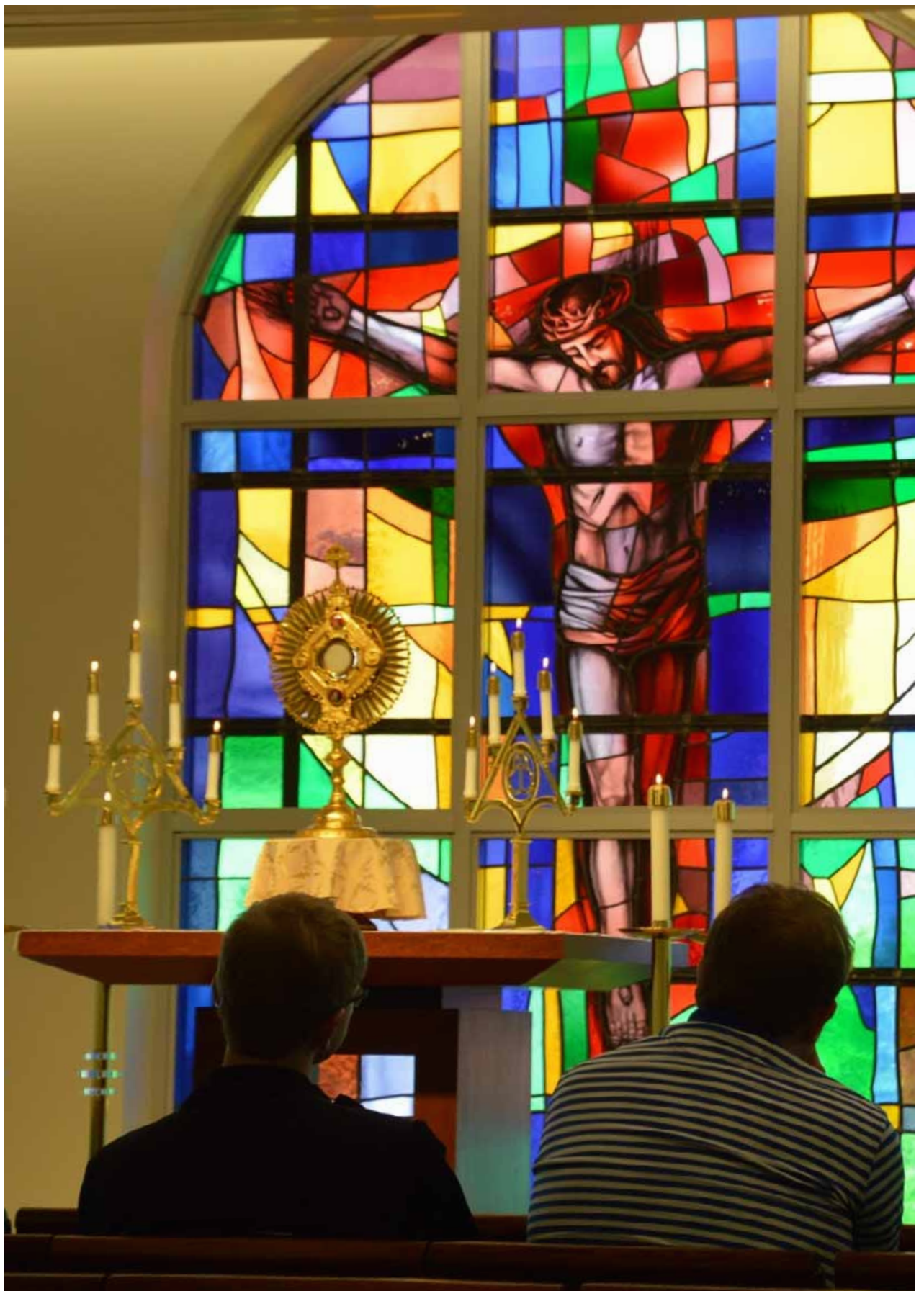
“Most of us have been sacramentalized but not evangelized or catechized,” Father Freedy said. He pointed out that most Catholics go through the motions of receiving the sacraments of baptism, first confession, first holy Communion, and confirmation, but then, statistically, eight out of 10 kids in most of North America leave the Catholic Church before the age of 21.

“Catechesis is the teaching of the faith. Evangelization is the encounter with the living Christ in the Gospel through his Catholic Church,” Father Freedy explained. He used various examples and stories to illustrate.

“It’s so much easier to stand on the sidelines than to get in the game,” Father Freedy, a former quarterback on the University of Buffalo football team, said. “To get in the game is risky. ... God needs you, and nobody can replace you. ... Where is God inviting you to be all in and where do you have resistance?”

He stressed the need for “supernatural faith.” “God’s plan from our very creation was divinization,” Father Freedy added. “When we receive holy Communion, it preserves, increases and renews in us the divine life that was given within us that it would grow so that we would become transfigured by Christ. ... Most of all, God gave us his true presence in holy Communion because love desires communion, and he loves you.”

The congress concluded with Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan and concelebrated by



Martina Hart Photo

**Faithful spend time in adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the Charleston Catholic High School chapel during the Eucharistic Congress in Charleston June 3.**

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the basilica, and other area priests. Serving at the Mass were many of the diocese’s deacons and seminarians.

Jack Walsh, a parishioner at the basilica, summarized the impression of those who attended the congress.

“What a beautiful weekend for our church,” he said. “I had never attended a Taizé service, and it set a loving and reverential tone for the Eucharistic Revival day on Saturday. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends from across southern West Virginia, from Bluefield to Parkersburg. The tours of the co-cathedral were in-

formative, and the food and fellowship were great. I was able to attend a breakout session led by Bishop Brennan’s enthusiastic and informative history and understanding of the Eucharist through our church’s history.

“Attending the Mass with such a broad mix of visitors, wonderful music and fellowship was a great closure to the day,” he said. “Kudos to the planners and coordinators; the facilities and logistics were flawless.”

Diane and Franchesca Aloï traveled from St. Peter Parish in Farmington to attend the congress.

**See “Congress” on Page 4**





Martina Hart Photo

A prayer service in the style of Taizé is held at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart during the Eucharistic Congress in Charleston June 2.



Joyce Bibey Photos

In the photos above, from left, faithful hold their candles at the prayer service, attendees look through displays at the congress, and Father Joseph Freedy gives his keynote address.

## Congress...

**Cont'd from Page 3**

"Heaven touched earth," said Franchesca. "The music was incredible, and I was so happy to participate in the cantoring and choir. Father Joe was very informative."

"The Holy Spirit reigned," her grandmother, Diane, added. "From the Taizé music and prayer service to the breathtaking Holy Mass on Saturday, the weekend was filled with knowledge, example and praising of our Catholic faith."

The diocesan phase of the National Eucharistic Revival will be followed by a Year of Parish Revival from June 11, 2023 (the Feast of Corpus Christi) to July 17, 2024, culminating in a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024. After developing a better understanding of Christ's presence in the Eucharist during the first two phases, all U.S. Catholics are encouraged to "be what they receive" and bring Jesus into the world and evangelize during a National Year of Mission July 17, 2024 to Pentecost 2025.



Courtesy Photo

Joyce Bibey, manager of Writing and Social Media for the diocese, right, and diocesan seminarians, seated in front, lead a session at the Eucharistic Congress. The Panel with Seminarians offered the faithful time to meet them and see what energizes their faith.



# Deacon Candidates Installed as Acolytes



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan installed 20 deacon candidates as acolytes June 4 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston June 5. In the front row, from left, are John Butler, Michael Brumley, EJ Brucal, John Basile, Rick Allen, James McCullough, Tom McFarland, Patrick Michel, Jason Miller, and Tony O’Leary. In the second row, from left, are Jacob Manning, Rob Krall, Bill Klug, Michael Kawash, Victor Cwynar, David Torlone, Ron Piaskowski, Tommy Ross, Bryce Timberlake, and Aaron Talbott. With the candidates, in the back row from left, are Deacon Harry Evans; Very Rev. Don Higgs, V.F.; Deacon Brian Crim; Bishop Brennan; Deacon John Yaquinta, and Father Rayappa Kurakula. In the fourth row, from left, are Deacon Dennis Nesser, Deacon John Soplinski, and Deacon Vince Olenick.



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# Knights of Columbus Donate \$10,000 to Catholic Schools



Courtesy Photo

The West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council made its annual donation to Catholic schools in West Virginia recently to help support Catholic education in the diocese. The presentation of \$10,000 to Bishop Mark Brennan was made by Knights State Deputy Frank Koenig. Pictured from left are Frank and his wife, JoAnn, Bishop Brennan, and Knights State Chaplain Father John Rice.



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[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)



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# St. Agnes Parishioners to Host Juneteenth Commemoration in Martinsburg

By Colleen Rowan  
MARTINSBURG

— Shepherdstown's St. Agnes Parish and its Racial Justice Initiative Committee invite all to join in a celebration of Juneteenth, which commemorates the emancipation of the enslaved in the U.S. on June 19, 1865.

"We invite you to celebrate with us, as we remember those that suffered, but kept their hope that one day they would be free," event organizers say in promotional materials.

The celebration will be held June 18 at 12:30 p.m. at Sumner-Ramer Memorial School Museum, located at 515 W. Martin Street, Martinsburg. The museum preserves the history of the Sumner-Ramer Memorial School for African Americans, which closed in 1964.

The Juneteenth event will be hosted by Helen and Leonard Harris, parishioners of St. Agnes, who have spent years preserving black history in their community. Together, they head the Sumner-Ramer Memorial School Museum—Leonard serves as president and Helen is the treasurer. And they both attended the school.

Helen and Leonard are among a few African American members of St. Agnes, where Helen also serves on the parish's Racial Justice Initiative Committee.

"It is so important that people be made aware of black history and its contributions to our country," Helen said in anticipation of the Juneteenth event.

Although it may be uncomfortable for some, Helen said it is important to discuss slavery.

"Who would have thought that in 2023 we would be dealing with racism at the level we are now," she said. "I have two grandbabies that will need to be educated about their race and how people may treat them because of the color of their skin.

"I am so grateful to St. Agnes for leading the way to educate about the discrimination against black

and brown people," Helen said. "But also, it is important for us to recognize others who are discriminated against."

The Juneteenth event will offer community members a chance to learn about the lives of local African-American students that attended the school during times of segregation, promotional materials state. Refreshments will be provided by St. Agnes Parish.

"We hope that people come away from this event with knowledge about black history not only in Berkeley County, but recognize what blacks have gone through for centuries," Helen said.

Fellow St. Agnes parishioner Tom Ruhf, who serves as chair of the St. Agnes Racial Justice Initiative Committee, said the group has been trying to give the Christian call to serve justice in all its forms, particularly racial justice. Especially, he said, because of "the ongoing challenges and conflict over race issues highlighted by the events of recent years, a renewed focus, especially as Catholics who have not often been especially involved in this ministry on behalf of people on the margins, called for by Pope Francis."

The Racial Justice Initiative Committee, he said, has been wanting to include relevant local history related to racism that included sponsoring an event at the Sumner-Ramer Memorial School Museum, particularly with Helen, who is a founding member of the initiative, and Leonard, and their connection to the school.

"It seemed a good time to do this in conjunction with the new federal Juneteenth holiday as an opportunity to shed light on the new holiday and what it means for all Americans," Ruhf said.

In the time leading up to the event, the Racial Justice Initiative Committee has been publishing articles in the St. Agnes weekly bulletin sharing information on

the origins and celebration of Juneteenth and of other related celebrations of the ending of slavery that have occurred throughout the U.S. The most recent bulletin featured President Joe Biden's official remarks from 2021 establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

In an ecumenical effort, St. Agnes also invited other religious denominations in the area to participate as well, Ruhf said.

The Sumner-Ramer Memorial School Museum offers an in-depth look at the area's black history. The museum is owned by the Berkeley County Board of Education, and is located in a room inside housing arti-

facts that tell the history of the school and its students and faculty.

The museum has pictures of graduates and graduation classes as well as those who served in the military and the American Legion. There is history on the teachers, the basketball and football teams, and the band. Museum goers can learn about J.R. Clifford, the first African American attorney in West Virginia, who was a teacher and a principal at the school.

Pictures of President Barack Obama, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Abraham Lincoln adorn the walls of the museum. There is also a draw-

ing showing where African Americans used to live in Berkeley County. There is also information on the horrific account of a hanging of an African American man. "So much went on in Berkeley County years ago," Helen said in a story on the museum in *The Catholic Spirit*, March 4, 2022 issue. "Of course, there were slaves, and they were sold on the block. People don't even realize there was slavery in the area."

For more information about the Juneteenth event, see the ad below.

For a tour of the museum, contact Leonard at (304) 261-0197 or e-mail hlharrismusic@gmail.com.

**JOIN US FOR JUNETEENTH!**

Juneteenth celebrates the official Emancipation of the enslaved in the US on June 19, 1865. We invite you to celebrate with us, as we remember those that suffered, but kept their hope that one day they would be free.

Join us June 18th at 12:30pm at Sumner-Ramer School Museum, located at 515 W. Martin Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401, and look into the lives of local African-American students that attended the school during times of segregation. Hosted by Leonard and Helen Harris. Refreshments will be provided by the Saint Agnes Catholic Church community.

Scan QR Code to watch Sumner-Ramer video.

# The Mission of the Month of June

**By Father Brian J. Crenwelge, Chaplain of the Courage Chapter in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston**

Growing up, whenever we would think of the month of June, we would normally think of summertime. Schools let out in June, after all. Whereas July was remembered for being hot in temperature, June didn't have any strong connotations to it other than sleeping in and playing outside in the nice weather. For the past few years, however, June has become ever increasingly known and associated in our society by all ages with being "Pride Month."

Pride Month is a month that our secular culture sets aside to honor and celebrate homosexuality. For those who support the active homosexual culture, this month is seen to be a victory month, highlighting the progress the nation and the world has made in accepting the homosexual lifestyle. It advocates that those with homosexual attractions should have "pride" in living their homosexual lifestyles publicly.

Catholics have a bad reputation as of late with those who are part of the homosexual culture. If you follow social media of most kinds, we are frequently accused of hating people with same-sex attraction simply if we disagree with that lifestyle. Further, many Catholics do not, themselves, agree with the Church on her teaching on human sexuality. Perhaps this is because the Church, through her priests, did not catechize the faithful on the Church's moral teachings as strong as she could have at one time. Perhaps many Catholics have someone in their family living the homosexual lifestyle and therefore have a sort of empathy for that person. Perhaps the Catholic person himself, experiences same-sex attraction, and struggles to find peace with the Church's teaching on chastity according to one's state

of life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that 'homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.' They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved (CCC 2357)."

The Church's teaching on homosexuality—that homosexual actions are always wrong—can admittedly be difficult for someone to understand at first. Why would the Church not want homosexual people to be happy? Why would the Church deny someone the opportunity to love? Would Jesus actually want that? Is it really wrong to disagree with the Church on this teaching?

Perhaps you have had some of these thoughts yourself. As the diocesan chaplain to Courage—the Roman Catholic Apostolate for those with same-sex attraction—I have encountered Catholics on all sides of the moral spectrum on this issue. Though the Church's teachings make sense scripturally, biologically, and philosophically, it's our emotions that tend to hinder our acceptance of certain moral teachings of the Church. After all, if your son or daughter were to come home one day and tell you that he or she is gay, then I can understand how a parent would be tempted to want to support that child in whatever he or she was doing. Parents want to maintain a good relationship with their children after all. It can initially take a leap of faith and humility to accept what the Church is teaching.

The Catholic Church has indeed remained unchanged in her teaching on homosexuality. She cannot change her teachings after

all. The Church claims to be a moral voice in the world—the voice of Christ himself. If this is the case, the Church can't be partially correct on issues then. Otherwise, her whole argument of leading us in the truth loses its ground. The argument that she is the "bulwark of truth" (1 Tim 3:15) loses its ground. For example, if the Church is right her teaching on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist or on the dignity of the poor, the oppressed and the homeless, the Church must be correct on her teachings on human sexuality that she holds to be true as well. The source can't be contradictory after all. Otherwise, how would we know which teaching was actually true or not, except based on our particular emotions and personal beliefs?

Perhaps the largest misconception that people have of the Catholic Church is her teaching on homosexuality. Because natural law as well as the Scriptures maintain the immorality of homosexual acts, we know them to be wrong and harmful to our ultimate good. Again, the scriptural, biological and philosophical arguments are not difficult arguments to understand. Yet people assume that because we are against homosexual acts, we are against the homosexual person himself. That, of course, is not true.

The Catechism states, "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition (CCC

2358)."

As Catholics we treat everyone, no matter what background, occupation, circumstance, or lifestyle with the dignity that he or she deserves as a human person and as a beloved son and daughter of the Most High God. Christ is our model. Our Lord treated whomever he ministered to with respect and dignity, even as he desired them to grow in greater conversion at the same time. Catholics should be known for our living out of the truth in charity (Ephesians 4:15).

Now, for Catholics, June has long been associated with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. After all, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart always occurs on the Friday after Corpus Christi Sunday. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of God's love, compassion and mercy he has for humanity. It is also a symbol of the offenses he "feels" from our sins and the need for reparation on our part for the sins of the world. The Sacred Heart loves each of us as if there were only one of us. He desires everyone to be with him in heaven. We could say that his heart aches for us. I think his heart especially aches for all those who are looking for love in ways that cannot fulfill them as God desires.


Though we cannot support homosexual actions because we know them to go against the natural law and the law of our Lord (and ultimately against our fulfillment), we must still love those with whom we disagree. Love means to desire what is best for the other. The love that Catholics have for all people should be reminiscent of the love of the Sacred Heart. Our hearts should ache for everyone to know the love of God. Working with people with same-sex attraction, I have heard time and time again how their previous homosexual lifestyles did not give them that fulfillment for which they were longing. The only thing that can

**See "Mission" on Page 9**

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## Mission...

**Cont'd from Page 8**

satisfy us in this life is knowing that we are in right relationship with our Lord; that we are loved by our Lord. Sexuality cannot, in and of itself, give us happiness. God desires us to be fulfilled, and the way we are fulfilled in this life is by having a personal relationship with him and living his Commandments. Our Lord is found in His Church.

Our churches have many Catholics who experience same-sex attraction who are living the life of chastity. They are active members as anyone else in the parish. They have much to offer to our communities. As a priest, I personally love spending time with them at their homes, getting to know them and their stories better. I am always humbled to see how faithful and how in love with the Lord they are. They are

a model to everyone of what it means to accept joyfully the path the Lord has given them.

In an age where society does not want to hear what the Church has to offer, we must continue to love as the Sacred Heart loves—unfailingly so. We must be willing to listen to those with whom we disagree and show kindness and respect. We must show empathy toward those who did not choose to have their sexual orientation be what it is. This does not mean compromising our beliefs or doctrine, of course. We must be firm in our Catholic Faith to others. We know the Catholic doctrine to be true and life-giving. Yet, we must be willing to show the person across from us that because we stand strong in our belief, it is ultimately because we care for him. That we desire him, and ourselves, to be fulfilled, to be in heaven. We desire everyone to live as he or she was created to live. If we do this, if we show truth in charity, no one can realistically say Catholics

hate others.

Pope Benedict XVI once said, “Look at the face of the other...discover that he has a soul, a history and a life, that he is a person and that God loves this person.”

That’s the mission of the Sacred Heart. That’s the mission of each of us during this month of June.

**Resources for further reading:**

- USCCB, Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination (2006)
- USCCB Ministerias personas con inclinacion homosexual (2006)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Chastity and homosexuality,” nos. 2357-2359
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons (1986)

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# Pope on Liquid Diet, Calls Mother of Baby He Baptized in March

By Carol Glatz, Justin McLellan  
Catholic News Service

**ROME (CNS)** — Among the many messages Pope Francis has been getting over the course of his first full day recovering from abdominal surgery at Rome's Gemelli hospital, his favorite, so far, was a large card from a Peruvian family he met during his last hospital stay.

Covered in hearts, smiley faces and color photographs, the card said, "Get well soon!" and "We love you very much."

One photograph explained why the card would be so special for the pope: it showed the pope with Miguel Ángel, the infant he baptized in the oncology ward March 31, together with the child's mother. The other photos showed Miguel's two big brothers, who wrote, "Thank you for blessing our baby brother Michelangelo."

"We wish you from the bottom of our hearts that you get better, we would love to meet you in person and spend an afternoon together so that you can better get to know our family, your family, since now you are part of our lives," the card also said.

Pope Francis "was touched by the affection of the family of little Miguel Ángel" who sent him a big card "wishing him a speedy recovery," said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, in a written statement the evening of June 8.

"The Holy Father wanted to personally thank the mother with a brief phone call," he added.

Bruni said the pope spent his first full day at the hospital resting per doctors' orders.

He was on a liquid diet, his vital signs were stable and post-operative tests results were normal, Bruni said. June 8 was also the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, and the pope did receive the Eucharist.

Pope Francis had spent a restful, peaceful first night at Rome's Gemelli hospital after a successful three-hour operation June 7 for a hernia.

He was informed of the many messages of "closeness and affection" from well-wishers and he "expresses his gratitude, while asking for continued prayers," Bruni said in a written statement the morning of June 8.

The medical staff in charge of monitoring the 86-year-old pope's post-operative recovery said that "Pope Francis had a peaceful night, managing to rest extensively," Bruni said.

The pope "is in good general condition, alert and breathing on his own. Routine follow-up examinations are good," Bruni added.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, asked that Catholics "keep Pope Francis and all those in the hospital in your prayers."

"As Pope Francis recovers from surgery, he is strengthened by faith in the healing power of our merciful God," he said in a written statement released June 7. "Jesus always walks with us and is even closer whenever we need healing and comfort."

Pope Francis underwent a three-hour abdominal surgery "without complications" June 7 to treat a hernia, according to the Vatican press office.

The 86-year-old pope was taken to Rome's Gemelli hospital shortly after his general audience June 7. He was put under general anesthesia and underwent abdominal surgery to treat a hernia that developed at the site of abdominal incisions from previous operations, Dr. Sergio Alfieri, the chief surgeon operating on the pope, said at a news conference at the hospital following the operation.

Speaking to journalists after the surgery, Alfieri said Pope Francis had a number of internal scars and adhesions from two operations many years ago, possibly in Argentina; one was to treat peritonitis — inflammation of abdominal tissue — caused by an infected gallbladder and another to treat hydatid disease caused by cysts containing a parasite. It was this last operation

that had left behind scars in the pope's abdominal tissue where another hernia had developed.

Alfieri said that during the three-hour operation adhesions were found between the intestine and the membrane that lines the abdomen, that for months caused an "aggravating, painful" intestinal blockage.

The adhesions were freed during the surgery and the opening in the abdomen's wall that led to the hernia was repaired with prosthetic mesh.

Alfieri, who also operated on the pope in 2021, said the pope had no complications and responded well to the general anesthesia he was administered during this surgery and the one in 2021 that removed part of his colon.

The chief surgeon underscored that, in both operations, all affected tissue had been benign.

"The pope does not have other illnesses," he said.

Alfieri explained that while the medical team that follows the pope had been discussing the scheduled operation for several days, the final decision to operate was not taken until June 6, when Pope Francis briefly visited the hospital for a medical checkup and tests.

"It was not urgent," he said, "or else we would have operated on him then."

Before going to the hospital the pope seemed well and in good spirits, holding his general audience as usual, riding in the pope-mobile, blessing babies, walking

with a cane and meeting special guests afterward. He had held two private meetings before the general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Vatican News reported he arrived at the Gemelli hospital around 11:30 a.m. local time in the compact Fiat 500 he often rides in. The windows of the papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital were opened just after 6 p.m.

Alfieri noted that shortly after the surgery Pope Francis was already working and making jokes, and had asked the surgeon in jest: "When are we doing the third (surgery)?"

While Alfieri said recovery for this operation typically lasts about seven days. Vatican News reported that the pope's audiences have been canceled until June 18 as a "precaution."

Bruni said June 7 that, for now, all events the pope was scheduled to attend after June 18 were still on his calendar and had not been canceled.

Pope Francis was scheduled to meet with 29 Nobel Peace Prize winners at the Vatican June 10 for an event to celebrate human fraternity. Before going to the hospital, the pope encouraged its organizers to continue with the event as planned without him, a statement from the foundation organizing the event said.

This was Pope Francis' third hospitalization at the Gemelli hospital, the most recent was from March 29 to April 1 when he was admitted for an acute respiratory infection.



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# Religious Freedom Week 2023 Calls on Faithful to Pray for Protection of Religious Liberty

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The U.S. Catholic bishops are inviting the faithful to pray for challenges to religious liberty both within the United States and abroad during the upcoming Religious Freedom Week.

The theme for this year's annual June 22 - 29 event is "Embracing the Divine Gift of Freedom."

"Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all," the event's website stated. "Beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the USCCB invites Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom."

Both saints are English martyrs

who fought religious persecution, notably objecting to King Henry VIII's claims to be the supreme head of the Church of England. Both saints were executed after being charged with treason in 1535.

During this year's Religious Freedom Week, the faithful are asked to pray, reflect, and act on key areas where there are risks to religious liberty, and seek the intercession of the saints as examples of faithful citizenship.

Two of the days are devoted to prayer for ending religious persecution in Nicaragua and Nigeria. In the former, the regime of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is accused of the persecution of Catholic leaders, including Bishop Rolando Álvarez, who

was sentenced in February to 26 years in prison the day after he refused to be deported to the U.S. with more than 200 other Nicaraguan political prisoners. In Nigeria, Christians have faced violence amid political and civil unrest.

Other areas of concern identified by the bishops include praying for the respect of sacred spaces amid incidents of vandalism at Catholic churches and pro-life centers across the country.

Another area is praying for the safety of the seal of the confessional in civil law. Some states are weighing whether or not to make such an expectation, adding clergy to their mandatory reporting laws for child abuse or neglect without an exception for the practice of

confession. Church law strictly forbids priests from divulging what is revealed to them by penitents during the sacrament of reconciliation.

The faithful are also asked to pray for the safety of migrants and refugees, and for those seeking to serve them, citing efforts to restrict the ability of Christian groups to care for them as a threat to religious liberty.

Other areas identified for prayer include that schools and universities, hospitals and medical practices, and business leaders build a culture of respect for people of faith and for conscience rights.

The USCCB provides "Pray-Reflect-Act" resources at [uscbb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](https://uscbb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek).

## During Super Bowl Winners' White House Visit, Kansas City Chiefs Kicker Champions Pro-Life Message

By **Our Sunday Visitor staff, OSV News**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The Kansas City Chiefs were honored with a June 6 invitation to the White House by President Joe Biden following their victory in this year's Super Bowl. The visit took an unexpected turn as Harrison Butker, the kicker who secured the game-winning field goal, used the occasion to shed light on the most vulnerable.

Butker, a Catholic, partnered with Live Action, a prominent pro-life organization, to create a custom tie that conveyed a powerful message and which he donned for the occasion.

It was adorned with the words "protect the most vulnerable" written in Latin and featured the pro-life movement's iconic baby feet lapel pin.

"I wanted to give a voice to the most vulnerable members of our society, the unborn, in a place where efforts have been made to normalize the tragic termination of their lives," Butker said the day after the White House visit, explaining the motivation behind his bold fashion choice.

"As a father who has experienced three miscarriages, my wife and I understand the hardships that come with losing a child. Every life is precious and should be valued whether outside or inside the womb," he said.

Biden, a Catholic, supports legal abortion.

Butker, a member of the Knights of Columbus, opened up about his own

faith journey in an address in September 2020 at the Knights' 55th annual College Councils Conference, held virtually because of the pandemic. It had as its theme "Brothers in the Breach."

While he was a student at Georgia Tech, he said, a friend pointed him toward the love of Christ and encouraged him to be more active in the faith.

Inspired by his witness, Butker said he decided to reorient his life to be centered on God. That newfound relationship with Christ helped him not only in his profession, but also motivated him to act more upon his faith, such as altar-serving at the Traditional Latin Mass.

Faith isn't something only "reserved in private and on Sundays," he told attendees at the virtual conference, and referred to life on earth as a battle that can only be won by a "complete surrender" to God's love.

"Now is the time for you to take up your task, as men of the church to fight this battle for our nation, to bring Christ back to our daily lives," Butker said. "Men need to play active roles within our church, and I believe being a Knight is a great start. ... Your priests need to hear from you. They need to see you. Other men need to see you."

(Our Sunday Visitor is a national Catholic newsweekly based in Huntington, Indiana. OSV News contributed to this story.)

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**BREAKING:**

Chiefs Kicker @buttkicker7 stands for LIFE at the White House!

His Live Action-designed tie reads "PROTECT THE VULNERABLE" in Latin & is paired with a gold pin created with the reference photo and the exact size of a 10-week-old aborted baby's feet. 🙏

RT



11:50 AM · Jun 6, 2023



CNA Photo





*Confirmation in Charles Town*

Bishop Mark Brennan stands with the young people he confirmed at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town May 20.

John Sherwood Photo

**Confirmation Schedule**

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

- Saturday, June 10:** Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 10:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 18:** Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 24:** Mater Dolorosa, Paden City, 5:00 p.m.

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  - 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)
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**Who:** Youth ages 13-17 (High school)





# Experts Hail U.S. Surgeon General's Social Media Warning for Youth Mental Health

By **Kimberley Heatherington, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — For parents still wondering if social media can be harmful to their children's mental health, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy had a warning May 23: "We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis — one that we must urgently address."

The "Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health" is 21 pages of details and statistics succinctly summarized in the accompanying U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) press release: "While social media may offer some benefits, there are ample indicators that social media can also pose a risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents."

Since HHS reports that almost 95% of young people ages 13-17 use social media — with more than one out of three saying they are on social media "almost constantly" — the scope of Murthy's concern is nearly universal.

"The most common question parents ask me is, 'is social media safe for my kids'. The answer is that we don't have enough evidence to say it's safe, and in fact, there is growing evidence that social media use is associated with harm to young people's mental health," Murthy noted in the same press release. "Children are exposed to harmful content on social media, ranging from violent and sexual content, to bullying and harassment. And for too many children, social media use is compromising their sleep and valuable in-person time with family and friends."

Experts told OSV News they welcomed the surgeon general's announcement.

"Not only does the surgeon general's report call for something to be done — it calls for something to be done fast," said Amanda Raffoul, an instructor in the pediatrics department at Harvard Medical School, and a fellow in the division of adolescent and young adult medicine at Boston Children's Hospital.

"I think that the surgeon general's report can help to amplify some of the concerns that the re-

search community — as well as in policy and child mental health more broadly — has had for the past couple of years," Raffoul told OSV News. "It doesn't call for a complete ban or a complete restriction on social media for minors, but it indicates some paths forward for policy makers — and especially the social media platforms — to help ensure that kids can be online, and have it be safe, and not harmful, for them."

The HHS notes that "among the benefits, adolescents report that social media helps them feel more accepted (58%), like they have people who can support them through tough times (67%), like they have a place to show their creative side (71%), and more connected to what's going on in their friends' lives (80%)."

Nonetheless, excessive use of social media poses serious consequences, with the HHS observing "recent research shows that adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media face double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes, such as symptoms of depression and anxiety; yet one 2021 survey of teenagers found that, on average, they spend 3.5 hours a day on social media. Social media may also perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls."

Almost half (46%) of teens ages 13-17 said social media made them feel worse about their body image. Hate-based social media content also is "often" or "sometimes" encountered by 64% of adolescents.

"As a parent, social media access for our kids feels like Pandora's box," said Kristin Bird, a mother of three who has written on the topic of social media use for the Catholic youth ministry Life Teen, and also directs the Wisconsin-based parish and diocesan consulting firm Burning Hearts Disciples.

"It seems like it would be much easier to avoid social media altogether than to either roll back access once it's been allowed or to try to undo psychological, social and spiritual harm caused by social media after it's happened," Bird told OSV News. "The key is striking a balance that helps protect our kids and gradually allowing age-appropriate technologies as our children demonstrate they can handle them with maturity."

"On the one hand, it's coming too late for the kids and young adults already experiencing the adverse effects," Bird observed. "On the other hand: better late than never!"

Bird is emphatic about the role parents must play.

"Legislation around social media will undoubtedly help parents, but we can't rely on the government to do our job for us," she said. "We need to own the responsibility to keep our kids safe and have conversations with them about the dangers of social media, just like we need to talk with them about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and other risky behaviors."

Jessica Heldman, a child rights professor at the University of San Diego and a member of its Chil-

dren's Advocacy Institute, said Big Tech companies must nonetheless be held responsible for the harm done to youth.

"They are learning to starve themselves, harm themselves, and loathe themselves as they replace sleep and healthy activity with hours on social media," Heldman said of teen social media users. "Yet, social media platforms continue to profit off of algorithms and design features that push harmful content to children and make it nearly impossible to disengage from their platforms."

"This advisory emphasizes what is truly at stake," Heldman told OSV News, "and it dispels any notion that social media platforms are somehow so different from other products that they should be allowed to operate with impunity."

**See "Warning" on Page 17**

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# El Papa evoluciona favorablemente tras operación abdominal y pide que se continúe orando por él

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**ROMA (CNS)** — El Papa Francisco tuvo una primera noche de descanso y paz en el hospital Gemelli de Roma después de una exitosa operación de tres horas el 7 de junio por una hernia.

Ha sido informado de los numerosos mensajes de "cercanía y afecto" de los simpatizantes y "expresada su gratitud, al tiempo que pide que continúen las oraciones", dijo Matteo Bruni, director de la oficina de prensa del Vaticano, en una declaración escrita el 8 de junio.

El personal médico encargado de supervisar la recuperación postoperatoria del Papa, de 86 años de edad, dijo que "el Papa Francisco tuvo una noche tranquila, logrando descansar ampliamente", dijo Bruni.

El Papa "se encuentra en buen estado general, alerta y respira por sí mismo. Los exámenes rutinarios de seguimiento son positivos. Observará el reposo postoperatorio necesario durante todo el día" del 8 de junio, añadió Bruni.

El presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, el arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio, de la Arquidiócesis para los Servicios Militares de Estados Unidos, pidió a los católicos que "tengan al Papa Francisco y a todos los que están en el hospital en sus oraciones".

"Mientras el Papa Francisco se recupera de la cirugía, es fortalecido por la fe en el poder curativo de nuestro Dios misericordioso", dijo en una declaración escrita publicada el 7 de junio. "Jesús siempre camina con nosotros y está aún más cerca cada vez que necesitamos curación y consuelo".

El Papa Francisco se sometió a una cirugía abdominal de tres horas "sin complicaciones" el 7 de junio para tratar una hernia, según la oficina de prensa del Vaticano.

El Papa, de 86 años, fue trasladado al hospital Gemelli de Roma poco después de su audiencia general del 7 de junio. Fue puesto bajo anestesia general y sometido a una operación abdominal

para tratar una hernia que se había desarrollado en el lugar de las incisiones abdominales de operaciones anteriores, dijo el Dr. Sergio Alfieri, el cirujano que operó al Papa, en una conferencia de prensa en el hospital tras la operación.

En declaraciones a periodistas después de la operación, Alfieri dijo que el Papa Francisco tenía una serie de cicatrices internas y adherencias de dos operaciones hace muchos años, posiblemente en Argentina; una fue para tratar la peritonitis -- inflamación del tejido abdominal -- causada por una vesícula biliar infectada y otra para tratar la enfermedad hidatídica causada por quistes que contienen un parásito. Fue esta última operación la que había dejado cicatrices en el tejido abdominal del Papa, donde se había desarrollado otra hernia.

Alfieri dijo que, durante la operación, que duró tres horas, se encontraron adherencias entre el intestino y la membrana que recubre el abdomen, que durante meses provocaron un bloqueo intestinal "aggravante y doloroso".

Durante la operación se liberaron las adherencias y se reparó con una malla protésica la abertura en la pared del abdomen que daba lugar a la hernia.

Alfieri, que también operó al Papa en 2021, dijo que el Papa no tuvo complicaciones y respondió bien a la anestesia general que se le administró durante esta cirugía y la de 2021 en la que se le extirpó parte del colon.

El cirujano subrayó que, en ambas operaciones, todo el tejido afectado había sido benigno.

"El Papa no tiene otras enfermedades", afirmó.

Alfieri explicó que, aunque el equipo médico que acompaña al Papa llevaba varios días hablando de la operación programada, la decisión final de operarle no se tomó hasta el 6 de junio, cuando el Papa Francisco visitó brevemente el hospital para someterse a un chequeo médico y a

unas pruebas.

"No era urgente", dijo, "si no, le habríamos operado en ese momento".

Antes de ir al hospital, el Papa parecía estar bien y de buen humor, celebrando su audiencia general como de costumbre, montando en el papamóvil, bendiciendo bebés, caminando con un bastón y reuniéndose después con invitados especiales. Había mantenido dos reuniones privadas antes de la audiencia general en la Plaza de San Pedro.

Vatican News informó que llegó al hospital Gemelli alrededor de las 11:30 a.m. hora local en el compacto Fiat 500 en el que suele viajar. Las ventanas de la suite papal, en la décima planta del hospital, se abrieron poco después de las 6 p.m.

Alfieri señaló que poco después de la operación el Papa Francisco ya estaba trabajando y haciendo bromas, y había preguntado al cirujano en broma: "¿Cuándo hacemos la tercera (cirugía)?".

Mientras que Alfieri dijo que la recuperación de esta operación suele durar unos siete días, Vatican News informó que las audiencias del Papa han sido canceladas hasta el 18 de junio como "una precaución".

Bruni dijo el 7 de junio que, por ahora, todos los eventos que el Papa tenía previsto asistir después del 18 de junio todavía estaban en su calendario y no habían sido cancelados.

El Papa Francisco tenía previsto reunirse con 29 ganadores del Premio Nobel de la Paz en el Vaticano el 10 de junio para un evento para celebrar la fraternidad humana. Antes de ir al hospital, el Papa animó a sus organizadores a continuar con el evento tal y como estaba previsto sin él, según un comunicado de la fundación organizadora del evento.

Esta fue la tercera hospitalización del Papa Francisco en el hospital Gemelli, la más reciente fue del 29 de marzo al 1 de abril, cuando ingresó por una infección respiratoria aguda.

**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.





# CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

## MISSION MOMENT

### A Pentecost Reflection



Courtesy Photo

**By Beth Zarate, former CCWVa President and Chief Executive Officer**

My first “big girl” job was as a high school youth minister (and humbly this past month I retired from my most beloved job with Catholic Charities West Virginia).

Every Sunday evening, we would welcome over 200 teens to our teen liturgy and life night. I have many wonderful memories of this experience but my favorite weekend was always Pentecost (50 days after Easter) — the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, causing them to speak in tongues, and by tradition our Confirmation liturgy. The church would be a sea of red, with every shade of red represented, a passion color that celebrates the Holy Spirit, along with life, health, courage, love, and religious fervor. The joy in Confirmation for me was watching teens take

ownership of their faith and their gifts, ready to model saints of the church, and make a difference in the world.

A career in the Catholic Charities field has taught me the importance of encouraging staff to use their gifts and identify gifts in the people who come to our doors. We take a strength-based approach when working with people to help them focus on their

gifts and use those gifts to move forward. Those who come to us for help struggle with the consequences of poverty — experiencing pain, sorrow, anguish, despair, depression, alienation and so much more. Yet, the people we serve are incredibly resilient, creative and have learned how to survive on the most minimal resources.

A young single mother who came to us for help with food shared how she played board games every night with her children to strengthen their math and critical thinking skills. How wise to turn off the TV and engage her children in learning. Another mother, so confident and certain in her belief in a loving God, shared how she prayed over her children every night when they were sleeping.

I once talked with a neighbor who had very little but inspired me when he shared this with me: to stay warm in the winter he “played camping” with his kids and they slept together in sleeping bags. How



Courtesy Photo

often are we guilty of confusing low in funds with low in gifts and faith.

The book of Corinthians is among the most quoted passages of Scripture. It talks of a faith grounded and expressed in love, and proclaims Christian love as greater than any other spiritual gift we could possess. Our spiritual knowledge, without love, amounts to little. In a world filled with judgment and selfishness, the sacrificial love of Christ should manifest in us. How is Christ calling us to fully embrace our struggling neighbors?

We are many parts, but all one body... the body of Christ.

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.

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## Principal Opening at Sacred Heart Grade School, Charleston

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of Sacred Heart of Charleston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for their Catholic Grade School—Sacred Heart Grade School.

- Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Christian philosophy of the school.

- The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

- The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with preference for administrative experience.

A résumé with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., dhiggs@dwc.org. or mail to 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301 by June 23, 2023.

## St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, Seeking Kindergarten Aide

St. Joseph School (SJS), Martinsburg, W.Va., seeks a Kindergarten aide for the 2023-24 school year. SJS educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. The ideal candidate would be one who embraces the SJS mission and who is looking for a place in which to be respected and supported.

The aide promotes academic and social behaviors in children in a developmentally appropriate manner and supports the classroom teacher.

Essential Responsibilities: Establishes a safe and supportive environment that is conducive to learning; Provides one-on-one attention to students who need additional support with their studies; Follows the classroom teacher's directions in completing tasks; Provides academic support through small groups or one-on-one instruction as needed; Works with the teacher to create an engaging learning environment that encourages student interest and

involvement; Helps children with their daily needs, including taking them to the bathroom or monitoring lunch, recess and/or nap time; Helps children understand the rules and routines of the classroom and school through modeling appropriate behavior; Encourages social interaction and emotional development through activities such as arts and crafts, playtime and circle time; Participates in staff events, as needed; Observes students to identify any behavioral issues that might require intervention by the teacher or principal

Qualifications: High school diploma; Experience caring for children desired; Ability to establish and maintain effective collaborative relationships with students, peers, administrators and parents; Demonstrated skill in oral and written communications; Proficiency with basic computer, copier and two-way radio or willingness to learn

Please send a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

## St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, Seeking Full-Time Elementary School Teacher

St. Joseph School (SJS) educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. The ideal candidate would be one who embraces the SJS mission and who is looking for a place in which to be respected and supported.

SJS is seeking a classroom teacher who may be assigned to teach students from kindergarten through fifth grade. The teacher will promote academic and social behaviors in children in a developmentally appropriate manner and reinforce these behaviors on a consistent basis. The teacher will also foster independence through the gradual release of responsibilities by allowing students to develop the skills to perform tasks without assistance.

Pay: \$34,000 to 44,000 per year

Essential Responsibilities: Establish a safe and supportive environment that is conducive to learning; Design and implement authentic and engaging learning experiences using West Virginia College and Career Readiness standards; Adhere to SJS assessment and grading policies and guidelines; Collaborate with other teachers to share best practices and provide meaningful feedback regularly; Ensure that

students meet educational standards and school performance goals for their grade level; Adopt a data-driven attitude toward measuring learner progress; Tend to individual student needs; Demonstrate an awareness of different student backgrounds and cultures; Communicate regularly with parents; Provide extra support to students who need it; Monitor student growth to identify strengths and areas where improvement is needed.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college; Hold or be eligible for a West Virginia teaching license, with an endorsement in elementary education; Demonstrate knowledge of elementary content, curriculum and methodology of effective teaching; Ability to establish and maintain effective collaborative relationships with students, peers, administrators and parents; Demonstrate skill in oral and written communications; excellent human-relations skills; Proficiency with basic computer software such as Word and Excel

Please send letters of introduction and résumés to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

## History Teacher Opening at Madonna High School, Weirton

Madonna High School is accepting applications for a History/Social Studies teacher. This is a regular full-time position located at Madonna High School in Weirton, W.Va. Must be qualified to teach History/Social Studies to 7th through 12th grade students.

The ideal candidate should hold a Bachelor's Degree in History/Social Studies or a relevant field, should hold a valid West Virginia teaching certification with a History/Social Studies endorsement or be eligible and willing to obtain such certification, have a working knowledge of teaching best practices, excellent written and verbal communication skills, and demonstrate effective classroom management skills.

The ideal candidate must demonstrate a deep commitment to facilitate the learning of all students and be able to work in a dynamic, collaborative, technology rich environment with fellow teachers. The ideal candidate will facilitate high student achievement, offer necessary support to students for high achievement goals, and promote the mission of Madonna High School and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Interested candidates should submit letter of interest, résumé, and three references by email to Sharon Higgins at shiggins@weirtonmadonna.org; by mail to Madonna High School, 150 Michael Way, Weirton, WV 26062, attention: Sharon Higgins; or drop off in the main office at Madonna High School by the close of business on Friday, June 16, 2023.




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## Warning...

Cont'd from Page 13

Christopher McKenna, a digital security expert, founder of Protect Young Eyes and a keynote speaker at the 2022 National Catholic Educational Association conference, noted that “in culture today, we tend to treat children as if they are mini adults. And that is simply untrue. Childhood is unique. The brains of children are unique. They are in a unique developmental phase.”

“Technology doesn’t treat us differently, though,” McKenna told OSV News. “So we have put children, with children’s brains ... inside of these extremely intelligent technologies. The most brilliant software engineers on earth are crafting these technologies. And then we get upset when these children make decisions like children, inside of technologies that were never crafted for them in the first place.”

McKenna praised the HHS’ policy suggestions, which include policymakers strengthening safety and privacy standards; greater transparency by tech companies; parental instruction to kids about responsible online behavior; limiting of online time by children; and prioritization by researchers to establish social media standards and evaluation.

“We are experimenting on children,” said McKenna. “We can’t wait for science to catch up with the experience that parents and educators are observing firsthand.”

(Kimberley Heatherington writes for OSV News from Virginia.)

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# 20/20 Vision Series


IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

The Vision 20/20 series for 2023 will focus on the Eucharist. Pope Francis has called for a worldwide Eucharistic Revival. Journey with us this year from Jan. 23–Dec. 11, as we journey with the Holy Father and his invitation to focus our vision on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist – the Source and Summit of the Church.  
 Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

Jan 23	The Transformative Power of the Eucharist – Bishop Mark Brennan
Feb 27	Let us be Bread – Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27	The Eucharist as a noun – Bernadette McMasters Kime
April 24	Eucharist in the early church – Fr. John Di Bacco
May 22	Lord I am not worthy – Alex Nagem
June 26	The Eucharist as a verb – Deacon Paul Lim
July 31	Eucharist IS thanksgiving – Kate Marshall
August 28	Bread broken and shared – Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ
Sept. 25	Eucharistic Reflections through song – Chad Carter
Oct 30	The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? – Fr. Walt Jagela
Nov 27	Bread for the journey – Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.
Dec 11	Do this in remembrance of Me – Deacon Doug Breiding

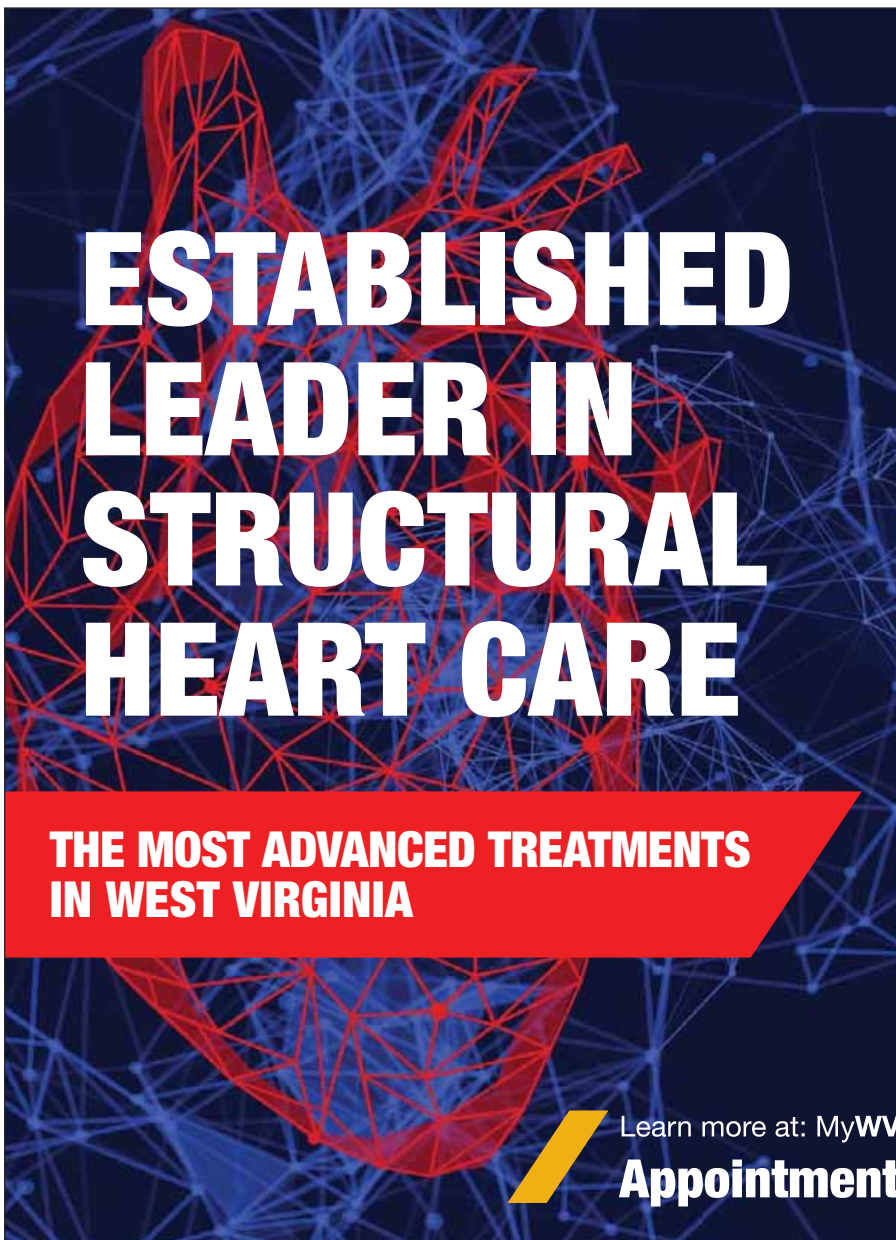
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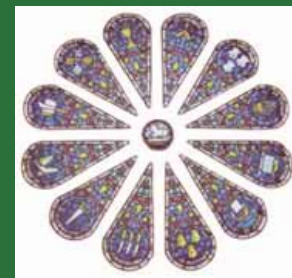
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