

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

A Lenten Reflection from Bishop Brennan

Dear fellow pilgrims in faith,

A few days ago was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent which our Church has observed since the early centuries to prepare for the annual commemoration of our Lord's death and resurrection by which we have been saved. This year Lent takes place in what Pope Francis has designated as a Jubilee Year of Hope.

The virtue of hope fits perfectly in the Lenten framework, because this season calls us to turn from our sinful habits and to be renewed in our faith, goals which move us to pray and hope for God's help. With hopeful

and trusting hearts, we open our ears in Lent to hear once again Jesus' call: *Repent and believe the Good News.*

Sin is the great barrier between us and God, for He made us to be good, not bad. But, like parents who love the children who sometimes disobey them, our heavenly Father loves us so much that He sent His Son to be the propitiation or satisfaction for our sins so that we might no longer be burdened by them. The forgiveness of our sins which Jesus Christ obtained by his sacrifice on the cross makes us eligible for the grace of a true renewal

See "Reflection" on Page 2



Colleen Rowan Photo

Nancy Sukys receives ashes from Bishop Mark Brennan on Ash Wednesday, March 5, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Southern West Virginia Recovering from Catastrophic Flooding

By Colleen Rowan

WILLIAMSON — Southern West Virginia continues to recover from the catastrophic flooding of mid-February that devastated communities and claimed the lives of three people.

The state received a major disaster declaration from President Donald Trump Feb. 26 which provides assistance from FEMA in the hardest hit counties of McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, and Wyoming.

To help support recovery efforts, Bishop Mark Brennan asked parishes and missions of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to hold special collections at Masses on the weekends following the disaster. Funds raised are being managed by Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa). The bishop also authorized a challenge grant of \$50,000 through the West Virginia Catholic Foundation for the collection. Donations are still being accepted on the diocese's website at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>

As the heavy rains fell and flood
See "Flooding" on Page 4



Photo courtesy of Wes Wilson Photography

Flood waters of the Tug Fork River engulf parts of the Fairview Addition in Williamson where US-119 connects with US-52 and KY-292.

Inside: Pilgrimage Sites in West Virginia Announced for Jubilee Year of Hope, Page 5



Audit of Diocesan Finances, Pages 7-9

Bishop Brennan's Schedule for Holy Week

Saturday, April 12: Palm Sunday Mass, 5:30 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Monday, April 14: Chrism Mass, 4:00 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Tuesday, April 15: Chrism Mass, 4:00 p.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Holy Thursday, April 17: 4:00 p.m., St. Anne, Webster Springs; 6:00 p.m., Holy Family, Richwood

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, April 18: 3:00 p.m., St. Anne, Webster Springs; 5:00 p.m., Holy Family, Richwood

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19: 8:00 p.m., St. Thomas, Gassaway

Easter Sunday, April 20: 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Reflection ...

Cont'd from Page 1

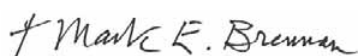
of our lives on earth and for the ultimate gift of eternal life.

There are people who think that their sins are unforgiveable. They give up asking for God's forgiveness because they think He will never forgive them. Some women who have had abortions think this and men, too, who have pushed women to abort or have assisted or acquiesced in an abortion. But abortion is not an unforgiveable sin, though a truly evil act it is. My years of counseling post-abortive women and men have convinced me that they can move from remorse and repentance to healing and peace. If you or a loved one is in that situation, trust that the Lord's words are true: *Father, forgive them and I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.*

There are other people who are content to live a morally and spiritually mediocre life, instead of wanting to have the image of God in which they are made glow brightly. What a waste! Don't let Ash Wednesday be a ritual with no meaning. Resolve to look at yourself honestly and ask God's assistance to overcome your sins. A sincere confession of sins is a great help. Then, form a plan to overcome the sins that trouble you the most. The Holy Spirit will enlighten you and a priest or any wise friend might offer good advice. Aided by God's grace, you can become the good and loving person God made you to be. Let the ashes on your forehead symbolize your desire to burn away sin so that new life, like the phoenix of ancient lore, may rise from the ashes.

This is my hope for you. I pray that it is your hope for yourself. Let us journey together toward Easter, hopeful and every day stronger in faith and love.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

2025 Print Issues and Dates:

Easter, April 18; Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23; Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19



If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God's healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.


For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org



Lent
Vol. 56, No. 9

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444

thecatholicspiritwv.org
dwc.org

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc. 

Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule, at left). All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. 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.

Wheeling-Charleston in Top 10% of U.S. Dioceses with the Highest Ratio of Diocesan Seminarians to Catholics

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is in the top 10% of U.S. dioceses with the highest ratio of diocesan seminarians to Catholics, according to data in The Official Catholic Directory. The findings were published in a recent issue of The Catholic World Report in a story titled Diocesan Priestly Vocations in the United States: A Look at the Numbers. Data published in the most recent (2024) edition of The Official Catholic Directory, shows that Wheeling-Charleston has a ratio of 1 seminarian per 5,725 Catholics.

Amazingly, these findings were based on numbers from 2024 when the diocese had 11 seminarians, said Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for Wheeling-Charleston. This year, the diocese has 17 seminarians.

"I believe this shows that the Lord continues to provide for his people," Father Crenwelge said. "It shows there is a desire for young men, that is being rekindled, to give of their lives in service to God and the church that we haven't really seen in recent years in our diocese."

The men discerning priesthood in West Virginia

range in age from 19 to 57 with most of them in their 20s. They come from all over the state and beyond. The diocese is now anticipating Deacon Travis Moger's ordination to the priesthood May 30.

"These are truly prayerful men who love our Lord, who want to serve his people, who love their Catholic faith," Father Crenwelge said, adding that the seminarians inspire him.

"I'm going into my ninth year of priesthood, and I'm inspired by their zeal," he said. "I think that the church in West Virginia has a lot of good things coming in the future. ... And I'm excited that—if it is the Lord's will—these men will one day be priests in our diocese."

Father Crenwelge went on to say that although Wheeling - Charleston's number of seminarians might seem small when compared to other dioceses in the U.S., vocations are growing here. And that, he said, is the fruit of prayer.

"I encourage people to keep praying," he said, "and encouraging young men to think about the priesthood."

Read the full story from The Catholic World Report at: www.catholicworldreport.com.

'Everyone Needs a Little Jesus'



Colleen Rowan photo

Following the noon Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 5, Carl Lumsden of the Cathedral Men's Group distributes "Everyone Needs a Little Jesus" figurines to the faithful so they can give them to someone who has left the church or someone who has never attended.

By Colleen Rowan

Catholics who attended Ash Wednesday Masses at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 5 were given a mission.

"Everyone needs a little Jesus," Deacon Doug Breiding told those gathered at the end of the noon Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan that day. Members of the Cathedral Men's Group, Deacon Breiding said, would be distributing small packages with little Jesus figurines inside.

"But don't keep it for yourself," he said, and asked them to share it with someone who has left the church or someone who has never attended.

Each package came with an invitation to Mass with the following message: "Jesus loves you... always has, always will. He died and rose to save you. Jesus said... 'DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?' (John 21:16) Join us to receive Jesus' love and to feel his presence — 6:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday."



Colleen Rowan photo

Pictured is one of the "Everyone Needs a Little Jesus," figurines.



AMERICAN MADE

Outdoor Furniture Savings

PRE-ORDER AND SAVE — ALL MARCH LONG!

Order your custom outdoor furniture **NOW** and enjoy it by the first weekend of summer!

WELLS

HOME FURNISHINGS

(304) 343-3600 Corridor G in Charleston / Mon-Sat 10 to 6 Closed Sunday wellshome.com



Duplaga's TOP NOTCH

LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC

Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls

Supply Yard

Chris Duplaga, Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com



office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332



Panhandle

CLEANING & RESTORATION

800.504.7054

Wheeling • Morgantown • Charleston
Pittsburgh • Sarasota

PanhandleCR.com

FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER



"CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY THE MOUNTAINEERS CALL"



Flooding...

Cont'd from Page 1

waters rose on Saturday, Feb. 15, Father Rey Landicho posted a Facebook message to his parishioners in McDowell County, "Please stay safe and well. May God protect us always and keep us in His care."

The three lives lost in the flooding were from the same family, West Virginia State Police said in a press release Feb. 19. They were identified as Donald and Debbie Griffin, both 69, of Welch, and a 2-year-old boy. They were all in a truck that was washed into the Tug Fork River on Sunday, Feb. 16. Two female juveniles were able to escape the truck after it went into the river and were rescued from the water by fire department and EMS personnel. The Griffins were the legal guardians of the children, the press release stated.

In a press conference Feb. 20, Morrisey said over 135 water rescues had occurred in the flooding. Calling it a "historic weather event," he said parts of McDowell County received 4.72 inches of rain in less than 48 hours and the Tug Fork River crested at 49 feet, believed to be its second highest.

The American Red Cross was providing shelter for those without power or who have unlivable properties—50 people in Williamson and another 30 in Welch at the time.

In McDowell County, where Father Landicho is pastor of St. Peter Parish in Welch, Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan, and the Chapels of Our Lady of Victory in Gary and Holy Cross in Pineville, the aftermath was catastrophic.

"Yesterday, you couldn't get in or out of Welch let alone the county," Jan Williams, secretary/bookkeeper for St. Peter's and Sacred Heart, told The Catholic Spirit on Tuesday, Feb. 18. "Underpasses were blocked by trees and debris."

Williams wasn't sure how bad the situation was on the other end of town that morning as it was unreachable because of water, mud, and debris.

"We couldn't go much farther than the courthouse," she said.

In that part of town is Welch Community Hospital, whose parking lot was flooded. "You couldn't get to the hospital," Williams said, adding that water and debris also reached the railroad trestle.

Williams could not get to Welch until Feb. 18 because of flooding in her own community of nearby Coalwood, also in McDowell County. She and her husband David lost their home in the horrific flood of 2002. They stayed, rebuilt, and are now living through the latest flooding from the Clear Fork River. Comparing it to the devastation of 23 years ago, she said, "It's pretty close."

Also taking the brunt of the flooding was neighboring Mingo County, especially in Williamson. The flood wall protects downtown up to 63 feet. Major flooding occurred in the



Courtesy photo

Flooding from the Tug Fork River engulfs downtown Welch Feb. 15.

surrounding area submerging the Williamson Railyard, businesses, roads, and homes.

Power, cell service, and city water were still out in parts of the area on Feb. 18, when Father Biju Paul Parampil, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson, spoke to The Catholic Spirit.

"Many of our communities are cut off," he said. "I couldn't get to Chattaroy," where many parishioners live.

With those services down, he said a number of his parishioners went to Charleston for accommodations.

As Williamson sits on the state line, Father Parampil said that half of Sacred Heart's parishioners live in Kentucky where the death toll from flooding in the state reached 14.

"We need people to pray for us," he said.

Father Parampil is also pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Logan, and St. Edmund Chapel in Man—both in Logan County. Logan also sustained flooding from the Guyandotte River.

Father Landicho told The Catholic Spirit March 3 that the Welch community is coming back into shape and there are several stations where people can get relief, assistance, and help. In the Welch area, he said, the main stations for help are: God's Saving Grace Food Pantry, Fives Loaves and Two Fishes Food Bank, Welch National Guard Armory, and the fire and police stations.

The American Red Cross offered relief assessment and assistance with the Catholic Charities drop off of donations to the armory, he said.

"The Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Powhatan, headed by Lori Bishop, a parishioner of our mission church, distributed baskets of food Feb. 22 and they distributed other relief goods, water, and cleaning materials Feb. 25," he said.

Disaster Services Specialist Lora Pierce of Catholic Charities West Virginia and her staff are offering both short- and long-term assistance to people and are continuously conducting a survey for people and areas needing help, he added. School in McDowell County was expected to resume March 10.

"It takes time to rebuild and to come back to its normal state of life," Father Landicho said, "but people in the area are hopeful for full restoration and recovery in the near future."

Since the flooding began, the Catholic community in the southern region has been reaching out to those impacted by the disaster.

On March 1, Father Landicho expressed his gratitude to Catholic Charities West Virginia in Princeton and to a group from St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and Risen Lord Mission in Clay who joined their pastor, Father Thien Duc Nguyen, SVD, travelling more than two and a half hours to reach the people of Welch.

Both groups delivered relief goods, school and cleaning supplies, food, furniture, clothes and more. In addition to St. Peter's, the donations and assistance were given at other locations in Welch, including the armory and Saving Grace Food Pantry.

"Thank you for offering your services and Catholic faith in action

through charity in our community," Father Landicho posted on St. Peter's Facebook page.

Sacred Heart parishes in Bluefield and Princeton donated supplies and water for McDowell County flood victims. Volunteers took a van load of water, cleaning supplies, trash bags, paper towels, toilet tissue, and some non-perishable food items to Powhatan. Parishioners donated as well, bringing needed items to Masses the weekend after the floods to add to the van load.

Sacred Heart Princeton's Mommy Ministry held pop-up events after the floods to support families with babies and young children impacted. They also gave out small care packages with soaps and baby blankets from the parish's knitting/crochet group.

During the events, the Mommy Ministry accepted donations and gave out diapers, wipes, and baby food to anyone who came by looking for help, said Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, V.E., pastor of Sacred Heart parishes in Bluefield and Princeton.

"The FB post (advertising the first initiative) garnered a request from a mother for a portable crib," he said, which the ministry purchased and delivered.

Father Devasya said the Salvation Army in Princeton is the support facility for McDowell County, so Mommy Ministry leader Renee Green dropped off several care packages of baby items for them to distribute.

To help support the Sacred Heart Food Pantry in Powhatan, e-mail Lori Bishop at twinmomma86@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage Sites in West Virginia Announced for Jubilee Year of Hope

By Joyce Bibey

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is pleased to announce four locations which have been designated as Pilgrimage Sites for the Jubilee Year 2025:

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

St. Patrick Church, Weston

St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg

From now to December 28, 2025, Catholics from all over West Virginia are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence called for by Pope Francis. A Jubilee Indulgence is obtained after having completed:

1) Make a brief pilgrimage to one of the four locations designated as a pilgrimage site within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as a sign of your deep desire for true conversion and hope in the Lord's Goodness.

2) Pray. Devoutly participate in one of the following at any of the four locations: Holy Mass, Liturgy of the Hours (office of readings, lauds, vespers), Via Crucis (Way of the Cross/Stations of the Cross), Rosary.

3) Confess in the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days before or after your pilgrimage.

4) Receive Holy Communion, reflecting on the hope God gives.

5) Pray for the Pope and for the intentions that he bears in his heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world. Any prayer may be said, according to personal

devotion, but the Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

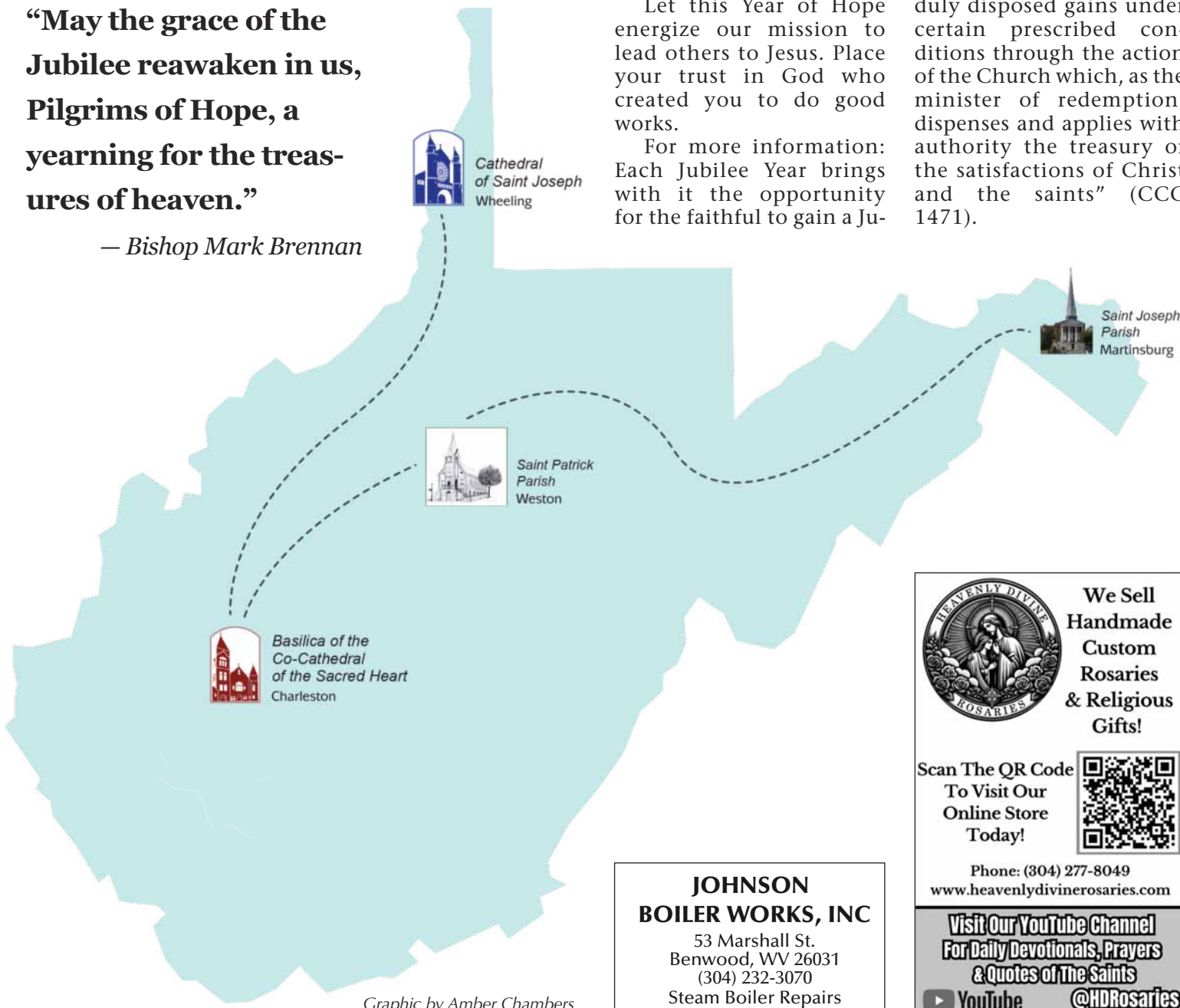
Additionally, important to note, the Plenary Indulgence can be applied for yourself or souls of the deceased, but not

other living souls. Further, a Plenary Indulgence can be gained only once per day. Though, a second can be obtained if it is applied to the souls in purgatory.

"May the grace of the

"May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven."

— Bishop Mark Brennan



Graphic by Amber Chambers

Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven," Bishop Mark Brennan said at the opening of the Jubilee Year in the diocese from the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Let this Year of Hope energize our mission to lead others to Jesus. Place your trust in God who created you to do good works.

For more information: Each Jubilee Year brings with it the opportunity for the faithful to gain a Ju-

bilee indulgence. To quote the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), an indulgence is "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints" (CCC 1471).

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!
 We Also Specialize in Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
 **Lou W. Nau, Inc.**
 69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311
 lounau.doitbest.com

JOHNSON BOILER WORKS, INC
 53 Marshall St.
 Benwood, WV 26031
 (304) 232-3070
 Steam Boiler Repairs

 **We Sell Handmade Custom Rosaries & Religious Gifts!**
 Scan The QR Code To Visit Our Online Store Today!

 Phone: (304) 277-8049
 www.heavenlydivinerosaries.com
Visit Our YouTube Channel For Daily Devotionals, Prayers & Quotes of The Saints
 **@HDRosaries**

Jarvis-Williams Funeral Homes
 Weldon P. Williams, FD & LIC
 "Boots" Jarvis, Co-Owner & Sec
 1224 S. Bridge Street, New Martinsville, WV (304) 455-3456
 309 N 4th Avenue, Paden City, WV (304) 337-2311

RICH & SHIRLEY'S QUICKPRINT

 PRINT & DESIGN
 (304) 233-7433
 92 16th Street, Wheeling, WV

COLEMAN'S FISH MKT.
 Established 1914
 Centre Wheeling Market House
 304-232-8510
 109 Years

ALTMAYER FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY
 "THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"
 304-232-0330

 James E. Altmeyer, Jr. President
 James E. Altmeyer, Sr. Chairman
 Eugene T. Falhey Vice President
 www.altmeyer.com



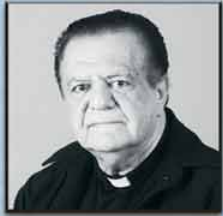
JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE



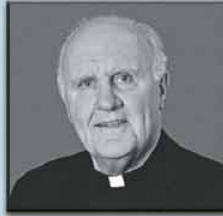
Msgr. Frederick P. Annie



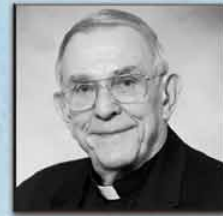
Msgr. Patrick L. Fryer



Msgr. Lawrence J. Luciana



Msgr. Jeremiah F. McSweeney



Msgr. Eugene S. Ostrowski



Msgr. Samuel S. Sacus



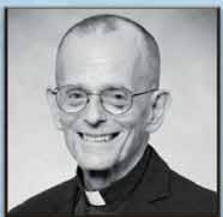
Rev. William A. Anderson



Rev. Mario R. Claro



Rev. James C. Conyers



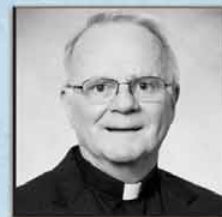
Rev. Harry N. Cramer



Rev. Thomas W. Dagle



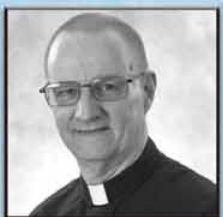
Rev. John V. Di Bacco, Jr.



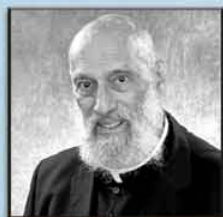
Rev. Larry W. Dorsch



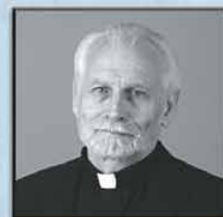
Rev. D. Kent Durig



Rev. John H. Finnell



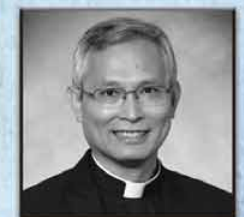
Rev. Patsy J. Iaquinta



Rev. Giles LeVasseur



Rev. George M. Manjadi



Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen



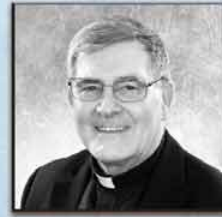
Rev. Robert A. Perriello



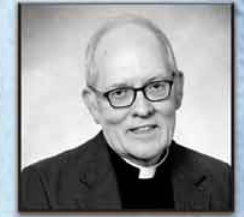
Rev. William J. Petro



Rev. Joseph Daniel Pisano



Rev. Ronald G. Prechtl



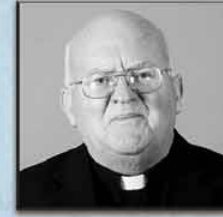
Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh



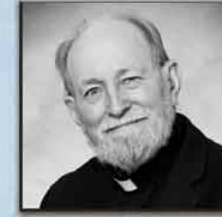
Rev. David J. Schmitt



Rev. Douglas B. Sutton



Rev. Laurence Wrenn



Rev. Paul D. Yuenger



RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: MARCH 23, 2025

A Letter from Bishop Brennan on the Audit of Diocesan Finances

March 6, 2025

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Since my installation as your Bishop in 2019, we have continued the annual practice of providing a full accounting of the assets and income of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Faithful parishioners of our local Church. It is important to me to share this information with you in clear terms so that you understand the opportunities and challenges inherent to operating the Diocese.

In this issue of *The Catholic Spirit*, you can review the highlights of Fiscal Year 2024, which ended on June 30, 2024, and you can read the entire financial report online at www.dwc.org.

As you will see in our audited statements, investment income increased last year, thanks to gains in the stock market. At the same time, our mineral revenue has decreased, a trend that I foreshadowed in my letter to you last year. The production of one of our most prolific wells is nearing its end, and this will have a significant impact on the operations of the Diocese. Plans are being considered by our Diocesan Finance Council and our internal staff so we might best prepare for future years of decreased mineral revenue. This will require careful decision making and possible institutional changes over the next few years.

Parishes and schools have engaged the Diocese on debt reduction efforts that have reduced our credit lines but also created better financial stability for those who are willing to tackle financial issues. In turn, the Diocese continues to work with each location to provide debt relief in return for endowment development, remaining current with its financial obligations and taking steps to enhance offertory and charitable giving. You may also note that parish and school subsidies are up approximately \$1 million, mostly due to the highly successful capital matching grant program which just completed its third year. Matching grants of up to \$50,000 were given to more than 60 parishes and schools.

The increasing cost of health insurance and property insurance has been the single most challenging budget issue I've experienced as your Bishop. In the past three years, the cost of our property, casualty and liability insurances has skyrocketed, a trend seen across the country. While we work with parishes and schools to limit their premium liability, consecutive years of substantially increased premiums have affected many of our parishes and schools. Health insurance also continues to cost more and more each year, causing higher losses in that program as well, which supports our front-line employees in parishes, schools, charities, the Diocese, and our priests. Between these two programs, we lost nearly \$3.8 million in our insurance program last year, and we are on pace to lose more than \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2025.

Our report this year also features a 15% decrease in management and general operating expenses. Our Catholic Sharing Appeal once again set a record, thanks to the generous contributions of our parishioners. We are beginning offertory enhancement programs with a cohort of parishes in 2025, and we look forward

to success with that pilot program. With blessings from a generous God, we have 17 seminarians as of the date of this letter, and we are grateful for this continued growth. Finally, we have started a process to create a comprehensive Evangelization plan in our Diocese. While it is a major investment for the Diocese in terms of time and treasure, I do hope that the implementation of our eventual plan will help fulfill our primary mission to spread the Gospel across the hills and valleys of West Virginia.

With renewed zeal to bring Christ to our neighbors, we can, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, experience the joy of doing what we are meant to do: work with our Lord to extend his saving

grace to absent Catholics and the many religiously unaffiliated people in our state. Our material resources are important, and we must use them prudently but even more important is our commitment to living our faith and our willingness to share it with others. Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose for all people. Let's not disappoint him by standing on the sidelines. Let's get to work and trust that our labor will not be in vain.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

See Information Below and Report on Pages 8-9

PARISH ASSESSMENTS

5 Things You Should Know

What exactly happens to the money you donate at your parish on Sunday?

Where does the money go?

How is it spent?

Here are five important things you should know about the Diocesan Assessment and what it means at your parish.

THE NUMBERS

1

91 cents of every dollar (or more in many instances) stays right in your parish. The Diocese does, however, assess some collections in the parish.

6% of the Diocesan Assessment is used to fund the Priest Health and Retirement Fund (PHRA). This money does not come to the Diocese but rather is allocated to a separate entity. It is used to support our priests as they age and leave active ministry and enter retirement.

3% of the assessable income is Cathedraticum. This is what is used to provide operational support for the Diocese. The assessment in our Diocese is one of the lowest in the country. What we receive in assessments that the Diocese collects is not alone sufficient to sustain Diocesan operations. The 3 percent is returned to parishes in need, such as mission parishes or parishes that have difficulty covering parish operations through their collections. The assessment is also used to support Catholic Charities West Virginia and Catholic Education.

DEDUCTIONS

2

Just like with taxes, there are deductions referenced above. Under the current structure, parishes are able to maximize their offertory income by taking advantage of the following deductions:

- The first \$100,000 of offertory and memorial contributions are exempt from the 3% and 6% assessments.
- The first \$150,000 of parish support given to the school is deducted from assessable income.

YOUR OFFERTORY DONATION



- The first \$50,000 of parish support given to a Catholic high school is deducted from assessable income.
- The first \$100,000 of total bequests received in a calendar year are exempt.
- The first \$750,000 of principal and interest paid on a DWC or bank loan is deducted from assessable income.
- The first \$25,000 of parish support given to its daycare facility is deducted from assessable income.
- Approved capital campaign donations are exempt from assessment.

These deductions, which total more than \$1 million, are a great benefit to parishes as they reduce the amount parishes are assessed and increase the resources available for parish needs.

HOW IT IS SPENT

3

Cathedraticum is given right back to parishes. Currently, only about 75% of parishes across the Diocese are able to pay Cathedraticum. As noted in the recently released audit report, the Diocese collected \$410,451 in Cathedraticum for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024. The receipts from cathedraticum combined with Diocesan Funds subsidized parishes and schools at an expense of \$5,710,519. None of the Cathedraticum collected by the Diocese is used to fund Chancery operations. Cathedraticum is also not used to pay legal fees or settlements.

2ND COLLECTIONS

4

Second collections are not assessed. These funds are collected for specific agencies outside the Diocese and the parish. Unless conducted by the parish for debt reduction, building funds, etc., the second collection is strictly a pass through the funds are not retained by the parish or the Diocese, but forwarded to the appropriate agency.

SCHOOLS

5

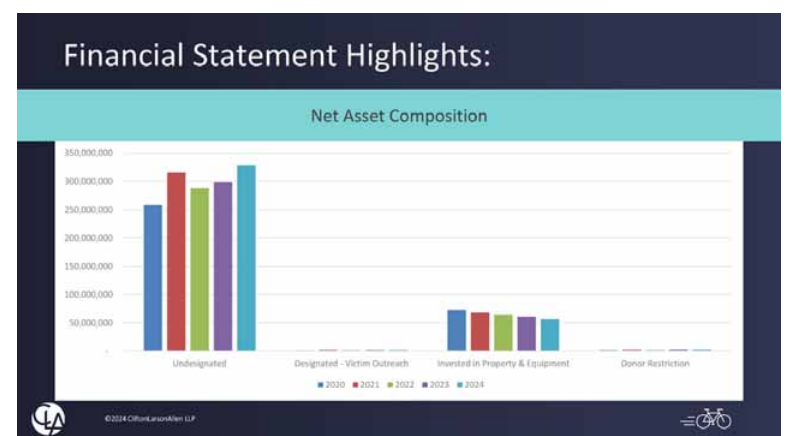
School funds and fundraisers are NOT assessed by the Diocese. Tuition payments, donations to schools and school fundraising revenues are not assessed by the Diocese in any form. Any Catholic Schools donation goes directly to the school and is used solely by the school for the benefit of students.

To review the
Independent Auditors' Report,
Audited Financial Statements,
and Notes to
Financial Statements
please visit
www.dwc.org

Statements of Financial Position - June 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 5,290,843	\$ 4,217,759
Investments		
Securities, at Fair Value	288,671,319	264,699,898
Mineral Rights, at Fair Value	52,118,000	52,362,000
Total Investments	340,789,319	317,061,898
Receivables, Net of Allowances for Uncollectible Amounts		
Mineral Rights	1,569,857	1,740,858
Investment Income	658,023	537,769
Procees from Sale of Securities	--	88,770
Promised to Give and Bequests	612,965	987,538
Accounts	250,298	227,175
Premiums, Reimbursements, and Assessment	10,403,513	10,288,453
Notes Receivable	32,292,404	38,278,560
Total gross receivables	45,787,060	52,149,123
Less: allownace for current expected credit loss	(29,777,427)	(33,412,663)
Receivables, net of allowance	16,009,633	18,736,460
Prepaid Expenses and Other	429,049	477,097
Property, Buildings, and Equipment Net of Accumalated Depreciation	56,751,012	61,077,973
Interest in Net Assets of Diocesan Real Estate, Inc	26,845,047	27,621,013
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	1,090,688	1,027,979
Total Assets	447,205,591	430,220,179
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	2,425,097	3,009,797
Payable for Securities Purchased	--	81,001
Catholic Sharing Appeal Grants Payable	351,698	287,927
Amounts Payable for Collections to Other Organizations	68,731	135,946
Promise to Give Payable	50,000	1,125,000
Deferred Revenue	685,368	604,573
Certificates of Deposit Payable	34,638,520	37,271,057
Lines of Credit Payable	19,589,166	23,347,792
Total Liabilities	57,808,580	65,863,093
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	328,514,477	299,171,170
Designated - Victim Outreach	1,806,683	1,681,306
Invested in Property and Equipment	56,751,012	61,007,137
Total Without Donor Restrictions	387,072,172	361,859,613
With Donor Restrictions	2,324,839	2,497,473
Total Net Assets	389,397,011	364,357,086
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 447,205,591	\$ 430,220,179

Statements of Financial Position
is represented in the following graphs



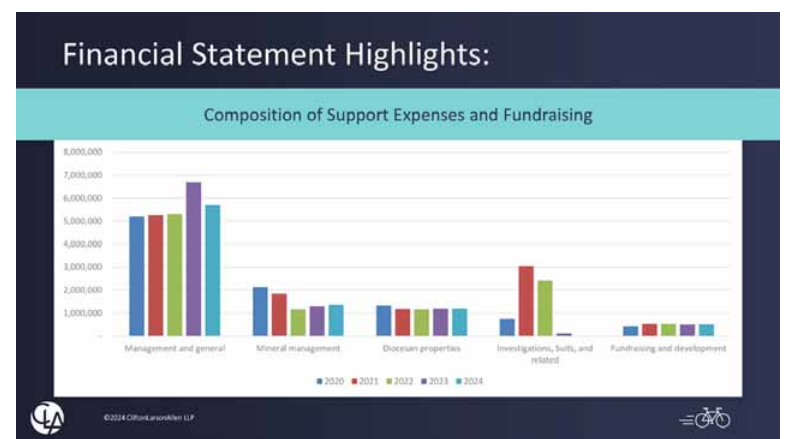
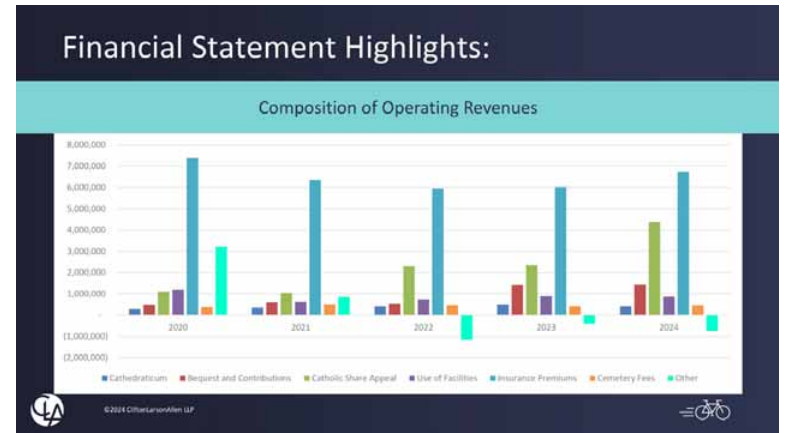
Entire audit with footnotes
can be viewed online at
www.dwc.org

Statements of Activities - June 30, 2024 and 2023

* Does Not Reflect Donor Restrictions

	<u>2024 Totals</u>	<u>2023 Totals</u>
Revenues		
Cathedraticum	\$ 410,451	\$ 485,839
Bequests and Contributions	1,432,716	1,411,682
Catholic Sharing Appeal	4,364,796	2,349,780
Use of Facilities	861,706	889,158
Insurance Premiums	6,732,107	6,013,152
Cemetery Fees	451,738	414,280
Gain (loss) on Disposal of Assets	(244,962)	157,326
Gain (loss) of Diocesan Real Estate, Inc	(775,966)	(782,975)
Other Income	273,821	214,873
Total Revenues	<u>13,506,407</u>	<u>11,153,115</u>
Income from investments		
Investment Income, Net	35,448,183	28,363,440
Mineral Rights Royalties and Lease Bonus Revenue, Net	15,572,557	16,751,530
Unrealized Loss on Oil and Gas Properties	(244,000)	(12,586,000)
Total Income from Investments	<u>50,776,740</u>	<u>32,528,970</u>
Total Revenues and Income from Investments	<u>64,283,147</u>	<u>43,682,085</u>
Expenses		
Program Services		
Insurance Programs	10,499,434	8,591,406
Parish and School Deposit and Loan Program	112,945	(576,455)
Pastoral Centers	1,459,615	1,570,837
Parish and School Subsidies	5,710,519	4,641,966
Parish Catholic Sharing Appeal Grants	3,406,277	1,427,039
Vocations and Seminarians	1,457,269	1,251,773
Catholic Charities Subsidy	1,485,085	1,424,867
Evangelization and Education	3,331,907	3,208,149
Communications and Technology	1,446,560	1,382,398
Mt Calvary Cemetery	843,041	794,631
Outside Entity Support	702,128	750,999
Wheeling University	0	553,194
Total Program Services Expense	<u>30,454,780</u>	<u>25,020,804</u>
Support Services		
Management and General	\$ 5,694,875	\$ 6,702,948
Mineral Management	1,375,147	1,300,263
Diocesan Properties	1,194,269	1,190,480
Investigations, Suits, and Related	--	124,532
Fundraising and Development	524,151	517,736
Total Supporting Services Expense	<u>8,788,442</u>	<u>9,835,959</u>
Total Expenses	<u>39,243,222</u>	<u>34,856,763</u>
Change in Net Assets	25,039,925	8,825,322
Net Assets, June 30, 2023		\$ 364,357,086
Net Assets, June 30, 2024	<u>\$ 389,397,011</u>	

Statements of Activities is represented in the following graphs



Entire audit with footnotes can be viewed online at www.dwc.org

Catholic-Owned Joan + Joe Coffee Opens in Morgantown at WVU's Newman Center

MORGANTOWN—Around the corner of Newman Hall and down a few steps, an unassuming door opens to an astonishingly beautiful café where fresh croissants are baking, coffee is brewing, and people are enjoying a brand new experience in Morgantown.

Joan + Joe Coffee, a Catholic-owned coffee shop named for the owner's patron Saints, is now open and full of life, directly under the student lounge and easily accessible to the thirsting souls of Morgantown and beyond.

"Our mission is to treat everyone who walks through the door like they are the most important person in the world," says owner Veron Ennis, wife of business partner and husband Duncan Ennis. "We make the greatest effort to provide the best products, coziest spaces, cleanest kitchens, most cheerful staff, and overall best experience for every person. We live our faith through the loving service we give our customers and staff." In fact, Joan + Joe has been voted "Best Coffee Shop" in the state of West Virginia in *WV Living Magazine* two years in a row.

Joan + Joe specializes in cold brew and is presumably the only coffee shop serving cold brew hot. When a cup of steaming, hot coffee is ordered, known as "The Joe," organic cold brew is promptly heated to temperature in their custom, beautifully designed and double-walled to-go cup, a lid is carefully placed on the cup facing just the right direction, a sleek black stopper is inserted into the steaming opening, and a single, shining chocolate covered espresso bean is placed on the lid and handed to the next delighted customer. Cold brew is known to be less acidic than hot-brewed coffee, resulting in a brew that is less bitter and easier on those looking for less acid in their diet. Joan + Joe cold brew is also available by the half-gallon and even the gallon in refillable glass growlers. A customer invests in the glass then turns in their used glass for a refill, grabbing a freshly filled growler from a

convenient display refrigerator near the register. The take-home brew can be heated in an electric kettle or in the microwave for a quick and easy cup of Joe.

Brewing small-batch cold brew began in 2019 for Duncan and Veron when St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town hosted a concert outside. The Ennis' son, Liam, wanted to attend and Duncan and Veron didn't particularly want to be at the concert the entire time without a cold brew in hand, so they decided it would be a fun marriage project to put together a cold brew company for the concert and have a booth selling delicious coffee. Always looking to go the distance, Veron came up with the name, designed a logo, created a menu, and set up a cozy booth for the show. Duncan and Veron owe the cold brew recipe to God, they say. Their first batch was perfect and is still the recipe they use today. When it was clear that people loved it, they participated in another church event and asked if they could sell it outside the church during CCD. This was a fun and encouraging time for them as friends started picking up boxes of cold brew to take home.

It all came to a halt when COVID hit. Parish doors were closed, and their hearts were broken, but a young woman, Grace Peiffer, asked if she could sell their coffee with donuts to raise money for the Young Adult's Georgio Frassati mosaic. Grace had a solid, no-contact plan for parishioners to order the coffee and donuts, pull around the circle in front of the parish, and the young adults would place the order in their trunks, complete with masks and gloves. Longing faces would wave with teary eyes and big smiles through closed windows, desperate to enjoy human connection. It was a lifeline.

When things started to open back up, the journey continued when Duncan and Veron were graciously allowed to continue selling their coffee at St. James to their growing number of customers through St. Isidore's Market,



Courtesy photo

Customers order at Joan + Joe Coffee at WVU's Newman Center in Morgantown.

the community market that Grace continued after raising the money for the mosaic. A little yellow house went for sale down the street from the church. Duncan and Veron considered opening a take-out coffee shop. Still, they hesitated because it would mean Duncan would leave working for St. James, especially with Deacon Dave Galvin, who is close to their hearts. After praying the St. Andrew Novena, the answer was clear, and they decided to put together what was needed to borrow money to start their business.

Miracle after miracle brought them together with Rob and Laura Mead of Fairfax, Virginia. Veron delivered coffee they had ordered to their house one evening and spoke casually about their plans to try and purchase the little yellow house. Rob, interested in business, asked to look at her projection sheets. Veron left that evening without a thought, and Rob and Laura sent her a message on her drive home saying they'd like to buy the house and invest in Joan + Joe Coffee. They've become a close team of faithful, driven, and joyful Catholics, on a mission to serve the public the best coffee there is...coffee served with the love of Christ.

Cue Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the diocese and pastor of St. John University Parish. Father Crenwelge could see the good pouring out of Joan + Joe Coffee and approached Veron and Duncan about opening their second location at the Newman Center. The fruit that Joan + Joe was bearing in Charles Town, not only in the community they were serving but particularly in the staff they were hiring, made it clear that it was a perfect fit for the Newman Center. Already employing 13 people at their new café, primarily students, Joan + Joe provides a sanctuary for people to work and engage with their community. The ambiance, attitude, and high-standard practices encourage excellence out of love for your neighbor, giving the staff an experience they can take anywhere and improve the world by being the light of the world.

Joan + Joe's serves breakfast and lunch sandwiches all day, as well as a wide array of specially crafted beverages and gourmet baked goods. They are thrilled to serve Morgantown at their new location and look forward to meeting every person who walks through the door.

Mansuetto
Roofing & Sheet Metal

N.F. Mansuetto & Sons, Inc.
Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors

Serving West Virginia, the Ohio Valley and the Catholic Community
Since 1945
Three Generations of Family Management
116 Wood Street
Martins Ferry OH 43935
740-633-7320

MILLS GROUP
ARCHITECTURE ■ PLANNING ■ PRESERVATION

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON'S PARISHES
AND SCHOOLS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

DWC PARISHIONERS VICTOR GRECO, JULIE DOERR AND ALEXIS BEHRENS

VISIT US @ MILLSGROUPONLINE.COM

Marshall Newman Center Seeks to Evangelize Through FOCUS

By Daniel Long, Campus Minister at the Marshall Catholic Newman Center in Huntington

HUNTINGTON — Evangelization is very important in the Christian life. The mandate of Christ to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” extends to all of us. For me, being a campus minister who serves a university of over 12,000 students, this task of evangelization can be very daunting,

We have been given the great opportunity to bring in 4 FOCUS missionaries (2 young men and 2 young women who have graduated college themselves) who would help me, the campus minister, in bringing the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith to more students on Campus. If you were wondering, FOCUS stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Stu-

dents.

I am so happy to say that we currently have a thriving community already at the Newman Center, and it keeps growing! Our community consists of Catholics, non-Catholics, and those who are considering becoming Catholic. We act as a home away from home for students, a place where they can find community, and somewhere that their faith will be fostered.

The sad reality is that so many students are at risk of losing their faith in college, and there are more students we have not yet reached. According to an article from the National Catholic Register titled “College Students’ Lifeline to Faith; “An estimated 80% of Catholic college students will stop practicing their faith”.

This is why what we do at the Newman Center is so important; to

be that light in an environment that is not always conducive to a fruitful and lively faith. Though, there is a bright side to this, because according to the same article; “Roughly 70% of Catholic students remain loosely connected to their faith and are responsive to outreach from Catholic campus-ministry centers, often known as Newman Centers”.

If students are still roughly connected to their faith, this would mean they will be more open to coming back to the regular practice of their faith. This is where we come in! If we have more feet on the ground intentionally evangelizing, this will mean we have a better shot of helping Jesus bring back his strayed sheep.

I am also very happy to say that we have been given a \$36,000 matching grant so every donation

we receive is automatically doubled! So far, taking into consideration the matching grant, we have raised \$41,909.74 towards our \$72,000 goal. The \$72,000 is the portion we are asked to contribute in addition to what FOCUS themselves contribute.

If you are able, I ask that you help support us in this very important mission. We have multiple ways you can donate if you decide you are able. You can make out a check for Marshall FOCUS and then send it to the Marshall Catholic Newman Center at 1609 5th Ave, Huntington, WV 25703. We also have a secure PayPal link on our website at marshallcatholic.com if you would prefer to donate online. Finally, I’m grateful to say that we have the full support of the Bishop in this mission. God Bless.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Spring 2025 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, March 8: St. Agnes, Charleston; 5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 4: St. Augustine, Grafton; 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 28: St. John University, Morgantown; 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30: Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 4: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, and St. Stephen, Ona, at Our Lady of Fatima; 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6: St. Joseph, Huntington; 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 11: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling; 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 11: St. Mary, Star City; 4:00 p.m.

Monday, May 12: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: St. Michael, Vienna; 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 16: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 17: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 17: St. Leo, Inwood; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville; 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 18: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 22: St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 25: St. Paul, Weirton; 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28: St. Patrick, Weston; 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31: Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby; 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 1: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake; 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.

All Saints Healthcare Ministry to Host Events on Alzheimer’s Disease and Caregiving

BRIDGEPORT — All Saints Parish in Bridgeport will host two informational events in March on caregiving and Alzheimer’s disease.

“Introduction to Alzheimer’s,” an awareness program presented by the Alzheimer’s Association will be held on Monday, March 17, from 4-5 p.m.

Alzheimer’s is not normal aging, program officials stressed.

“It’s a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior,” they said.

The speaker for the event will be Teresa Morris, MA, SLP WV Alzheimer’s Association. Participants will learn about: The impact of Alzheimer’s, the difference between Alzheimer’s and dementia, Alzheimer’s disease stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available to address some symptoms, and

Alzheimer’s Association resources.

The second event at All Saints will be “Understanding the Care in Caregiving” March 19 at 6 p.m. Participants will learn about: caregiving resources, community support, caring for yourself as caregiver, making tough choices, and spiritual care.

The event will be presented by the WVU Medicine Hospice Team: Devany Yearsley, volunteer coordinator; Kim Ford, MSW; Jodi Muller, MSW; and Todd Syruws, BS, pastoral services, spiritual coordinator.

Both events will be hosted by the All Saints Healthcare Ministry and will be held at the church located 317 W. Main Street, Bridgeport. Call (304) 842-2283 for more information.



LEWIS GIANOLA PLLC

**Webster J. Arceneaux • Matthew R. Bowles • James A. Gianola
John F. Gianola • Sandra H. Kinney • Mark A. Sadd**

Charleston | Morgantown
A West Virginia law firm www.lewisgianola.com

Pope Marks Ash Wednesday in Hospital, Receiving Ashes, Eucharist

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis marked Ash Wednesday on his 20th day in Rome's Gemelli hospital by taking part in the rite of the blessing of the ashes and receiving them in a short prayer service, the Vatican said.

While the 88-year-old pope's overall clinical case remained complex, his condition was "stable" and he did not experience any episodes of "respiratory insufficiency," the Vatican said in its evening medical bulletin March 5.

The pope received ashes and the Eucharist in the morning from a celebrant, who was not named in the bulletin. It was most likely one of the hospital chaplains, a Vatican source said.

The rite was held in the private suite of rooms on the 10th floor of the hospital where the pope has been receiving treatment for double pneumonia and other respiratory ailments, the Vatican said.

The pope was diagnosed with double pneumonia Feb. 18 after being admitted to the hospital Feb. 14 for breathing difficulties. A Vatican source said the pneumonia is following a "normal evolution" that is expected to be seen in someone receiving treatment. Each case is different and "patience is needed" because the illness "does not disappear in one day," the source said.

The pope is "in a good mood" and cooperative, the source added.

Pope Francis spent March 5 sitting in an armchair and increased the amount of "respiratory physiotherapy" he has been getting, which often consists of breathing exercises, as well as physiotherapy, the bulletin said. A source said a physiotherapist is working with him to help prevent any of the usual consequences that arise when a person has limited opportunities for movement while hospitalized.

"As scheduled, the pope receives high-flow oxygen" through a nasal

cannula during the day, the bulletin said, and, at night, he wears a mask covering his nose and mouth for "noninvasive mechanical ventilation."

Although the pope no longer needed oxygen through a breathing mask during the day March 4 and 5, a Vatican source has said mechanical ventilation is used at night so he can sleep better.

Also March 5 he telephoned Father Gabriel Romanelli, parish priest of Holy Family Church in Gaza, which, the source said, indicates the pope is able to talk. The pope spent the afternoon alternating between working and resting, the bulletin said.

Because of the continued complexity of his case, his doctors continue to hold that his "prognosis remains guarded."

The Vatican had said in the morning that the pope had rested well overnight and had woken up a bit after 8 a.m. It was the first time doctors had communicated the waking time of

the pope, whose normal schedule had been waking as early as 4 or 5 a.m. for prayer and reflection.

Pope Francis had suffered "two episodes of acute respiratory insufficiency" March 3, which occurs when the lungs are unable to effectively take in sufficient oxygen or expel enough carbon dioxide to meet the body's needs.

Those crises led doctors to put the pope back on "noninvasive mechanical ventilation" — a treatment that delivers air with added oxygen through a tightly fitted face mask and using positive pressure to assist breathing. He also underwent two bronchoscopies that day but "remained alert, oriented and cooperative at all times," the Vatican said.

Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a church court, led the traditional Ash Wednesday celebration that usually is presided over by the pope. The celebration March 5 began with a penitential procession from the Benedic-

tine monastery of St. Anselm on Rome's Aventine Hill and to the Dominican-run Basilica of Santa Sabina, followed by Mass and the distribution of ashes.

The cardinal read the homily prepared by Pope Francis, however, he prefaced his reading by saying, "We are deeply united" with the pope, and "we thank him for offering his prayer and his sufferings for the good of the whole church and the entire world."

The Vatican also announced that the pope would not be present for the March 8-9 Jubilee for Volunteers, and that the Mass March 9 would be presided over by Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. About 25,000 people from more than 100 countries were expected to attend.

Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for Saints' Causes, was scheduled to lead the nightly recitation of the rosary for Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square March 5.



MJT

MICHAEL J. TUPTA, D.D.S.

Dentistry That Makes You Smile

1701 Oakhurst Drive
Charleston, WV 25314
304-744-4150

MyDentistInCharleston.com

Accepting New Patients

Singing through the Seasons:

Music for the Easter Season, Ordinary Time, funerals and the Psalms

FREE for those involved in music ministry (music & choir directors, cantors, choir members, music teachers, etc.) in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



Tuesday, March 25 at 6:00 PM

Blessed Sacrament Parish

South Charleston



Conducted by David Anderson, nationally-known presenter and Editor at Large for GIA publications

To Reserve Your Spot Today:

Please email bkime@dwc.org or

call 304-230-1558



Sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



David Anderson also serves as Organist and Director of Pastoral Music and Liturgy at Ascension and St. Edmund Parish in Oak Park, Illinois where he conducts three parish choirs of various sizes and age groups. David completed a Master of Church Music at Concordia University, and a Master of Liturgy and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union, both in Chicago. In 2024, he received the Doctor of Pastoral Music degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Catholic International,
Joy from The Truth

100% Online

Catholic International partners with our diocese to offer free continuing education courses for catechists and those involved in parish ministry.

Start Today!



Use the access code:
CDU20DIOCESEWC
when setting up your account to receive your free tuition!
<https://catholicicu.edu/continuingeducation/>



Mary: The Perfect Lenten Companion

By Robert Fastiggi, OSV News

The season of Lent directs us to recall our own baptism and prepare for the celebration of the paschal mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and it helps us grow closer to Jesus.

In celebrating Lent and in every season of the liturgical year, it is good to recall the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, that the “Church honors with special love the Blessed Mary, Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son.”

“In her,” the council fathers wrote, “the Church holds up and admires the most excellent fruit of the redemption, and joyfully contemplates, as in a faultless image that which she herself desires and hopes wholly to be” (“Sacrosanctum Concilium,” No. 103).

Mary is the perfect companion for Lent, and Lent is a perfect time to deepen our love, knowledge and veneration of the Mother of God. Lent is also a season of conversion, and here, too, we receive great help from Mary who, as the Mother of Mercy, points us to her divine Son, Jesus Christ, who came into the world to reconcile sinners to himself (cf. Lk 5:31-32).

In his general audience on Ash Wednesday in 2014, Pope Francis highlighted the special protection and help of the Blessed Virgin for the journey of Lent: “On this journey, we want to invoke with special trust the protection and help of the Virgin Mary: May she, who was the first to believe in Christ, accompany us in our days of intense prayer and penance, so that we might come to celebrate, purified and renewed in spirit, the great paschal mystery of her Son.”

These words of Pope Francis help us to appreciate one reason why Mary is the perfect companion for Lent: She is the model of the perfect disciple because she entrusted herself completely to God.

At the Annunciation, Mary tells the angel: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). In 1974, Pope Paul VI taught that Mary is “worthy of imitation because she was the first and the most perfect of Christ’s disciples” (“Marialis Cultus,” No. 35).

In his Angelus address for the second Sunday of Lent in 2006, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted Mary as the model of believers who listen attentively to God: “The Virgin Mary herself, among all human creatures the closest to God, still had to walk day after day in a pilgrimage of faith, constantly guarding and meditating on in her heart the Word that God addressed to her through holy Scripture and through the events of the life of her Son, in whom she recognized and welcomed the Lord’s mysterious



OSV News photo by Nick Crettier, courtesy the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Virgin Mary and Christ Child are depicted in the icon of the Theotokos — or Mother of God — from the Byzantine-Ruthenian chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

voice. And so, this is the gift and duty for each one of us during the season of Lent: to listen to Christ, like Mary. To listen to him in his Word, contained in Sacred Scripture. To listen to him in the events of our lives, seeking to decipher in them the messages of Providence.”

At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary told the servers: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). In a similar way, Mary directs us all to be faithful to Christ, her divine Son. If we wish to draw closer to Christ during Lent, there is no better way than by entrusting ourselves to Mary, our spiritual mother.

As our spiritual Mother, Mary not only leads us to Christ, but she also protects and guides us from sin. Lent is a perfect time to renew our devotion to Mary as our spiritual mother who cares for us in the midst of challenges and difficulties.

One of the oldest known prayers to Mary is known as the “Sub Tuum Praesidium” (“Under Thy Protection”), which goes back to the third or fourth century. One translation of it reads: “We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.”

Because Lent is a time to turn away from sin, it is also an ideal time to recognize the gift that Our Lord himself gave us, giving us his own mother as our mother while he was dying on the

cross (Jn 19:25-27). Pope St. John Paul II recognized that Jesus gave Mary as mother not only to the beloved disciple but to all of the faithful.

Mary’s spiritual motherhood is the basis for the “Marian dimension” of the life of each of the disciples of Christ. John Paul II wrote in 1987: “The Marian dimension of the life of a disciple of Christ is expressed in a special way precisely through this filial entrusting to the Mother of Christ, which began with the testament of the Redeemer on Golgotha. Entrusting himself to Mary in a filial manner, the Christian, like the Apostle John, ‘welcomes’ the Mother of Christ ‘into his own home’ and brings her into everything that makes up his inner life” (“Redemptoris Mater,” No. 45).

Lent is a time to deepen our prayer life, and Mary provides the best example of prayer in her canticle, known as the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). This canticle expresses the attitudes of praise, gratitude and humility that are at the heart of all authentic prayer to God. St. Paul VI speaks of Mary as “the virgin in prayer” who “praises the Lord unceasingly and intercedes for the salvation of the world” (“Marialis Cultus,” No. 18). As our spiritual mother, Mary not only teaches us how to pray, but she prays for us “now and at the hour of our death.”

In the Gospel of Luke, Simeon told Mary that her heart would be pierced so that “the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed” (Lk 2:35). This prophecy was fulfilled during Christ’s passion when Mary stood beneath the cross witnessing her Son’s crucifixion (Jn 19:25-27). Vatican II tells us that Mary “faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross, where she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, grieving exceedingly with

her only begotten Son, uniting herself with a maternal heart with His sacrifice, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this Victim which she herself had brought forth” (“Lumen Gentium,” No. 58).

Lent, along with the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15, is also a special time for venerating Mary as our sorrowful mother. This is done in the Stations of the Cross, which often includes the singing of parts of the medieval hymn the “Stabat Mater,” whose most memorable verses are: “At the cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother weeping, Close to Jesus to the last. Through her heart, his sorrow sharing, All his bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword had pass’d. Oh, how sad and sore distress’d. Was that mother highly blest, Of the sole-begotten One!”

Because Lent points to Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows assumes particular importance. But even under the cross, Mary remains a teacher and a model. She shows how all of the faithful, like her, can unite their sufferings to the passion of Christ for the redemption of the world.

Mary’s “unique contribution to the Gospel of suffering” (described by St. John Paul II in “Salvific Doloris”) shows us that suffering is not meaningless. Lent is a special time to remember the sorrows of Mary and to join ourselves to her in offering her divine Son “in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world” (Chaplet of Divine Mercy).

There is no better companion for the journey of Lent than Mary. As she leads us closer to Jesus, she will serve — as we pray in the “Salve Regina” — “our life, our sweetness, and our hope.”

Walk Alongside the Sorrowful Mother

While the Stations of the Cross are well known, there is the parallel pious exercise known as the “Via Matris” or “way of Mary.”

This devotion centers on the seven sorrows (or dolors) of Mary, which have a sure Scriptural foundation: 1. The prophecy of Simeon (Lk 2:34-35); 2. The flight into Egypt (Mt 2:13); 3. The loss of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:43-45); 4. The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary (Lk 23:27); 5. The crucifixion of Jesus (Jn 19:25); 6. The descent of Jesus from the cross (Mt 27: 57-59); and 7. The burial of Jesus (Jn 19: 40-42).

The Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2002, states that the “Via Matris” harmonizes well “with certain themes that are proper to the Lenten season.” It also notes that the Via Matris provides “stages on the journey of faith and sorrow on which the Virgin Mary has preceded the Church, and in which the Church journeys until the end of time.”

(Robert Fastiggi, Ph.D., is a professor of systematic theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. He is former president of the Mariological Society of America.)



El Obispo Brennan celebra la misa en Moorefield

Foto de cortesía

El obispo Mark Brennan celebró la misa en español el día 15 de febrero en la parroquia de la Epifanía del Señor en la ciudad de Moorefield. En la foto aparece el Obispo y el padre Jose Manuel Escalante, vicario de la parroquia, junto a los feligreses.

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 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.

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 eclesásticas 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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. 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, 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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, 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.

Employment Opportunities

Finance Director

Central Catholic High School, a Catholic co-educational college preparatory Catholic high school in Wheeling, W.Va., is accepting applications for the administrative position of Finance Director. Job Type: Full-time, 12 month employee.

Qualifications: Central Catholic High School is seeking an experienced and dynamic Finance Director who is responsible for the daily management of financial and administrative functions. This position involves overseeing all financial aspects of the school including accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, reconciliations, and financial reporting. The Finance Director will also be the liaison to the Diocesan Human Resource Office, ensuring the school follows best practices in hiring, onboarding, compensation, benefits, policy implementation, conflict resolution, corrective action, and compliance with all employment laws and diocesan policies. Additionally, the role involves collaborating with the Principal, Finance Council, and other stakeholders to determine the annual budget, manage benefit programs, and supervise school employees.

The Finance Director is a key contributor to the continuing culture of excellence of Central Catholic High School.

A qualified candidate should have:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree with 3-5 years of comparable experience
- Understanding and ability to uphold the CCHS Catholic school mission.
- General understanding of accounting principles and preparation of financial statements
- Human resources experience preferred
- Exceptional leadership and communication abilities
- Skilled in collaboration
- Comfort with systems in general (QuickBooks, Excel, Word, etc.)
- Excellent analytical, and problem-solving skills
- Ability to meet deadlines and interact collaboratively with both internal and external constituents
- Process confidential and sensitive information with discretion and professionalism

To apply, please forward a cover letter along with a resume to Sarah Petry at spetry@cchsknights.org.

Head Volleyball Coach

Central Catholic High School, a co-educational college preparatory Catholic high school in Wheeling, W.Va., is accepting applications for the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach. CCHS is a member school of the WVSSAC and competes in Class AA and a member school of the OVAC in Class 3A. Job Type: Seasonal. Job Overview: CCHS is looking for a dynamic, knowledgeable coach who will embrace the CCHS mission and values. The Head Volleyball Coach is responsible for the overall vision, strategy and direction of the high school volleyball program. A successful candidate should be able to:


- Lead and manage the girls' volleyball team during the season.
- Develop training programs and strategies to enhance team performance.

- Communicate effectively with students, staff, and parents.
- Foster a positive team culture that promotes commitment and hard work.
- Integrate the school's mission and values into coaching and team management.

Qualifications:

- Previous head high school coaching experience is preferred.
- Must be 21 or older.
- Candidates must complete a background check, Virtus training and currently possess or be able to meet all WVSSAC coaching requirements.

To apply, please forward a resume to Seth Staskey, Athletic Director, at staskey@cchsknights.org. For more information you can contact him at 304-233-6237.


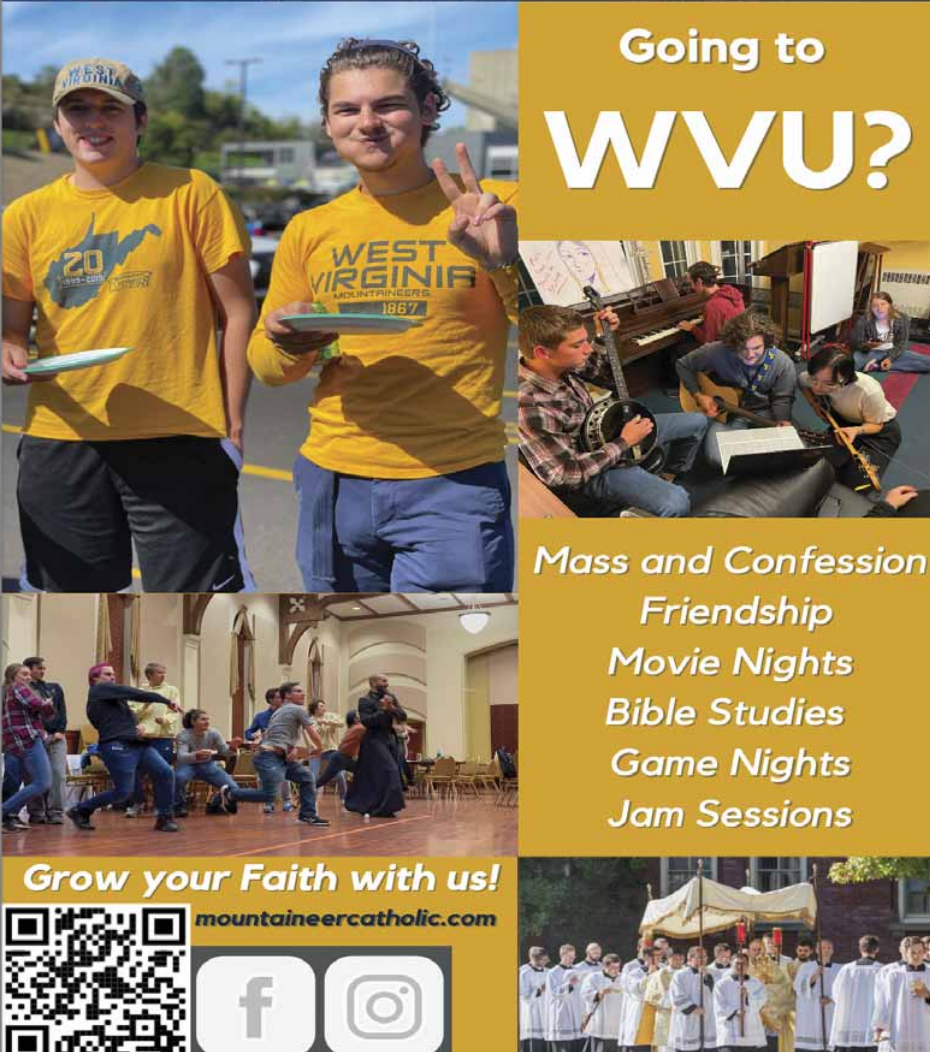


St. John University Parish
Mountaineer Catholic
On the campus of West Virginia University

Going to WVU?

Mass and Confession
Friendship
Movie Nights
Bible Studies
Game Nights
Jam Sessions

Grow your Faith with us!
mountainercatholic.com

Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

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



The higher level of care I need... and everyone is so kind.



Welty
Home for the Aged

304-242-5233
www.weltyhome.org

Ask your doctor to refer you to Good Shepherd for:

- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy



GOOD SHEPHERD 304.242.1093
 NURSING HOME www.weltyhome.org

Foodservice Equipment, Supplies, Disposables, Janitorial and more



1 Fourteenth Street,
 Wheeling, WV 26003
 304-233-2270
 Stop in or call us today!

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

Men today need a band of brothers – other Catholic men to share in that call, who walk together on the journey towards something better.

You are invited to put your **faith in action**

kofc.org/joinus



The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

Become a Knight.

[Click here](#)

Now is the time to Talk!



304.232.5110 | KepnerFuneral.com
 James B. Kepner President | Melissa Hill COIC

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the **WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling** specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
 Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
 Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
 Cardiology

Learn more at: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVU Heart & Vascular Institute