

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## A Lenten Message from Bishop Brennan

Dear faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

We have begun the holy season of Lent with ashes on our foreheads and hope in our hearts. Lent's goal is to prepare us spiritually for the great feast of Easter, when we celebrate the Lord Jesus' resurrection from the dead in which we find our own hope for immortality.

We know from experience how easy it is to succumb to temptations to sin and let our spiritual lives sink into routine or indifference. We need a wake-up call and Lent gives us one. Like the baseball players who brush off the rust of a lethargic winter to get back into shape for the new season, we practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving in Lent to open our veins to God's grace and allow it to transform us into more faithful disciples of Christ.

If you have a habit of daily prayer, keep it up and consider how you might extend it either by spending more time with the Lord or enriching your prayer by meditating on Scripture. If you have not been praying, start now. Give the Lord at least 15 or 20 minutes a day at the time you find most convenient. (For many of us, that time is early in the morning before daily work or study begins.) Just place yourself before God, briefly present to him your concerns and projects of that day, invoke him slowly and repeatedly by saying "Father," "Jesus" or "Spirit", **See "Message" on Page 3**

**First graders Julia Contraguerro (right) and Leah Garrison from St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling are pictured at Ash Wednesday Mass at the parish church Feb. 18.**

Colleen Rowan photo



## Diocese Has Highest Number Entering the Church Since COVID

**By Colleen Rowan**

**WEST VIRGINIA** — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has its highest number of faithful entering the church since the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, there are 210 catechumens and 251 candidates from 55 parishes in West Virginia.

"It is amazing to see all the men, women, and children who have encountered Jesus Christ in the Catholic parishes around the diocese,"

said Bernadette Kime, Ph.D., D.Min., director of Worship and Sacraments for the diocese.

Churches in Morgantown and the Eastern Panhandle have seen the most growth. According to the Worship and Sacraments office, St. John University Parish in Morgantown has 33 coming into the church, the highest total of all parishes in the state. St. John's also has the highest number of candi-

dates—26 this year. St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town is a close second with a total of 31 entering the church, while Morgantown's St. Francis de Sales Parish has 29, and Martinsburg's St. Joseph Parish has 27. These three parishes also had the most catechumens—each with a total of 15.

All catechumens and candidates in the state have been progressing through the OCIA (Order of Chris-

tian Initiation of Adults) process, which Kime said is one of the ways in which the church carries out its mission of evangelization.

"This is truly the work of the Holy Spirit," she said.

In his years as pastor of St. John University Parish, Father Brian Crenwelge has learned that those who are interested in the Catholic Church today "are coming in

**See "Diocese" on Page 3**

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**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child 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](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** 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](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://dhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> 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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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### The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. 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](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org).

**2026 Print Dates:**

- The Annunciation of the Lord, March 13 (Solemnity, March 25)
- Easter, April 10 (Easter Sunday, April 5)
- Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 15
- Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 12
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
- Triumph of the Cross, September 11
- Month of the Rosary, October 9
- Advent, November 20
- Christmas, December 18

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## Message ...

### Cont'd from Page 1

and then be quiet. God's Spirit in you will do the rest.

As for fasting, Pope St. Gregory the Great said, "The principal fasting in Lent is fasting from sin." Reflecting this understanding, Pope Leo XIV in his Lenten message for 2026 urges us to "refrain from words that offend and hurt our neighbor:" harsh words, slander, rash judgments and speaking ill of others when they cannot defend themselves. Bodily fasting is useful, not as an end in itself – a Lenten fast is not for the purpose of losing weight! – but for curbing our desires for the things of this world and moving us to *hunger and thirst for righteous-*

*ness* [Matthew 6:6]. Pope St. Leo I said: "What we forego by fasting is to be given as alms to the poor," underscoring our responsibility in charity to share what we have with those in need.

Almsgiving may take many forms. Giving money to a poor family to help them buy groceries or to a pantry which offers them a bag of food is one form but so is tutoring a child struggling with math or reading, visiting or calling a sick neighbor or relative or befriending an immigrant afraid of being separated from his or her spouse and children. The heart of almsgiving is overcoming self-concern in order to do good to others. *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you* [Matthew 7:12].

If these counsels for keeping a good Lent

sound familiar, they are from the Lord's words in the Gospel we heard on Ash Wednesday. Jesus himself gives us the way to make our Lent fruitful in holiness and good works. Commit now, if you have not already done so, to give your soul a vigorous workout in the gymnasium of Lent so that you will be in good shape when Easter comes. Then you, with the newly baptized and confirmed, will rejoice in the power of God's love to make his divine life pulsate more vibrantly in you.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

## Diocese ...

### Cont'd from Page 1

because they see how messed up the secular culture is. They want truth. Even the teachings of the faith on same-sex marriage, abortion, and contraception—they soak it up because they see the need for a moral authority. We should never be afraid to be authentically Catholic."

Catechumens and candidates are now preparing for the Rite of Election which begins this weekend in Charleston. Bishop Mark Brennan will preside over three services: on Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston at 3 p.m.; Satur-

day, Feb. 28, at St. Leo Church in Inwood at 11 a.m.; and Sunday, March 1, at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling at 3 p.m.

At each service, catechumens and candidates move closer to full communion with the Catholic Church. In the Celebration of Election, catechumens are called by name and stand with their godparents. After affirmation from godparents and the assembly, the bishop says the Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their judgment and calls the catechumens to the Easter sacraments. They will affirm their intent to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist and the

bishop will invite them to come forward and offer their names for enrollment by signing the Book of the Elect.

The Call to Continuing Conversion follows with the names of the candidates from each parish announced. They will stand with their sponsors who, with the assembly, will affirm them. The bishop will say that the church rec-

ognizes their desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table.

Their journey will culminate at the Easter Vigil as they receive the sacraments — baptism, first Communion, and confirmation for the elect and first Communion and confirmation for candidates — at their parish churches.

## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father Shinto Mathew** was elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective December 31, 2025. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. John Parish in St. Marys, Christ Our Hope Mission in Harrisville, and St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro.

**Father Martin Smay** was elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective December 31, 2025. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington.

**Father James Conyers** was elected to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective December 31, 2025.

**Father Penumaka Manikyalarao** was appointed director of the Mission Office and director of the Propagation of the Faith, effective immediately, for a period of three years. This is in addition to his current assignment as rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling.

**Deacon Clifton Troy Mastran** was appointed deacon at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg, effective February 4, 2026.



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# On World Day of the Sick, Bishop Brennan Encourages Those Suffering to Turn to the Blessed Mother

By Colleen Rowan

In his celebration of Mass on World Day of the Sick, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Bishop Mark Brennan encouraged all to turn to the Blessed Mother in their suffering and time of need.

"Mary is declared rightly the Mother of the Church and our spiritual mother," the bishop said in his homily for the Mass at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling. "So, we can go to her for help."

Our Lady has shown over and over, the bishop said, that she will intercede for us.

In welcoming all at the beginning of the Mass, Bishop Brennan said it was a joy to be there to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, "A wonderful tradition in our church remembering how our Blessed Mother has a tender heart for all of her son's disciples ... and, in a special way, those who are sick..."

The bishop shared in his homily that, in 2007, he visited the Sanctuary of Lourdes in France, where numerous healing miracles have occurred and millions of pilgrims have visited since Our Lady's 18 apparitions to St. Bernadette there which began in 1858.

"What we see in this is the wonderful, maternal care of our Blessed Mother for all of us," the bishop said. "... she intercedes for us. Miracles do happen at



Colleen Rowan photo  
A statue of Our Lady stands at St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling at Mass on World Day of the Sick, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11.

her intercession."

St. John Paul II established World Day of the Sick in 1992 to coincide with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to raise awareness of illness, encourage

prayer, and invite Catholics to unite their suffering with Christ. The Feb. 11 celebration in Wheeling gathered area faithful who wished to receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Before the Mass began, Bishop Brennan and members of St. Alphonsus and the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling led all in praying the rosary.

During the Mass, the congregation prayed for all those who are sick and suffering as well as those who care for them.

Following the bishop's homily, the faithful processed to the altar to receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick from Bishop Brennan and Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, rector of the cathedral and pastor of St. Alphonsus. For those who were unable to come forward, Father Manikyalarao came to their pews to anoint them.

The sacrament is celebrated when a Christian's health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age, as stated in the worship aid for the Mass. "Through the anointing with the blessed oil of the sick, the Church supports those who struggle against illness or injury



Colleen Rowan photo  
Bishop Mark Brennan, right, and Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph and pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling, left, administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick at St. Alphonsus Church on World Day of the Sick, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11. Assisting is Tyler Greenwood, pastoral associate for the parishes, center.

and continues the healing work of Christ," stated in the worship aid for the Mass. "The anointing is intended to bring hope and comfort to those anointed

and, to the gathered assembly of family and friends, a spirit of support and sharing in the sufferings of their brothers and sisters."

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OSV News photo/Bob Roller  
A painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is pictured. The U.S. bishops voted during their fall plenary assembly to consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart for the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. The consecration will be on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As the U.S. prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has encouraged Catholics to participate in initiatives including a collective 250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy.

To celebrate the occasion, "America 250," the initiatives encourage prayer for the unity and healing of the U.S., according to a resource guide the USCCB has published. The conference previously said the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June.

In his encyclical "Dilexit Nos," Pope Francis "instructs us to 'nourish our lives with the strength of the Eucharist' in Holy Communion and Adoration, so that we might understand Christ's love for all more deeply and live out this love ourselves," the guide stated. "Our contemplation of the Sacred Heart leads us deeper into the mystery of our salvation and deeper into our love for Christ found in the faces of our sisters and brothers — especially those most in need."

## USCCB Calls for Adoration Hours, Works of Mercy to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary

The guide said parishes can participate in 250 Hours of Adoration by offering a Holy Hour on a weekly or monthly basis leading up to the nation's July 4 anniversary. It noted that this could include continuing current practices or inviting new people to join. It suggested similar efforts to carry out 250 Works of Mercy.

It includes resources for Holy Hours for life, peace, marriage, religious liberty, vocations, an end to racism, as well as a Sacred Heart Holy Hour.

"Consider hosting a holy hour or series of holy hours at your parish using the templates provided. ... You may have other ways to invite members of your community to spend some time in prayer for our country with Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament," the guide said. "To prepare for the Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart, parishes can also incorporate the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus into their Holy Hour."

As examples of works of mercy, the guide encouraged parishes to

find ways to assist women who are facing a crisis pregnancy; donate to food pantries and clothing closets, and community beautification programs; raise money for an overseas development project; sponsor a refugee family; tutor children; or volunteer at homeless shelters.

"The seven Corporal Works of Mercy come to us directly from the Scriptures in the Gospel of Matthew," the guide said. "Rooted in our lives of faith, the actions that Jesus calls us to in feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead, and giving alms are central elements of our Catholic identity."

It quotes from Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation "Dilexi Te," which itself draws on Pope Francis' "Dilexit Nos": "As we contemplate Christ's love, 'we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love.'"



Tommy McKee photo  
Deacon David Galvin bestows the final blessing at the Holy Hour for Peace at St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town Feb. 11.



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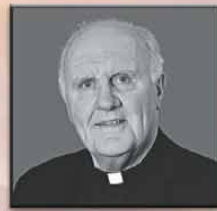
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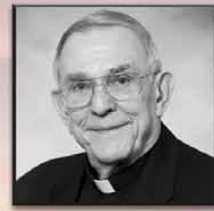
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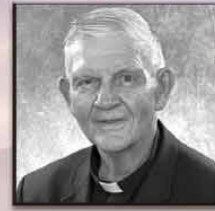
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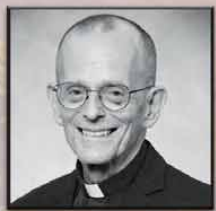
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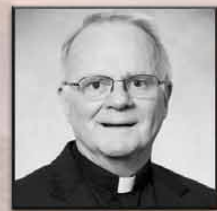
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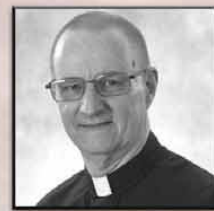
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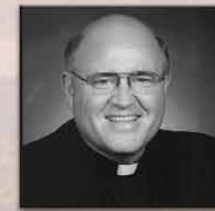
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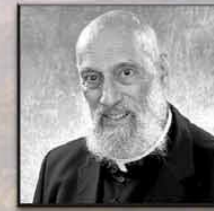
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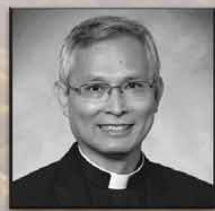
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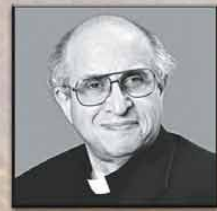
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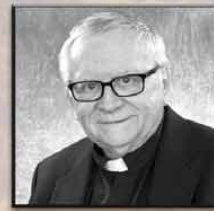
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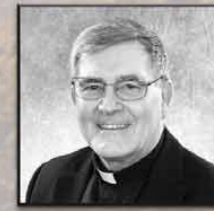
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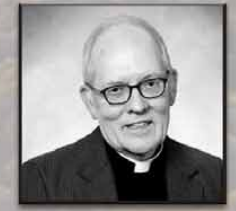
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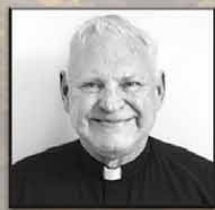
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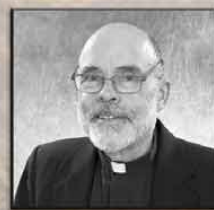
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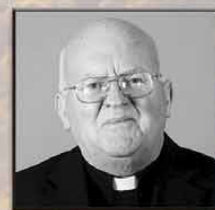
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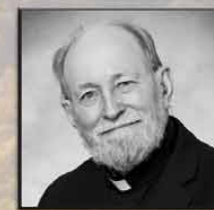
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*“I thank you for your lives given in service to the Kingdom, for your daily labors, for so much generosity in the exercise of the ministry, for all that you live in silence, and that at times is accompanied by suffering or misunderstanding.” ~ Pope Leo XIV*

# Sister Maria Rukwishuro Named Principal of Clarksburg's Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Central School

By Colleen Rowan

**CLARKSBURG** — Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg have announced new leadership, with Sister Maria Rukwishuro, SJI, as their new principal.

Sister Maria is a treasured member of the Catholic community, beloved by students and families at both schools and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg where she has served over the last two decades. She is also celebrating 30 years as a Sister of the Child Jesus.

"I am truly humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve as principal..." Sister Maria said. "As a Sister of the Child Jesus from Zimbabwe and a missionary, this appointment is both an honor and a blessing. I am eager to deepen my faith in this new environment and to dedicate myself to nurturing the faith, academics, and personal growth of our students.

"My cultural heritage and missionary experience have shaped my understanding of community, resilience, and hospitality," she said. "I hope to draw on these gifts as I walk with our students, support our families, and strengthen the bonds within our school community. In this time of transition, I am committed to offering a steady, reassuring presence, one that fosters stability, continuity, and confidence for our students, families, faculty, and staff."

Serving with Sister Maria are newly named assistant principals—Dr. Natalie Gigliotti at Notre Dame and Danielle Fenstermacher at St. Mary's.

"It is a sort of 'holy trinity' in itself!" said Father Casey Mahone, designated pastor of the schools. "Three candidates were chosen to work together in administration who each had particular strengths to contribute to a leadership team."

Sister Maria brings her years of experience in religious vows and education and as a director of Religious Education at Immaculate

Conception. With that, Father Mahone said, she excelled in her experience of handing on the Catholic faith to young people at both elementary and high school levels.

"She has 21 years at Immaculate Conception in Clarksburg and knows the families and their children well both in Catholic and public schools since she leads the sacramental prep programs for first Penance, first Communion and Confirmation," said Father Mahone, pastor of the parish. "She also knows many teenagers from other Catholic churches and non-Catholics in the area because of her involvement in taking kids to the National Catholic Youth Convention. I think that her contributions to Notre Dame and St. Mary's along with Dr. Natalie Gigliotti and Mrs. Danielle Fenstermacher will be ushering in a bright new future for our Catholic Schools in Harrison County."

During the interview process, Father Mahone said it became apparent that the Holy Spirit was leading them to a new model of leadership in the schools. Joining him in the interviews were Dr. Carroll Morrison, former principal at Notre Dame; Loria Cavallo, outgoing principal of the schools; and Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Hornyak recognized that Sister Maria has been an integral part of the Clarksburg community and that she brings so much to the role of principal.

"Sister Maria joins us with a wealth of experience in Catholic education and a profound commitment to the Gospel," Hornyak said. "Her vision for a holistic education—one that nurtures both the mind and the soul—will be a cor-



Sister Maria Rukwishuro, SJI

nerstone of her leadership across both schools. We are blessed to have Dr. Gigliotti and Mrs. Fenstermacher join our team to assist Sister Maria in the ministry of Catholic education by leading the school communities. I am very hopeful for continued growth in our wonderful schools in Clarksburg and grateful to our new leaders who have said 'yes' to

the ministry of Catholic education in Clarksburg."

Sister Maria's vision is to create a supportive environment where every student can thrive spiritually, academically, and personally.

"Although we are two buildings, we are one family," she said. "I want our young people to feel known, loved, and encouraged to grow into the individuals God is calling them to be. Stability is essential for this growth, and I hope to cultivate a school culture where students feel grounded, safe, and supported each day."

Collaboration is essential to this mission, she added, and she looks

forward to working closely with faculty, staff, and parents to foster a culture of excellence, compassion, and service.

"Guided by love, hope, and charity, we can build a strong foundation that allows our community to flourish with confidence and unity," she said.

In her first year as principal, Sister Maria wants to prioritize academic excellence, support the personal development of each student, and encourage participation in extracurricular activities and community service. These experiences, she said, help form well-rounded, faith-filled young people who are ready to lead and serve. By promoting consistency and stability in programs and routines, she said, the schools can ensure that every student has the structure they need to succeed.

"I am excited to get to know our families, students, and parish community," she said. "Together, we can empower our young people to become leaders, servants, and Disciples of Christ. I am deeply grateful for the support and prayers of the people of our diocese, and I look forward to working together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our children."

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# Be an Ambassador for Christ? Count on It!

## Lenten Call Resonates with WV Catholic Youth Leaders

By Joyce Bibey (Courtesy of FaithInWV)

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection and renewal. This year, our Lenten journey opened with a powerful call from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians: to be "Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2). That message carries significant meaning for our youth and young adult ministers across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Faith formation for young people must do more than educate—it must inspire. In a world filled with distractions, doubt, and constant pressure, youth need opportunities to encounter Christ personally, build friendships rooted in faith, and recognize that they are called to be witnesses of His love.

Catholic youth leaders throughout West Virginia are answering that call with dedication and joy, understanding their critical role in shaping the future of the Church.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to lead our students to Christ," said the campus minister at Parkersburg Catholic High School. "The kids have shown a hunger for the Lord and His Church by wanting to dive deep into Sacred Scripture and evangelism. I know they are changing their community and schools through the power of the Holy Spirit."

In addition to his work at the high school, he leads youth ministry at St. Francis Xavier Parish and Hidden Gems Ministry, which serves Catholic youth in Parkersburg and surrounding communities. His experience reflects a broader trend across the diocese: young Catholics are eager not only to learn about their faith, but to live it boldly.

Large-scale events can have a profound impact on that growth. More than 120 youth from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston attended the National Catholic

Youth Conference (NCYC) this year, joining thousands of teens from across the country for prayer, worship, and formation. Such events offer powerful moments of encounter, especially during Eucharistic adoration and Mass, when young people see the Church alive and vibrant.

These opportunities, however, require committed adult leaders willing to invest months of planning, fundraising, and organization.

Kristy Riedel, campus minister at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, and Jenny Imer, youth leader at St. Michael Parish, Wheeling, took 42 students to NCYC this school year.

"The fire for Christ they returned with was incredible," Riedel said. Even more meaningful was what happened afterward: students seeking deeper involvement in parish life and ministry. Many stepped forward "as lectors, altar servers, and Eucharistic ministers." Some non-Catholic students who attended began exploring the faith more seriously, with a few entering OCIA formation classes.

"That's the 'why' behind all the months of planning and logistics," she said. "Providing these opportunities creates a great reward for the Church."

The momentum continues beyond NCYC. On Feb. 28, Riedel will help lead students from Central Catholic High School to Winter Jam in Pittsburgh, one of the nation's largest Christian music tours. Events like this, along with diocesan retreats and parish youth gatherings, help sustain the enthusiasm sparked at larger conferences.

"It's all about fanning that flame across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston," the Parkersburg campus minister said.

Diocesan leadership echoes this vision. Greg Gust, Assistant Director of Faith Formation for the diocese, recently attended his first NCYC and spoke about its



Joyce Bibey photo

Pausing for a photo on the last night of the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis are (from left to right) Kristy Riedel, Central Catholic High School Campus Minister, Wheeling; Sr. Maria Rukwishuro, SJI, principal of Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Catholic School and youth leader at Immaculate Conception Church, Clarksburg; Jenny Imer, of St. Michael Parish Youth Group, Wheeling; Andrew Kemp Myers, Campus Minister of Parkersburg Catholic High School and Youth Leader for St. Francis Xavier and Hidden Gems, Parkersburg; Mary Odin, youth leader of Blessed Sacrament Church, South Charleston; and Gregory Gust, Assistant Director of Faith Formation for the diocese.

impact in an interview with *The Criterion*, Indiana's largest Catholic newspaper. He emphasized that the goal of such events is to help young people draw closer to Christ and understand that the Church is alive, totally relevant to their lives, and accessible.

"When students are ignited by the Holy Spirit, they go forth and make disciples," Gust said. "Getting to see young people thriving and living genuine and authentic Catholic lives brings me so much joy."

His words underscore an important truth: youth ministry is not simply programming—it is mission. Young people today face cultural pressures that can challenge their faith and identity. They need mentors who will walk beside

them, answer questions, encourage prayer, and model authentic Christian living.

As Lent reminds us, the call to be "Ambassadors for Christ" is not optional. It is a call for all of us - to every baptized believer - and it carries special urgency when it comes to guiding the next generation. Youth and young adult leaders across West Virginia are embracing that mission wholeheartedly.

Through prayer, formation, conferences, service opportunities, and their presence, our youth faith formation leaders are helping young Catholics grow in confidence, deepen their relationship with God, and step into active roles within the Church, Gust said, concluding, "They are true ambassadors for Christ."

# A Letter from Bishop Brennan on the Audit of Diocesan Finances

February 20, 2026

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In our continued efforts to provide a transparent view of how our local Church operates, I am pleased to release the report of the independent audit for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the fiscal year 2025, which ended on June 30. The full report can be found online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org). My letter is part of the summary information provided to readers of The Catholic Spirit newspaper in both online and printed versions.

The late Pope Francis declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year of Hope. We celebrated this Jubilee Year with special pilgrimages, creation of a Diocesan Evangelization Plan, and a number of pastoral outreach initiatives, but we also sought ways to truly make this a Year of Hope for our Parishes by providing financial relief. Therefore, in 2025 the Diocese forgave parish and school debt to the Diocese totaling \$17 million. We also did not collect the Diocesan three percent (3%) Cathedraticum assessment during calendar year 2025. In addition, the Priests' Health and Retirement Board approved a reduction of the PHRA assessment on parishes from six percent (6%) to four percent (4%) for calendar year 2025.

I trust that this debt forgiveness and reduction of some diocesan financial obligations for 2025 will afford all parishes the ability to remain current with their just debts going forward, and this can be a springboard to help solidify parish and school financial positions for years to come.

Other financial highlights in Fiscal Year 2025 include another strong return in equity investments for the Diocese, earning 13.18% this year on top of a 13.85% return in 2024. However, lower mineral prices and lower production levels on our assets in Texas have resulted in a decline of

more than \$2.4 million in our mineral revenues for the fiscal year, and this decline has continued into the current fiscal year. The Diocese must continue to find ways to live within its means in order to maintain financial stability in the face of declines in oil production, which is expected as it is a depleting resource.

The Diocese continues to struggle with skyrocketing costs of health care insurance and property insurance. Fiscal Year 2025 was our first year in a three-year effort to make substantial changes to our health insurance programs so that the Church may continue to provide quality health coverage to employees across the Diocese—but at sustainable levels.

As part of our evangelization efforts, we experienced increased costs as we developed a multi-year plan to help grow our Church. Part of our evangelization efforts also supported new initiatives like the new St. Joseph High School in Martinsburg, which just welcomed its first freshman class this academic year. Diocesan Management and General costs increased for the first time in recent years, mostly because of a large one-time payment related to a legal matter.

The Diocese incurred more costs in 2025 while educating our seminarians, but this is a blessing as we currently have 14 men in formation and another five applying at this time. Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, religious life and diaconate, as your prayers are working. The Catholic Sharing Appeal continues to exceed expectations each year, and I am very pleased at how this annual campaign assists our parishes, schools, charities and pastoral initiatives, which can only be possible thanks to our generous donors.

Finally, I am once again pleased to point out that our Finance Office was recognized for its diligent and quality work for having

again achieved a 'clean' audit. This is no small task, but with our commitment to being prudent stewards of the gifts entrusted to our care, I can report to you that the Church's assets in this Diocese are managed according to the highest standards.

While a financial report deals with money, there is so much more involved in our living of the faith within Christ's Church. Our true bottom line is not confined to dollars and cents but is seen in the witness of faith and works of charity and justice in which we engage.

When it comes to finances, money must follow mission. We have to support efforts to make Jesus Christ known and bring people to him. That is the proper use of our diocesan resources. Thank you as well for supporting your parishes and schools and the Diocese's charitable works. May God, whose generosity we can never surpass, bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

See Information Below and Report on Pages 10-11

## 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

**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 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

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

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 \$220,149 in Cathedraticum for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025. The receipts from cathedraticum combined with Diocesan Funds subsidized parishes and schools at an expense of \$6,996,002. 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

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

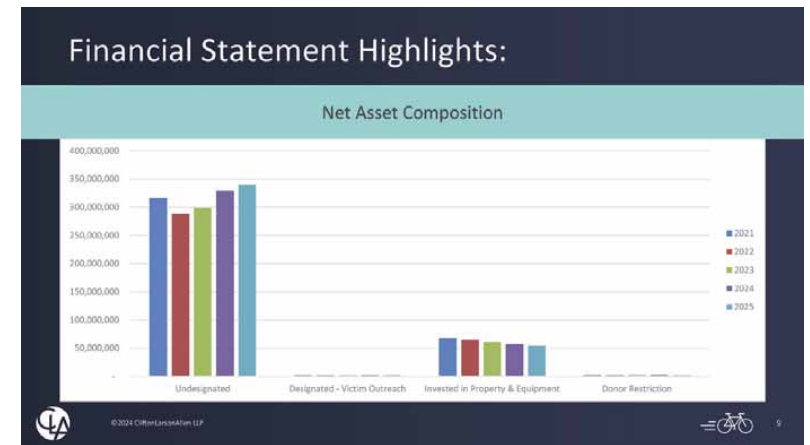
School funds and fundraisers are NOT assessed by the Diocese. Tuition payments, donations to schools and school fundraising revenues are not assessed by the Diocese in any form. Any Catholic Schools donation goes directly to the school and is used solely by the school for the benefit of students.

To review the Independent Auditors' Report, Audited Financial Statements, and Notes to Financial Statements please visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)

**Statements of Financial Position - June 30, 2025 and 2024**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,818,758	\$ 5,290,843
<b>Investments</b>		
Securities, at Fair Value	318,665,297	288,671,319
Mineral Rights, at Fair Value	43,808,000	52,118,000
Total Investments	<u>362,473,297</u>	<u>340,789,319</u>
<b>Receivables, Net of Allowances for Uncollectible Amounts</b>		
Mineral Rights	1,585,262	1,569,857
Investment Income	723,001	658,023
Promised to Give and Bequests	203,950	612,965
Accounts	247,302	250,298
Premiums, Reimbursements, and Assessment	4,250,665	10,403,513
Notes Receivable	21,558,311	32,292,404
Total gross receivables	28,568,491	45,787,060
Less: allowance for current expected credit loss	<u>(12,945,662)</u>	<u>(29,777,427)</u>
Receivables, net of allowance	15,622,829	16,009,633
Prepaid Expenses and Other	594,625	429,049
Property, Buildings, and Equipment		
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	54,583,387	56,751,012
Interest in Net Assets of Diocesan Real Estate, Inc	25,605,817	26,845,047
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	1,142,456	1,090,688
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>462,841,169</u></b>	<b><u>447,205,591</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	8,560,687	2,425,097
Catholic Sharing Appeal Grants Payable	431,583	351,698
Amounts Payable for Collections to Other Organizations	168,181	68,731
Promise to Give Payable	25,000	50,000
Deferred Revenue	733,417	685,368
Certificates of Deposit Payable	35,717,582	34,638,520
Lines of Credit Payable	19,562,992	19,589,166
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>65,199,442</u></b>	<b><u>57,808,580</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	339,540,500	328,514,477
Designated - Victim Outreach	1,896,020	1,806,683
Invested in Property and Equipment	54,583,387	56,751,012
Total Without Donor Restrictions	<u>396,019,907</u>	<u>387,072,172</u>
With Donor Restrictions	1,621,820	2,324,839
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>397,641,727</u></b>	<b><u>389,397,011</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 462,841,169</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 447,205,591</u></b>

**Statements of Financial Position**  
is represented in the following graphs



Entire audit with footnotes  
can be viewed online at  
[www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)

## Statements of Activities - June 30, 2025 and 2024

\* Does Not Reflect Donor Restrictions

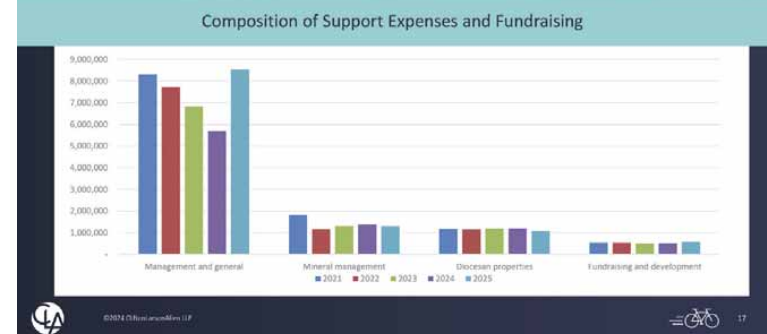
	2025 Totals	2024 Totals
<b>Revenues</b>		
Cathedraticum	\$ 220,149	\$ 410,451
Bequests and Contributions	790,661	1,432,716
Catholic Sharing Appeal	3,477,061	4,364,796
Use of Facilities	949,987	861,706
Insurance Premiums	7,221,257	6,732,107
Cemetery Fees	392,661	451,738
Gain (loss) on Disposal of Assets	30,780	(244,962)
Gain (loss) of Diocesan Real Estate, Inc	(1,239,230)	(775,966)
Other Income	310,742	273,821
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>12,154,068</b>	<b>13,506,407</b>
<b>Income from investments</b>		
Investment Income, Net	36,697,360	35,448,183
Mineral Rights Royalties and Lease		
Bonus Revenue, Net	13,125,292	15,572,557
Unrealized Loss on Oil and Gas Properties	(8,310,000)	(244,000)
<b>Total Income from Investments</b>	<b>41,512,652</b>	<b>50,776,740</b>
<b>Total Revenues and Income from Investments</b>	<b>53,666,720</b>	<b>64,283,147</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Program Services</b>		
Insurance Programs	13,219,774	10,499,434
Parish and School Deposit and Loan Program	(1,349,564)	112,945
Pastoral Centers	1,323,406	1,459,615
Parish and School Subsidies	6,996,002	5,710,519
Parish Catholic Sharing Appeal Grants	2,516,565	3,406,277
Vocations and Seminarians	1,748,504	1,457,269
Catholic Charities Subsidy	1,476,542	1,485,085
Evangelization and Education	3,512,256	3,331,907
Communications and Technology	1,483,323	1,446,560
Mt Calvary Cemetery	869,550	843,041
Outside Entity Support	572,368	702,128
Wheeling University	1,553,831	0
<b>Total Program Services Expense</b>	<b>33,922,557</b>	<b>30,454,780</b>
<b>Support Services</b>		
Management and General	\$ 8,547,982	\$ 5,694,875
Mineral Management	1,295,553	1,375,147
Diocesan Properties	1,086,235	1,194,269
Fundraising and Development	569,677	524,151
<b>Total Supporting Services Expense</b>	<b>11,499,447</b>	<b>8,788,442</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>45,422,004</b>	<b>39,243,222</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>8,244,716</b>	<b>25,039,925</b>
<b>Net Assets, June 30, 2024</b>		<b>\$ 389,397,011</b>
<b>Net Assets, June 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 397,641,727</b>	

Statements of Activities  
is represented in the following graphs

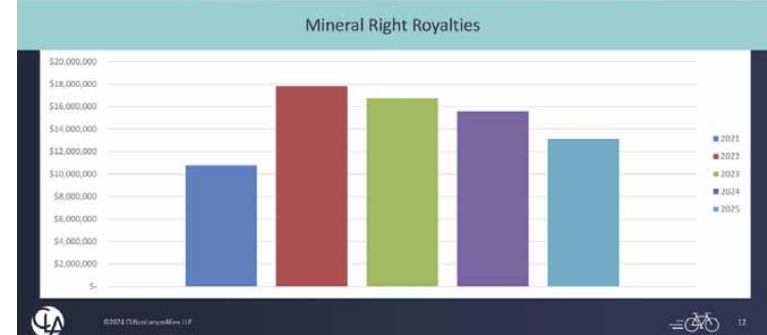
### Financial Statement Highlights:



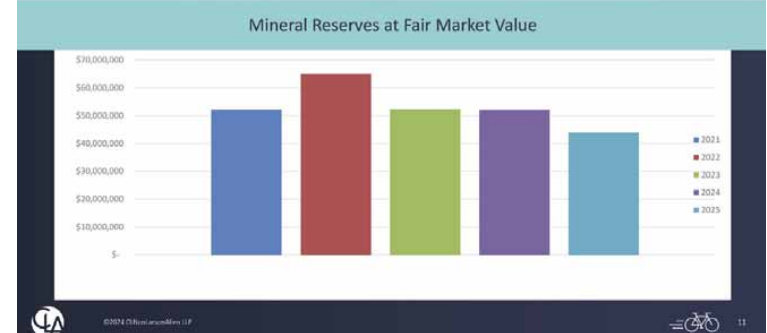
### Financial Statement Highlights:



### Financial Statement Highlights:



### Financial Statement Highlights:



# Check out What's Happening This Lenten Season Near You

## Buckhannon

Holy Rosary Parish will have a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, Feb., 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to watch and pray together. Deacon John Yaquinta of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood will lead participants in a morning of "Watching and Praying" as they participate in various forms of prayer, all geared towards this sacred time of the liturgical year. The following methods of prayer will be discussed and experienced including Lectio Divina, Guided Meditation with the Rosary, Visio Divina, and Circle of Prayer. Deacon Yaquinta will also touch on journaling, contemplative prayer, and charismatic prayer.

## Charleston

Lenten Reflections will be held at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. All are invited for presentations and reflections based on the FORMED program "Wilderness Within." In this program, Sister Josephine Garrett invites us to explore the interior wilderness of our hearts to expand our love as we prepare for Easter.

Sessions began Feb. 15 and continue through April 1. We will have 3 sessions each week on the same material Sundays at noon in the Gathering Space, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cordis Center, and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Please attend any sessions whenever you are available. Make this Lent your best ever as we prepare for Easter!

## Parkersburg

The Sixth Annual Holy Hour for Life Novena with Eucharistic Adoration continuing on Wednesdays: Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25, and April 1 at St. Francis Xavier Church, 6-7 p.m. Mass follows at 7 p.m.

This is an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, for repentance and healing for all those who have been wounded by abortion, and that those who govern may be guided by justice, truth, and love for the gift of life.

## Weirton

St. Joseph the Worker Parish will have Lenten Mission with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivens, a.k.a. the Dynamic Deacon, March 22-24, 7-8 p.m. followed by confession, meet &



greet, book sales, & refreshments.

Deacon Burke-Sivens is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today. He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith will challenge and inspire those who hear him. Questions? Call (304) 723-2054.

## Wheeling

Each Thursday at 6 p.m. during the Lenten Season, St. Vincent de Paul Parish will be hosting the Lenten Study Series "Conversion and Renewal: A Lenten Journey with Christ" in the sanctuary.

Week 1: Feb. 19, "The Mass Explained: Why We Do What We Do." Explore each part of the Mass, its scriptural roots, and spiritual meaning. Presented by Very Rev. Justin Golna, DWC judicial vicar and pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg.

Week 2: Feb. 26, "The Real Presence: Understanding the Eucharist" Presented by Very Rev. Carlos L. Melocoton, V.F., pastor St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

Week 3: March 5, "Faith Sharing and Witness Testimonials" presented by Deacon Tom and Michelle McFadden and Barb Napple.

Week 4: March 12, "Conversion and Renewal: The Journey of Lent" — repentance, confession, spiritual combat, and growth in holiness. Presented by Father Joseph Wiley, pastor Corpus Christi, Wheeling.

Week 5: March 19, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," forgiveness, suffering, hope, trust, surrender — presented by Father John Soplinski, vocation director for the diocese, vice rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and parochial vicar of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling.

Week 6: March 26, "Walking with Jesus to Calvary: The Passion Narratives," study the Passion in the Gospel of John, presented by Father Jeason Stephan, MCBS, pastor St. Vincent's.

(The graphic shown above is a CNS graphic/Nancy Wiechec)

## Obituary—Deacon Donald F. Molinari

Deacon Donald F. Molinari died in Louisville, Ohio, February 10, 2026. He was born in Rochester, New York, April 17, 1936. Educated at Irondequoit High School and received his BA in Philosophy from St. John Fisher University in 1958. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army and National Guard Medical Corps, serving six years in the National Guards of New York, Pennsylvania & West Virginia.



Ordained a Deacon on April 1, 1979, at St. Joseph Cathedral in Wheeling, he served St. James Parish in Clarksburg for 22 years. After moving to Massillon, Ohio, in 2001, he served St. Joseph's Catholic Church for another 23 years.

He also served the community at St. Joseph Senior Living Center in Louisville, Ohio, as a Deacon and Chaplain while being a resident there. Preceding him in death are his parents, Dominik & Teresa (Falvo) Molinari; sisters, Frances & Marie (Jack) Harrison and Brothers Angelo (Stella) & Joe (Angie) Molinari all of Rochester. Deacon Don's wife, Leone of 54 years preceded him in death in 2015. He is survived by a daughter, Therese Marie Molinari (Ed Hampton) of Woodbury, Conn.; and sons, Lane Molinari of Naugatuck, Conn., and Michael (Denise) Molinari, of Massillon. He is also survived by his 5 grandchildren—Jenna and Sophia Molinari of Massillon; Gina (Steve) Sicard of Wolcott, Conn.; Michael Bianca of Woodbury; and Ashley Molinari of Hyannis, Mass.; along with great-granddaughter, Zoe Noelle Sicard of Wolcott, Conn.

Deacon Don worked as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for Burroughs Wellcome & Eli Lilly & Company for 37 years. He also taught at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg for 4 years where his students nominated him to appear in the "Who's Who of America's Teachers" three times. Deacon Don trained as a chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston and was awarded a one-year residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at West Virginia University Hospitals in Morgantown. He was Board Certified by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains in 1998. He served at the Mercy Medical Center in Canton, Ohio, as Manager of the Department of Pastoral Care, as well as Chairperson and member of Mercy's Patient Rights Organizational Ethics Committee. In 2018 he moved to St. Joseph Senior Living complex in Louisville where he served the residents in this community, as Deacon and Chaplain.

Friends may call at Paquelet & Arnold-Lynch Funeral Home, 1100 Wales Rd NE Massillon on Wednesday, February 25, from 5-8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, February 26, at 11 a.m. at Divine Mercy St. Joseph Catholic Church, 322 Third St. SE, Massillon. Interment will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Roger Herrick Scholarship fund, or the Employees' Sunshine fund at St. Joseph Senior Living, 2300 Reno Dr. Louisville, OH 44641 or the Relay for Life Cancer Fund and the St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Massillon.

# 40 Days of Lent; 30 Days for Moms

*Add 30 Days of Prayer for Abortion-Vulnerable Moms to Your Lenten Devotion*

**By Kayla Kessinger, State Program Director for Her PLAN, an initiative of SBA Pro-Life America Education Fund to connect and grow communities of support for moms and their babies**

Last month, tens of thousands of pro-life advocates gathered for the 53rd annual March for Life in our nation's capital. School groups, congregations, families, and political leaders all gave witness to the gift of each and every life – both mom and baby. Thousands more prayed the Nine Days for Life novena in the days leading up to the March because as Catholics, we know the power that prayer holds.

As we begin Lent, we consider what we can add or remove from our lives to help us grow closer to Christ. Maybe you're giving up chocolate or coffee or social media as your act of daily penance. Maybe you're adding a positive behavior, such as Daily Mass or a Lenten Scripture reading plan. However you choose to observe Lent this year, each of us is called to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to help us grow in our relationship with Christ and in love of our neighbor.

In this season of penance, we are invited to pay greater attention to the needs and sufferings of those around us, and to do what we can to help. As pro-lifers, Lent offers a special invitation for us to be there for vulnerable mothers and their children.

The threat of abortion has never been greater. Even after the overturn of Roe v. Wade, Congress has not enacted nationwide legal protections for unborn children. Abortion drug traffickers proudly proclaim that they break the law to mail abortion drugs into pro-life states. A woman no longer needs to make a doctor's appointment or speak to a medical provider to take these dangerous drugs. They wait for her – in her neighbor's medicine cabinet or in her boyfriend's sock drawer. No pregnancy verification is required and there is no opportu-

nity to even ask the fundamental human question, "Are you okay?" These drugs have been marketed to the American public as safe and empowering, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Women who have had abortions tell us it was not what they wanted. In fact, 60 percent of women who have had abortions said they would not have if they had more emotional or financial support. They turned to – or were pushed towards – abortion because they believed the lie that there was no other way. Weary from a lifetime of empty promises and disappointment, the abortion-vulnerable mom can't believe anyone would be there for her or her baby. Research tells us she is single, in her twenties, and living below the poverty line, often with older children she can't imagine providing for while caring for a newborn. In the face of this suffering, how do we respond? How can we be there for her when she feels most isolated and alone? How can we follow the example of Simon of Cyrene on the road to Calvary and help her carry the weight of her struggles and fears?

Her PLAN's mission is to ensure anyone ministering to a pregnant or parenting mom in need can find the resources to meet her needs and help her sustain her decision for life. Pregnancy centers, single mom ministries and churches are primary beneficiaries of our work, but what we offer them is connection to a robust network of life-affirming support that consists of a wide

range of community organizations like food pantries, licensed counselors, job training programs, child-care centers and more.

Her PLAN increases access to resources that sustain a mom's decision for life, so she, and her baby, can thrive.

Our team operates nationally and in 29 states, and we're working to connect and strengthen the pro-life safety net right here in West Virginia. Her PLAN believes everyone has a place in the pro-life safety net. Each one of us can use our unique, God-given gifts to help moms and babies in our local community. We also believe in the power of prayer. Our team has developed a self-guided 30-day prayer guide designed to help the ministries, providers, charities, and community leaders we work with join us in prayer for the unborn, their mothers, and the neighbors who stand with them. Together, we're inviting communities to learn more about who the abortion-vulnerable woman is and the real and often complex challenges she's facing. Together, we're praying that she would receive tangible support to meet those needs – and we're working to help local communities be

that support. The guide includes daily prayer prompts for you to use individually or with your church, ministry, or Bible study. Also included are reflections from Scripture and real stories of women who have been empowered to choose life when local communities of support stepped up to meet their needs.

As you begin this penitential season, we hope you'll join us in this opportunity for reflection. We ask God to respond mercifully to prayers for life-giving help in each of the circumstances abortion-vulnerable moms face. And as you ponder how to grow in love of Christ and love of neighbor over these next 40 days of Lent, we hope you will join us in 30 days of prayer for the most vulnerable unborn and their mothers. For more information, visit [herplan.org](http://herplan.org).

(Born and raised in West Virginia, Kayla Kessinger is State Program Director for Her PLAN, an initiative of SBA Pro-Life America Education Fund to connect and grow communities of support for moms and their babies. She previously served as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from 2015-2022. She attends St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley.)



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# Would You Like to Deepen Your Catholic Faith?

*Are you aware that there is a Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic in West Virginia? I wasn't.*

**By John C. Priestley II**

In 2013, I discerned a call for “something more” in my faith life. It wasn't that I was dissatisfied with my active Parish life. I explored the possibilities of what was then called “third orders.” The Franciscans did not seem a good fit for me. Research on the Dominicans really caught my attention. By a circuitous route, I was referred to St. Thomas Aquinas Fraternity located at Charlottesville, Virginia. At my first meeting, I knew that I had found what I was looking for. Making the ten-hour round trip from South Charleston was not a burden but a joy. I completed formation and made my perpetual profession on April 14, 2018. When COVID hit, I thought in-person meetings were not advisable. I eventually transferred to St. Catherine of Siena Fraternity located at Columbus, Ohio. I was then transferred to the St. Catherine of Siena Affiliate at Charleston, West Virginia.

“The history of the Lay Dominicans begins in the thirteenth century with a rag-tag group of lay persons who attached themselves with piety and great zeal to a new group of preachers led by a Spaniard named Dominic de Guzman. During his life, St. Dominic never wrote a rule for lay members, but so many people were attracted to the Dominicans and began following them that by AD 1285, it became clear that a rule was needed to incorporate this self-made ‘lay order’ into the Order of Preachers.

Thus, it was that the seventh Master General of the Order, Munio de Zamora, composed a rule which was known as ‘The Third Order of Penance of St. Dominic.’ Pope Honorius IV granted this new fraternity official Church recognition on Jan. 28, AD 1286.” (laydominicans.org)

As the name suggested, the original purpose behind the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic was a focus on penance: preaching for repentance, and

performing acts of penance. This remains at the heart of our charism, for Dominic himself taught that all of our preaching must be for the salvation of souls. Many of our most beloved Lay Dominican saints are recognized for this spirit of penitence and we must remember it as a hallmark of our vocation.

Yet over time, the Fraternities have also recognized a unique calling as lay persons within the secular world and our Rule has evolved to support that call. In areas in need of the New Evangelization, Lay Dominicans are particularly needed to help form other Catholics so they have a strong, solid formation in their faith. Our commitment to Truth, informed by rigorous prayer and study, equips us to go out into the world so that we can joyfully and competently share the Faith with others: in our workplaces, schools, homes, local communities, and especially in our own churches. St. Dominic calls his lay members in the 21st century to be aware of contemporary issues and not to shy away from speaking about them in the Light of Truth, carrying the torch of Jesus Christ to all of the dark corners of our world—not for our own glory or for the sake of argument, but always for the salvation of souls.” (laydominicans.org)

“Lay Dominican life is distinctly flavored by four key areas which are essential to our charism and our vocation. These areas are called the Four Pillars, which is an apt illustration of their function. Though distinct, all Four Pillars work together to ‘hold up’ our lives as Dominicans. These Four Pillars are:

- Prayer
- Study
- Community
- Apostolate

As Christians, these four areas must all be rooted in the firm foundation of Christ's Gospel message (cf. Matt 7:24-27) so that we can be as-

sured of their endurance, strength, and Truth. Thus, when all Four Pillars are faithfully lived, they in turn enrich and support one another, so that the unique charisms of Dominican life can flourish.” (laydominicans.org)

Dominican Spirituality calls members to certain obligations, when possible, according to their state in life. These obligations include:

- Participate in daily Mass
- Daily praying some portions of the Liturgy of the Hours
- Daily recitation of the Rosary
- Daily reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture
- Monthly reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Frequent and ongoing study of matters pertaining to the Church, the world and their apostolate
- Annual retreat, either on their own or with other members of the Fraternity

An Affiliate group dedicated to St. Catherine of Siena, the great Dominican mystic, was established in 2010 by the Eastern Province of St. Joseph. Our Members come from West Virginia; Pennsylvania; and Kentucky. We were officially recognized as a canonical Fraternity on July 8, 2024. We meet on the second Sunday of the month from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Currently, we usually meet through Zoom due to the distance of our members. We meet in-person at least two times a year. Our website is wvlaydominicans.org.

If living out St. Dominic's charism within the context of lay life resonates with you and you are interested in learning more, we invite you to visit our website for contact information. New members and inquirers are welcome. Join us in preaching the Truth, who is Jesus Christ!

(John C. Priestley II is the Secretary of the fraternity based in West Virginia.)

## Morgantown Magnificat Prayer Breakfast Set for March 1

**MORGANTOWN** — Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, March 14, at St. John University Parish Hall.

The inspirational speaker is Karen Jedrzejewski, a drummer in Living Praise Worship Team, who dedicates her life to serving God and encouraging people. She'll share her story of how as a 16-year-old high school drop-out, she slipped into a world of addiction and self-destruction, but after a near death experience, she completely surrendered her life to Jesus.

Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic women aimed at strengthening and sharing their faith. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$13 for students, and a buffet breakfast will be served. Register online at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/morgantownwvmagnificat>, and click on the Home tab. For questions, call Mary Paul at (304) 319-2747.



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# Salt and Light for 175 Years:

## *The Diocese's Mission of Care*

**By Joyce Bibey (Courtesy of FaithInWV)**

As we celebrate our 175th year as a diocese, we also celebrate 175 years of putting our faith into action as a united Church. In a recent homily on Christ's Sermon on the Mount, Bishop Mark Brennan reflected on Jesus' call to be the "salt of the earth and the light of the world," reminding us that this means being fully alive in the Church and living our faith in concrete ways. One powerful example, he said, is the Church's service through hospitals and outreach.

"Catholics in the ancient world opened hospitals for ordinary people at a time when only the wealthy had access to doctors. Santo Spirito Hospital in Rome was founded by the Catholics of that city in the eighth century and is still in operation," he said, continuing, "Our greater Church is responsible for more than one quarter of all health care in the world, with over 600 Catholic hospitals in the United States alone, including Wheeling Hospital, the first hospital in what is now West Virginia. Our Church is truly the salt of the earth in following Jesus' example of restoring people to good health regardless of race, status, or religion."

He added, "We are (Christ's) light when we attract people's attention by our lives in accord with Christ's example and teachings. As Isaiah the prophet says: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked and do not turn your back on their own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be

healed.

"Our love of God and neighbor shows that faith in Christ has changed us. That can convince another person to listen to what we have to say about the Lord. We then become the salt of the earth and the light of the world, drawing others to Christ and to his people."

From its earliest days, the Diocese of Wheeling embraced that call. In its first year, it established Wheeling Hospital, founded in a house on 15th Street by Bishop Richard Whelan and Doctors Simon Hullihen, John Frissell, and Matthew Houston, with the support of six Sisters of St. Joseph. What began as a 30-bed facility soon expanded and grew into a leading regional medical center, pioneering advancements in intensive and cardiac care. After relocating to its present Medical Park campus, the hospital continued to of grow and eventually joined the WVU Health System while maintaining its Catholic identity and historic ties to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. In 1850, it was the only hospital along the Ohio River between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

In 2025, it was announced that the WVU Health System's northern regional cancer center will be named in honor of St. Joseph—a tribute to the Catholic heritage of Wheeling Hospital and to the enduring legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan credited the sisters' "faithful dedication and compassionate care as the foundation of the hospital's strength, without which it would not stand as firmly as it does today." He noted that entrusting this critical health



Joyce Bibey photo

Pallottine Sisters are pictured at the 100th anniversary of St. Mary's Medical Center celebration and Wall of Fame dedication in Huntington in November, 2024. From left are Sister Amutha Arockiam, SAC; Angie Swearingen, chief operations officer of St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington; Sister Joanne Obrochta, SAC; Sister Danuta Przybylek, SAC, provincial of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters; Sister Phyllis Carpenter, SAC; Sister Francesca Lewis, SAC; Sister Elisabeth Heptner, SAC; and Sister Mary Terence Wall, SAC.

care ministry to St. Joseph reflects the same devotion that led Bishop Whelan to name the cathedral after him, saying "there is no better protector than the Terror of Demons, to guide workers, inspire great wisdom, and protect patients and families."

Wheeling was not alone in this mission. In 1912, four Pallottine Missionary Sisters from Germany arrived in West Virginia and began serving immigrant lumber workers and coal miners in Richwood, opening a hospital within a year. They later expanded their ministry to Buckhannon and Huntington, where they opened St. Mary's Hospital in a former school building that became a thriving center of compassionate, faith-driven care.

In Parkersburg, St. Joseph's Hospital opened in 1900 in a former convent with 21 beds under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It expanded over the decades, eventually constructing a modern six-story hospital overlooking the Ohio River and establishing a School of Nursing that educated generations of caregivers. Other Catholic-led hospitals across the state—including

St. Mary's in Clarksburg, St. Francis in Charleston, Sacred Heart in Richwood, and Vincent Pallotti in Morgantown—extended the Church's healing ministry to communities throughout West Virginia.

Beyond hospitals, Catholic Charities West Virginia continues that legacy of compassion. Founded in 1931, it united Catholic charitable outreach across the diocese

and today serves all 55 counties through regional offices. For decades, it has provided food, shelter, emergency assistance, children's services, disaster relief, care for the elderly, and migration services.

For 175 years, through healing, service, and steadfast faith, the Church in West Virginia has lived Christ's call—remaining salt for the earth and light for the world.



Courtesy photo

The original Wheeling Hospital on 15th street in Wheeling is shown in this undated photo.

# U.S. Church Faces These Areas of ‘Critical Concern’ on Religious Liberty, Says Bishops’ Report

By **Kate Scanlon**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News) —** Areas of critical concern for religious liberty in the U.S. include political and anti-religious violence, “unjust terms and conditions on federal grants, and unreliability of government,” access to sacraments for people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and immigration enforcement operations at houses of worship, according to a new report by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty issued Feb. 17 its “Annual Report on the State of Religious Liberty,” which highlights the legislative actions, executive actions, and U.S. Supreme Court cases the U.S. bishops are closely watching.

“While there were positive developments for religious liberty in the past year, there have been worrying developments as well,” Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, Oregon, chair of the Committee for Religious Liberty, said in his introduction of the report.

The other areas of critical concern the report identified were school choice and the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, the repeal of provisions that prevent religious organizations from participating in government programs, and “further repudiation of gender ideology.”

Of the areas the report identifies, Archbishop Sample said, “Perhaps most concerning is the ongoing rise in political violence. The polarization the bishops have long lamented seems to be breaking out into serious attacks. Antisemitic sentiment and rhetoric in mainstream institutions appears to be increasing.”

Antisemitic incidents have seen a sharp uptick in recent years, according to the Anti-Defamation League, which tracks antisemitic attacks. That group said in a 2025 report that it recorded 9,354 antisemitic incidents across the U.S. the previous year, which marked a 344% increase over the group’s findings from the previous five years.

The report said that Catholic churches also saw instances of violence and vandalism — most notably the Aug. 27 mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis during a school Mass. The report noted that an investigation “discerned no coherent motive” from the shooter, who expressed “a mix of antisemitic, anti-Trump, racist, and anti-Catholic ideas, along with a strong desire to kill children.”

It also pointed to the Oct. 5 arrest of a man armed with explosive devices from the front steps of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, shortly before the church’s annual Red Mass, which marks the opening of the Supreme Court’s term.

Examples of political violence included the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, and a firebombing attack on the home of Pennsylvania’s Democratic Gov. Joshua Shapiro during Passover that authorities called an attempted murder.

“Too much of our national life is marked by enmity and strife,” Archbishop Sample said.

The report also noted areas of tension between the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement and religious liberty, such as loosened restrictions on ICE agents from making arrests at what are seen as sensitive locations, including houses of worship, schools and hospitals, as well as ensuring those in ICE custody have access to the sacraments.

“Furthermore, the administration’s aggressive approach to immigration enforcement has led to fears about going to church, driving down Mass attendance and leading some bishops to dispense the faithful from their Sunday obligation,” Archbishop Sample said.

The report said that five bishops “have taken the extraordinary step of dispensing Catholics from their Sunday obligation if they fear that going to Mass puts them at risk of being detained.”

However, Archbishop Sample said, “there were positive developments for religious liberty too,” citing the Religious Liberty Commission created by President Donald Trump “which several of my brother bishops serve as either members or advisors.”

The report also praised steps taken by the Trump administration “to combat gender ideology, which has corroded religious liberty in recent years,” and Trump’s directive to “repeal regulatory provisions that are unlawful in light of recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court, including *Carson v. Makin*.”

Archbishop Sample noted, “all of these developments are taking place as Americans prepare to celebrate two hundred fifty years as an independent nation.”

“It is a fitting time to reflect on the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, and how those ideals have shaped the unique culture that has grown over the past two-and-a-half centuries,” he said. “For Catholics, it is an opportunity to reflect on how the Church has enriched American life.”

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



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# DWC Seminarian Leads Berkeley Springs Parish Youth to Mount2000 Retreat

By Colleen Rowan

West Virginia had a great showing at this year's Mount2000 Catholic youth retreat which gathered roughly 1,200 teens at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarian Bryan Tedeschi led a group from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs, where he currently has a pastoral assignment.

"I love Mount2000," Tedeschi said. "I've been a small group leader for several years now and I always see good fruit; it's great for our teens."

Tedeschi said priests heard 725 confessions throughout the three-day retreat which began on Feb. 6. His favorite part, he shared, is the exposure that

young people get to those in religious life.

"Many of these teens have never seen nuns or sisters before, and here at Mount2000 there's a lot of them," he said. "Not to mention that they're young, and there's maybe a dozen religious orders. And that's not including all of the friars and the 160 or so seminarians running around as well. It's a very good thing."

The young people from St. Vincent's got the chance to meet one of West Virginia's home-grown religious when they bumped into Sister Albertine, OP, of the Nashville Dominican Sisters. This young and joyful religious is a native of Charleston and was a member of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

The St. Vincent's group also met up with other young West Virginia Catholics at the retreat including Father Phillip Szabo, pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Charleston, and Father Brian Crenwelge, pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown and director of Campus Ministry at West Virginia University, who were there with groups from their parishes.

One of the young people from the St. Vincent's group was Inara, who was attending the retreat for the first time. She came away with a stonger connection to her Catholic faith and to God.

"Going to Mount2000 was a great experience," she said. "I enjoyed coming together as a community from around the country to celebrate God and to learn

about Him through amazing speakers and prayer."

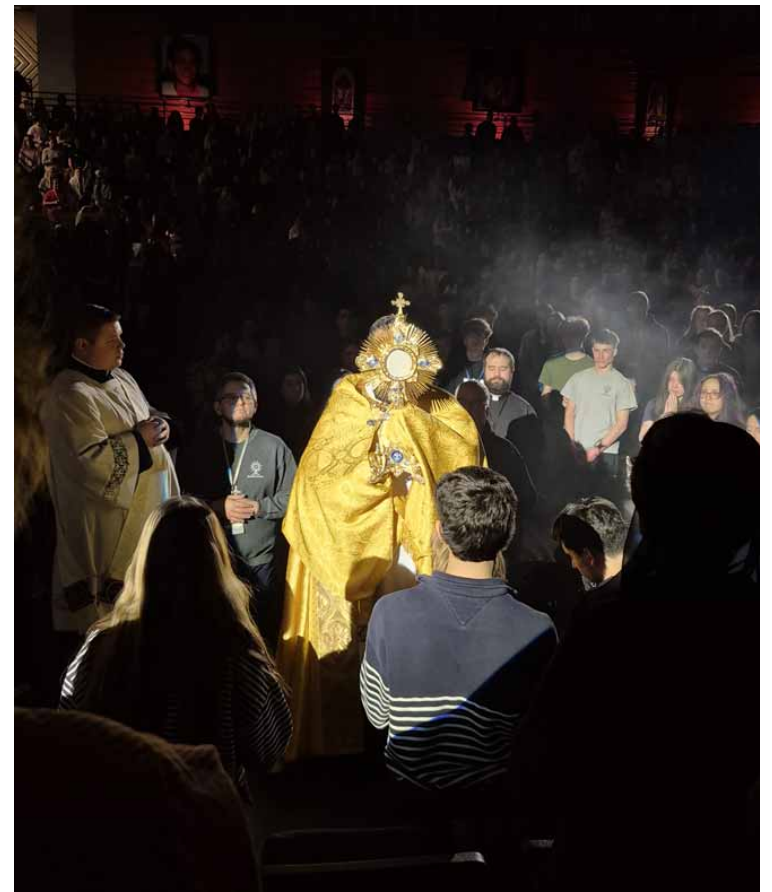
According to Mount2000 organizers, the retreat offers youth an environment to encounter Jesus "who is ALIVE and ACTIVE in our day with the Father and the Holy Spirit." In addition to Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and confession,

participants hear from engaging speakers, spirit-filled musicians, and breakout sessions led by the seminarians, organizers said. "The beautiful hillside campus of Mount St. Mary's University provides the perfect setting for this encounter with the living God," they said.



Courtesy photo

At Mount2000, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarian Bryan Tedeschi (second from right) is pictured with the group from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs. With them are Sister Albertine, OP, of the Nashville Dominican Sisters and a native of Charleston (fourth from right); and Father Phillip Szabo, pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Charleston (second from left).



Courtesy photo

A priest bestows the blessing during Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Mount2000.

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# El Papa León XIV explica por qué los católicos ayunan durante la Cuaresma

Por Courtney Mares

**(OSV News)** — La antigua práctica de ayunar durante la Cuaresma puede liberarnos de la complacencia y llevarnos a "tener hambre" de Dios, dijo el Papa León XIV en su mensaje para la Cuaresma de 2026.

Antes del Miércoles de Ceniza, que marca el inicio de la temporada litúrgica cuaresmal de 40 días, el Papa animó a las personas a adoptar el "ejercicio ascético antiquísimo" de abstenerse de comer, así como "abstenerse de utilizar palabras que afectan y lastiman a nuestro prójimo". Este año, la Cuaresma empieza el 18 de febrero.

La Cuaresma es un tiempo para "poner de nuevo el misterio de Dios en el centro de nuestra vida, para que nuestra fe recobre su impulso y el corazón no se disperse entre las inquietudes y distracciones cotidianas", afirmó el Papa.

"La abstinencia de alimento, en efecto, es un ejercicio ascético antiquísimo e insustituible en el camino de la conversión", escribió el Santo Padre. "Precisamente porque implica al cuerpo, hace más evidente aquello de lo que tenemos 'hambre' y lo que consideramos esencial para nuestro sustento".

El ayuno, añadió, nos ayuda a identificar y ordenar adecuadamente nuestros "apetitos", "para mantener despierta el hambre y la sed de justicia, sus trayéndola de la resignación, educarla para que se convierta en oración y responsabilidad hacia el prójimo".

En el mensaje, titulado "Escuchar y ayunar: La Cuaresma como tiempo de conversión", y publicado por el Vaticano el 13 de febrero, el Papa se inspiró en las enseñanzas de San Agustín para reflexionar sobre el "cuidado del corazón" en relación con "la tensión entre el tiempo presente y la realización futura".

Citando la obra de Agustín "La utilidad del ayuno", el Papa León citó la observación del santo: "Es propio de los hombres mortales tener hambre y sed de la justicia, así como estar repletos de la justicia es propio de la otra vida".

El Papa León dijo que "el ayuno, entendido en este sentido, nos permite no sólo disciplinar el deseo, purificarlo y hacerlo más libre, sino también expandirlo, de modo que se dirija a Dios y se oriente hacia el bien".

Advirtió que el ayuno debe "vivirse siempre con fe y humildad", en lugar de con orgullo, y debe basarse en la comunión con el Señor.

Como "signo visible de nuestro compromiso interior de alejarnos, con la ayuda de la gracia, del pecado y del mal, el ayuno debe incluir también otras formas de privación destinadas a hacernos adquirir un estilo de vida más sobrio, ya que 'sólo la austeridad hace fuerte y auténtica la vida cristiana'", dijo el Papa León.

El Papa también destacó lo que denominó "una forma de abstinencia muy concreta y a menudo poco apreciada, es decir, la de abstenerse de utilizar

palabras que afectan y lastiman a nuestro prójimo".

"Empecemos a desarmar el lenguaje, renunciando a las palabras hirientes, al juicio inmediato, a hablar mal de quienes están ausentes y no pueden defenderse, a las calumnias", dijo, instando a los católicos a cultivar la amabilidad "en la familia, entre amigos, en el lugar de trabajo, en las redes sociales, en los debates políticos, en los medios de comunicación y en las comunidades cristianas".

El Papa León animó a los católicos a hacer espacio en sus vidas para escuchar la palabra de Dios en la misa y mediante la lectura de las Sagradas Escrituras, señalando que el ayuno es una forma concreta de prepararse para escuchar la palabra de Dios.

"El itinerario cuaresmal se convierte en una ocasión propicia para escuchar la voz del Señor y renovar la decisión de seguir a Cristo", dijo.

El Papa también animó a las parroquias, familias y comunidades religiosas a "realizar en Cuaresma un camino compartido", haciendo hincapié en "la dimensión comunitaria de la escucha de la Palabra y de la práctica del ayuno".

El Miércoles de Ceniza, el Papa León presidirá la tradicional procesión en la colina del Aventino de Roma, desde el monasterio benedictino de San Anselmo hasta la basílica de Santa Sabina, donde celebrará la Misa.

"Queridos hermanos, pidamos la gracia de vivir una Cuaresma que haga más atento nuestro oído a Dios y a los más necesitados", expresó.

(Courtney Mares es editora del Vaticano para OSV News. Síguela en @catholiccourtney.)

NOTAS: Para leer el mensaje completo, vaya a <https://www.vatican.va/content/leon-xiv/es/messages/lent/documents/2026-0205-messaggio-quaresima.html>

**Agradecemos a Don Luis y a Horacio por grabar la Novena de Cuaresma y las Reflexiones para la Cuaresma.**

**Radio Luz de Vida comenzará a transmitir las el lunes 9 de febrero, cuatro minutos antes de cada hora. También están disponibles a la carta en la sección de podcasts (<https://www.lolradio.org/Podcasts.html>) del sitio web de Radio Luz de Vida.**

**Agradecemos al Señor por bendecir a Radio Luz de Vida (<https://radio.securenetsystems.net/cirusencore/WL0L2>) para que pueda difundir la Palabra de Dios en la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston y la Diócesis de Steubenville.**

## Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web [www.repostbishopabuse.org](http://www.repostbishopabuse.org). Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea

directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está protegida. **Enlaces e información:** Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de crímenes contra a menores: 304-293-6400.

# Confirmation Schedule

*Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant*

Saturday, Feb. 21: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 11: St. Agnes, Charleston, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 12: Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, April 13: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 18: St. James, Charles Town, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 19: Assumption, Keyser, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 23: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 25: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 26: St. Brendan, Elkins, 11 a.m.

Friday, May 1: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2: SS Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 3: St. Catherine of Siena, Ronceverte, 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 9: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 10: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 7 p.m.

Monday, May 11: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 16: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 17: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 9 a.m.

Friday, May 22: Epiphany of the Lord, Moorefield, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 23: St. Leo, Inwood, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 24: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 24:  
St. Joseph, Martinsburg,  
4 p.m.

Saturday, June 6: Basilica  
of the Co-Cathedral  
of the Sacred Heart,  
Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14:  
St. Matthew / Sacred  
Heart Mission, Point  
Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, June 20:  
St. Sebastian, Kingwood,  
6 p.m.

**Food service Equipment,  
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**Daily Living**  
with Fr. Chapin

**Sunday Mornings**

6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville  
6:30 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)  
9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)  
11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - [www.mydailyliving.com](http://www.mydailyliving.com) and YouTube

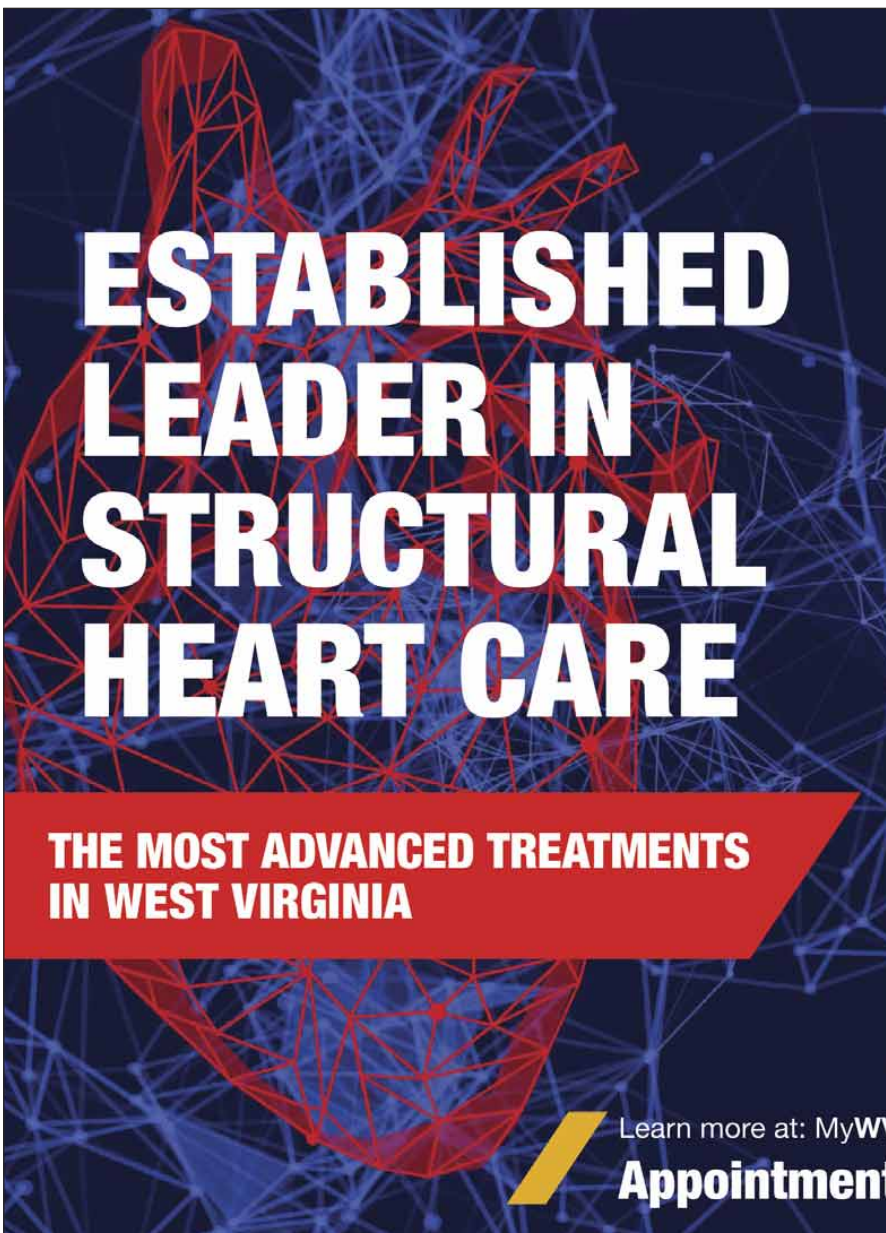
### Prison Ministry Needs Your Help

Prison Ministry is in need of a priest, deacon, or trained Catholic volunteer willing to serve the incarcerated men and women at **North Central Regional Jail in Greenwood, WV.**

Prison ministry has received several calls requesting support for the facility. Before his retirement, Deacon Rue Thompson faithfully traveled to NCRJ weekly to offer prayer, encouragement, and sacramental support to inmates. His ministry made a meaningful impact, and the need continues.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, or if there is someone already serving, please reach out to Kay Sanders at 304-621-4514 or [msanders@dwc.org](mailto:msanders@dwc.org).

**Thank you for your continued commitment to those in need.**



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Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD  
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