

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion



AJ Mull Photo

At the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 4, a catechumen signs her name in the "Book of the Elect" at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

By Colleen Rowan

Those who have been called by the church to share in the fullness of sacramental life, "we rejoice and unite with you as we journey through these Lenten days of purification and enlightenment." This was the message the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston shared with the catechumens and candidates gathered at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

The celebration was held at three churches in the state bringing 184 West Virginians, who are now members of the elect, closer to full communion with the church.

Bishop Mark Brennan presided over the celebrations, the first of which was held at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston for the southern part of the diocese Feb. 26 with 24 catechumens and 27 candidates. The next was held at the Cathedral of

St. Joseph in Wheeling for the northern and central regions of the state March 4 with 45 catechumens and 40 candidates, and finally at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town for the Eastern Panhandle March 5 with 20 catechumens and 28 candidates.

During the Celebration of Election at all three gatherings, each catechumen stood with his or her godparent as his or her name was

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# Support for Mothers & Babies Act (HB 2002) to become Law

**CHARLESTON** — On March 9, the West Virginia House completed legislation on HB 2002, creating the Support for Mothers and Babies Program which provides funding for pregnancy help organizations in West Virginia.

HB 2002 now goes to the governor for his signature.

"There has never been a more exciting time to be pro-life in West Virginia! Nearly all mothers and babies are protected from abortion,

which allows us to shift our focus from passing laws that protect them from the abortion industry to providing women with what they need to support themselves and their babies. To summarize, this legislation will drastically change the way we can care for our most vulnerable and their families," said West Virginians for Life (WVFL) Legislative Director Sadie Keaton.

The West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy

Support Program establishes a fund of \$1 million by the state. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources will designate a third-party contractor which will manage the funding for pregnancy help centers. These centers may be pregnancy resource centers (PRCs), maternity homes, or perinatal hospice centers across West Virginia. Only pro-life organizations that do not commit or refer for abortions may qualify to

receive this funding. The funding can be used to purchase items for mothers, educational materials, equipment, perinatal hospice services, update facilities, hire medical staff, and more. PRCs are non-profit, pro-life organizations whose sole purpose is to provide free services, resources and emotional support to women and families in need.

"West Virginia has nearly 30 pro-life pregnancy resource centers throughout

the state that provide help for mothers and babies in need. We have always supported these centers, and we are happy to help provide legislation to make state funding available to them with the goal of increasing services for this population," said Wanda Franz, Ph.D., president of WVFL.

Gov. Jim Justice declared his support for the Support for Mothers and Babies Act (HB 2002) at the State of the State.

## Rite...

Cont'd from Page 1

called. Bishop Brennan then addressed catechumens, saying: "Your own godparents and teachers and this entire community have spoken in your favor. The church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter sacraments. Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that clearly and in the presence of the whole church. Therefore, do you wish to enter fully in the life of the

church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist?"

"We do," they answered.

The bishop then invited them to offer their names for enrollment.

Catechumens accompanied by their godparents came forward to sign their names in the "Book of the Elect." The bishop then declared them members of the elect to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the Easter Vigil. The congregation joined the bishop in offering the elect a round of ap-

plause.

The Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion followed with the presentation of the candidates. The name of each candidate was announced, and he or she then stood with his or her sponsor. Following the affirmation by sponsors and the assembly, Bishop Brennan said to the candidates: "... the church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table. Join us this Lent in the spirit of repentance. Hear the Lord's call to con-

version and be faithful to your baptismal covenant."

Following a round of applause for the candidates, Bishop Brennan said: "Sponsors, teachers, all gathered here, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them this Lent to the joys of the Easter mysteries."

All then stood with their godparents and sponsors as Bishop Brennan offered the "Prayer over the Elect and Candidates."

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

**To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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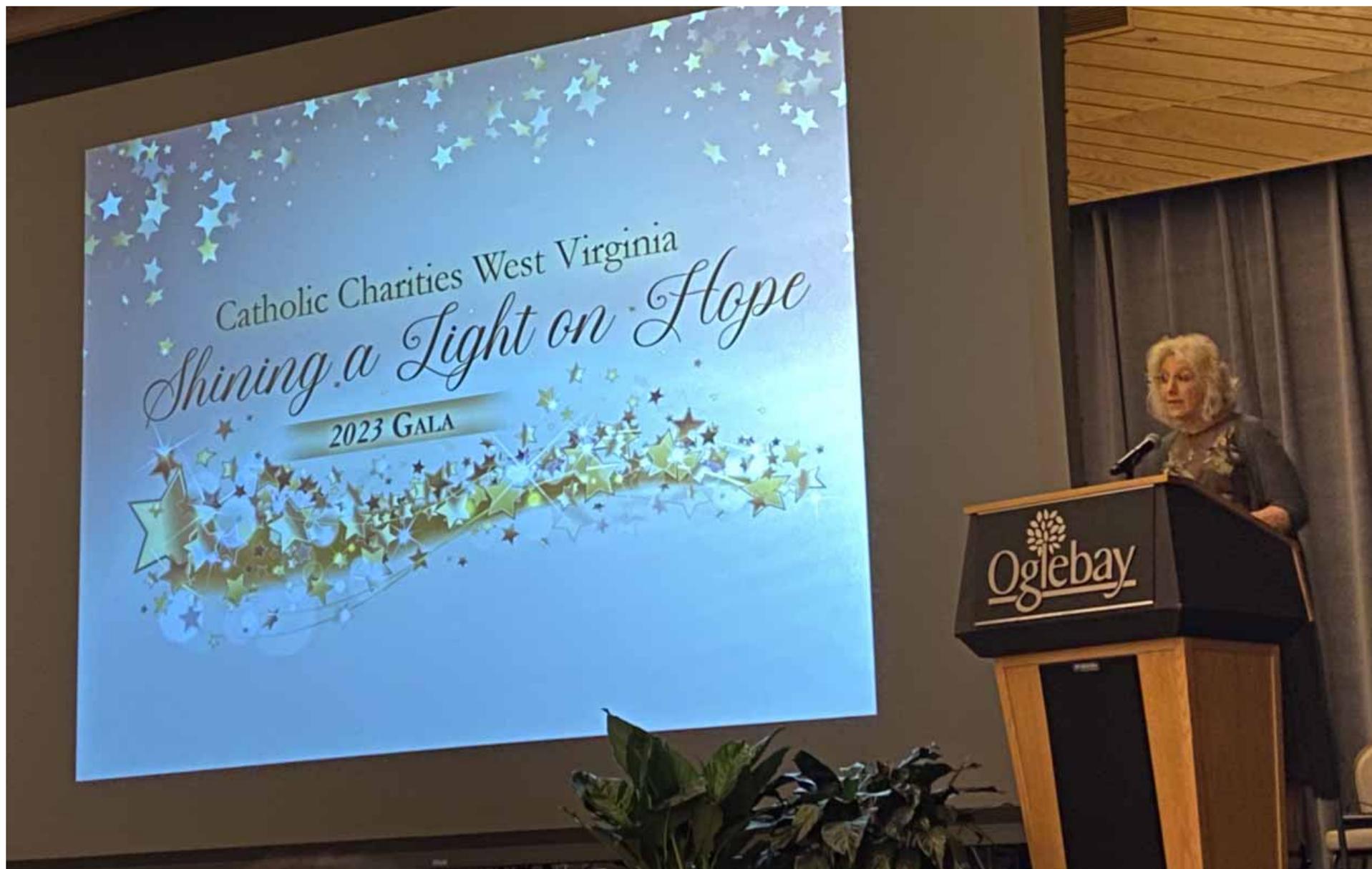
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# CCWVa Hosts Shining a Light on Hope Gala in Wheeling



Colleen Rowan Photo

Catholic Charities West Virginia Chief Executive Officer Beth Zarate shares her remarks at the Shining a Light on Hope Gala at Glessner Auditorium, Oglebay Park, in Wheeling March 4.

## By Colleen Rowan

**WHEELING**—Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) held its annual Shining a Light on Hope Gala March 4 at Glessner Auditorium, Oglebay Park, in Wheeling.

Proceeds from the gala support CCWVa's programs and services in 17 counties in northern West Virginia. The major sponsors were WVU Medicine and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Deacon Paul Lim, vice president for Mission Integration, WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, served as master of ceremonies and welcomed all to the event. Bishop Mark Brennan also welcomed all and offered the invocation.

"Bishop Brennan, thank you for asking us to be the hands and feet of Christ every day," CCWVa Chief Executive Officer Beth Zarate said

in her remarks. "It is our privilege at Catholic Charities to be in a position to help others."

Zarate spoke of the CCWVa board and staff, saying that they are mission focused, kind, compassionate, and caring, and understand that the poverty is complicated.

"They pray. They seek best practices and professional guidance to solve problems," she said. "They have big hearts, and they embrace love of neighbor. They respect that clients are experts in their own journey," she said. "And they know that God is in our story."

Addressing those who attended the gala that evening, Zarate noted words from the welcome letter she penned with Danny Vance, chairman of the Board of Directors of CCWVa: "Thank you for being

here, for showing up to play, for embracing kindness and compassion, for listening with your heart, and for aspiring to make a difference."

A video featuring the services provided by CCWVa was then presented.

Following the presentation, Deacon Lim introduced the Charity in Action Award winners of 2023: Crystal Bauer, Vickie Joseph, and Our Lady of Peace Parish and School in Wheeling. The award recognizes those who show compassion for others by providing exemplary service to the least among us, championing social justice and bringing others to service, CCWVa stated in the gala program.

Having volunteered with homeless outreach efforts for two years, it was not until 2016 that Bauer

took an official position as the director for Project HOPE, under the Wheeling Ohio County Health Department. She is committed to checking on and providing free healthcare to those experiencing homelessness.

Joseph worked for the Youth Advocate Program for several years and then as a social worker at Wheeling Hospital for 34 years. She retired from Wheeling Hospital in March 2022. She is a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (treasurer), Fort Steuben Daughters of the American Revolution (secretary), Serra Club, Post 10 American Legion Auxiliary, and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling.

For more than 60 years, the families who make up Our Lady of Peace Parish and School have

**See "Gala" on Page 4**

## Gala...

**Cont'd from Page 3**

celebrated the love of God through serving others. Preparing a hot breakfast at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling, delivering meals to the homebound, or cleaning the gathering spaces for families who visit the center for much-needed comfort, parishioners and members of the Knights of Columbus give more than their time — they give their warm, compassionate spirit. Accepting the award were Very Rev. Joseph Augustine, J.C.L., J.V., pastor of the parish and school, and Principal Maureen Kerr.

Gala attendees also learned of plans for renovations to CCWV's Marian House, which is located next to the center and will offer emergency shelter to those in need.

"We are called to be witnesses to God's mercy and goodness by loving our neighbor as ourselves," said CCWVa Chief Operating Officer Mark Phillips in his remarks. "For those of us that have spent time with our neighbors at the Catholic Neighborhood Center in East Wheeling that often looks like finding shelter for the homeless."

Too often, he said, staff are forced to tell someone that they simply have no option for them.

"But today," he said, "we're making a commitment to welcome the stranger whether that stranger is a neighbor who is just out of prison or out of rehab or discharged from the hospital" and in need of help.

The Marian House, Phillips told the crowd, will provide individuals who are in desperate situations with a safe place to go.

"Instead of handing someone a tent or hoping a hotel will take them for a day or two," Phillips added, "we intend to create a safe space with direct access to resources and Catholic Charities and all of our partner agencies in East Wheeling."

CCWVa's plans are to renovate the house next to the Catholic Neighborhood Center to create fortified, efficiency-style apartments that can be used as emergency shelter, Phillips said. The structure will be called the Marian House, which will provide a secure, supportive environment while those who find shelter there transition to a longer-term solution.

Gala goers were presented with the opportunity to give support for the project that evening through a donation drive. Attendees pledged donations between \$500 to \$1,000 each to help bring the project to fruition.

The evening also featured an auction, a virtual auction, and dancing to live music by Eli and the Mojo Kings.

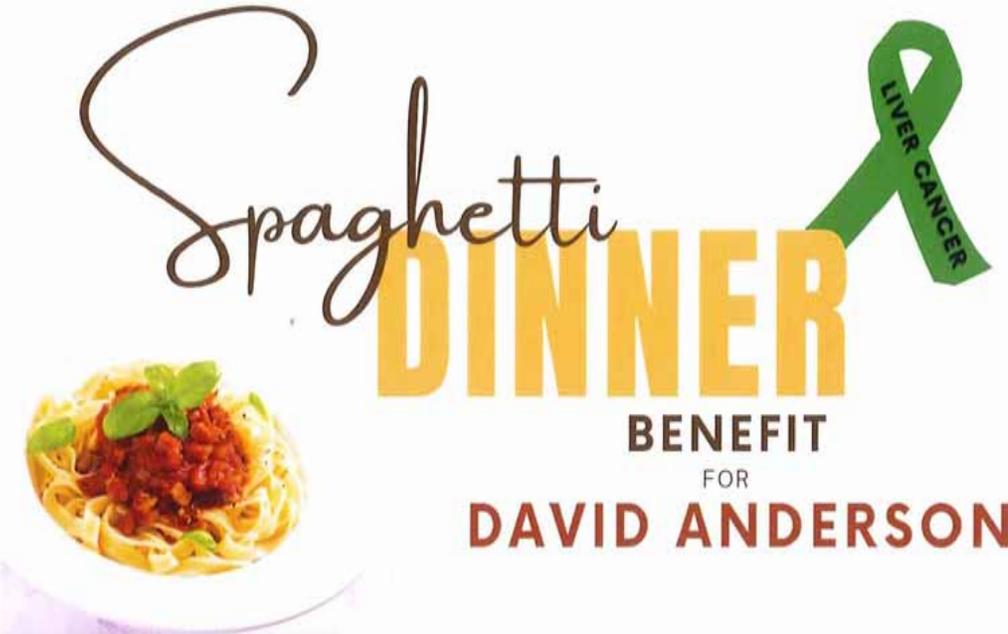
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The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

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

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

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF form to Julie Link, [jlink@dwc.org](mailto:jlink@dwc.org). Resumes will be accepted until April 1, 2023.

# Bishop Waltersheid of Pittsburgh Leads Lenten Mission at Cathedral in Wheeling

The three-night Lenten Mission “The Holy Eucharist: The Source of Our Life, Salvation, and Mission” at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling came to a close March 7 with “a truly beautiful Mass,” parish officials said. The mission was led by Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who celebrated Masses for the mission.

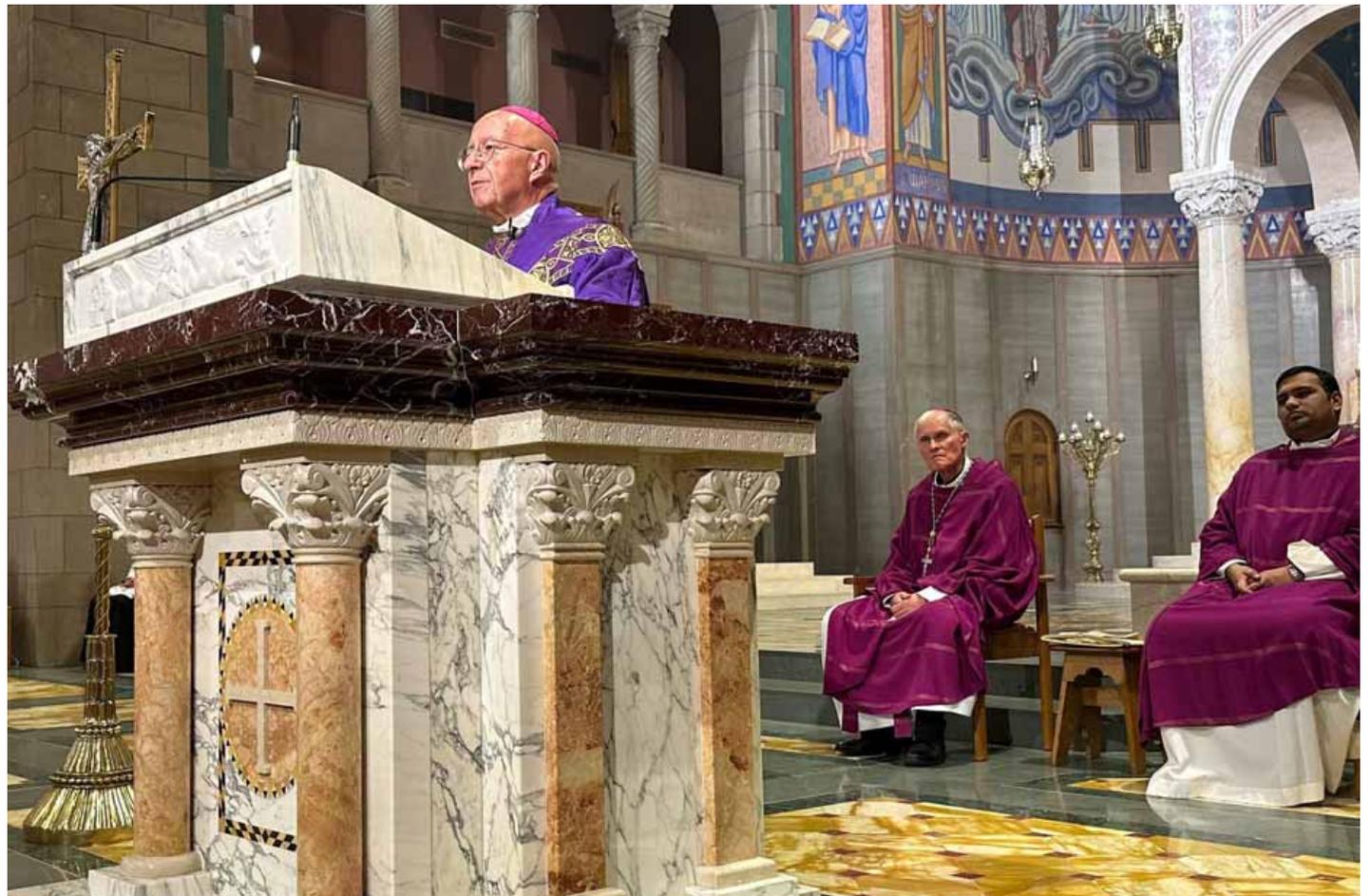
“We are tremendously grateful to Bishop Waltersheid for masterfully leading our mission and for his inspiring reflections on ‘The Holy Eucharist: The Source of Our Life, Salvation, and Mission,’” parish officials said.

Bishop Mark Brennan and Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the cathedral, celebrated Masses, and Deacon Paul Lim, vice president for Mission Integration, WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, served as deacon of the word.

On the first night of the mission, Bishop Waltersheid led the congregation in vespers and reminded the faithful of the importance of the Holy Eucharist in their lives.

On the second night, Bishop Waltersheid led all in a Eucharistic Holy Hour.

“Edified by the faith, enthusiasm and prayerfulness of the participants, there is no doubt that praying before the Holy Eucharist is transformative!” parish officials said.



Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid of the Diocese of Pittsburgh offers his homily during Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling closing the Lenten Mission “The Holy Eucharist: The Source of Our Life, Salvation, and Mission.” Bishop Mark Brennan (seated at left) and Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the cathedral, concelebrated the Mass.

The parish also thanked those who attended during the three evenings.

“May this mission continue to bear fruit within our parish and community, so that all of us may

deepen our understanding of, love for, and living out of the Holy Eucharist!” parish officials said.



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## Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Adventure Camp

*With Him on the Mountain*

We are a Catholic youth adventure camp that ministers to youth through rock climbing, equestrian activities, archery, Adoration, overnight backpacking, and more! Register your camper at [CampCarlowv.org](http://CampCarlowv.org) by June 1st to receive our early bird rate of \$275.

**June 25th – July 1st**, Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.  
**July 2nd – July 8th**, A “catch all week” from 3rd grade through 12th grade.  
**July 9th – July 15th**, Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.  
**July 16th – July 22nd**, A “catch all week” from 3rd grade through 12th grade.  
**July 23rd – July 29th**, “A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation” free program for 7-12 year olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Charities.

Contact Assistant Director, Maggie Moran, for more information: [mmoran@dwc.org](mailto:mmoran@dwc.org) or 1 (757) 995-4486



## Communal Lenten Penance Services

### Beckley Vicariate

St. Patrick, Hinton, March 11 at 3 p.m.  
 Holy Family, Richwood, March 18 at 4 p.m.  
 St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, March 19, 3 p.m.  
 SS. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill, March 26 at 3 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart, Princeton, March 28 at 6 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart, Bluefield, March 29 at 6 p.m.  
 St. John's, Summersville, April 2 at 3 p.m.

### Charleston Vicariate

St. Agnes, Charleston, March 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, March 21 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Anthony, Charleston, March 22 from 6-7 p.m.  
 Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, March 27 at 7 p.m.  
 Ascension, Hurricane, March 28 at 7 p.m.  
 Immaculate Conception, Montgomery, March 29 at 6 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart Williamson, March 29, 6:30 p.m.  
 St. Francis, Logan, March 30, at 6 p.m.  
 Holy Trinity, Nitro, April 5 at 6 p.m.

### Clarksburg Vicariate

Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, March 13 at 7 p.m.  
 St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, March 19 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Brendan, Elkins, March 20 at 7 p.m.  
 St. James the Apostle, Clarksburg, March 21 at 7 p.m.  
 St. Ann's, Shinnston, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Holy Spirit, Monongah, March 23 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, March 26 at 2 p.m.  
 St. Sebastian's, Kingwood, March 26 at 4 p.m.  
 St. Anthony's Fairmont, March 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Holy Rosary, Buckhannon, March 27 at 7 p.m.  
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood, March 29 from 7-8 p.m. (part of Holy Hour)  
 Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, March 30 at 6 p.m.

### Martinsburg Vicariate

St. Joseph's, Martinsburg, March 14 at 7 p.m.  
 Assumption, Keyser, March 29 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Leo's, Inwood, March 29 at 7 p.m.

### Parkersburg Vicariate

St. Vincent de Paul, New Martinsville, March 13 at 6 p.m.  
 Holy Redeemer, Spencer, March 14 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Elizabeth, March 21 at 6 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart, Point Pleasant, March 22 at 6:30 p.m.  
 St. Matthew's, Ravenswood, March 23 at 7 p.m.  
 St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg, March 26 at 2:30 p.m.  
 St. John's, St. Marys, March 28 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Michael, Vienna, Fridays of Lent from 5-6 p.m.

### Wheeling Vicariate

Corpus Christi, Wheeling, March 14, at 6:30 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart, Chester, March 19 from 3-4 p.m.  
 St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, March 23, at 6 p.m.  
 St. Michael's Wheeling, March 23 at 6:15 p.m.  
 Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland, March 26 from 3-4 p.m.

## Ascension Church in Hurricane to Present 'Proclaiming Abundant Love,' Parish Mission

**HURRICANE** — Ascension Parish in Hurricane will have its First-Annual Parish Mission: "Proclaiming Abundant Love" hosted by Precious Blood Parish Missions on March 25 and 26. The guest homilist will introduce the mission at Mass.

On March 26, there will be a discussion of vocations for all ages from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Later that day, there will be a "People of the Covenant Mission" kick off event (food, fellowship & faith formation) at 5 p.m.

On March 27 at 6 p.m., "People of

the Cross" will be the topic. On March 28 at 6 p.m., the topic will be "People Reconciled in the Blood of Christ." This will be formation with a Lenten Penance Service. March 29 at 6 p.m. will be "People of the Cup."

The mission ministers would love to meet with all groups within the church during the mission week. To schedule a time, contact DRE Carolina Leachman at the parish at (304) 562-5816, ext. 3, or by sending e-mail to: cleachman@ascensionhurricane.org.

## Father Manikyalarao to Offer Lenten Mission Talk in St. Marys

**ST. MARYS**—St. John Parish in St. Marys will hold a Lenten Mission Talk on March 29 at 6 p.m. This year's talk will be led by Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, HGN. The evening will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Father Manikyalarao will be offering a reflection on: "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

## Morgantown's St. John University Parish Will Continue Fish Fry during Lenten Season

**MORGANTOWN**—With the success of its debut, the fish fry at St. John University Parish in Morgantown will continue to be held this Lenten season. The parish announced the fish fry will be held the remaining Fridays of Lent except Good Friday (March 10, 17, 24, & 31).

Dine in or take out (no call ahead) is

available. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (12 and under). The meal includes fried or baked cod, French fries, mac'n cheese, cole slaw, green beans, a dinner roll, and a drink.

"Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you there!" the parish posted on Facebook.

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# Register Now for Diocesan Spring Eucharistic Congresses

By Joyce Bibey

The general schedule for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's three Regional Eucharistic Congresses has been released.

Catholics from across West Virginia will come together in Charles Town (April 21-22), Wheeling (April 28-29), and Charleston (June 2-3) as a family to celebrate our faith and fellowship, while focusing on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our lives; and through the Blessed Sacrament He reminds us that through all our joys and struggles He will never leave us.

Each region will feature a dynamic national speaker, engaging breakout session presenters, Adoration, inspiring prayer services, celebratory music, Blessed Carlo Acutis' Eucharistic miracles display, and more. All of these will culminate in Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan. The events are free. Registration is required. The direct link to registration is <https://dwc.org/eucharistic-congresses/>

The general schedule for Friday and Saturday at all locations is:

- Friday Evening:
- 7:00pm - An Evening Service of Prayer...in the style of Taizé
  - 8:00pm - Reception

- Saturday:
- 9:00am - Registration/Coffee and Donuts
  - 10:00am - Morning Prayer Service
  - Keynote Address (immediately following prayer service)
    - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
    - Tours of the church
    - Lunch - with Question/Answer session with Keynote and small table discussion
  - Afternoon - Two sessions of Breakout Presentations (by multiple speakers available)
    - Conclusion - Celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Mark E. Brennan as presider
      - 5:00pm Mass at St. James in Charles Town
      - 5:30pm Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston
      - 6:00pm Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling

Keynotes  
 Charles Town - Father Luke Spannagel, of the Diocese of Peoria  
 Wheeling - Father Timothy Anastos, of the Archdiocese of Chicago.  
 Charleston - Father Joe Freedy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

For more information on the National Eucharistic Revival go to <https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>.



## WEST VIRGINIA EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

### Christ is Present! Will you be? *Come to the Table - Spring 2023*

*The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Eucharistic Congresses are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year renewal of "the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist."*

DATE & LOCATION	KEYNOTE	SCHEDULE
<b>APRIL 21 - 22</b> ST. JAMES CHURCH CHARLES TOWN	 Fr. Luke Spannagel	<b>FRIDAY EVENING</b> Taizé Service Reception <b>SATURDAY</b> Powerful morning prayer & procession of all the vicariates Keynote Speaker Q & A Breakout Sessions Music Eucharistic Adoration Mass and more
<b>APRIL 28 - 29</b> CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH WHEELING	 Fr. Timothy Anastos	
<b>JUNE 2 - 3</b> BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART CHARLESTON	 Fr. Joe Freedy	



For more information and to register visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) or scan the QR code.



# Eucharistic Revival in Fairmont Begins March 12

**FAIRMONT**—Alana Pazdric spoke on behalf of the parish council at a recent Mass at St. Anthony Parish in Fairmont reminding the faithful of the importance of the national Eucharistic Revival and to invite all to the parish’s upcoming Eucharistic Revival.

The U.S. bishops, she reminded the congregation, launched the national revival last June on the feast of Corpus Christi with the first year focusing on events on the diocesan level. Their decision to have the revival was based on a Pew Research study conducted in the fall of 2019 that found only 30 percent of Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

St. Anthony Church will sponsor its Eucharistic Revival with Father Walt Jagela as presenter March 12-16 from 6-7:30 p.m. Father Jagela, pastor of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, will present the reflections of Cardinal Blasé Cupich of Chicago in a five-part series.

“I attended his presentation back in the fall of 2022, and found it to be very informative and uplifting,” Pazdric said. “Father Walt is very charismatic, educated and forward thinking. He will lead a discussion that will open your eyes to the true reason we come to church – the Eucharist.”

She encourages all to attend. All area parishioners are welcome from high school youth to adults. Refreshments will be provided.

June of 2023 begins the Parish Year of the national revival when focus will be on events and gathering at parish churches.

“We are getting a jump on this with this Eucharistic Revival,” Pazdric told the congregation.

The National Eucharistic Revival will culminate with the National Eucharistic Congress, which is scheduled to be held in Indianapolis July 17-21, 2024.



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RETREAT CENTER

# 20/20 Vision Series

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

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

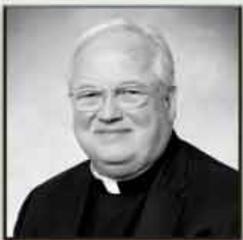
COST FOR COMPLETE SERIES: \$120.00 OR \$15.00 PER SESSION.  
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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

“HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.”

-ROMANS 5:5



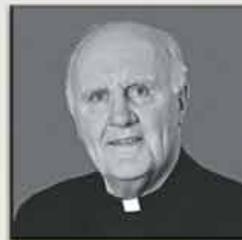
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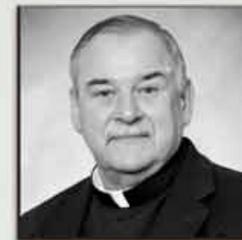
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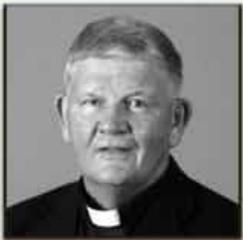
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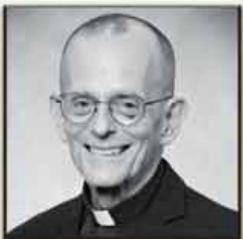
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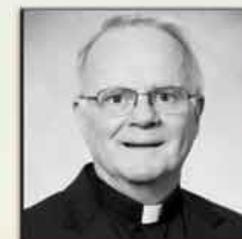
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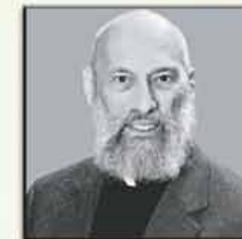
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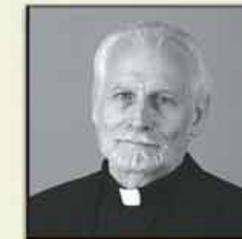
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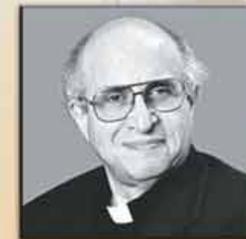
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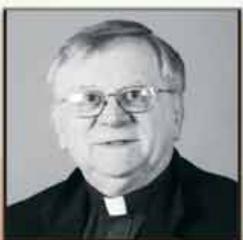
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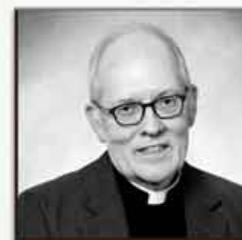
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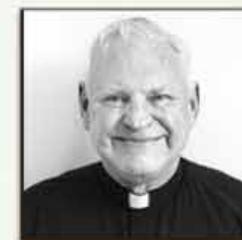
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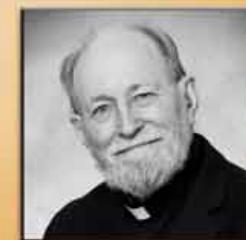
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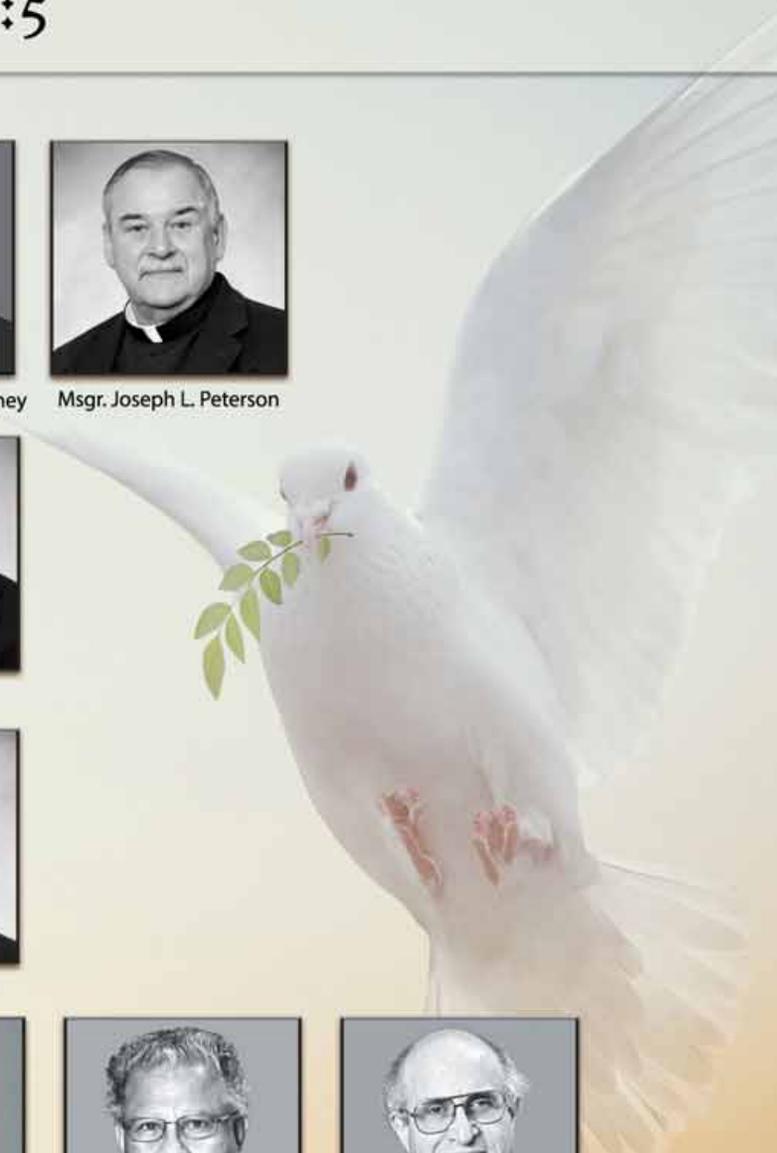


Rev. Paul D. Yuenger



# RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: March 12, 2023



# Polish Experts Reject Claim JP II 'Covered up Abuse,' urge All Church Records be Opened to Give Full Context

By **Paulina Guzik**

**KRAKOW, Poland (OSV News)** — The fact that Cardinal Karol Wojtyla — the future Pope John Paul II — knew about abuse when he was an archbishop of Krakow, Poland, is neither new nor surprising, experts say.

What remains to be answered is what he knew, from whom he knew it, and how much of the cardinal's decisions regarding abusive priests were influenced by the anti-church actions of the communist Security Service (SB), which often falsely accused good priests of immoral behavior only to discredit them.

Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was archbishop of Krakow from 1964 to 1978, the year he was elected pope.

The headline "John Paul II knew about the abuse when he was archbishop of Krakow" made waves in the media March 6, when the documentary "Franciszkanska 3" by Marcin Gutowski premiered on TVN24, a private commercial TV network in Poland. On March 8, the book "Maxima Culpa" by Dutch journalist Ekke Overbeek debuted, showing the same cases depicted in the documentary.

The cases, these authors claim, are "proof" that Cardinal Wojtyla, as archbishop of Krakow, "covered up" abuse. But for historians and experts in Poland, the situation is much more complicated.

The leading case depicted both in the documentary and in Overbeek's book centers on Father Boleslaw Sadus, a now-deceased priest of the Archdiocese of Krakow. The author of the documentary interviews a former employee of the curia in Krakow — a priest — who said that the curia "knew" Sadus had a "sexual deviation" that at the time was believed to be same-sex attraction. The film states that Cardinal Wojtyla transferred the abusive priest to Vienna, and the director reveals a letter from Cardinal Wojtyla to Cardinal Franz König, archbishop of Vienna at the time. The letter, as referenced in the film, omits any information regarding abuse and recommends Sadus as a candidate for university research in Austria.

"The case needs further investigation," Rafal Latka, professor of history at Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University in Warsaw, told OSV News.

The historian emphasized it is not known who told Cardinal Wojtyla about the actions of the priest and what exactly those actions were. The fact that journalists Gutowski and Overbeek used

mostly archives produced by the communist Security Service doesn't give a full picture of the case, he pointed out.

"The answer to those questions," Latka said, "may lay in the church archives."

"The type of complaints about the priest should be in his personal file in the curia," he said. "If the curia in Krakow decided to open the archives to historians, we could investigate the reasons for the cardinal's decision."

In addition, "we could verify whether there was any more communications regarding that case," Latka said, adding it was improbable that at the time of communism, Cardinal Wojtyla would specifically point out in the letter to Cardinal König that a priest he was sending to him is in fact an abuser.

"The regime was checking the letters sent through the national post," he said.

Latka added that the church should decide on an independent commission to investigate the past, one that is "independent and lay-based." The idea of such a commission was first discussed three years ago at some levels of Polish hierarchy, but it never made it to the bishops' conference.

"The responsibility of what we see today also lies on the Polish bishops," Latka said. "Had the commission been opened years ago, we would now have the full picture and we could explain these matters completely based on the confrontation of church sources and documents of the Security Service."

When interviewed for Gutowski's documentary, Thomas Doyle, a former Dominican and a longtime supporter of justice for sex abuse victims, applauded Gutowski, saying, "I think what you discovered is very important because it proves he (John Paul) knew this problem existed before he was pope. But there hasn't been proof."

However, the case of Father Sadus isn't new to Father Tadeusz Isakowicz-Zaleski, church historian and advocate of many victims striving to have their voices heard by the Polish hierarchy. In 2007, he published a book about priests who cooperated with communist Security Service. Father Sadus was one of them.

"Security Service blackmailed abusive priests and recruited them to be informers of the regime," Father Isakowicz-Zaleski told OSV News. Father Sadus, along with almost all cases of abusers with

whom Cardinal Wojtyla dealt, was cooperating with the communist regime.

"I think the reason why Cardinal Wojtyla would react as he did in Sadus's case, was that he would easily believe people, which is not an accusation, this was simply his character," Father Isakowicz-Zaleski said, adding that "he was also acting as a merciful father. The only thing I can't understand is why he wouldn't take care of the victims, of those that were hurt."

And that again comes back to the question of what was the source of Cardinal Wojtyla's knowledge. Was it the victims' parents? Or was it gossip, which at the time of communism, historians agree, the church was cautious and reluctant to believe as gossip was used as one of the operational tools of the regime?

The times also were completely different not only regarding canon law, but also manners.

Danuta Rybicka, a member of the original and primary group of "Srodowisko," a group of young

people Cardinal Wojtyla would call his "family," told OSV News a story of a different side of Cardinal Wojtyla — one who punished abusive priests.

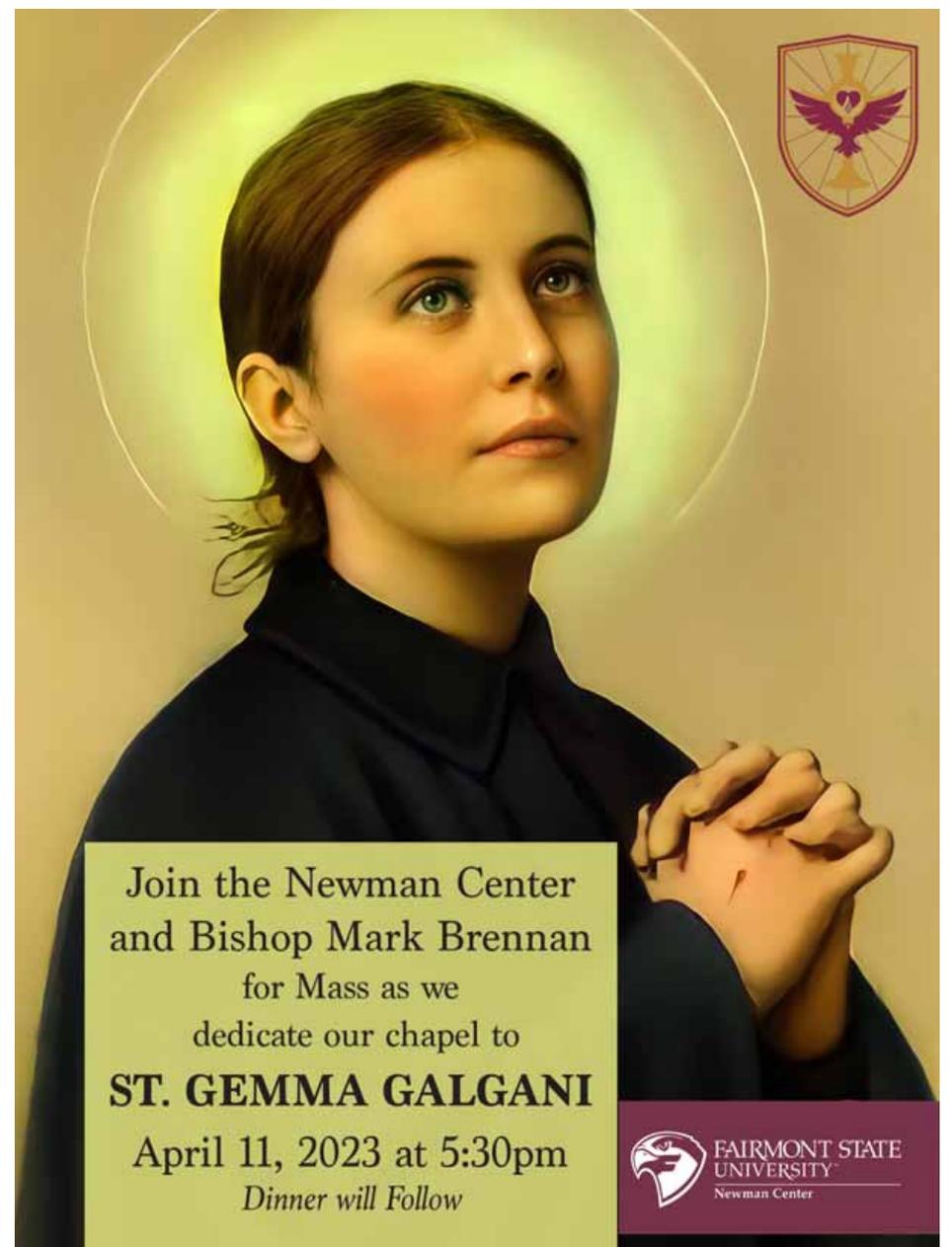
"We had a priest once in our parish. His name was Eugeniusz Sargent. We would often praise Father Sargent to Wujek, how good he is with youth ministry," recalled Rybicka, now 92, referring to Cardinal Wojtyla by his nickname, "Uncle."

"At some point, it must have been the beginning of the 1970s, Wujek came to our house, and to our enormous surprise said to us: 'The priest you told me so many good things about, I had to suspend.'"

Rybicka emphasized in a conversation with OSV News that "we now so openly debate such issues and at the time no one talked about it. I personally learned only years later what pedophilia is."

Father Sargent was another one of the abusers depicted in Gutowski's documentary. The reporter

**See "JP II" on Page 11**



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# Vatican Statistics Show Decline in Clergy, Religious Women, Worldwide

By Carol Glatz

## VATICAN CITY (CNS)

— The number of Catholics and permanent deacons in the world rose in 2021, while the number of seminarians, priests, and men and women in religious orders declined, according to Vatican statistics.

At the end of 2021, the number of Catholics in the world reached 1.378 billion, up 1.3% from 1.36 billion Catholics at the end of 2020, according to the Vatican's Central Office of Church Statistics. By contrast, the world's population increased by 1.6% over the same period.

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, published a brief overview of the global numbers March 3.

While Catholics re-

mained about 17.67% of the global population, their numbers grew in Africa by about 3.1% and in the Americas and Asia by about 1% each, said the summary, which was based on numbers reported Dec. 31, 2021.

The Americas have 48% of the world's Catholics and Brazil is the country with the greatest number of Catholics in the world with almost 180 million people.

While the Americas have 48% of the world's Catholics, it only has 29% of the world's priests. Just a little over 20% of the world's Catholics live in Europe, yet 39.3% of the world's priests minister there.

The Vatican reported that 19.3% of the world's

Catholics live in Africa and are served by more than 12% of the world's priests; 11% of Catholics live in Asia and are served by more than 17% of the world's priests; and just 0.8% of the global Catholic population lives in Oceania where 1% of the world's priests live.

The Catholic Church also had 5,340 bishops at the end of 2021, a slight decrease from 5,363 at the end of 2020. Globally, the average is 76 priests per bishop, it added.

The total number of diocesan and religious order priests decreased globally by 0.57% to 407,872, the Vatican office said. The specific decreases were 0.32% for diocesan priests and 1.1% for religious-order priests.

The statistical office

noted a "serious" imbalance in the ratio of Catholics per priest in the Americas and Africa. Globally there is one priest for every 3,373 Catholics in the world. But the ratio is one priest for every 5,534 Catholics in the Americas and one priest for every 5,101 Catholics in Africa. There are 1,784 Catholics per priest in Europe, 2,137 Catholics per priest in Asia and 2,437 Catholics per priest in Oceania.

The number of religious brothers decreased in 2021 to 49,774 — a drop of about 1.6% from 50,569 the previous year, the office said. The numbers went down in every region except Africa where it increased by 2.2%.

The total number of religious women, it said, was 608,958 at the end of 2021

— a decrease of 1.7% from 619,546 at the end of 2020.

The number of permanent deacons — 49,176 — saw a 1.1% increase over the previous year, with the majority of them serving in the Americas.

The number of seminarians decreased globally by 1.8% to 109,895. About 61% of them are seminarians for a diocese and 39% of them for a religious order.

The number of seminarians has been declining each year since 2013, the Vatican office said. The only increase by region for 2021 was in Africa with 0.6% and the sharpest decline in the number of seminarians was in North America and Europe with a 5.8% decrease each in 2021.

## JPII...

### Cont'd from Page 10

claims Cardinal Wojtyla relinquished responsibility for him, returning him back to his original bishop of Lubaczowska dioceses.

Tomasz Krzyzak of *Rzeczpospolita*, a Polish daily newspaper, investigated the case of Father Surgent back in December 2022, using the same archives as Gutowski. Krzyzak reported then that Cardinal Wojtyla expelled Father Surgent from the Archdiocese of Krakow and left the final decision regarding him to his bishop of the Lubaczowska Diocese.

"What Wojtyla did in the case of Father Surgent wasn't enough when we see it from the perspective of today — but this case was at his desk at the beginning of '70s, and he did act in accordance with canon law at the time," Krzyzak told OSV News.

The third case shown in TVN's documentary — the case of Father Józef Loranc — also had been previously investigated by Krzyzak.

"However harsh the new documentary may be on Cardinal Wojtyla in this case, it is pretty clear to me. At the moment when Karol Wojtyla learned about abuse of little girls by Father Loranc, he immediately re-

moved him from the parish, suspended (him) and, until the case was resolved, moved him to the convent," Krzyzak said.

There, in the convent, Father Loranc was arrested by the state police. He was released from prison in 1971. After his release, his case was further directed to the church tribunal.

"The church tribunal — which was normal and in accordance with canon law at the time — decided they are not going to further punish the priest because the state already did," Krzyzak said. "But Wojtyla never brought him back to ministry in the parish or school. Instead, after some years, the priest was appointed hospital chaplain."

Additionally, Cardinal Wojtyla wrote to Father Loranc in September 1971 about the church tribunal's decision: "The abandonment of the punishment by the ecclesiastical tribunal neither cancels out the crime nor expiates the guilt. Every crime should be punished."

"With all due respect to those so tragically hurt by sexual abuse, of whom many I heard and of whom many are my friends," Krzyzak said, "we cannot judge those cases completely deprived from the historical context."

"We are today armed with knowledge, levels of empathy, we know what kind of

scars sexual abuse leaves for the lifetime of the victim. At the time Wojtyla was archbishop, that knowledge was much, much lower, and still, we see Wojtyla acted," Krzyzak said.

"The approach of Karol Wojtyla to those cases was rather analogical to the approach of the majority of bishops and priests at the time," Tomasz Terlikowski, a Polish journalist who formerly led the investigative commission in the Dominican order, wrote in an editorial for the Deon online news site.

"Saints are people of their times," added Terlikowski, one of the experts interviewed in the documentary. "They are not excluded from the mistakes and they are not free from negligence of their own times."

"Cardinal Wojtyla and later Pope John Paul learned about those cases throughout his life, and this learning process is clearly visible not only throughout the cases we saw in the media, but also through his papacy," Father Piotr Studnicki, who heads the Child Protection Office of the Polish Episcopal Conference, told OSV News.

"Being a saint doesn't mean you don't make mistakes. A saint learns from mistakes. And clearly Wojtyla did," Father Studnicki said.

(Paulina Guzik is international editor for OSV News.)

# Delaware Bill Would Break Seal of Confession, Require Priest to Report What Penitent Says

By Joe Owens

**WILMINGTON, Del. (OSV News)** — The Delaware General Assembly is taking aim at a basic tenet of the Catholic Church and wants to break the seal of confession between a priest and penitent.

House Bill 74 would do away with the privilege between priest and penitent in a sacramental confession by requiring priests to report information relating to child abuse and neglect that is shared in a confessional.

The Diocese of Wilmington said priests are prohibited from breaking the seal of confession and are bound to keep the confidence of penitents in the sacrament of reconciliation.

"The sacrament of confession and its seal of confession is a fundamental aspect of the church's sacramental theology and practice. It is non-negotiable," the diocese said in a prepared statement March 6.

"No Catholic priest or bishop would ever break the seal of confession under any circumstances. To do so would incur an automatic excommunication that could only be pardoned by the pope himself," it added. "It would be a clear violation of the First Amendment for the government to interfere in this most sacred and ancient practice of our faith."

"While we support initiatives to make Delaware a safer place for minors and vulnerable adults," the diocese

continued, "HB 74 would not contribute to such efforts in any meaningful way."

It said priests "are already mandatory reporters under Delaware's child abuse reporting law in all circumstances" other than the sacrament of confession.

In addition, the statement said, the diocese's "own internal policies require all clergy to report suspected incidents of child abuse to civil authorities."

HB 74 "would not only infringe on the rights of a variety of faith communities, it would also give rise to a number of unintended consequences," the diocese said.

It would create a requirement in law "that would be nearly impossible to meet in a practical sense," because "the overwhelming majority of sacramental confessions are anonymous," and "wholly impossible to meet without violating a fundamental tenet of our faith," it said.

"The Diocese of Wilmington considers the protection of the vulnerable to be one of the most important aims of public policy," the statement said. "However, this legislation would not advance that vital objective."

Within the next few weeks, the House Judiciary Committee could hold a hearing on HB 74, whose primary sponsor is Democratic Rep. Eric Morrison. The measure has two ad-

ditional sponsors as well as eight co-sponsors.

In Vermont and Utah, state lawmakers introduced similar legislation. Two other states, Washington and Kansas, are advancing measures to require clergy be listed as mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect. They are among a handful of states in the U.S. that do not already require this. However, the Kansas measure, introduced by Sen. Tom Holland, does not include protections for religious confessions.

On March 3, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont, testified at a state Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that the church opposes an effort by lawmakers to remove an exemption from Vermont's child abuse and neglect reporting laws that currently protects priests from having to violate the seal of confession if a penitent confesses to child abuse or neglect.

"A priest faces excommunication if he discloses the communication made to him during confession," Bishop Coyne said. "And the sacramental seal of confession is the worldwide law of the Catholic Church, not just the (statewide) Diocese of Burlington, Vermont."

The Utah Legislature ended its 45-day session late March 3. Lawmakers had introduced four measures that would have sought to require clergy to

report child abuse, but none of them got a public hearing this session

In an early February letter to Catholics of the Salt Lake City Diocese, Bishop Oscar A. Solis urged the faithful of the statewide diocese to contact their legislators to ask that they oppose a bill that, like in Delaware and Vermont, would have required priests to violate the seal of the confessional if a penitent admitted child abuse or neglect.

He called the bill "an intrusion into our fundamental right to the free exercise of our religion" and said it "goes against the long-standing tradition of our Catholic Church and other faith denominations who take very seriously the seal of confidentiality as a sacred trust that cannot be violated even at the cost of liberty and death."

"The Catholic Church believes that sexual misconduct of any kind by church personnel is an affront to human dignity of the person and the mission of the church," Bishop Solis wrote. "The spiritual well-being of all victims, their families and others in the community is always of particular concern to the church. The Diocese of Salt Lake City takes allegations of sexual misconduct involving minors and vulnerable persons seriously."

(Joseph P. Owens is editor of The Dialog, newspaper of the Diocese of Wilmington.)

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



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

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

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



## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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



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

**Note: Only the application form and the letter of recommendation from your pastor must be submitted prior to April 15.**

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

# Confirmation Schedule

## Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

**Sunday, March 19:** Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, March 26:** St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 15:** St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, April 15:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.

**Sunday, April 16:** St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, April 18:** St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.

**Monday, April 24:** St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 25:** St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 30:** St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 6:** St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 6:** St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, May 11:** St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 13:** Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 14:** Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 14:** St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 17:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, May 19:** St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 20:** St. Bernadette, Hedgenville, 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 20:** St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 21:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 21:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.

**Monday, May 22:** Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 28:** St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.

**Thursday, June 1:** St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 10:** Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 10:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 18:** Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 24:** Mater Dolorosa, Paden City, 5:00 p.m.



### *Ashes at the Capitol*

Courtesy Photo

Very Rev. Don Higgs, rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston (left), and Father Thomas Kalapurackal, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Charleston and Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Elkview, are pictured after they distributed ashes at the State Capitol on Ash Wednesday.



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

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# Estadísticas del Vaticano muestran disminución del clero y de las religiosas en todo el mundo

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — El número de católicos y diáconos permanentes en el mundo aumentó en 2021, mientras que el número de seminaristas, sacerdotes y hombres y mujeres en órdenes religiosos disminuyó, según las estadísticas del Vaticano.

A finales de 2021, el número de católicos en el mundo alcanzó los 1,378 millones, un 1.3% más que los 1,360 millones de católicos de finales de 2020, según la Oficina Central de Estadísticas Eclesiásticas del Vaticano. En cambio, la población mundial aumentó un 1.6% en el mismo periodo.

El periódico vaticano L'Osservatore Romano publicó el 3 de marzo un breve resumen de las cifras mundiales.

Mientras que los católicos se mantuvieron en torno al 17.67% de la población mundial, su número creció en África en torno al 3.1% y en América y Asia en torno al 1% cada uno, decía el re-

sumen, que se basaba en las cifras comunicadas el 31 de diciembre de 2021.

Las Américas cuenta con el 48% de los católicos del mundo y Brasil es el país con mayor número de católicos del mundo, con casi 180 millones de personas.

Mientras que América cuenta con el 48% de los católicos del mundo, sólo tiene el 29% de los sacerdotes del mundo. Poco más del 20% de los católicos del mundo viven en Europa, pero allí ejercen su ministerio el 39.3% de los sacerdotes del mundo.

El Vaticano informó de que el 19.3% de los católicos del mundo viven en África y son atendidos por más del 12% de los sacerdotes del mundo; el 11% de los católicos viven en Asia y son atendidos por más del 17% de los sacerdotes del mundo; y sólo el 0.8% de la población católica mundial vive en Oceanía, donde vive el 1% de los sacerdotes del mundo.

La Iglesia católica también contaba con 5,340 obispos a finales de 2021, lo que supone un ligero de-

scenso respecto a los 5,363 de finales de 2020. A nivel mundial, la media es de 76 sacerdotes por obispo, añadió.

El número total de sacerdotes diocesanos y de órdenes religiosas disminuyó en todo el mundo un 0.57%, hasta los 407,872, indicó la oficina vaticana. Los descensos específicos fueron del 0.32% para los sacerdotes diocesanos y del 1.1% para los sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas.

La oficina estadística constató un "grave" desequilibrio en la proporción de católicos por sacerdote en América y África. Globalmente hay un sacerdote por cada 3,373 católicos en el mundo. Pero la proporción es de un sacerdote por cada 5,534 católicos en América y de un sacerdote por cada 5,101 católicos en África. Hay 1,784 católicos por sacerdote en Europa, 2,137 católicos por sacerdote en Asia y 2,437 católicos por sacerdote en Oceanía.

El número de hermanos religiosos disminuyó en 2021 a 49,774, lo que supone un descenso del 1.6%

respecto a los 50,569 del año anterior, según la oficina. El número descendió en todas las regiones excepto en África, donde aumentó un 2.2%.

El número total de religiosas era de 608,958 a finales de 2021, lo que supone un descenso del 1.7% respecto a las 619,546 de finales de 2020.

El número de diáconos permanentes, 49,176, aumentó un 1.1% con respecto al año anterior, la mayoría de ellos en América.

El número de seminaristas disminuyó globalmente un 1.8%, hasta 109,895. Alrededor del 61% de ellos son seminaristas para una diócesis y el 39% para una orden religiosa.

El número de seminaristas ha ido disminuyendo cada año desde 2013, dijo la oficina del Vaticano. El único aumento por regiones para 2021 fue en África, con un 0.6%, y el descenso más pronunciado en el número de seminaristas se produjo en América del Norte y Europa, con una disminución del 5.8% cada una en 2021.

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

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

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

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233. 0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

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

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

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



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# Raising Awareness

March 4 was #DressIn-BlueDay for Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The #WVUMedicine #WheelingHospital Medical Oncology team (pictured at right) wore blue to show support for the nationwide health initiative. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and women and the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Preventive screenings are recommended beginning at age 45. In West Virginia, 68% of eligible residents are being screened for colorectal cancer.

Courtesy Photo



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Interventional Cardiology



**Deepak Hooda MD**  
Interventional Cardiology



**Sushant Sharma MD**  
Cardiology

