



More Than 170 to Enter Church at Easter Vigil across Diocese

By Colleen Rowan

“The church rejoices in your desire to draw closer to God...” Bishop Mark Brennan said to the catechumens and candidates gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 5 for the first of three celebrations of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing

Conversion in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The bishop said that he and the Catholic faithful will pray for them as they enter the final days in preparation for the sacraments they will receive at the Easter Vigil when they will enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. “Thank God for the faith that has

brought you thus far,” Bishop Brennan said to them, “and we pray that that faith may grow ever stronger in your minds and hearts.”

At the cathedral that day, 32 catechumens and 47 candidates from the northern region of the diocese were present. The next day, Bishop Brennan travelled to Charleston to

celebrate with the 22 catechumens and 36 candidates of the southern region at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. This Sunday, March 13, the celebration will culminate with the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town where
See “Church” on Page 4

Pope Says ‘Rivers of Blood’ Flowing in Ukraine; Vatican Ready to Help

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said the Vatican “is ready to do everything to put itself at the service of peace” in Ukraine.

“Rivers of blood and tears are flowing in Ukraine,” the pope said March 6 as he led thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square in praying for peace after reciting the Angelus.

Pope Francis said he was sending two cardinals to Ukraine: Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who runs the office of papal charities, and Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny, interim president of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

“The presence of the two cardinals there is the presence not only of the pope, but of all the Christian people who want to get closer and say: ‘War is madness! Stop, please! Look at this cruelty!’” the pope said.

Moments after the pope spoke, Cardinal Krajewski told Vatican News that he was about to leave Rome for Poland “because from Poland I am sure I will be able to enter Ukraine. Then we’ll see how far I can get to reach the people and show them the closeness of the pope, tell them

See “Ukraine” on Page 3



CNS photo/Vyacheslav Madiyevskyy, Reuters
Rescuers in central Kharkiv, Ukraine, carry the body of a victim outside the regional administration building March 1. City officials said was hit by a Russian missile attack.

Sister M. Christine Diensberg, OSF—Obituary

Sister M. Christine Diensberg, OSF (formerly Sister M. Chiara), born in Buffalo, N.Y., on October 27, 1940; died March 2, 2022 at the Stella Niagara Health Center. She was the daughter of the late Robert and Rose (Bilger) Diensberg. Sister Christine entered the Sisters of St. Francis August 30, 1959 and was professed August 18, 1962.

Sister Christine received her BA degree in Math at Rosary Hill (Daemen) College. After receiving a grant from the National Science Foundation, she attended the University of Maine, receiving her MS in Education. She later attended Notre Dame University where she earned an MA in Theology (Liturgy). She also received an AAS in Occupational Therapy from Erie County Community College North.

Sister Christine's ministries included teaching at Stella Niagara High School; Stella Niagara, N.Y., St. Aloysius Academy, New Lexington, Ohio, and Charleston Catholic High School, Charleston; Pastoral Ministry in St. Bridget Parish, Newfane, N.Y.; St. John the Baptist Parish, Buffalo, N.Y.; St. Joseph Parish, Gowanda, N.Y.; and Bishop McMahon High School, Buffalo, NY; Holy Trinity Parish, Nitro, WV; and Plato Services, Buffalo, N.Y.; and Campus Ministry at both Daemen and Canisius Colleges. Her degree in Occupational Therapy was put to use at Niagara Lutheran Delaware Nursing Home, Heathwood Nursing Home, Buffalo; and Degraff Adult Day Care, North Tonawanda, N.Y. She also served in the activities department at Manhattan Nursing Home, the Weinberg Campus Rosa Coplon Living Center and Buffalo General Hospital in the Community Mental Health Unit.

Sister Christine also spent countless hours volunteering for Heifer International, Ladies of Charity and at the St. Vincent de Paul dining room. After moving to the Stella Niagara Health Center in 2011, she continued to volunteer as a receptionist at the Main Entrance.

Mass of Christian Burial was in the Sister's Chapel. Burial was in Stella Niagara Cemetery.

Memorials to the Sisters of St. Francis, Stella Niagara, NY 14144.

To send flowers to Sister M. Christine Diensberg, OSF's family, please visit our floral store.



Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- March 23: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- April 2: Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby, 4:30 p.m.
- April 23: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
- April 26: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- April 27: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg, 5:30 p.m.
- April 28: Corpus Christi, Wheeling, 6 p.m.
- April 30: St. Alphonsus, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- May 1: Combined Confirmation: Sacred Heart, Chester, and Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland, 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart, Chester
- May 3: St. Michael, Vienna, 6 p.m.
- May 5: Combined Confirmation: Holy Trinity, Nitro, and St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft
- May 7: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- May 9: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- May 12: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 6:30 p.m.
- May 18: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
- May 19: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 6 p.m.
- May 20: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
- May 21: St. James, Charles Town, 10 a.m.
- May 22: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 3 p.m.
- May 28: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.
- May 29: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg, 2 p.m.
- May 31: St. Anthony, Follansbee, 6 p.m.
- June 4: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5 p.m.
- June 25: St. Brendan, Elkins, 5 p.m.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer.

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or 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, 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 a 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, 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, click "Diocese," then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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Praying for the People of Ukraine

The parishioners of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont pray for the people of Ukraine and world peace Feb. 27. Parishioners will be praying the rosary 25 minutes prior to every weekend Mass, and there will be an hour of Eucharistic Adoration at the church on all weekdays during Lent.

Cardinals Arrive in Ukraine, Hungary on Mission of Hope

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two cardinals arrived at separate destinations on one mission entrusted to them by Pope Francis: to bring relief, hope and encouragement to suffering Ukrainians.

Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, papal almoner, arrived in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv March 8 and met with Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, head of the Latin-rite Archdiocese of Lviv.

Father Andriy Soletskyy, a spokesman for Archbishop Shevchuk, told Catholic News Service March 9 that Archbishop Shevchuk traveled from Kyiv to Lviv the day before specifically to meet with Cardinal Krajewski and help him fulfill the mission Pope Francis had entrusted to him. That may include helping the cardinal get to Kyiv

“if possible,” Father Soletskyy said.

However, he said, for the security of both the cardinal and Archbishop Shevchuk, the church will not share details of how or when either is traveling.

Lviv has not been shelled, “thanks be to God,” Father Soletskyy said, but the city in Western Ukraine is being overwhelmed with displaced people gathering there to try to find rides, trains or buses to Poland, Hungary or Romania. People are sleeping in line at the train station and every church has opened as a shelter.

But with Lviv’s population having doubled in the past two weeks, he said, the ability to shelter and feed everyone is becoming critical.

According to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Cardinal Krajewski was to visit a variety of social service centers and take part March 10 in a joint prayer service with “representatives of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations.”

Prior to his arrival in Ukraine, Cardinal Krajewski met with Caritas volunteers helping refugees in several Polish cities near the border with Ukraine.

According to the Polish Catholic weekly *Gosc Niedzielny*, the Polish cardinal was asked by journalists if he was afraid of entering a war zone.

“I am afraid, as everyone is afraid, but I went to confession before leaving; I have no debts, I wrote a will,” he said. “I go freely to bring the Gospel. I want to be with these people.”

Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny, interim president of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, arrived in Budapest, Hungary, March 8 and visited the Keleti train station where he met with Caritas volunteers and thanked them for their work.

He also met with refugees who fled the violence in Ukraine, including two medical students from Nigeria as well as several from China and Vietnam. De-

spite reports of discrimination against African and Asian residents in Ukraine attempting to flee the country, Vatican News said the group did not experience difficulties crossing the border.

According to Vatican News, one of the Nigerian students, Joyce, told Cardinal Czerny, “I just want to go home.” Cardinal Czerny shook her hand and replied, “Good luck. God is with you, and the pope is close to you.”

The cardinal met March 9 with Zsolt Semjén, Hungary’s deputy prime minister, who assured him Hungary would welcome all refugees from Ukraine “without limits.”

Vatican News said the cardinal asked Semjén to make that welcoming attitude a permanent part of Hungarian government policy and to expand the country’s welcoming of people seeking refuge. The government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban has been promoting an extremely restrictive immigration policy for the country.

Ukraine...

Cont’d from Page 1

he loves them, prays for them and wants to encourage them.”

The cardinal also will bring rosaries from Pope Francis “because with prayer we can move mountains and even stop the war,” he said.

Cardinal Czerny told Catholic News Service that he would be heading to Hungary’s border with Ukraine and would see what could be done from there.

Even if the cardinals cannot get into Ukraine, the Polish and Hungarian borders are the top two destinations of Ukrainians — mainly the elderly, women and children — fleeing the war.

The U.N. Refugee Agency said that as of March 5

more than 1.3 million Ukrainians had fled the country since the Russian invasion began Feb. 24; more than 750,000 of them had crossed into Poland and almost 170,000 had crossed into Hungary.

In his appeal, Pope Francis again praised the nations, charitable organizations and individuals helping the refugees.

The need for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, “that tormented country, is growing dramatically by the hour,” the pope said.

“I make a heartfelt appeal for humanitarian corridors to be genuinely secured, and for aid access to the besieged areas to be guaranteed and facilitated in order to provide vital relief to our brothers and sisters oppressed by bombs and fear,” Pope Francis added.

Russia and Ukraine had negotiated a partial cease-

fire that was supposed to go into effect March 5 to allow civilians to flee several cities encircled by Russian troops and to allow the delivery of aid to people who are without food, water and medicine. Both sides accused the other of violating the cease-fire, and only several hundred of the hundreds of thousands of people to be evacuated were able to leave.

“Above all, I plead for an end to armed attacks, for negotiations to prevail — and for common sense to prevail — and for a return to respect for international law,” Pope Francis said.

He also thanked the journalists “who put their lives at risk to provide information. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for this service, a service that allows us to be close to the tragedy of that population and helps us assess the cruelty of a war.”

Church...

Cont'd from Page 1
the 11 catechumens and 25 candidates of the eastern region will gather.

In all, 173 are coming into the church this year—65 catechumens and 108 candidates. In the northern region, which has the most coming into the church this year, the top three parishes with the highest number of catechumens and candidates are St. John University and St. Francis de Sales in Morgantown, and St. Mary's in Star City. In the south, the parishes with the most are St. Joseph's in Huntington, the basilica co-cathedral, and St. Francis de Sales in Beckley. In the Eastern Panhandle, the parishes of St. James in Charles Town and St. Joseph's in Martinsburg have the most catechumens and candidates.

During the Celebration of Election at all three gatherings, each catechumen stood with his or her godparent as his or her name was 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 then joined the bishop in offering the elect a round of applause.

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 conversion 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."

In the days prior to the three celebrations, the diocese's Director of Worship and Sacraments Bernadette McMasters Kime was delighted that this year the diocese would be able to celebrate the combined Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, not having as many Covid-19 restrictions.

"It is such a joy to see that in spite of the Coronavirus pandemic and challenges facing the world, that we are so fortunate to have these men, women, and children seek full membership in the Catholic Church," Kime said. "As a diocese, we need to support them with our prayers, and warmly welcome them into our parish families and diocesan community."

Participating parishes across the diocese are: Basilica Co-Cathedral in Charleston, St. Francis de Sales in Beckley, St. John's in Benwood, St. James the Greater in Charles Town, St. Agnes in Charleston, Sacred Heart in Chester, Immaculate Conception in Clarksburg, St. Brendan's in Elkins, Immaculate Conception in Fairmont, Annunciation of Our Lord in Fort Ashby, St. Thomas in Gassaway, Good Shepherd in Glenville, Our Lady of Fatima in Huntington, St. Joseph's in Huntington, As-



Colleen Rowan Photo

At the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 5, Michelle Shepherd of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in New Martinsville signs her name in the "Book of the Elect" at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. With her is her godmother Debra Freeland.

cension in Hurricane, St. Leo's in Inwood, St. Joseph's in Martinsburg, Immaculate Conception in Montgomery, St. Francis de Sales in Morgantown, St. John University in Morgantown, St. Luke the Evangelist in Morgantown, St. Francis Xavier in Moundsville, Immaculate Conception in New Cumberland, St. Vincent de Paul in New Martinsville, Holy Trinity in Nitro, St. Francis Xavier in Parkersburg, St. Margaret Mary's in Parkersburg, Sacred Heart in Princeton, St. Matthew's in Ravens-

wood, Blessed Sacrament in South Charleston, St. John's in St. Marys, St. Mary's in Star City, St. Joseph the Worker in Weirton, St. Paul's in Weirton, St. Patrick's in Weston, Corpus Christi in Wheeling, Our Lady of Peace in Wheeling, St. Michael's in Wheeling, St. Vincent de Paul in Wheeling, and St. Charles Borromeo in White Sulphur Springs.

The worship aid for all three celebrations has this message: "To the men, women, and children who have been called by the

Church of Wheeling-Charleston 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. To godparents, pastors, RCIA coordinators, RCIA team members, participating parishes, parishioners, and family members of the elect, we wish you God's blessings as you continue your work and witness during these final days before our celebration of the Easter mysteries."



Colleen Rowan Photo

Candidates stand with their sponsors at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion March 5.

Northern Panhandle Catholic Schools Present Lenten Reflection at Cathedral



A Lenten Reflection is presented at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling March 6 by students from Central Catholic High School and Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Peace, St. Michael's, and St. Vincent de Paul schools in Wheeling; and Madonna High School, and St. Joseph the Worker, and St. Paul schools in Weirton March 6. Colleen Rowan Photo

WVIPL Announces Faith Climate Action Week

West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (WVIPL) invites Catholic parishes and schools around the state to participate in Faith Climate Action Week (FCAW) from April 22-May 1, with a downloadable organizers' kit available online beginning March 10. FCaw is a ten-day observance during Earth Month in which faith communities across the country are encouraged to focus on how they can act to protect our climate. It is a program of the national Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) network. This year's theme is "Sacred Trust:

Safeguarding Our Children's Livable Future."

Free resources available in the kit include climate change information sheets, an Earth Day prayer, a prewritten children's blessing ceremony, postcards, and a guide with suggestions for additional actions that could be undertaken by congregations independently.

In addition, faith communities may stream this year's featured film, "Youth v. Gov," and download a viewing discussion guide free of charge. Discussion guides

will be available in March, while the film is available for free streaming and viewing rights between April 11 and May 1.

Angie Iafrate, program and outreach coordinator with WVIPL, notes, "Speaking on the topic of climate change, Pope Francis himself has stated that 'each of us - whoever and wherever we may be - can play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home.' The Faith Climate Action Week organizers' kit offers

an easy, low-prep start to heeding the pope's call to act locally on this global issue which affects us all."

WVIPL is able to offer in-person or virtual assistance with activity planning or implementation, pending schedule availability and upon request.

A link to the kit download will be available beginning March 10 at www.wvipl.org and via WVIPL's Facebook page. Please e-mail westvaipl@gmail.com for more information or for assistance in accessing the kit.

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PCHS's Audrey Smith Takes First Place in Science Fair, Chemistry Division II

Parkersburg Catholic High School's Audrey Smith won first place in the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair for Chemistry Division II March 7 for her project "Amaze-balls." She is pictured here following her win wearing her first place medal.
Courtesy Photo



Wheeling Central Senior Kelcie Herrmann Selected as a Member of WV All-State Choir



Courtesy Photo
It was a glorious day in Charleston for the final day of the West Virginia State Music Educators Conference where Wheeling's Central Catholic High School senior Kelcie Herrmann (shown above) delivered an outstanding performance as part of the All-State Honor Choir, CCHS officials posted on the school's Facebook page.

St. Joseph Seventh-Grader Places Second at State Science Fair



Courtesy Photo

St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, seventh-grader Jack Allen placed second in the Biology B (behavioral and social sciences) category at the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair in Charleston March 7 for his project titled "Is Disney the Happiest Place on Earth?" Allen is shown above with his project display. Also representing SJS was seventh-grader Freyja Dreflak, whose geodome project was entered in the engineering category.

Ss. Peter and Paul Students Win Fayette County Young Writer's Contest



Courtesy Photo

SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Oak Hill congratulated its students who placed in the Fayette County Young Writer's Contest. The students are pictured from left: Caroline Swank—third place (third- and fourth-grade division), Molly Grass—second place (fifth- and sixth-grade division), and Sam Lockhart—first place (first- and second-grade division).

Catholic Community Invited to St. Joseph's Table in Martinsburg



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the St. Joseph Altar at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg.

As the Year of St. Joseph comes to a close, the Catholic community is invited to help celebrate St. Joseph School's patron saint by attending the second annual St. Joseph's Table on Sunday, March 20, at St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg.

There will be vespers at 5 p.m., followed by dinner in Lackey Hall. The menu includes St. Joseph sawdust with pasta, minestrone di verdure,

bread, and desserts. Meals may be eaten in the hall or taken to go.

Attendees are encouraged to wear red.

The dinner is open to everyone and freewill donations will be accepted, as will donations of nonperishable foods for Berkeley County CCAP/Loaves and Fishes.

Please RSVP to the parish office by calling (304) 267-4893.

St. Joseph altars, often referred to as tables in Catholic churches in the United States, date to medieval times in Sicily. The legend is that a drought in the 1600s created a great famine. Sicilians prayed to St. Joseph for rain and promised that if he answered their prayers, they would dedicate a feast day in his name every year to feed the hungry. It did rain, and the tradition was born.

Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

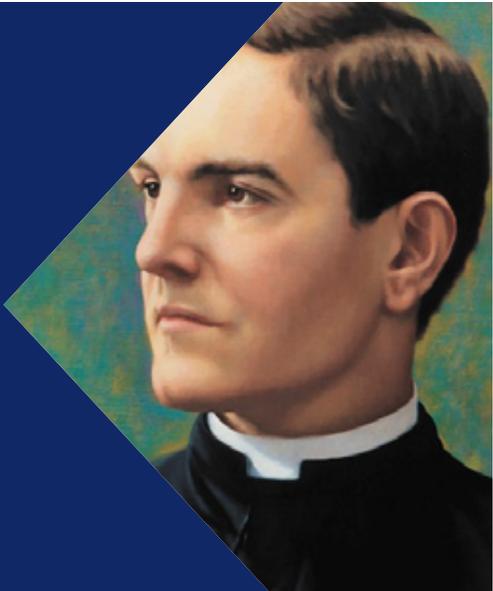
6:30 WOWK 13	Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
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Territory Meeting

40 Cans for Lent Food Drive to Benefit Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay County

CHARLESTON—The St. Michael the Archangel Council of the Knights of Columbus in Charleston is sponsoring a 40 Cans for Lent Food Drive to benefit the Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay County.

The food drive will start the weekend of March 12-13 and run through Easter Sunday, April 17. Knights will pass out slips of paper with donation information at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston which may be returned to the council's Post Office Box P.O. Box 11578 Charleston, WV 25339-1578 or the Sunday collection basket.

"Although we will accept non-perishable food at several dates to be announced, we encourage monetary donations by check," council officials said, noting that Father Thien Duc Nguyen, SVD, pastor of St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and Risen Lord Mission in Clay County, where the food pantry is located, "is skillful in knowing how to purchase food in quantity and will certainly put any money donated to good use."

Father Thien's most requested food items are: peanut butter, canned tuna

fish, canned soup, any canned vegetable, and canned fruit. Crackers would also be appreciated.

"In our combined Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive we helped Father Thien get food to over 252 families with donations amounting to \$5,337," council members said. "We thank our parishioners for their generosity during this time of continued need."

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Bluefield Knights Get a Helping Hand from Sacred Heart Youth Group



Courtesy Photo
Knights of Columbus Council #1404 in Bluefield gets a helping hand from the youth group at Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield for the Annual Drive Thru event. The kids helped prepare and deliver Italian sauce, meatballs, and lasagna.



Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree - WV District

Paul Niedbalski - District Master

Sam Gross - District Marshal

CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

Who Are the Fourth Degree Knights?

They are the Knights on Main Street, the men you probably envision when someone says Knights of Columbus to you. They're present in their distinct uniform at civic and Church events, acting as honor guards and color corps, or standing in respect at the funerals of members or during adoration of the Eucharist.

But there is more to being a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus than a uniform. They are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism, the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen.

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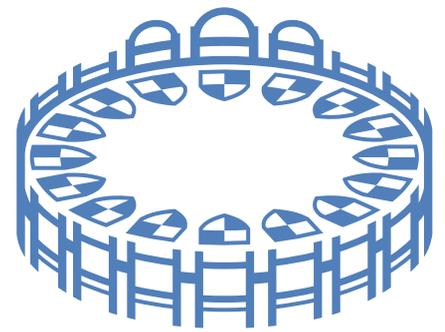
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Women's Day: A Time to Measure Progress, Reach out to Young Women

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church at all levels can find ways to involve more women in leadership positions, “but you have to start with wanting it. The how follows the fact that you want it; that’s where the creativity opens up,” said Carolyn Y. Woo, former CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services.

On the eve of International Women’s Day, March 8, Woo spoke to Catholic News Service about her new book, “Rising: Learning from Women’s Leadership in Catholic Ministries,” published by Orbis Books.

International Women’s Day is a commemoration particularly celebrated in Italy where women are given mimosa flowers and a night out with their female friends.

It’s also a day when Catholic organizations, women’s religious orders and embassies to the Holy See host conferences paying tribute to the ministries carried out by women.

This year’s slate included a webinar on “Women, Crisis and Resilience” sponsored by the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations with the support of the embassies of Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Ireland and the Netherlands. And Caritas Internationalis and the British Embassy to the Holy See sponsored a conference on “Women as Builders of Dialogue.”

The spring celebration also is a popular time to take account of the slowly growing number of women holding upper-level leadership positions at the Vatican.

The most recent entry is Emilce Cuda, the newest secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America; her promotion by Pope Francis was announced Feb. 18. In late December Pope Francis announced Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli would serve as interim secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. And in November, he named Sister Raffaella Petrini, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, to be secretary-general of the office governing Vatican City State.

They join a woman serving as one of two undersecretaries of the Synod of Bishops; two women undersecretaries at the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life; the director of the Vatican Museums; and an undersecretary at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Some argue that there could and should be more. Woo said progress in inviting women into ministry, recognizing their talents and calling them to leadership is “uneven” but “we are not talking about evenness, we are talking about progress, about rising. They have not risen totally, but they are rising.”

The book begins with a story about meeting a young woman who wondered if women leaders in the church would ever be anything but exceptions because, the student said, “it seems that women are not welcomed by the church and there are no doors that we can even knock on.”

That encounter, Woo said, was not the first or last time a young woman said, “the church doesn’t want us, it doesn’t value us, it diminishes women.”

With so few women in leadership in some areas of church life and with ordination reserved to men, how the young woman came to that conclusion is understandable, “but I thought it was so incomplete,” Woo said.

In parishes and dioceses, schools and universities, as well as regional and national Catholic organizations, like Catholic Relief Services, Woo said she has worked with many women in top leadership positions.

The misperception of that young woman and

others, she said, “leads to decisions, which are actually harmful for the church and definitely harmful for their own faith; it gives them a sense of like, ‘It doesn’t want me; I don’t want them.’” And gets “more and more negative” to the point that young women even stop going to Mass.

Woo said she wanted to set the record straight. “There’s work for the church to do. There’s still sort of a lack of real hospitality to women,” she said. “On the other hand, there’s also a lot which has been done.”

And, she said, it is important to counter the notion that women leading Catholic charitable, social service and health care ministries are involved in something less important to the life of the Catholic Church than the priests who celebrate Mass and the sacraments.

A career becomes a ministry, Woo said, when “the focus is on the other” and making the lives of others better. In a ministry, “you serve because you believe that is what God calls you to do, you believe that it is

a privilege that connects the neighbor to God and that when you serve your neighbor, you are serving God.”

In her book, Woo also looks at the term “feminine genius,” used often by St. John Paul II and occasionally by his successors to talk about why the church and the world need the active involvement of women.

“While well intentioned, these references are packed with platitudes and stereotypes,” she wrote. “Almost saintly measures of patience, endurance, sensitivity and gentleness are attributed to women.”

“The ‘feminine’ qualities are commendable, but they are definitely neither universal of all women nor unique only to women,” she wrote.

In the interview, she told CNS, “I’ve always been a little allergic to that term.”

“We should include women because we include men” in church discussions and leadership positions, she said. All the baptized are called to contribute their talents to the building of God’s kingdom.



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Boxed Lunch ~ **12:30 p.m.**
Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph ~ **1:15 p.m.**
Music Program/Concert ~ **2 p.m.**
Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan ~ **3 p.m.**

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The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is located at 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston



Meta, Twitter, Netflix on 'Dirty Dozen' List for Enabling Exploitation

By Mark Pattison, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Some familiar brand names were put on the newest "Dirty Dozen" list of companies by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation for enabling exploitation.

Those names include Google Search, Netflix, Twitter, Meta and Visa.

Netflix and Twitter are repeats from 2021, as are Reddit and OnlyFans. Others making the list, released March 8, are Etsy, Kik, Verisign and Kanakuk Kamps.

"We oppose all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation," said Lina Nealon, director of corporate and strategic initiatives for the center, during a video call announcing the 2022 version of the Dirty Dozen.

"Last year, the majority of the list were tech companies," Nealon said, as they "reap soaring revenue without making substantive changes" to deter exploitation.

"We thought 2020 was bad," she added. "The Internet Watch Foundation called 2021 the worst year on record for exploiting children online."

Despite Google and parent firm Alphabet making improvements over the past year — such as, NCOSE noted, Google activating age-appropriate controls on school-bound Chromebooks last year — Google Search was named for 2022.

"We know that exploitation still occurs through Google/Alphabet's many tools, often due to blind spots in policy or practice that — if fixed — could prevent countless abuses worldwide," the center said.

"Meta owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp: all of which are consistently under fire as primary places for grooming, sextortion, child sexual abuse materials, sex trafficking, and a host of other crimes and ills," the center added.

Rather than beefing up online safety standards, it said, "Meta is prioritizing new projects and products, all while pursuing increased, sweeping encryption without sufficient provisions for child online safety which will aid predators in escaping detection and accountability."

NCOSE received a report of a

woman who was "gang-raped within one minute in the VR (virtual reality) room portal," Nealon said, adding that it shouldn't be called "virtual rape" because of the real emotions the woman felt from the assault.

"This company is ranked the worse for sex trafficking, predators" and other ills, Nealon said, "and a spokeswoman says they're 'working things out as it goes along.' That's chilling. Products should not be designed until they're thoroughly vetted."

As Netflix has grown to 200 million subscribers worldwide, "sociologists have identified a marked increase in graphic sex scenes and gratuitous nudity permeating Netflix shows," NCOSE said. "Further, Netflix continues a trend of normalizing the sexualization of children and whitewashing the violence and exploitation in prostitution."

"Pedophiles and other predators go to Twitter to trade in criminal content such as child sexual abuse and nonconsensual pornography. The platform is rampant with accounts and posts functioning as advertisements for commercial sex — including prostitution," the center said.

"Twitter fails to adequately respond to its victims, claiming it cannot be held accountable for disseminating illegal material," NCOSE said. "Twitter has even flatly refused to remove verified child sex abuse material from its site when asked by victims. Twitter must prioritize implementing robust and proactive efforts to remove sexual exploitation and abuse from its platform. Twitter must be held legally liable."

Visa — not some Silicon Valley tech firm, but the credit card company — cut its ties in 2020 with Pornhub, but reestablished the relationship last year with Pornhub's parent company "and other pornography websites," NCOSE said.

The company also "failed to follow the example of Mastercard," it said, "in requiring that sites hosting sexually explicit material implement common sense measures to prevent and remove illegal content."

Mastercard is another firm the center touts as one of its success stories last year.

"Furthermore, Visa also allows transactions for brothels and prostitution websites. Visa should live up to its corporate social responsibility principles and stop buttressing the infrastructure of the exploitative commercial sex industry," NCOSE said.

In addition to Mastercard and Chromebook, NCOSE listed Amazon, Google Ads, YouTube, Netflix, SnapChat, Wish, TikTok, Ebsco, Roku, Google Play, American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Comcast, PayPal and Discord among its success stories from 2021. Of these, Google, Visa and Discord landed on the 2022 Dirty Dozen.

Nealon said on the video call that NCOSE racked up "125 major victories that you and others like you have made happen."

Noting that March 8, the date of the video call, was International Women's Day, Nealon said that in addition to minors, "women, too, are experiencing sexual exploitation and violence," and this constitutes "a rapidly growing crime against women — cybersexual terrorizing, revenge porn or deepfake pornography."

Nealon added NCOSE is challenging Dirty Dozen companies "to live up to their (mission) statements," which she said can sound "lofty," but that companies should compare these statements "to the gravity of harms."

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The Values that Guide Our Work

Our Lenten journey continues, and staff, donors, and volunteers live out our Mission of Love as we encounter neighbors in need. We invite you to explore how you might be called to show God's love to the people you encounter. Since our core values inspire us to be our best selves as we serve throughout West Virginia, we hope they will inspire you as well!

Dignity is the foundation of both our work and our Church's social teaching. We honor the gift of every human life. We respect each person for who they are. And we commit to enhancing the lives of each person we serve. Our work focuses on serving the whole person, and so we collaborate with other or-

ganizations and parishes to ensure each person we meet is treated with dignity.

Since a basic moral test of a society is how we treat the most vulnerable, we work hard to promote **justice** in our relationships and advocate for a society that honors basic human rights. Works of mercy, like our many food pantries, set a firm foundation from which our neighbors can grow and thrive.

As a sign of **compassion**, we empathize with our clients and neighbors. We actively work to alleviate the suffering of others as though such suffering were our own. This value is most evident in our work with disaster survivors. We are on the scene in the immediate aftermath, bearing

witness to loss. And we remain in the years of rebuilding, connecting people with opportunities for recovery.

We serve from a place of **hope**. A better future is possible, and we work toward that vision in everything we do. We invest in the next generation through our child development program, Birth To Three, and our Child Care Resource Center.

The root of the word "**charity**" is love. We are truly present with each person we meet as we accompany them on their journey. Our Case Management program, where we walk with people as they overcome the challenges of poverty, is an example of how we show love and charity to our clients.

We strive for excellence

and value **quality** in all aspects of our work. Using our knowledge, skills, and talents, we act with professionalism, integrity, and commitment. We strive to continually improve in all aspects of our service.

During this season of prayer, fasting, and giving, please join us in embracing these values.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West

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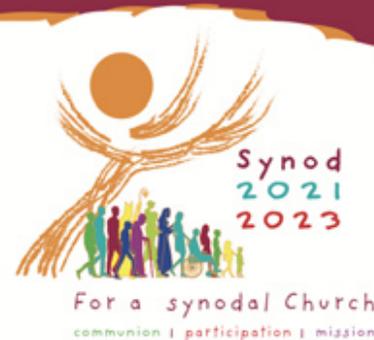
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Find a listening session near you at: dwc.org/synod-sessions/



Synod Listening Sessions Continue Across WV

Christ the King, Dunbar: March 13, noon.

Holy Cross, Pineville: March 20, 4 p.m.

Holy Redeemer, Spencer: March 20, 10 a.m.; March 27, 10 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland: March 11, 6 p.m.; March 20, 9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Bluefield: March 27, 10 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Huntington: March 19, 6 p.m.; March 20, 10 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Powhatan: March 27, 12:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart, Princeton: March 20, 12:30 p.m.

St. Anthony, Charleston: March 12, 10 a.m.; April 3, 11:40 a.m.

St. Augustine, Grafton: March 27, 10 a.m.-noon

St. Elizabeth, Elizabeth: March 13, 1 p.m.; if needed, April 3, 1 p.m.

St. Elizabeth, Phillipi: April 3, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg: March 16, noon; March 26, 1 p.m.

St. James, Charles Town: March 5, 1 p.m.

St. John, Benwood: March 13, noon; March 20, noon

St. Leo, Inwood: March 11, 5-7 p.m.; March 25, 5-7 p.m.; April 3, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Virtual Session-TBA

St. Michael, Vienna: make up date, March 13, 10 a.m.

St. Peter, Farmington: March 20, following Sunday Mass

St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont: March 20, 11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.

St. Sebastian, Kingwood: March 20, 2 p.m.

St. Thomas, Gassaway: March 13, 12:15 p.m.

St. Zita, Masontown: March 13, 2 p.m.

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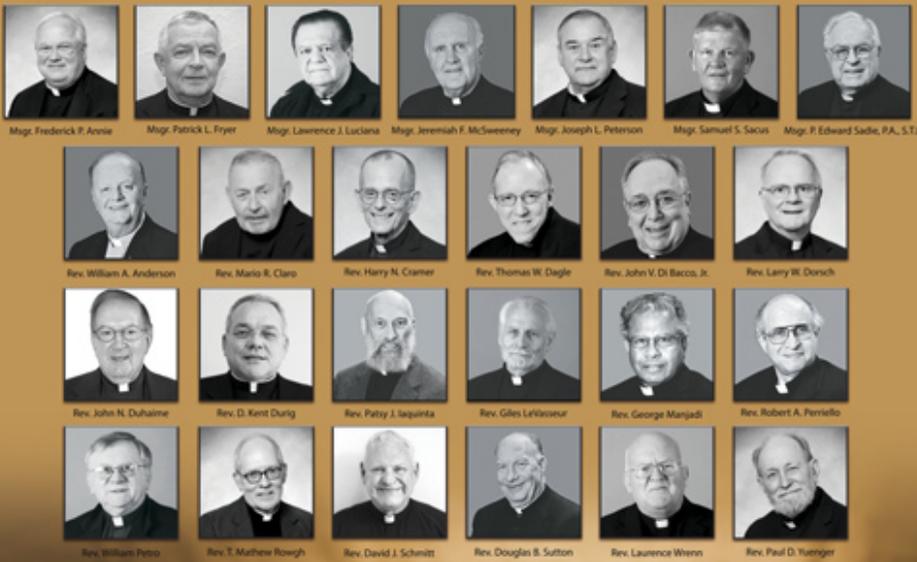




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Cardenales llegan a Ucrania y Hungría con misión de alentar esperanza

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) —Dos cardenales llegaron a dos diferentes lugares en una misión que les encomendó el papa Francisco: llevar alivio, esperanza y aliento a los ucranianos que sufren.

El cardenal polaco Konrad Krajewski, limosnero papal, llegó a la ciudad ucraniana occidental de Lviv el 8 de marzo y se reunió con el arzobispo Sviatoslav Shevchuk de Kyiv-Halych, jefe de la Iglesia católica ucraniana, y el arzobispo Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, jefe de la archidiócesis de rito latino de Lviv.

El padre Andriy Soletsky, portavoz del arzobispo Shevchuk, dijo a Catholic News Service el 9 de marzo que el arzobispo Shevchuk viajó de Kyiv a Lviv el día anterior específicamente para reunirse con el cardenal Krajewski y ayudarlo a cumplir la misión que el papa Francisco le había encomendado. Eso puede incluir ayudar al cardenal a llegar a Kyiv "si es posible", dijo el padre Soletsky.

Sin embargo, dijo, por la seguri-

dad tanto del cardenal como del arzobispo Shevchuk, la iglesia no compartirá detalles sobre cómo o cuándo viajarán.

Lviv no ha sido bombardeada, "gracias a Dios", dijo el padre Soletsky, pero la ciudad en el oeste de Ucrania está siendo abrumada por personas desplazadas que se reúnen allí para tratar de encontrar transporte, trenes o autobuses a Polonia, Hungría o Rumania. La gente está durmiendo en fila en la estación de tren y cada iglesia ha abierto como refugio.

Pero como la población de Lviv se duplicó en las últimas dos semanas, dijo, la capacidad de albergar y alimentar a todos se está volviendo crítica.

Según la Iglesia católica ucraniana, el cardenal Krajewski visitará una variedad de centros de servicios sociales y participará el 10 de marzo en un servicio de oración conjunto con "representantes del Consejo de Iglesias de Ucrania y organizaciones religiosas".

Antes de su llegada a Ucrania, el cardenal Krajewski se reunió con

voluntarios de Cáritas que ayudan a los refugiados en varias ciudades polacas cercanas a la frontera con Ucrania.

Según el semanario católico polaco Gosc Niedzielny, los periodistas le preguntaron al cardenal polaco si tenía miedo de entrar en una zona de guerra.

"Tengo miedo, como todo el mundo tiene miedo, pero me confesé antes de irme, no tengo deudas, hice testamento", dijo. "Voy libremente a llevar el Evangelio. Quiero estar con esta gente".

El cardenal canadiense Michael Czerny, presidente interino del Dicasterio para la Promoción del Desarrollo Humano Integral, llegó a Budapest, Hungría, el 8 de marzo y visitó la estación de tren de Keleti donde se reunió con los voluntarios de Cáritas y les agradeció su trabajo.

También se reunió con refugiados que huyeron de la violencia en Ucrania, entre ellos dos estudiantes de medicina de Nigeria, así como varios de China y Vietnam. A pesar

de los informes de discriminación contra los residentes africanos y asiáticos en Ucrania que intentaron huir del país, Vatican News dijo que el grupo no experimentó dificultades para cruzar la frontera.

Según Vatican News, uno de los estudiantes nigerianos, Joyce, le dijo al cardenal Czerny: "Solo quiero irme a casa". El cardenal Czerny le dio la mano y respondió: "Buena suerte. Dios está contigo y el papa está cerca de ti".

El cardenal se reunió el 9 de marzo con Zsolt Semjén, vicepresidente de Hungría, quien le aseguró que Hungría daría la bienvenida a todos los refugiados de Ucrania "sin límites".

Vatican News dijo que el cardenal le pidió a Semjén que hiciera de esa actitud de bienvenida una parte permanente de la política del gobierno húngaro y que ampliara la bienvenida del país a las personas que buscan refugio. El gobierno del primer ministro Viktor Orban ha estado impulsando una política de inmigración extremadamente restrictiva para el país.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la 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, 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.

Urologist Joins WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital; Specializes in Kidney Stone Treatment and Prevention

WHEELING—A urologist who specializes in the treatment and prevention of kidney stones has joined the staff of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital.

Michelle Semins, M.D., previously was Associate Professor and urologic surgeon at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and director of the UPMC Mercy Kidney Stone Clinic. She will begin seeing patients on March 21.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Semins to the Wheeling community,” Douglass Harrison, President and CEO of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds Memorial Hospital, said. “Urology services have been lacking for many years in the Upper Ohio Valley. Being able to offer both kidney stone and urology services to our community is yet another commitment we are mak-

ing to keep our patients local and not have to travel for services. I know Dr. Semins will be welcomed with open arms.”

Semins received her undergraduate degree from The University of Michigan and her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She then completed her internship in surgery

and residency urology training at Johns Hopkins Hospital with additional specialty training in the field of endourology.

Semins is a member of the American Urological Association (AUA) and serves on 4 AUA committees. She is a board member of the Northeastern Section of the AUA. She is a member of the Endourological Society and serves as

Chair of their Diversity and Inclusivity Committee. She is also a member of Research on Calculus Kinetics Society and the Society of Women in Urology. She is certified by the American Board of Urology.

She has a clinical research focus in kidney stones and is a past awardee of a Young Investigator Research Grant by the Northeastern Section of the AUA.

She was also named the Young Urologist of the Year by the AUA in 2016. Semins is a reviewer for the Journal of Urology and many other peer-review journals, and an Associate Editor of Urology. She is a published author of over 40 articles, more than 50 abstracts, and 9 book chapters.

Semins is located in Tower 2, Suite 201. Call (304) 242-0779.

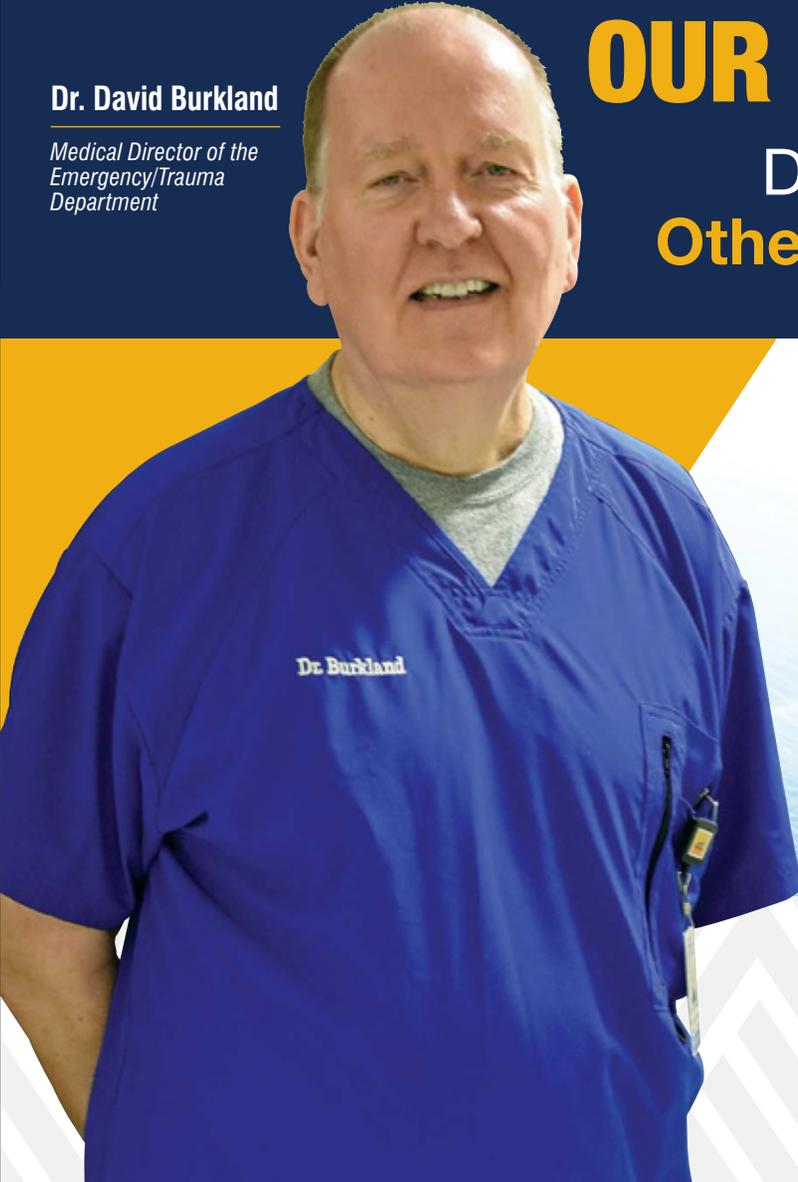
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