

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Special Collection Funds Meeting Immediate Needs in Flood-Devastated Communities

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Less than a month after floods devastated parts of southern West Virginia, funds raised for relief efforts through the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s special collection are meeting immediate needs in affected communities. Just days after the Feb. 15 flooding, Bishop Mark Brennan asked parishes and missions of the diocese to hold the collection to help fund re-

covery efforts. The collection was held during two consecutive Sunday Masses and is still accepting donations online ([click here](#)).

The bishop also authorized a \$50,000 West Virginia Catholic Foundation challenge grant to begin the collection, which is being managed by Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa).

CCWVa Disaster Services Specialist Lora Pierce offered a run-down of how these funds have

been used so far. A total of \$10,438 has been provided to WV VOAD (West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) for 840 bales of straw for 19 dump sites, 50 squeegees, 50 brooms, and 75 rakes, she said. Funds were distributed in Logan, Wyoming, Mingo, Mercer, and McDowell counties.

“Without the straw for the dump sites, debris pick-up could not begin,” Pierce said. “The

straw is used for hazardous material waste that is regulated by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). There were no local, state, or federal dollars available for this need.”

She added that the funding provided services for households in the four-county area (McDowell sites: Eddie Asbury Mine Refuse; Bradshaw; Premier; Berwind, two sites; Northfork; **See “Funds” on Page 2**

Rite of Election Continues This Weekend



AJ Emery photo

A catechumen signs his name in the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 9. Bishop Mark Brennan presided over the celebration. The Rite of Election continues tomorrow, Saturday, March 15, at St. Agnes Church in Shepherdstown at 11 a.m.; and Sunday, March 16, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 3 p.m. Bishop Brennan will preside over the celebrations.

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Bishop Brennan's Schedule for Holy Week

- Saturday, April 12:** Palm Sunday Mass, 5:30 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
- Sunday, April 13:** Palm Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
- Monday, April 14:** Chrism Mass, 4:00 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
- Tuesday, April 15:** Chrism Mass, 4:00 p.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling
- Holy Thursday, April 17:** 4:00 p.m., St. Anne, Webster Springs; 6:00 p.m., Holy Family, Richwood
- Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, April 18:** 3:00 p.m., St. Anne, Webster Springs; 5:00 p.m., Holy Family, Richwood
- Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19:** 8:00 p.m., St. Thomas, Gassaway
- Easter Sunday, April 20:** 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Funds ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Gary; Litwar; and Coal Heritage Road, Rocket Boys Drive, and Stoneridge Avenue in Welch. Mingo County Sites: Lenore and Jennie Creek. Wyoming sites: Mullens and Oceana. Mercer sites: Montcalm, Rt. 10, and Ingleside.)

Parishes in the southern region also received a portion of the funds for their response to flood victims.

Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield received \$3,000 for canned foods, water, toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox, sanitary spray, and propane. The Mommy Ministry at Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton received \$2,000 for pack and play beds, toddler food, cereal, baby food, diapers, and wipes.

A portion of the funds were also allocated to CCWVa regions for flood relief. The Southern Regional Office in Princeton received \$989.94 to purchase cleaning supplies which were delivered to Welch and supplies for Mullens Opportunity Center. The Western Regional Office in Charleston received \$748.65 to provide temporary shelter.

Father Rey D. Landicho, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Welch, thanked God for sending individuals and groups of volunteers to offer their support and assistance, both material and spiritual, to those suffering in his community. Welch was one of the hardest hit areas by the flooding of the Tug Fork River in McDow-

ell County.

Father Landicho shared his "great appreciation" on behalf of his parishioners to the diocese under the leadership and guidance of Bishop Brennan, most especially to Catholic Charities West Virginia, as well as Father Thien Nguyen, SVD, and his parishioners from St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and Risen Lord Mission in Clay who traveled more than two and a half hours to help flood victims. He also thanked the neighboring parishes of the Beckley Vicariate and all other agencies who have helped.

"All of your acts of charity, dedicated service and constant support give hope and inspiration to rebuild and rehabilitate our communities devastated by this flood and calamity," Father Landicho said. "Only a heart can utter gratitude to another heart. May God bless and keep us always and we always pray that God may reward your generosity and support that you all shared and provided to us."

Father Landicho is also pastor of Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan, and the Chapels of Our Lady of Victory in Gary and Holy Cross in Pineville—all in McDowell County.

Parishes in the affected regions can still reach out to Pierce to apply for funding grants to continue their work of helping their neighbors in need. She can be contacted by calling (304) 559-1025 or by e-mail to lpierce@ccwva.org.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training


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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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

2025 Print Issues and Dates:


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



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March 14, 2025
Vol. 56, No. 11

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dwc.org

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

Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule, at left). All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

Amid Aid Cuts, U.S. Bishop Urges Catholics to Heed ‘Very Urgent’ CRS Collection

By Gina Christian, OSV News

(OSV News) — Amid the Trump administration’s sweeping cuts to overseas humanitarian aid, an annual collection used to serve the vulnerable in the U.S. and abroad has taken on “a very urgent significance,” said Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg of Reno, Nevada, head of the U.S. Catholic bishops’ national collections efforts.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up in most of the nation’s Catholic dioceses March 29-30, with donations also accepted directly at usc.cb.org, part of the #iGiveCatholicTogether campaign. (The CRS collection in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is May 25.)

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a statement March 10 noted the funds support six key church-related entities meeting an array of social and spiritual needs:

— Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., which provides both disaster relief and economic development initia-

tives among the world’s lower-income nations.

— The USCCB’s Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, through which the bishops work to address the pastoral needs of U.S.-based Catholics who span an array of cultural backgrounds.

— The USCCB’s Secretariat of Justice and Peace, which advocates on behalf of the poor while working for peace.

— The USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services, which had contracted with the federal government for decades, under a congressionally established program, to resettle refugees vetted by U.S. immigration and security authorities until Jan. 24. The USCCB filed suit against the Trump administration Feb. 18 for suspending the contract, which the administration later terminated altogether on Feb. 26.

— Catholic Legal Immigration Network, or CLINIC, a Maryland-based nonprofit established by the U.S. bishops to provide legal aid to refugees and migrants — including immigrant Catholic clergy and religious, upon whom close to 90% of the nation’s Catholic dioceses rely.

— The Holy Father’s Relief Fund, which enables the pope to quickly assist disaster victims.

Bishop Mueggenborg, who chairs the USCCB’s Committee on National Collections, said in a statement March 10 that “abrupt stop-work orders on foreign humanitarian relief work” have left CRS and other aid organizations “unable to sustain their work overseas, bringing food, life-saving medicine, and daily necessities to people in need.”

The administration’s suspension and subsequent termination of its refugee resettlement contract with the USCCB has also impacted “thousands of refugees,” he noted.

The USCCB’s statement on the CRS national collection noted that even when federal funding was still in place, the USCCB still had to supplement the monies, because federal grants did not cover the whole cost of supporting refugees.

The conference also noted that the U.S. government’s funding suspension has forced the USCCB and its local partners to begin laying off employees, damaging their partnerships and future ability to pro-



OSV News photo/Mohammad Al Hout for CRS
A humanitarian aid worker is pictured in a file photo packing Catholic Relief Services relief supplies in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, for distribution to people displaced in war-torn Gaza.

vide refugee assistance. It noted donations to the 2025 collection “will be vital to the Catholic initiatives to reveal Christ’s love to those in need.”

In 2023, the bishops distributed \$12.7 million in grants and donations among the CRS collection’s six beneficiary organizations, according to an end of year report.

Among other projects the funds supported were anti-trafficking efforts in the fishing and seafood industries, legal aid to a religious sister from Asia forced to leave her U.S. ministry due to visa complications, pastoral training for Asian and Pacific Islander Catholics in the U.S., economic development in Chad, and support

for Colombia’s Catholic bishops in ending that nation’s brutal decades-long civil war.

Those efforts have also served to address several root causes of migration — including political instability, conflict, exploitation, environmental crises and poverty — as well as the U.S. deficit in clergy and religious, which has become acute in recent years.

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)



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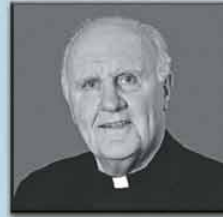
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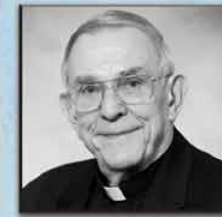
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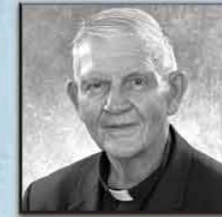
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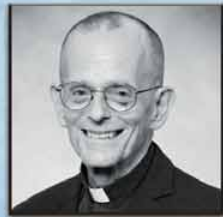
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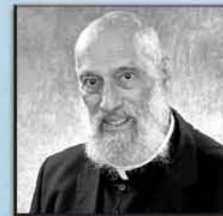
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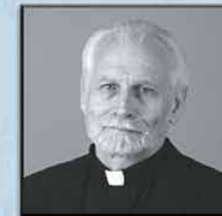
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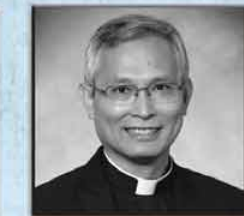
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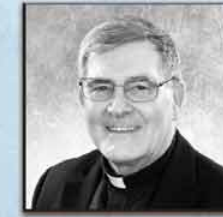
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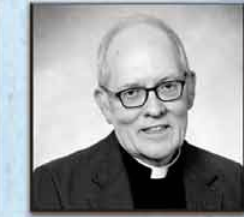
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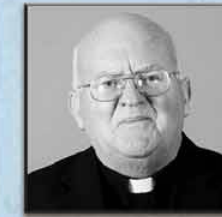
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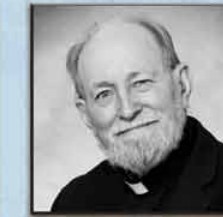
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RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: MARCH 23, 2025

St. Joseph Icon to be Enshrined in Cathedral



Courtesy photo

Pictured is the icon of St. Joseph that will be enshrined in the narthex of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling during a special Mass on the Solemnity of St. Joseph (Wednesday, March 19) at 6 p.m. The icon is a generous gift from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus.

WHEELING—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling will enshrine an icon of its patron, St. Joseph, in the narthex during a special Mass on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Wednesday, March 19, at 6 p.m. This icon is a generous gift from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus.

The icon was part of the Knights of Columbus' pilgrim icon prayer program, a longstanding tradition in which a specially selected image is sent on a journey from council to council, inspiring devotion and strengthening communities in prayer. This particular icon, crafted by Elizabeth Bergeron, is based on a drawing by Alexandre Sobolev, depicting St. Joseph tenderly holding the child Jesus. The original icon is found in St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal, Canada, a significant site of pilgrimage and devotion to St. Joseph.

The pilgrim icon prayer program has featured several revered images over the years, including icons of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Cz stokowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity, Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians, and the Holy Family. Each icon has served as a source of prayer, reflection, and encouragement for Knights and the faithful alike.

As this icon finds its home in the cathedral, it will serve as a lasting reminder of St. Joseph's role as a protector and guide, encouraging all who enter to seek his intercession and emulate his virtues of faith, humility, and steadfast devotion to God.

Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the Great Hall of Central Catholic High School. All are invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a canned food item to donate to the local Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center. Through this act of charity, the faithful will honor St. Joseph not only in prayer but also in service to those in need.

St. Joseph Novena Guides Those 'on The Path to Adoption'

By **Gina Christian, OSV News**
(OSV News) — The faithful are invited to pray for those whose lives are touched by adoption, seeking the intercession of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has announced its annual March 10-18 "Novena to St. Joseph For Those on the Path to Adoption," ahead of the saint's March 19 feast day.

The novena prayers, available online in both English and Spanish, have in recent years become an annual initiative of the USCCB's Respect Life project, part of the conference's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

Each day of the novena features a Scripture passage for silent reflection, as well as prayers and a petition to St. Joseph for the given intention.

The first day is dedicated to mothers who place their children for adoption, with Scripture taken from Exodus 1:22-2:6, 10, in which Moses' mother saves her infant son from Pharaoh's attack by placing him in a reed basket that Pharaoh's daughter retrieves from the Nile and then adopts the boy.

The subsequent days of the novena focus on fathers and family members who choose to place children through adoption, children waiting to be adopted, married couples pursuing adoption, adopted children, and adoptive mothers, fathers and family members.

"The novena is an opportunity to seek St. Joseph's intercession for the many people whose lives are touched by adoption," Kat Talalas, assistant director for the USCCB's pro-life communications, told OSV News.

The novena was first drafted by Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston during his term as chair of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, with the prayers finalized and first published in 2016 under Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, the USCCB pro-life secretariat previously told OSV News.

The novena is posted on the USCCB's Respect Life Facebook and X accounts. Participants also can sign up to receive the daily prayers by email or text by visiting the novena website at respectlife.org/adoption-novena.

As of fiscal year 2022, there were 108,877 children awaiting adoption in the U.S. with most (78%) under the age of 12 (37% age 4 years or younger, 41% ages 5-12), according to the most recent data available from the Administration for Children and Families, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

A March 2024 analysis of the HHS agency's latest data by the National Adoption Council noted that children are spending too long in foster care and too long awaiting adoption.

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)

NOTES: To learn more about the "Novena to St. Joseph: For Those on the Path to Adoption" and to download the novena prayers in English and Spanish, visit respectlife.org/adoption-novena.

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Group Offers Support for Catholics Whose Family or Friends Left the Faith

WHEELING — The newly formed Saint Monica Group is a support group for Catholics dealing with family and friends who have left the Faith. This support group is open

to all Ohio Valley Catholics.

The Saint Monica Group will normally meet on the first Wednesday of the month and will be held in the basement of St.

Alphonsus Parish (2111 Market St. Wheeling, WV 26003). The time of the meeting will begin approximately at 7 p.m., because it will follow the 6 p.m. evening Mass and

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

All are invited to Mass, Adoration, and the group meeting. For more information, call the parish office at (304) 232-4353.

Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors in Randolph and Upshur Counties

The Knights of Columbus Council 603 has a longstanding tradition of supporting educational endeavors through scholarships and community programs. Their commitment to fostering the growth and development of young individuals within the Catholic community is evident through various initiatives they undertake each year. Among these, the

Father Mark T. Gallipeau Scholarship holds a special place, reflecting the values and dedication of its namesake, offering one, \$2,000-scholarship to an active Catholic who is a high school senior.

Applications are open to all active members of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon, St. Patrick Parish in Coalton, and St. Brendan Parish in

Elkins. The scholarship is intended to recognize a Catholic student high school senior who has demonstrated commitment to their school, church, and community and exhibited academic achievement.

Eligible students should contact their parish for information and how to apply. The application deadline is April 22.

Catholic Men Invited to Day of Reflection with Msgr. Sacus

WHEELING—The Laymen’s Retreat League invites all Catholic men of the area for a day of reflection with Msgr. Samuel Sacus March 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish’s Marist Center in Wheeling.

The theme will be “Where we are and where we are going.” The day includes light breakfast and lunch. The cost is \$30.

For more information and to attend the gathering, contact Don Klamut at (304) 280-4626 or by e-mail to laymensretreatleague@gmail.com.

Natural Family Planning in the Waning Years

STEUBENVILLE—“Are you approaching the end of your fertile years and trying to use NFP? Are you struggling to apply fertility rules that once seemed so simple? Could you use some encouragement? Bring whatever charting method you use (or wish you used!) and come talk about it with Heather Keimig, an experienced NFP teacher with her own waning fertility...” officials of this gathering said.

This will be in-person at Triumph of the Cross Parish in Steubenville in the Marian Room and via Google Meet. Two cumulative classes will be on March 18 and April 1; 6:30-8:30 pm. Google Meet login is available upon request. Call Heather (301) 233-2210 or send her an e-mail at teamkeimig@gmail.com.





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Wheeling University Basketball Player Helps Local Community

WHEELING — A member of the Wheeling University men's basketball team has made a positive impact in the local community.

Curtis Harrison, IV, a junior forward for the Cardinals, is co-founder of Sole Bros of Cincinnati, Ohio, a non-profit that collects gently used shoes which it then distributes to organizations in the community. Harrison and a group of friends launched the charity in 2015.

During the basketball season, Harrison worked with Wheeling University officials to hold a shoe collection on February 19 when the basketball teams hosted Concord University.

Wheeling University Men's Basketball Coach Chris Richardson said, "Our university strives to fulfill the mission of life, leadership and service with and among others. Curt's willingness to organize the shoe drive certainly is a great example of that mission being carried out. The event was an absolute success."

More than 80 pair of shoes were collected over the course of the night with fans bringing a wide array of footwear including sneakers, dress shoes, boots as well as children's shoes.

Once all the shoes were gathered and counted, Richardson asked Harrison where Sole Bros would like to donate the shoes.

"Curt immediately asked that the shoes be given to a local organization in the Ohio Valley," Richardson said. "Our Board of Trustees Chair, David Hendrickson do-



Wheeling University basketball player Curtis Harrison (center) and his coach Chris Richardson (left) delivered more than 80 pairs of shoes to Dereck Lance, director of the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling, recently. Harrison's non-profit, Sole Bros, sponsored a collection during the basketball season.

Courtesy photo

nated several pairs of shoes as part of the drive."

Harrison and Richardson recently took all of the shoes the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in East Wheeling.

"We're so thankful for the support and love from the Wheeling area," said Harrison. "We had a great turnout, and it is a real privilege to be able to help

and serve this community."

Director of Athletics Carrie Hanna said, "Anytime our students and community members can come to-

gether to bring Wheeling University's mission to life is a Cardinal proud moment. He embodies our mission and what it means to be a person who serves

others. We are grateful for Curtis Harrison's initiative, leadership, and vision to be so altruistic and driven to help others in need."

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

Pope Text: Those Facing Illness, Adversity Need ‘Miracle of Tenderness’

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world needs the “miracle of tenderness” brought by people who accompany those experiencing illness or adversity, Pope Francis wrote.

From the time he arrived at Rome’s Gemelli hospital for breathing difficulty and pain Feb. 14, “I think of the many people who in various ways are close to the sick, and who are for them a sign of the Lord’s presence,” he wrote in a message prepared for the midday Angelus March 9. The Vatican published the text at noon.

“Brothers and sisters, during my prolonged hospitalization here, I too experience the thoughtfulness of service and the tenderness of care, in particular from the doctors and health care workers, whom I thank from the bottom of my heart,” the text said.

“We need this, the ‘miracle of tenderness’ which accompanies those who are in adversity, bringing a little light into the night of

pain,” it said.

The last time Pope Francis appeared in St. Peter’s Square to pray the Angelus was at the end of Mass marking the conclusion of the Jubilee of the Armed Services, Police and Security Personnel Feb. 9.

Since the pope was hospitalized and later diagnosed with double pneumonia, he has not appeared in public, and the Sunday Angelus address has been distributed as a brief written message to accompany the Angelus prayer at midday.

The pope noted the celebration of Mass in St. Peter’s Square that morning to mark the conclusion of the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering.

“In our societies, too enslaved to market logic, where everything risks being subject to the criterion of interest and the quest for profit, volunteering is prophecy and a sign of hope because it bears witness to the primacy of gratuitousness, solidarity and service to those most in need,” the pope’s text said.

“I express my gratitude to those

who are engaged in this field: thank you for offering your time and abilities; thank you for the closeness and tenderness with which you care for others, reawakening hope in them,” it said.

The pope recalled the period of Lent, which began March 5, is a “40-day-long penitential itinerary that calls us to the conversion of the heart and leads us to the joy of Easter. Let us commit ourselves to making it a time of purification and spiritual renewal, a path of growth in faith, hope and charity.”

In his message, the pope also thanked “all those who are showing their closeness to me in prayer: heartfelt thanks to you all! I pray for you too.”

He said he would be joining spiritually with those participating

in the Roman Curia’s Lenten retreat, which will be held March 9-14 in the Vatican’s Paul VI Audience Hall. The meditations will be led by Capuchin Father Roberto Pasolini, the new preacher of the papal household, and reflect on the theme, “The hope of eternal life.”

The pope concluded his message by urging Catholics to continue to pray and “invoke the gift of peace” for all nations experiencing war, especially, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan and Congo.

“In particular, I have learned with concern of the resumption of violence in some areas of Syria: I hope that they cease definitively, with full respect for all ethnic and religious components of society, especially civilians,” his text said.

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



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St. Patrick: Do You Know the Myth or the Man?

By **D.D. Emmons, OSV News**

(OSV News) — Few annual events are more universally anticipated and celebrated than St. Patrick's Day. It seems that no place or people on earth are immune from the activities, the frivolities, the food and drink that take place every March 17.

The day is so highly regarded that during the season of Lent, if St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday (which happens about every six years) Catholic bishops in many dioceses lift the law mandating abstinence from meat on that day. Catholics who accept the dispensation are asked to perform some other penitential practice or, in some locales, abstain from meat on another day near that Friday.

Surprisingly, given the popularity and influence of the day, many revelers know little about St. Patrick the man. They might be surprised to learn that he never drank green beer (not even a Guinness), never ate corned beef and cabbage, never drove snakes out of Ireland and had no leprechaun friends. The majority of St. Patrick's Day customs, myths and fables have been perpetuated and instituted over a period of 16 centuries.

Stripping away the widespread secular activities, we discover a holy person — a saint — who spent more than 30 years successfully proclaiming the Gospel message, the gift of faith to the people of Ireland. Prayerfully recalling and recognizing his life as God's chosen missionary is how to uncover the true spirit of St. Patrick.

Born in the late fourth century in the area now known as Scotland, Patrick was raised as a Christian but gave little notice to his religion. At age 16 he was kidnapped and carried off to Ireland, where he was sold as a slave to a landowner. For the next six years he tended the owner's flocks. This was a lonely job, with days and nights spent out on the countryside in solitude, in all sorts of weather. It was during this isolation that he experienced an overwhelming spiritual renewal. According to his own words, he began praying almost constantly, and his indifference toward God turned to adulation and love.

When Patrick was 22 he had a dream that he was meant to escape from his captivity and return to his homeland. Believing this was a heavenly message, he spent some 20 days walking 200 miles to the sea, where he was able to find transportation on a ship to Gaul (France). God, in his surprising, unpredictable ways, was calling this unknown youth to holiness, to sainthood, to become the apostle to Ireland.

Eventually returning to his family, Patrick soon would experience another vision or dream. He claimed during the dream to have heard the voice of the Irish, "We beg



OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

St. Patrick, patron of Ireland, is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. John of God Church in Central Islip, N.Y. in this undated file photo.

you, holy youth, that you shall come and walk again amongst us." Patrick discerned that he was destined to return to Ireland and bring the Gospel to a people unaware of Jesus Christ. It would be 20 years before he could fulfill this dream.

Divinely inspired, Patrick sought to be ordained as a priest, but facts about these years of his life differ among writers. The saint tells us that on his way to becoming a bishop, at one time he was rejected by other bishops based on a "sin" or incident that occurred early in his life. He overcame this setback but was confronted by those who questioned his reason for wanting to return to Ireland. People thought he was demented to choose to go back to a place where he had been held as a slave — a place considered the end of the known earth and populated by barbarians.

As anxious as he was to return to Ireland, Patrick wanted no favors or shortcuts in his rise to the episcopate. He knew that his assignment as a missionary would come from the bishop he served in concert with the pope and, thus, he readied himself as best he could.

Even before Patrick began his mission, parts of Ireland had been exposed to Christianity.

Mariners and traders from countries converted to Christianity often visited Ireland; there also were other Christian slaves in the manner of Patrick. These groups widely were scat-

tered, and in 431 Pope St. Celestine I (r. 422-32) sent Bishop Palladius to shepherd and organize the dispersed Christians. The mission of Palladius was short-lived, and within a year he either died or returned to Europe.

Now was Patrick's opportunity. In 432, St. Germanus of Auxerre, a bishop, oversaw Patrick's elevation to bishop and sent him (along with several assistants) to Ireland. The saint's objective was to minister to the Christians in Ireland and evangelize to a people dismissed as heathens by most of the world.

Jesus said to his apostles: "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves" (Mt 10:16). This was Patrick's strategy throughout his ministry. He did not seek to change the culture of the people he wanted to convert; instead, he shrewdly and simply introduced Christianity in a way that made it take root and flourish in their pagan society. While the soil was fertile, sowing the Good Seed in this vast land was not without trial.

In fifth-century Ireland the population lived in thousands of tribal communities, or clans, throughout the country. Cities and city life were virtually nonexistent. Each tribe was ruled by a king; everyone lived off the land, was beholden to the king, and few had ever heard the name Jesus Christ.

They were idol worshippers with many gods, like the Romans during

the time of Christ. Patrick and his group would seek out the tribal leader or king and, using bribery if necessary, try to evangelize the king and obtain permission to preach to the people.

Patrick knew the language from his years as a slave and had some knowledge of the culture; however, these people worshipped many different gods, and convincing them to worship the one true God and embrace the Way, the Truth and the Life was challenging. Besides getting approval to preach to the people, Patrick would ask the king for land on which to build a church. In each location, Patrick ordained individuals to carry on his work.

Walking into a tribe and seeking an audience with the king was not without peril. Patrick and his group were captured more than once, but thanks to the Holy Spirit, they were never harmed.

While Patrick did not attack the culture of these people, he made no such exception for the Druid priests. Druids were an ancient Irish society steeped in mystical beliefs fostered by evil priests promoting the ideas of reincarnation and human sacrifices. These priests had great influence among certain tribes, and Patrick often came face to face with this evil. Divine intervention was on Patrick's side during these confrontations, and the Druids' magic and superstitions were repeatedly refuted by the power of the Gospel as witnessed by Patrick. Legend holds that the shamrock was a sacred plant of the Druids, and Patrick used it to explain the Trinity.

Historians estimate that during Patrick's mission thousands of people were baptized, some 300 bishops ordained and hundreds of churches erected throughout Ireland. Because of his zeal, passion for Christ and commitment to his missionary calling, an entire nation became Christian.

According to the 1905 biography on St. Patrick by John B. Bury, "He organized the Christianity that already existed; he converted kingdoms which were still pagan, especially in the West; and he brought Ireland into connexion with the Church of the Empire, and made it formally part of the universal Christendom."

Patrick died in 461 and was made a "local" saint in the seventh century. At that time there was no church-institutionalized canonization process, and people were called saints in local communities or states based on popular acclaim.

Certainly Patrick was deserving of sainthood, and in the 17th century his national feast day was added to the annual Catholic liturgical calendar. Besides Ireland, St. Patrick is the patron saint of Nigeria and of many dioceses and churches around the world.

(D.D. Emmons writes from Pennsylvania.)

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

- Saturday, March 8:** St. Agnes, Charleston; 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 4:** St. Augustine, Grafton; 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 28:** St. John University, Morgantown; 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 30:** Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4:** Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, and St. Stephen, Ona, at Our Lady of Fatima; 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 6:** St. Joseph, Huntington; 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 7:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.
- Sunday, May 11:** Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling; 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, May 11:** St. Mary, Star City; 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 12:** St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 14:** St. Michael, Vienna; 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 16:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** St. Leo, Inwood; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** St. Bernadette, Hedgesville; 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 21:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 22:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 25:** St. Paul, Weirton; 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 28:** St. Patrick, Weston; 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 31:** Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby; 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 1:** St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake; 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 7:** St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 8:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.

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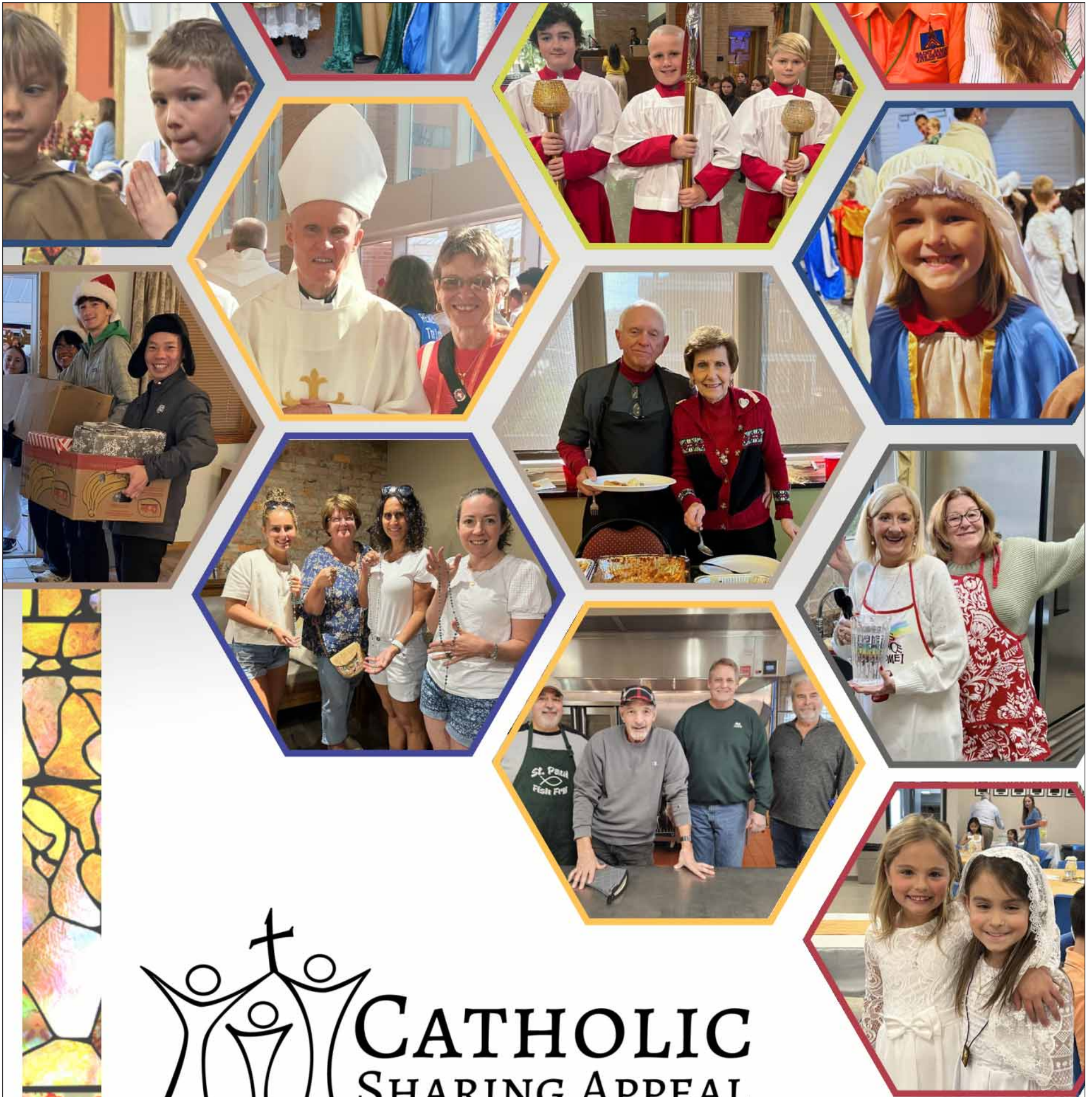


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La novena de San José guía a las personas que transitan 'el camino de la adopción'

Por Gina Christian, OSV News

(OSV News) — Se invita a los fieles a rezar por aquellos cuyas vidas se ven afectadas por la adopción, buscando la intercesión de San José, el padre adoptivo de Jesús.

La Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos ha anunciado su "Novena a San José: por los que transitan el camino de una adopción", del 10 al 18 de marzo, antes de la fiesta del santo, el 19 de marzo.

Las oraciones de la novena, disponibles en línea tanto en inglés como en español, se han convertido en los últimos años en una iniciativa anual del proyecto Respeto a la Vida de la USCCB, que forma parte del Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la conferencia episcopal.

Cada día de la novena incluye un pasaje de las Escrituras para reflexionar en silencio, así como oraciones y una petición a San José por la intención indicada.

El primer día está dedicado a las madres que dan a sus hijos en adopción, con la lectura de Éxodo 1,22-2,6, 10, en la que la madre de Moisés salva a su hijo pequeño del ataque del Faraón colocándolo en una cesta de juncos que la hija del Faraón recupera del Nilo y luego adopta al niño.

Los días siguientes de la novena se centran en los padres y familiares que deciden dar a sus hijos en adopción, los niños que esperan ser adoptados, los matrimonios que desean adoptar, los niños adoptados y las madres, padres y familiares adoptivos.

"La novena es una oportunidad para pedir la intercesión de San José por las muchas personas cuyas vidas se ven afectadas por la adopción", dijo a OSV News Kat Talalas, subdirectora de comunicaciones provista de la confer-

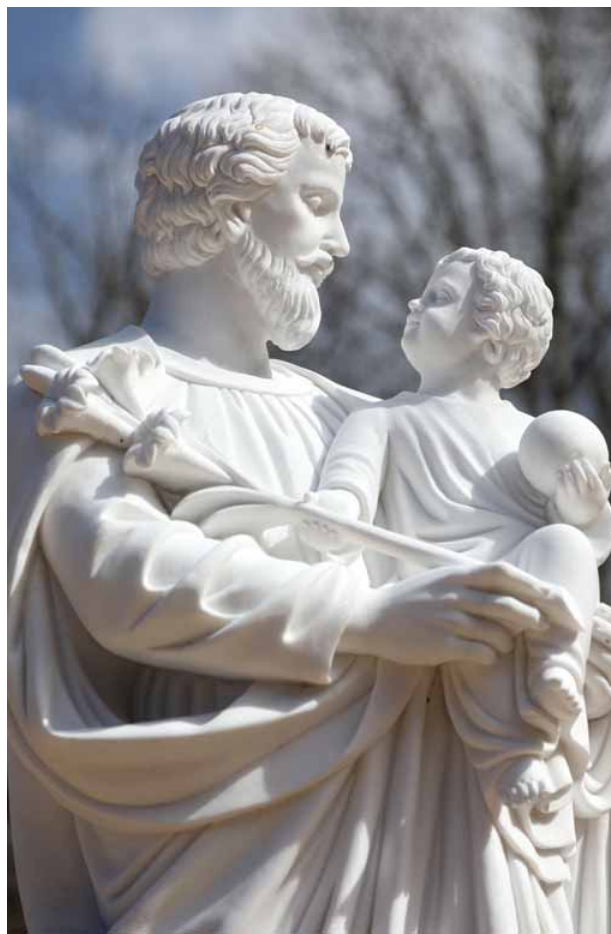


Foto OSV News/Bob Roller

Una estatua de San José y el Niño Jesús en la Iglesia Jesús del Verbo Divino en Huntington, Maryland, el 1 de abril de 2022. La Novena a San José organizada por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos para aquellos cuyas historias de vida incluyen la adopción comienza el 10 de marzo y termina el 18 de marzo de 2025, el día antes de la fiesta de San José.

encia episcopal, o USCCB por sus siglas en inglés.

La novena fue redactada por primera vez por el cardenal Seán P. O'Malley de Boston durante su mandato como presidente del Comité de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB, con las oraciones finalizadas y publicadas por primera vez en 2016 bajo el cardenal Timothy M. Dolan de Nueva York, dijo previamente la secretaria provista de la USCCB a OSV News.

La novena se publica en las cuentas de Facebook y X de Respect Life de la USCCB. Los participantes también pueden inscribirse para recibir las oraciones diarias por correo electrónico o texto visitando el sitio web de la novena en respectlife.org/adoption-novena.

En el año fiscal 2022, había 108.877 niños en espera de adopción en EE.UU., la mayoría de ellos (78%) menores de 12 años (37% de 4 años o menos, 41% de 5 a 12 años), según los datos más recientes disponibles de la Administración para Niños y Familias, que forma parte del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de EE.UU. (HHS por sus siglas en español).

Un análisis de marzo de 2024 de los últimos datos de la agencia HHS realizado por el Consejo Nacional de Adopción (the National Council For Adoption) señaló que los niños pasan demasiado tiempo en hogares de acogida y demasiado tiempo a la espera de ser adoptados.

(Gina Christian es reportera multimedia de OSV News.)

NOTAS: Para saber más sobre la "Novena a San José: por los que transitan el camino de una adopción" y para descargar las oraciones de la novena en inglés y español, visite <https://www.usccb.org/es/resources/novena-san-jose-por-los-que-transitan-el-camino-de-una-adopcion>.

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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán 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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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

Employment Opportunities

Finance Director

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

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

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

A qualified candidate should have:

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

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

Head Volleyball Coach

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

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

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

Qualifications:

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

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

Director of the Diocesan Summer Youth Camps for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Are you passionate about fostering the faith and spiritual growth of young people? Do you have experience in youth ministry, outdoor adventure education, and the desire to make a lasting impact in the lives of youth and young adults? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you to lead, inspire, and serve as the Director of the Diocesan Summer Youth Camps for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston!

Essential Duties:

- Assist in all aspects of Camp Carlo's intentionally Catholic, fun, prayerful, and catechetical adventure summer camp programming, providing ongoing conversion experiences that connect young people to the heart of Christ and His church.
- Hire, train, schedule, minister to and lead adult and young-adult staff as effective, professional, faithful youth ministers, including preparing them and guiding them through leading a successful and distinct ministry program
- Take special responsibility in supporting the direct as it pertains to oversight, administration, and safe implementation of specialized activities as designed by the American Camp Association
- Oversee the off-season development of Camp Carlo, including the design of new adventure catechesis experiences for next summer.
- Market summer-camp program through a wide variety of advertising approaches
- Communicate with pastors, youth ministers, schools, parish leaders, and parents to register young people in summer youth camps, supporting the needs of each individual, and helping them to maximize the impact of the young person's experience.
- Minister to the residential young-adult camp staff including supporting them, coaching them in healthy community life that includes strong relationships, and guiding them in personal and spiritual growth.

Additional Duties:

- Works early mornings, weekends, long hours, holidays/holidays as needed.
- Attends and participates in regular meetings with the Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship
- Travel throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in the promotion of the Summer Camp program, the recruitment of young adults to work in said program, and the on-site visiting of camp properties as potential places to host future summer camps.
- Performs other job related duties as assigned by the Office Director

Please send resume and cover letter to Debbie Turziano; dturziano@dwc.org



Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

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



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David Michael Campsey MD
 Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
 Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
 Cardiology

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