



Catholic Teaching on In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

A Letter from Bishop Brennan

March 11, 2024

The Alabama Supreme Court’s 8-1 decision on February 16, 2024, declaring that an embryo is a human being and is protected under state law from mistreatment, has brought to public scrutiny the procedure called *in vitro* fertilization (IVF). The media generally has derided the decision, saying that the Court’s decision makes embryos equivalent to “people” or “children.” Many politicians, both conservative and liberal, have taken a stand in favor of IVF and say it

must be protected in law. The Alabama legislature quickly passed a bill giving legal immunity to facilities that perform IVF and to those who seek it. IVF births are about 2% of all children born in the United States.

The underlying problem is infertility. I pray regularly for infertile couples I know. Every once in a while, I hear that the wife is now pregnant and I rejoice. A couple usually seeks advice from a gynecologist/obstetrician. If the OBGYN follows established protocols, a thorough exami-

nation of fertility issues for both the man and the woman is conducted, which sometimes leads to remedies that allow the couple to conceive a child naturally. There are reports that at other times a complete fertility examination is not done and the couple is simply referred to a fertility clinic to start IVF or artificial insemination.

The basic principle guiding Catholic reflection on infertility is that measures that assist a
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Bishop Brennan Will Celebrate Holy Week, Easter Masses at Southern and Central W.Va. Parishes

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Southern and Central West Virginia parishes of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will welcome Bishop Mark Brennan for his celebration of Holy Week and Easter Masses.

Each year, the bishop travels to Charleston to begin Holy Week. He will celebrate Palm Sunday Masses on Saturday, March 23, at 5 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Charleston; and on Sunday, March 24, at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

Bishop Brennan will celebrate the first of two Chrism Masses at the basilica the next day, Monday, March 25, at 4 p.m. Priests of the southern and central regions of the diocese will be concelebrating. The next day, Tuesday, March 26, he will celebrate the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 4 p.m. with the

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‘The Man of the Shroud’

Courtesy Photo

Members of the youth group at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling view “The Man of the Shroud” exhibit at the parish’s Angelus Center before heading to Mass at the church on March 10. The three-day exhibit drew Catholic faithful from all over the tri-state area as well as Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and Morgantown and from other Christian denominations to “an up-close experience of the most studied artifact of all time — The Shroud of Turin,” parish officials posted on Facebook. They described the exhibit as a “powerful display of the history, science, and mystery behind what many believe to be the authentic burial cloth of Jesus Christ.”

Teaching...

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couple to conceive a child in their marital act are permissible while measures that replace the marital act are not. Both nature and God intend that the conception of new human beings occur in the intimate relations of a man and woman who should be committed not only to one another (i.e., married) but to the responsible upbringing of their children.

IVF departs from that norm. Its very name, *in vitro*, means in Latin that the conception occurs "in glass" (a petri dish in most cases), not in the couple's marital act. Ovum and sperm are extracted from the man and woman, often by masturbation, and are manipulated in the laboratory. Multiple embryos are usually created, because some do not survive the freezing before insertion in the mother; others are not used because they are judged to have low reproductive potential; and some of those with high reproductive potential fail to attach to the uterine wall. As laudable as sympathy for an infertile couple may be, there is more than a whiff of "eugenics" in IVF as medical personnel choose which embryos are worthy of life and which are not.

So, what happens to the embryos that are not used? Unless the couple objects, they are discarded. If the couple wants to keep them, they are kept frozen for possible future use. Now, consider again what the media and many politicians have said: "The Alabama Supreme Court called these embryos people!" But the Court got it exactly right. What species are these embryos? *Canine* (dog)? *Feline* (cat)? *Bovine* (cow)? No, they are *homo sapiens*: they are "humans who know." They may be small and only in the initial stages of development, but they are human beings. Simply throwing them out kills them, a literal example of Pope Francis' sharp criticism of our modern "throw-away culture."

Even though the embryos that died in the Alabama hospital should never have been conceived by IVF, still they were conceived and should be protected. That's why the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that the parents of those embryos could sue for damages owing to the destruction of their children due to the negligence of the IVF clinic.

Every help possible should be given to couples experiencing infertility but the ends do not justify the means. Technology in medicine as in warfare, commerce, and daily actions such as driving a car or using the Internet must be guided by ethical standards or else technology will betray the good which it pretends to serve. IVF looks for a short-term solution but does not recognize the longer-term damage it does by making the embryo an object of medical manipulation rather than a fruit of parental love.

The Catholic Church, relying on the sound conclusions of philosophy, anthropology and moral theology, has not approved *in vitro* fertilization because it does not assist a couple to achieve a pregnancy through their intimate union but rather replaces it. Our Church has also sponsored research to aid infertile couples. It behooves a couple facing infertility to insist on a thorough examination of the causes of their condition to see if a remedy may be found.

It is the normal desire and expectation of most couples to have children but there is no absolute right to have a child. If a couple's desire cannot be achieved by morally and spiritually appropriate means, then, if they are persons of faith, it behooves them to accept their condition, just as God would want them to do if they conceived and gave birth to a child with serious physical or mental deficiencies. Potential parents are not consumers "buying" children. I have known childless couples who have adopted children, others who have given time and energy working with youth in their parish or community, others who have careers teaching children or serving them in the medical and legal professions. When faced with childlessness, we who believe in a provident God must seek above all to do God's will and trust that this will bring the best outcome: peace of soul and a clear conscience.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

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. 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. 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. 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:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. 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.

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March 15, 2024, Vol. 55, No. 11

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
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Published on the first Friday of each month. 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.

Masses...

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priests of the northern region and Eastern Panhandle of the state celebrating.

It is during the Chrism Masses that the bishop consecrates the sacred Chrism and blesses the oils. "For it is with the sacred Chrism consecrated by the bishop that the newly baptized are anointed and those to be confirmed are signed. It is with the Oil of Catechumens that catechumens are prepared and disposed for Baptism. Finally, it is with the Oil of the Sick that those who are ill are comforted in their infirmity," The Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and

of Consecrating the Chrism (OBO), no. 1.

Deacons of the diocese will also participate in these celebrations.

To begin the Easter Triduum, Bishop Brennan will travel to Spencer to celebrate Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, March 28, at Holy Redeemer Church at 6 p.m. On Good Friday, March 29, he will lead Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. at St. Michael Church in Vienna and then preside at the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at St. Michael's at 7 p.m.

Bishop Brennan will celebrate the Easter Vigil, March 30, at 8 p.m. at St. Matthew Church in Ravenswood, where he will bring 9 people into full communion with the

Catholic Church. Elect of the parish are Natasha Lemley, Paul Lemley, Dakota Mahood, and Leslie Pauley. They will receive the sacraments of baptism, first Communion, and confirmation. The parish's candidates will receive the sacraments of first Communion and confirmation. The candidates are Sarah Rogers and the Bridges family—Aaron and Heidi and their older children, Jace and Easton. Their younger children, Kade and Willow, will be making first Communion with the parish's first Communion class in May.

Bishop Brennan will return to Wheeling for his celebration of Easter Sunday Mass, March 31, at 10:30 a.m. at the cathedral. This

celebration will be livestreamed at www.dwc.org/Mass (closed captioning provided) and televised live on WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield; WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington; WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown; WTRF/ABC - Wheeling/Northern Panhandle.

The Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

Also to be livestreamed from the cathedral (at www.dwc.org/Mass) with Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector, as celebrant will be Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, March 28, at 6 p.m. and Good Friday, Passion of the Lord, March 29, at 3 p.m. See the ad below for more information.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



Broadcast of Holy Week and Easter Masses

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - Holy Thursday

March 28 at 6:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

PASSION OF THE LORD - Good Friday

March 29 at 3:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

EASTER MASS - Sunday, March 31

Live Stream and Broadcasted

10:30 a.m. - WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield

WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington

WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown

WTRF/ABC - Wheeling/Northern Panhandle

Live Stream at www.dwc.org/Mass

Closed Captioning Provided.



Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Wheeling Vicariate

Sacred Heart, Chester, March 17, 2-3 p.m.
Corpus Christi, Wheeling: March 18, Adoration, 6:30 p.m.; Penance Service, 7 p.m.
St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg, March 18, 6 p.m.

Charleston Vicariate

Blessed Sacrament, South Charleston, March 17, 3 p.m.
Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, March 17, 3:30 p.m.
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, March 18, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, March 19, 6 p.m.
Sacred Heart, Williamson, March 20, 6 p.m.
St. Anthony's, Charleston, March 20, 6 p.m.

Beckley Vicariate

St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, March 17, 3 p.m.
Ss. Peter & Paul's, Oak Hill, March 20, 6 p.m.

Clarksburg Vicariate

St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, March 17, 2-3 p.m.
St. James the Apostle, Clarksburg, March 20, 7 p.m.
Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, March 21, at 6 p.m.
St. Augustine's Grafton, March 22, 6:30 p.m.

Martinsburg Vicariate

Assumption, Keyser, March 20, 6 p.m.
St. Bernadette's, Hedgesville, March 27, 4-5:45 p.m.; Mass at 6 p.m.

Parkersburg Vicariate

St. Matthew's, Ravenswood, March 19, 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart, Point Pleasant, March 20, 6 p.m.
St. John's, St. Marys, March 21, 6 p.m.


 Wheeling Area
HOLY THURSDAY PILGRIMAGE
MARCH 28, 2024
Transportation departing from the Cathedral:
Bus 1: 8:00 pm - Midnight
Bus 2: 9:00 pm - Midnight
Please register by March 25 by e-mailing kstillion@dwc.org or by calling 304-233-0880, ext. 261

The Catholic Youth Group of
Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Oak Hill

Presents

The Living Stations of the Cross In Silhouette

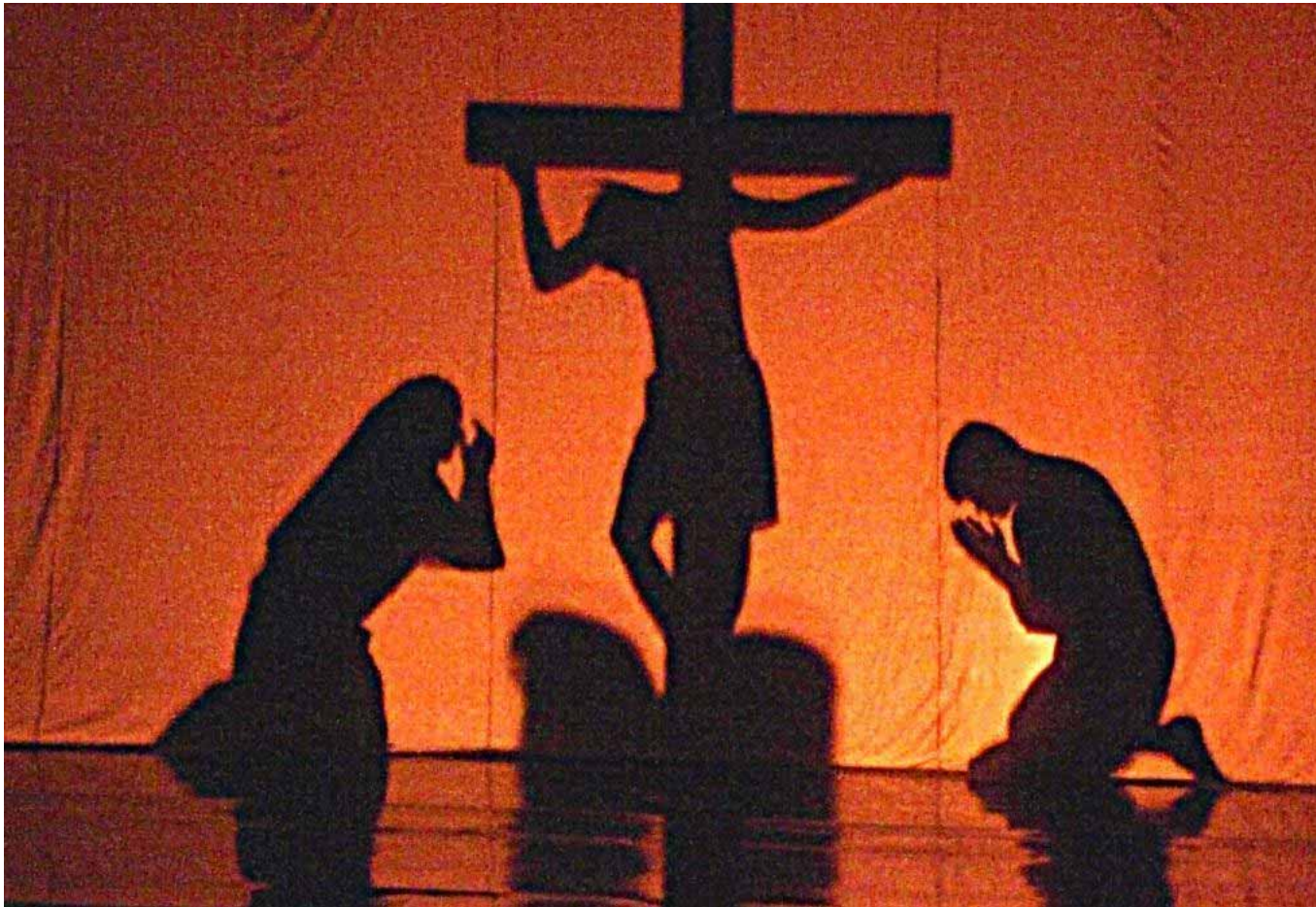


Photo by Steve Pino

Palm Sunday, March 24th

7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 29th

2:00pm

SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Oak Hill

All are welcome!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Eucharistic Revival's 'Invite One Back' Initiative Helps Parishes Reach Lapsed Catholics

By **Lauretta Brown, OSV News**

(OSV News) — What would happen if clergy and parish leaders personally reached out to Catholics who have stopped attending Mass to invite them to come back, telling them they are missed and wanted in the parish community? This is the question and challenge the U.S. bishops are posing as their National Eucharistic Revival initiative focuses on parish efforts this year.

The bishops launched resources in early March as part of the "Invite One Back" initiative, equipping clergy and parish leaders to invite those who have stopped attending Sunday Mass to fill the pews once again.

Many people simply didn't return to the pews after the COVID-19 pandemic restricted in-person Mass attendance in 2020. One 2022 study from Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate showed a 7% decline in adult Catholics attending Sunday Mass compared with pre-COVID data.

The revival website notes that in 2020 a "significant portion of Catholics lost connection with their local parish during the shutdowns, and just never came back. It's time to bring them home." The website also points to Pew data from 2014, which found that 13% of all U.S. adults are former Catholics.

"The goal of this initiative is to fill the pews again," the website says. "To do that, we all need to invite back everyone who has left in a way that makes sure they feel seen and desired as an individual member of your parish family. Whom are you called to invite home?"

In his introductory letter to parish leaders, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, wrote, "Our efforts in evangelization and inviting Catholics back to Mass are not just about increasing numbers or filling pews. Rather, our efforts are about guiding people to intimate encounters with Jesus Christ and leading souls to salvation, allowing them to experience God's love, mercy, and goodness."

"It is important to invite these people back because it is a great act of love! It is also one of the simplest and most effective ways to evangelize," he emphasized. "Love desires to be shared once it is received. The source and summit of the Christian life is participation in the Eucharistic sacrifice, where we encounter the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament."

The initiative stresses the unique power of invitation, saying that for those who have left parishes, "an invitation reminds them that they belong within our community and that their presence is missing."

The website encourages clergy and parish leadership to "make a list of parishioners you haven't seen in a while or people who used to be members of your parish" to immediately begin praying for them and start discerning "how you can best reach each member of that group, and make a plan to contact each one of them in whatever way would be most meaningful."

When it comes to tools for reaching those

who've stopped attending Mass, resources include letter and postcard templates as well as scripts for starting phone calls with former parishioners. Creativity and personalization are encouraged in these conversations with the goal of listening to the individual and meeting them where they are.


Prayer also is a central part of the campaign, as the initiative calls for parishes to put a prayer for the campaign in the bulletin as well as for parish groups to dedicate rosaries and Holy Hours for the effort.


"Let us pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit's

guidance and fortitude to carry out this sacred mission," urged Bishop Cozzens, chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc. "Let us embrace each soul with open arms, rejoicing as they return to the embrace of the Church and our parish communities through the gift of the Eucharist."

(Lauretta Brown is culture editor for OSV News.)

Resources for National Eucharistic Revival's "Invite One Back" initiative can be found in English and Spanish at www.eucharisticrevival.org/invite-one-back.




**NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival**

Invite One Back Initiative

[Click Here to Find out More](#)



LOUDFENCE

A SIGN OF TOGETHERNESS,
HOPE, AND ACTION

Plan to attend



What is LOUDfence?

An international organization that started out of compassion to support faithful Christians who had been abused, as well as the faithful who care and pray for healing, hope, and change.

LOUDfence is a way to bring a hushed and taboo topic into a healthy conversation and act of solidarity as a step forward.



Ceremony after Mass?

Faithful will tie ribbons to represent prayers, hope, and healing for victims of abuse in Christian churches. Inspired by the gospel, LOUDfence works with churches around the world to actively foster a culture for safeguarding and truth telling. Being a safeguarder is being one to stand at the foot of the cross, helping others to literally live out the values of the gospel.

Mass & LOUDfence

Ceremony

10:30 am, April 7

**Cathedral
of St. Joseph,
Wheeling**

Celebrants

**Bishop Mark Brennan
of the Diocese**

**of Wheeling-Charleston
& Bishop Paul Mason of England**

SOLIDARITY

COMPASSION

SUPPORT

Pope Advances Sainthood Causes, Including Daughter of U.S. Author

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has advanced the sainthood cause of U.S. Sister Rose Hawthorne, the daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, and he recognized the martyrdom of a German priest executed by the Nazis and a German nun and her 14 companions who were raped and murdered by Russian soldiers during World War II.

After Pope Francis met March 14 with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the Vatican published the list of decrees the pope approved in 12 sainthood causes.

The pope recognized the heroic virtues of Sister Hawthorne, who, born in 1851 in Lenox, Massachusetts, was the third and last child of novelist and short-story writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne. She and her husband, George Lathrop, converted to Catholicism, but they eventually separated after his alcoholism led to extremely violent behavior.

She moved to New York City to dedicate herself to charitable work, studied to become a nurse and cared for the poor afflicted with cancer.

After her husband died, she professed religious vows and became known as Mother Mary Alphonsa as she founded the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, the Congregation of Saint Rose of Lima. She established two homes where the sisters cared for the poor without charge, St. Rose's in Manhattan and Rosary Hill in Hawthorne, the motherhouse, where she died in 1926.

Pope Francis also signed decrees recognizing the miracle needed to clear the way for the beatification of two 19th-century priests and of Lebanese Patriarch Estephan Douaihy of the Maronite Catholic Church, who was credited with protecting the Maronite Church from Latinization in the 17th century.

He recognized the martyrdom of Father Max Josef Metzger, an ecumenist born in 1887 who became a peace activist after serving as a chaplain in World War I. During World War II, he was arrested several times by the Gestapo. He was sentenced to death and executed in 1944 after the interception of his memorandum to a Swedish bishop outlining how a defeated Germany could become part of a peace plan.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of German Sister Mary Christophora Klomfass and 14 of her fellow sisters of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Catherine, Virgin and Martyr, who were killed out of hatred for the faith between Jan. 22, 1945, and Nov. 25, 1945, during Russia's invasion of Poland.

They were assaulted and raped by the soldiers; some of the sisters were killed immediately, some died after the severe violence they suffered, and some died of typhus in Russian concentration camps.

Martyrs do not need a miracle attributed to their intercession for beatification. However, a miracle must be recognized by the Vatican for them to become saints.

Other decrees signed by the pope attested to the heroic virtues lived by six servants of God, including Archbishop Ivanios Givergis Thomas Panikervitis. Born in 1882 in India, he was the first major archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church and a pioneer of ecumenism in India before he died in 1953.

Among the others were three Italians — two laywomen and one religious — a 20th century Brazilian priest and Ante Tomcic, a Capuchin brother from Croatia. Born in 1901, he was devoted to eucharistic adoration, and after the communists took over his country, he continued to wear signs of his faith in public, provoking hostile and derisive remarks. He died in 1981.

Body of Preterm Baby Found in Virginia Pond Prompts Prayers, Resource Reminders

By Laretta Brown, OSV News

(OSV News) — Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, expressed “great sorrow” after the body of a preterm baby was found in a pond in Leesburg, Virginia, on March 11. He called on the faithful to pray for everyone involved in the incident, offered burial services and also drew attention to the resources the diocese offers to women in crisis pregnancies.

“I learned today of the unsettling discovery of the body of an unborn baby described by police as a ‘late-term fetus,’ found in a pond in Leesburg,” he said in the March 13 statement. “The Diocese of Arlington has made it known that we are willing to assist with the proper burial and committal of the remains.”

He called for “the faithful of the diocese and all people of goodwill to join me in

prayer for the child’s mother and for anyone involved in this incident.”

Bishop Burbidge highlighted diocesan efforts to assist women facing difficult pregnancies. “Through its parishes, ministries and parishioners, the Diocese of Arlington encourages all women who find themselves in unexpected or difficult pregnancies to seek assistance through Project Gabriel (helpforpregnantwomen.org or 703-841-3810), Catholic Charities (ccda.net or 703-973-0129), or the nearest Catholic Church,” he wrote.

The Leesburg Police Department said in a March 12 statement that they were “alerted at approximately 4:33 p.m., by a community member who discovered the body of a late-term fetus in the pond behind Park Gate Drive, NE in Leesburg. Emergency services responded promptly, and the area

was secured for further investigation. The fetus was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Virginia, for an autopsy.”

Leesburg Police Chief Thea Pirnat called the situation “deeply tragic,” urging anyone with information to come forward, “not just for the sake of the investigation, but also to ensure that those in need are provided appropriate medical attention and services.”

The police department also reminded the community that “there are resources available for individuals who may find themselves in distressing situations, including options for the safe and anonymous surrender of newborns under the Virginia Safe Haven laws.”

(Laretta Brown is Culture Editor for OSV News.)

A link to the Gabriel Project is available here: <https://helpforpregnantwomen.org/>



Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

Click here to learn more

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:

Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (304) 233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Church Leaders Decry Biggest Kidnapping of Pupils in Nigeria Since Chibok Girls' Abduction

By **Tonny Onyulo, OSV News**

(OSV News) — Recent kidnappings of hundreds of people in Nigeria, including almost 300 schoolchildren March 7 in Kuriga in the central part of the country, have left church leaders and parents, including Catholics, speechless in the face of another wave of senseless violence. As kidnappings become a horrific new normal in Nigeria, church leaders have strongly urged the government to act.

In broad daylight gunmen raided a government primary school and kidnapped at least 287 pupils in the biggest mass abduction from a school in a decade. The incident is the second mass kidnapping in the West African nation of more than 200 million in less than a week.

"This is heartbreaking to all of us, and it's now time for the authorities to act fast to stop the killings and abductions," lamented Emmanuel Ayeni Nwogu, catechist from the Archdiocese of Kaduna, where the March 7 abduction happened. "We continue to pray for the children who have been kidnapped, and we hope they are still alive and under the mighty hand of God."

Malala Yousafzai, 2014 Nobel Peace prize winner shot in 2012 for fighting for the rights of girls in Afghanistan to be educated, condemned the kidnapping of more than 200 students in Nigeria.

"No child should endure the horror and trauma of being forcibly abducted from their schools," she wrote on X, formerly Twitter, on March 10. "Children around the world — from Nigeria to Gaza to Afghanistan — must be able to access school safely and freely. I urgently call on all relevant authorities to facilitate a safe return for all those abducted in Kaduna State and I stand with their grieving families in these trying times."

The abduction of the children, led to a nearby forest at gunpoint, happened 10 years after the Boko Haram terrorist group abduction of 276 schoolgirls from their dormitory in the town of Chibok caused international outrage. In grim statistics of that tragic incident, 98 of the victims are still missing, according to Amnesty International.

More than 3,600 people were reported abducted in

Nigeria in 2023 — the highest number in five years, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project — a number that includes several priests, whose kidnappings became a plague of the church in Nigeria.

Nwogu told OSV News that the gunmen have ensured that hundreds of churches remain closed in northern Nigeria and other parts of the country, and they are now raiding schools, abducting children and teachers, and conspiring to introduce a restrictive Islamic Sharia law in the region. The primary target of the militants are Christians, although the terror groups target government schools as well as they lack fighters and abduct boys for military purposes.

"The gunmen mostly kidnap and kill Christians and their leaders," the lay leader explained, noting that people who are being killed after the kidnapping are mostly Christians. "The gunmen could abduct anyone, whether they are Christian or Muslim, but when it comes to killings, they will only kill Christians. For Muslims, the gunmen will ask for ransom or use hostages as recruits for fighters."

Africa's most populous nation has faced an array of security challenges since 2009, when Boko Haram launched its Islamic uprising to overthrow Nigeria's secular government and create an Islamic state. The situation worsened in 2011 when the Fulani herders, turned militants, joined Boko Haram to escalate the attacks in northern and central Nigeria, targeting Christians.

The Intersociety advocacy group in Nigeria has said over 100,000 unarmed and defenseless citizens have died directly or indirectly outside the law in the hands of security forces in the past eight years, between August 2014 and December 2023.

In April 2023, Intersociety published a report that made headlines around the world, indicating that since 2009, when the Boko Haram Islamist militant group began its murderous campaign to set up a caliphate across the Sahel, at least 52,250 Christians and 34,000 moderate Muslims had been butchered or hacked to death.

Nigeria's major religion is Islam. According to the 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom, as of 2015, the

country was 50% Muslim and 48.1% Christian. The report also indicates that Catholics comprise approximately 25% of Christians.

"The government must take action to save the Christian population that radical Islamists are reducing," warned Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of Makurdi. "The kidnappings, killings and destroying churches we are experiencing every day are aimed at finishing Christians," he told OSV News.

Bishop Anagbe urged the authorities to protect the Christian population, churches and schools. While praying for the students who were abducted and those who have been kidnapped before, Bishop Anagbe said his diocese has experienced numerous attacks from Fulani militants.

"We are worried that despite such killings and kidnappings, the government has never arrested anyone," he told OSV News. "As a church, we now demand that the government act quickly to stop

these vices that continue to dishearten people."

Meanwhile, Archbishop Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji of Owerri, president of Nigerian bishops' conference, also accused the government of abandoning its people in a time of need. Archbishop Ugorji warned that the country was on the verge of disorder and lawlessness following the numerous terror attacks that the government had failed to stop.

"The government's reform efforts to reorg the security architecture of our country have woefully failed to plug the many loopholes in the system," Archbishop Ugorji said Feb. 18 during the bishops' plenary in Abuja. "They have remained non-proactive and ineffective in checking kidnapping and senseless bloodshed across the country."

Archbishop Ugorji highlighted the Christmas Eve massacre in 2023 that left nearly 200 Christians dead in Nigeria's Plateau state, as well

as the rising incidents of abduction across the country as illustrations of how fruitless the government's reform efforts have been in securing the population. "In the face of increasing violent crimes, the country stands on the brink of anarchy," he said.

"So, the government should take urgent steps to rise to its primary responsibility of securing the lives and property of its citizens."

Both Christian Concern and Open Doors, organizations that track Christian persecution in the world, rank Nigeria as one of the worst countries for Christians to live in after North Korea. In the most recent wave of attacks on Christian schools, a gunman ambushed a school bus Jan. 29, carrying more than a dozen schoolchildren under age 10, and two priests of Nigeria's Diocese of Pankshin were kidnapped Feb. 1.

(Tonny Onyulo writes for OSV News from Nairobi, Kenya.)



SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR THE FAITHFUL: SPIRITUAL WARFARE FOR TODAY'S TIMES

Presenter: Fr. Joe Freedy
Date: Wednesday, April 3
Time: 6:15 pm
Location: St. Michael Parish,
1225 National Rd, Wheeling

*The evening is hosted by the St. Michael Parish's
Confraternity of Christian Mothers
and Christian Women*

*Social immediately following.
All are welcome!*

Father Joe Freedy is from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is nationally known as the Quarterback priest and shared the viral story of "The Power of One Hail Mary." He was also a keynote presenter and break out leader at our Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses last year in both Charles Town and Charleston.

Students from Martinsburg's St. Joseph School Honored at Daughters of the American Revolution Awards Ceremony

SHEPHERDSTOWN — St. Joseph School in Martinsburg was well represented during an awards ceremony on March 9 for those who placed in an essay contest sponsored by the Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Present were all eight of the school's students who came in first, second or third in the contest for their writings from the viewpoint of a newspaper reporter assigned to write a story about the first performance of John Phillip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" in May 1897 in Philadelphia. Also on hand at the Shepherdstown Train Station were teachers, family members of the winners — from SJS, Mill Creek Intermediate, and Faith Christian Academy — and members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"It's critically important that we pass on this (American) history to our chil-

dren and their children's children," said Susan Benson, chairwoman of the American history essay contest for Pack Horse Ford Chapter.

Placing from SJS were— fifth grade: Lillia Kelley, second place; and Calvin Fanjoy, third place.

Sixth grade: Liam Riffey, first place; Lorelei Oligmueller, second place; and Aubrey Lee, third place.

Eighth grade: Braylen Cole, first place; Charlie Dunn, second place; and Savannah Bischoff, third place.

All of the winning students received certificates and cash prizes at the ceremony, and those who placed first read their essays. In addition to Cole and Riffey, Mill Creek Intermediate fifth-grader Hope Brill and Faith Christian Academy seventh-grader Macie White shared their writings with those assembled.

During the ceremony, it was announced that White



Courtesy Photo

Among those attending the awards ceremony on March 9 for those who placed in an essay contest sponsored by the Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are, front row from left: Beth Celeste, Savannah Bischoff, Macie White, Lorelei Oligmueller, and Hope Brill. Second row: Aubrey Lee, Lillia Kelley, and Calvin Fanjoy. Back row: Charlie Dunn, Liam Riffey, Braylen Cole, Vicky Astorino, and Susan Benson.

also won at the state level. Benson said a total of 63 students in grades five through eight from four schools took part in the competition.



St. George Camporee

hosted by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
Catholic Committee on Scouting

The St. George Camporee will be held at Camp Mountaineer located outside of Morgantown, WV. **All Troops and Crews in Scouts BSA are welcome and encouraged to attend.** The camporee will feature the following activities: climbing, shooting sports, service, and Mass.

When: Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28, 2024

Where: Camp Mountaineer, Morgantown, WV

Cost: \$12 | \$25 after April 5

Includes: Saturday dinner, patch, and materials. All early-bird registrants will also receive a t-shirt, while supplies last.



Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/615-71430>

Wheeling's Interprofessional Education Event Teaches Health Science Students to Treat the Whole Person

WHEELING — Communication among health care professionals is key to providing patients quality care. Recently, Wheeling University students spent a day learning how effective communication can impact the development of a collaborative patient treatment plan.

This marks the eighth year, that students in the Physical Therapy, Nursing, Athletic Training and Exercise Science programs teamed up to collaboratively work through the management of a multidisciplinary patient paper case during the university's annual Interprofessional Education Event (IPE).

"What makes our IPE event unique is that we also focus on the Ignatian principle of cura personalis – or care for the whole person. Our IPE day includes the University Chaplain and the Director of the Counseling Center, because caring for a patient involves treating more than their injury or illness. These two individuals help the students learn that providing pastoral and psychological care is a key part of the patient's treatment," said Dr. Krissy Grubler, clinical associate professor of Physical Therapy and coordinator of the IPE event.

More than 60 students divided into nine teams with each group collaborating to discuss the management of the paper case for best patient care. The focus of the discussion is on interprofessional communication and collaboration. The groups worked through the patient management of a student-athlete in a paper case for a 20-year-old female collegiate soccer player who sustained an on-field injury to her right knee and also sustained a concussion. Additionally, the soccer player, who has a history of asthma, could not put any weight on the injured leg and complained of a headache and dizziness.



Jill Emery, director of Nursing Programs, provides one of Wheeling's health science students with guidance during the 2024 IPE event. This year more than 60 health science students at Wheeling University spent a day learning how effective communication can impact the development of a collaborative patient treatment plan.

Courtesy Photo

Another aspect of the paper case was the IPE teams had to address that Spanish was the player's first language and her parents, who were at the game, do not speak Spanish.

Jill Emery, director of Nursing programs at the university, noted, "Interprofessional education helps students understand the importance of collaboration to enhance patient care. Students learn the role of each discipline which helps to promote effective teamwork and communication as they enter the workforce."

To help the IPE teams understand the roles and responsibilities of each discipline as they work through the paper case, the students could call upon members of the Wheeling University health science faculty, as well as a diverse

panel of local clinicians for assistance. The local clinicians included an athletic trainer, EMT, a certified exercise physiologist, a physician assistant, a respiratory therapist, a counselor, a physical therapist, a family nurse practitioner and a pharmacist.

Grubler said having community health care professionals on hand for this day of learning is important because "they understand interprofessional collaboration – they live it and experience it in their professional lives. What they bring to our students is real-world experience."

In addition to Grubler and Emery, faculty on hand for the IPE day included: Dr. Missy Bozovich, director of Athletic Training and Exercise Science, Dr. Kathy Blatt, assistant professor of

Exercise Science, Dr. Rhonda Haley, assistant professor and director of Clinical Education for Physical Therapy, Nathan Harshberger, instructor of Exercise Science, Sarah Pettit, instructor of Athletic Training; and Dr. Bryan Raudenbush, professor of Physical Therapy (Neuroscience & Research).

The local panel of experts were: Anthony McDaniel an EMT; Meghann Kolb, DPT, local physical therapist; Caitlin Garman,

an athletic trainer; Tina Tordella, director of Counseling Services at Wheeling University; Shauna Parsons, a certified family nurse practitioner; Matt Rafa, a pharmacist; Dr. Lance Tarr, a certified exercise physiologist; and Ryan Rafa, a physician assistant and respiratory therapist.

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Fairmont Catholic Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Teams Make History



Courtesy Photo

Fairmont Catholic Grade School's Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams both won the Mason Dixon Conference Championship. This is the first time in the school's history that both teams won the same year. In addition, Fairmont Catholic's Fifth/Sixth Grade Boys Basketball Team placed third in the Marion County League. All three teams are pictured together.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Spring 2024 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 17: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg; 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 6: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 10: Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 11: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 14: SS Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; 10:30 a.m.
Monday, April 15: Corpus Christi, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood; 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 21: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood; 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 28: St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 5: St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 11: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 11: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 12: Immaculate

Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.
Monday, May 13: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 19: St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 22: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 25: St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 25: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 26: St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 1: St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 8: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 9: Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 15: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 16: St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.

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La iniciativa 'Invite One Back' del Avivamiento Eucarístico ayuda a las parroquias a llegar a los católicos alejados

Por Laretta Brown, OSV News

(OSV News) — ¿Qué pasaría si el clero y los líderes parroquiales se acercaran personalmente a los católicos que han dejado de asistir a Misa para invitarlos a regresar -- diciéndoles que los extrañamos y los queremos en la comunidad parroquial? Esta es la pregunta y el desafío que los obispos de Estados Unidos plantean mientras su iniciativa de Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional se centra en los esfuerzos parroquiales este año.

Los obispos lanzaron recursos a principios de marzo como parte de la iniciativa "Invite One Back" (Invita a uno a Volver), equipando al clero y líderes parroquiales para invitar a aquellos que han dejado de asistir a la Misa dominical a llenar los bancos una vez más.

Muchas personas simplemente no regresaron a los bancos de las iglesias después de que la pandemia de COVID-19 restringiera la asistencia a Misa en persona en 2020. Un estudio de 2022 del Centro de Investigación Aplicada para el Apostolado de la Universidad de Georgetown (CARA, por sus siglas en inglés) mostró una disminución del 7% en la asistencia de católicos adultos a la Misa dominical en comparación con datos anteriores a la COVID.

El sitio web de avivamiento señala que en 2020 una cantidad de católicos perdió la conexión con su parroquia local durante los cierres y nunca regresó. Y "es hora de traerlos a casa", dice. El sitio web también señala datos de Pew de 2014 que encontraron que el 13% de todos los adultos estadounidenses son ex-católicos.

"El objetivo de esta iniciativa es volver a llenar los bancos", dice el sitio web. "Para hacer eso, todos debemos invitar a todos los que se fueron a regresar de una manera que asegure que se sientan vistos y deseados como miembros individuales de su familia parroquial. ¿A quién están llamados a invitar a casa?"

En su carta a los líderes parroquiales, el obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota, escribió: "Nuestros esfuerzos en la evangelización e invitar a los católicos a volver a Misa no son solo para aumentar el número o llenar bancos. Más bien, nuestros esfuerzos se centran en guiar a las personas a encuentros íntimos con Jesucristo y llevar a las almas a la salvación, permitiéndoles experimentar el amor, la misericordia y la bondad de Dios".

"¡Es importante invitar a estas personas a volver porque es un gran acto de amor! Es también una de las formas más sencillas y eficaces de

evangelizar", enfatizó. "El amor desea ser compartido una vez que se recibe. La fuente y cumbre de la vida cristiana es la participación en el sacrificio eucarístico, donde encontramos la presencia real de Jesucristo en el Santísimo Sacramento". La iniciativa enfatiza el poder único de la invitación, diciendo que para aquellos que han abandonado las parroquias, "una invitación les recuerda que pertenecen a nuestra comunidad y que falta su presencia".

El sitio web alienta al clero y al liderazgo parroquial a "hacer una lista de feligreses que no ha visto en mucho tiempo o de personas que solían ser miembros de su parroquia" para comenzar inmediatamente a orar por ellos y comenzar a discernir "cómo pueden llegar mejor a cada miembro de ese grupo y hacer un plan para contactar a cada uno de ellos de la manera más significativa".

"Todas las parroquias están compuestas por personas a las que sólo les falta una conversación o una invitación para volver a practicar su fe católica", dijo el obispo Cozzens. "Hay personas al final de la calle (o incluso en la puerta de al lado o en tu propia casa) que se están perdiendo la comunidad católica, una parte esencial de nuestra vida espiritual. Hay almas que anhelan alimentarse del Pan de Vida".

Los recursos y herramientas para llegar a quienes han dejado de asistir a Misa incluyen plantillas de cartas y postales, así como guiones para iniciar llamadas telefónicas con antiguos feligreses. En estas conversaciones se fomenta la creatividad y la personalización con el objetivo de escuchar al individuo y encontrarlo donde esté en esos momentos.

La oración también es una parte central de la campaña, ya que la iniciativa pide que las parroquias incluyan una oración por la campaña en el boletín, así como que los grupos parroquiales dediquen rosarios y Horas Santas para rezar por esta iniciativa.

"Oremos fervientemente por la guía y la fortaleza del Espíritu Santo para llevar a cabo esta misión sagrada", instó el obispo Cozzens, presidente de la junta del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional Inc. "Abraçamos cada alma con los brazos abiertos, regocijándonos al volver al abrazo de la Iglesia y de nuestras comunidades parroquiales a través del don de la Eucaristía".

(Laretta Brown es editora cultural de OSV News.)

Los recursos para la iniciativa "Invite One Back" del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional se pueden encontrar en español, inglés y vietnamita en www.eucharisticrevival.org/invite-one-back.

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; 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.

JOB OPENINGS

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has the following job openings at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston:

Cook—The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions.

Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area.

Works early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Covers housekeeping department when needed.

Prefer at least one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Evening Housekeeper—The Evening Housekeeper at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Evening Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning and preparing the facility, laundry and guest relations.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen when needed.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Maintenance Worker—The Maintenance Worker position at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Maintenance position is responsible for assisting in tasks related to the general maintenance of the Center buildings (interior and exterior), grounds, equipment and vehicles.

Usually works Monday-Friday day shift. Occasional evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen when needed.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES NEEDED

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart located in Charleston, West Virginia is looking for a pastoral musician. Responsibilities include overseeing the selection of music for liturgies, substituting for our organist, directing the choir, cantoring when necessary, preparing worship aids and expanding our current music program. Candidates should have a BA degree or higher in a music field, or other field, if musically trained, excellent organ/keyboards/choral conducting skills and vocal technique and be familiar with music notation software. A practicing Catholic is preferred but not required; candidates must be of the Christian faith with willingness to learn about and genuinely support others in their Catholic faith. Conversant with a variety of liturgical styles including contemporary, classical, and traditional. Must demonstrate a commitment to use a blended approach to liturgical music that encourages the assembly to sing. Working hours are flexible and include weekends and some evenings. Complete job description available upon request. Please send résumés to: Bernadette McMasters Kime, Office of Worship and Sacraments, PO. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email bkime@dwc.org

20/20 VISION SERIES A YEAR WITH THE SAINTS

Join us as we journey throughout the year focusing on various Saints and their legacies, presented by those among us who live out these legacies in their lives and in their communities.

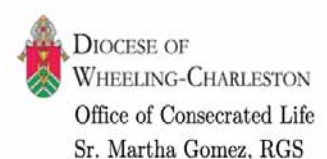
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

	January 29	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Sr. Mary Clark, SC
	February 26	St. Brigid of Kildare - Sr. Karen Kirby, CSJ
DATE CHANGE!	March 25	St. Joseph - Sr. Kathleen Durkin, CSJ
	April 29	St. Mary Euphrasia - Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.
	May 20	Blessed Virgin Mary - TBD
	June 24	Marcellin Champagnat - Brother John Byrd, FMS
	July 29 August	St. Ignatius of Loyola - Lou Volpe
	26 September	St. Dominic - Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP
	30 October 28	St. Lorenzo Ruiz - Fr. Carlos Melocoton
	November 18	Jesuit Martyrs - TBD
	December 16	Servant of God Dorothy Day - Kate Marshall
		St. Stephan - Deacon John Yaquina

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.

RSVP - Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org



Lead Summer Camp Pre-K Teachers Needed at St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

St. Joseph School (SJS) in Martinsburg educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

We are seeking two enthusiastic and responsible individuals to join our team as lead summer camp pre-K teachers. As a lead teacher, you will play a vital role in creating a safe and engaging environment in which children can learn and have fun. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of young campers.

Responsibilities:

Supervise and ensure the safety of campers at all times; Plan and lead age-appropriate activities, games and crafts; Assist with the implementation of daily schedules and routines; Provide guidance and support to campers in their social interactions; Foster a positive and inclusive environment for all campers; Collaborate with other staff members to create a cohesive team; Communicate effectively with campers, parents and fellow staff members.

Requirements:

At least two years of experience working with children in a regulated child care setting, classroom or similar environment; Knowledge of childhood development and early intervention techniques; Strong verbal and written communication skills; Ability to adapt to different learning styles and individual needs; Patience, empathy and the ability to connect with children; Basic math skills for activity planning and supervision; Knowledge of child welfare and special education is a plus; CPR and first aid certification preferred (or willingness to obtain); Willingness to support the school mission statement; Willingness to meet state qualifications for early child care educators.

The salary is \$13 to \$15 per hour. The shift is Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a 45-minute break.

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Katie MacKinnon at kmackinnon@sjswv.org.

SCHOOL NURSE NEEDED

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is looking to fill the position of School Nurse for its School Based Health Program. This is a Full Time position requiring 40 Hours per week for 40 Weeks. The position is located at St. Paul School and St. Joseph the Worker School (with reach out to Madonna High School as needed) in Weirton, WV.

The school nurse is responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating school health services within the context of the School Based Health Program. The nurse serves in the roles of program manager, case manager, direct care provider, collaborator, advocate, educator and counselor to students, parents, faculty, and the community as appropriate.

The successful candidate will possess a current valid WV Nursing License with a BSN. Pediatric, adolescent or public health experience is desired. The individual must be able to function independently within scope of practice. Interested persons should submit a resume to Erin McFarland, School Based Health Coordinator, at emcfarland@weirtonstpauls.org.

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154 Kruger Street
Elm Grove, WV
304-242-0330

Benwood-McMechen
214 Marshall Street
McMechen, WV
304-232-1710

Moundsville
110 Grant Avenue
Moundsville, WV
304-845-4560

Beck-Altmeier
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 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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