



# Pope Francis Marks 10th Anniversary

*‘Fraternity, Tears, Smiles’:  
Pope Shares Hopes for the  
Future*

**By Cindy Wooden**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — In interviews focused on the 10th anniversary of his election, Pope Francis insisted it is not his task to make an accounting of what he has or has not accomplished since March 13, 2013.

“The Lord will do the appraisal when he sees fit,” the pope told the Italian newspaper *Il Fatto Quotidiano*.

However, he said he was certain the criteria for judgment would be from Matthew 25: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and visiting prisoners.

But he did have three words for what he hopes for the future: “Fraternity, tears, smiles.”

As Pope Francis marked his anniversary celebrating Mass with cardinals in the chapel of his residence, Vatican News released a short “podcast” that included the pope’s three-word response to a question about his dreams for the church, the world and humanity.

“We are all brothers and sisters,” he explained, and more efforts must be made to live like it.

“And to learn not to be afraid to weep and to smile,” he said. “When a person knows how to cry and how to smile, he or she has their feet on the ground and their gaze on the horizon of the future.”

“If a person has forgotten how to cry, something is wrong,” Pope Francis said. “And if that person has forgotten how to smile, it’s even worse.”

The 86-year-old pope also asked the Vatican News interviewer, “What’s a podcast?”

In the handful of interviews Pope Francis  
**See “Pope” on Page 3**



Pope Francis smiles during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican June 12, 2019.

CNS Photo/Paul Haring

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## No Dispensation on St. Patrick's Day

Please note: There is no dispensation from the obligation to abstain from consuming meat today, Friday, March 17, 2023 (St. Patrick's Day) for the faithful of Wheeling-Charleston.

## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F.**, is appointed chaplain to Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

In consultation with Bishop Varghese Chakkalal of the Diocese of Calicut in Kerala, India, **Father Joseph Kutty K. Sebastian** is appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Huntington and St. Stephen Parish in Ona with residence at the parish rectory in Ona, effective March 15, 2023.

In consultation with Rev. Father Jaya Raj Battula, HGN, provincial superior of the St. John Paul II Province of the Heralds of Good News, **Father Pradeep Kumar Laladi, HGN**, is appointed administrator of St. Peter Parish in Welch, Sacred Heart Mission in Pothatan, Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Gary, and Holy Cross Chapel in Pineville with residence at the parish rectory in Welch, effective March 15, 2023.

## Biden Issues Executive Order on Guns, Calls on Congress to Reduce Gun Violence

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — President Joe Biden announced March 14 he would sign an executive order aiming to increase the number of background checks on prospective gun buyers, as well as measures to promote red flag laws and the secure storage of firearms. The executive order, released the same day by the White House, does not change existing laws, but rather directs federal agencies to ensure compliance with those laws.

The White House argued that ensuring all lawful background checks take place on prospective buyers will bring the nation as close to universal background checks as possible without the passage of new legislation. Biden has called

for universal background checks, but such proposals face unlikely odds in a divided Congress, where Republicans hold a narrow House majority. In June, Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, a narrow, bipartisan gun bill into law that expanded the background check system for prospective gun buyers under 21 years old, banned domestic abusers from purchasing firearms regardless of their marital status, and invested in mental health resources.

The law was praised by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which encouraged Congress "to continue working to confront the plague of gun violence in our nation."

## U.S. Extends Stay for Thousands of Ukrainians as War Enters Second Year

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — Thousands of Ukrainians who fled their nation in the first days of Russia's full-scale invasion can now apply to extend their stay in the U.S. by one year.

On March 13, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it would begin considering extensions, on a case-by-case basis, for Ukrainian nationals and immediate family members who entered the U.S.

prior to the federal government's Uniting for Ukraine program, which grants a two-year stay. The move aligns both groups of Ukrainian refugees in the U.S., who continue to face challenges due to family separation, trauma, lack of employment and language barriers while remaining grateful for U.S. aid.

Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of Philadelphia, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S., welcomed

the extension.

"Most refugees do indeed want to return to Ukraine. They love their country, their people, their culture," he told OSV News. "(But) some people don't have anything to go back to. Their towns and their cities have been destroyed. Others have children already traumatized by the brutality of the war, and they want to wait it out until the victory of God's truth (in Ukraine)."

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

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

**To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment," then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

### Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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March 17, 2023, Vol. 54, No. 11

Published 24 times per year. 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.

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# Pope...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

granted in connection with his anniversary, several topics kept coming up: the war in Ukraine and wars around the world, women in the church, outreach to LGBTQ Catholics, handling criticism and even whether he thinks about death.

He does, he told the Argentinean website Perfil. He said he thinks about death often and "very peacefully" because "it is necessary to remember" that no one lives forever.

The Argentinean newspaper La Nacion asked Pope Francis about the importance of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, a process the pope launched in October 2021 and that will culminate with synodal assemblies in 2023 and 2024.

In the context of explaining how he has tried to revitalize the synods, which were reinstated by St. Paul VI after the Second Vatican Council, the pope told La Nacion that including more voices is an ongoing process.

During the 2019 Synod of Bishops for the Amazon, he said, "the question was asked: Why can't women vote? Are they second-class Christians?"

The Vatican's answer always had been that while the input of many was essential to a synod, it was the role of bishops to discern and vote. However, 10 priests — and occasionally a religious brother — traditionally were elected by the men's Union of Superiors General of religious orders as full voting members of the synod alongside bishops.

In February 2021, Pope Francis named Xavière Missionary Sister Nathalie Becquart one of the undersecretaries of the synod general secretariat, a post that would make her an automatic voting member of the assembly.

So, La Nacion asked the pope if only one woman would have a vote at the next synod assembly.

"Everyone who participates in the synod will vote. Those who are guests or observers will not vote," he said, but whoever participates in a synod as a member "has the right to vote. Whether male or female. Everyone, everyone. That word everyone for me is key."

On the question of LGBTQ Catholics, Pope Francis insisted to the Perfil interviewer that "everyone is a child of God and each one seeks and finds God by whatever path he or she can."



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

**Pope Francis touches an icon of St. Joseph and the Christ Child presented to him by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, standing next to the pope, during a private audience at the Vatican Oct. 25, 2021. Kelly, as head of the Knights of Columbus, congratulated Pope Francis on his 10th anniversary as spiritual leader of the Catholic Church March 13, 2023, and invited Catholics to participate in a novena to St. Joseph for the pontiff. March 12 to March 20, when the feast of St. Joseph is observed in 2023 because with the March 19 solemnity will fall on Sunday.**

While the pope insisted matrimony can only be between one man and one woman, he also repeated his support for the legal rights guaranteed by civil unions for gay couples and others who share a life. And he said, as he told the Associated Press in January, homosexuality should not be criminalized.

As for Catholic teaching that homosexual acts are sinful, like any sexual activity outside of marriage, Pope Francis said he did not think those sins would send a person to hell.

"God only sets aside the proud, the rest of us sinners are all in line," he said, and God always is reaching out to save sinners who seek his help.

In the interviews with both La Nacion and Perfil, Pope Francis insisted there is a difference between a pastoral outreach to LGBTQ Catholics and accepting "gender ideology," which, he

said, "is one of the most dangerous ideological colonizations."

"Why is it dangerous? Because it dilutes differences, and the richness of men and women and of all humanity is the tension of differences. It is to grow through the tension of differences," the pope said.

A gender theory that sees being male or female as a social construct or choice rather than a fact related to biological identity "is diluting the differences and making the world the same, all blunt, all equal," the pope said. "And that goes against the human vocation."

In each of the interviews, he spoke of the horror of war and his concern for the continued fighting in Ukraine.

Asked by Vatican News what he would want as a gift for his 10th anniversary, Pope Francis responded: "Peace. We need peace."

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# Caring for Creation through Mindful Food Choices

**SOUTH CHARLESTON** — Blessed Sacrament Parish’s Creation Care Team is continuing to focus on ways to eat more sustainably that protects the earth and the people living on it. They have been including a Creation Care Recipe of the Month in the parish bulletin, featuring an “eating-lower-in-the-food-chain” recipe each month during their exploration of food and the environment issues. The recipes are provided by Catholic Climate Covenant and provide an explanation of “why this is a good thing,” parish officials said. In February, the team presented a display in the parish gathering space which included such varied items as:

1) Quotes from Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI, including: “Together with the social responsibility of business, there is also the social responsibility of consumers. Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral—and not simply an economic—act.” (Pope Francis reiterating Benedict XVI’s 2009 Encyclical “Caritas in Veritate”);



In February, the Creation Care Team at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston presented a display in the parish gathering space, pictured above, featuring information on eating sustainably, a list of local farms and vendors of local produce, and more.

Courtesy Photo

2) a take-home list of in-season produce (least energy intensive to grow);

3) a list of most important organic produce to consider (Shopping for Clean 15—produce to have least pesticide residue, and avoiding produce’s “Dirty Dozen”—those with most pesticide residue);

4) a take-home list of local farms and vendors of local produce (besides lowering transportation costs and increasing nutrition and variability, eating locally supports

local economies);

5) an article from Catholic Exchange: “Supporting Local Farmers: Catholic Social Teaching in Action”;

6) the why’s and how’s of eating sustainably;

7) Invitation to Winter Blues Farmers’ Market and Café Appalachia lunch, which was held Feb. 23.

The Creation Care Team hosted a number of Blessed Sacrament parishioners for lunch at the local restaurant, Café Appalachia, which is a social enterprise that offers farm-

to-table foods grown onsite in Nan’s Garden, and/or are locally sourced. In past growing seasons, some of the produce has even come from Blessed Sacrament’s youth group-maintained garden! The café is part of their Reintegr8 program that empowers women in recovery to learn to grow food, prepare wholesome, nutritious meals and gain valuable employment experiences.

Following a wonderful lunch, they carpooled to Charleston’s **See “Creation” on Page 5**



Courtesy Photo

Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston enjoy lunch at Café Appalachia in South Charleston.



Courtesy Photo

Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston attend the Winter Blues Farmers’ Market.

# FertilityCare Center of the Upper Ohio Valley Highlights Benefits of System

From March 19-25, the FertilityCare™ Center of the Upper Ohio Valley, Inc., in conjunction with FertilityCare™ Centers of America, will be celebrating its annual Worldwide FertilityCare™ Week. The week emphasizes and celebrates the Creighton FertilityCare™ System and the women's medical and surgical health science of NaProTechnology® (Natural Procreative Technology). This year's theme is "The Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System – A Window Into Our

Fertility".

The Creighton FertilityCare™ System is a natural and effective means to regulate fertility which was developed by OB/Gyn Dr. Thomas Hilgers and his colleagues from the St. Paul VI Institute in Omaha, Neb. Through the charting of specific biological markers in the woman's body couples can identify days of fertility and infertility and use the system to effectively avoid or achieve pregnancy.

It is also this specific charting that is utilized by

specially trained doctors (medical consultants) to provide NaProTechnology® services.

"Because of the charting there is no guessing or assuming when ovulation takes place," FertilityCare™ Center officials said. "This allows for more precise diagnosing and treatment by our medical consultants. We are very fortunate to

have Dr. Blaise Milburn, a fellow in NaProTechnology®, to treat women through this extraordinary approach."

Milburn's practice of NaProTechnology® allows him to tailor treatment to the individual patient rather than providing a "one size fits all" approach that is so common in medicine. His ultimate goal is to fix the underlying cause of the patient's symptoms in order to enhance quality of life, restore fertility, and achieve pregnancy, if desired. Milburn's office is lo-

cated at Trinity Hospital, 4100 Johnson Road, Suite 100, Steubenville, Ohio. Call (740) 264-8600 for an appointment.

For more information on the Creighton FertilityCare™ System contact Kathy Hirkala, RN, BSN, CFCE at (304) 723-0478 or kathnfhph@msn.com. Long distance teaching is available.

"We think you will be amazed at what the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System and NaProTechnology® can do for you," Hirkala said.

## Creation...

Cont'd from Page 4

Civic Center Coliseum to experience the annual Winter Blues Farmers' Market. Sponsored by West Virginia Department of Agriculture and West Virginia University Extension Small Farm Center, it featured booths from more than 60 local farms, as well as numerous booths from the Extension Office and Department of Agriculture. Their group purchased everything from West Virginia sourced apples, honey, mushrooms, and meat to maple syrup cotton candy.

Although their Creation Care Team continue to focus on the importance of eating and shopping more sustainability through the fall harvest, they will be involved in other parish activities (such as an upcoming Ecological Stations of the Cross with quotes from St. Pope John Paul II).



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# Wheeling Knights Help a Neighbor in Need

By Colleen Rowan

**WHEELING** — Knights of Columbus councils around West Virginia continuously reach out to those in need in their communities. This is an integral part of the knights' mission. So, when members of Carol Council 504 of the Knights of Columbus in Wheeling heard of a family's need in their community, they immediately responded.

Council 504 learned that the family was in dire need of equipment to give their disabled son easier and safer entrance and exit to their home.

"Our council's community construction committee agreed to take on this very important project and sprang into action to make it happen," members of 504 said.

The council took on the project for Andrew McMillan, who is a quadriplegic. The family did not have, nor did they have the means to acquire the necessary vertical program lift equipment, council members said.

Andrew's mother, who is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, and his sister can now get him to and from the first floors to street level. Previously this was a daunting and dangerous task for all involved, council members said.

The team that constructed the lift included both knights and other volunteers. Some of them had construction and mechanical skills, but all were committed to the project.



Courtesy Photo

Andrew McMillan, center, is pictured with members of Carol Council #504 of the Knights of Columbus in Wheeling who constructed a lift for him at his home. They are, from left: Lance Tarr, Ray Blust, Mark Basich, and Art Bertol.

"While none of the team members ever installed a platform before, we felt we had the basic skills to get the job done," council members said. "We were right."

Council members added, "The project helped to enhance the dignity and hope for a better life for this permanently disabled young man. There was immediate change for this young man's life and for the lives of his entire

family."

Council 504 has maintained "a watchful eye on worthy projects and recipients that are in great need of assistance in our community and area," council members said, noting that support is directed to members of parishes and their families when possible.

According to the organization's website, the mission of the Knights of Columbus in West Virginia is

to promote the original principles of Blessed Michael J. McGivney: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism throughout West Virginia, and to serve as an example of Catholic gentlemen dedicated to church

and its principles and teachings. Councils are located all over the state. Catholic men, ages 18 and older, are invited to join.

For information on how to become a knight, see the ad below.



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14<sup>th</sup> St. George Camporee**  
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## Communal Lenten Penance Services

### Beckley Vicariate

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

### Charleston Vicariate

Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, March 21 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Anthony, Charleston, March 22 from 6-7 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart, Huntington, March 23 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Peter Claver, Huntington, March 26 at 12:15 p.m.  
 Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, March 27 at 7 p.m.  
 Ascension, Hurricane, March 28 at 7 p.m.  
 Immaculate Conception, Montgomery, March 29 at 6 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart Williamson, March 29, 6:30 p.m.  
 St. Francis, Logan, March 30, at 6 p.m.  
 Holy Trinity, Nitro, April 5 at 6 p.m.

### Clarksburg Vicariate

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

### Martinsburg Vicariate

St. James the Greater, Charles Town, March 28 (begins with Mass at 12 pm, lunch after Mass, and confessions after lunch. Please RSVP by calling the Parish Office at 304-725-5558 to help the parish prepare).  
 St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, March 28 from 4-5:45 pm.  
 Assumption, Keyser, March 29 at 6 p.m.  
 St. Leo's, Inwood, March 29 at 7 p.m.

### Parkersburg Vicariate

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

### Wheeling Vicariate

Sacred Heart, Chester, March 19 from 3-4 p.m.  
 St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, March 23, at 6 p.m.  
 St. Michael's Wheeling, March 23 at 6:15 p.m.  
 Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland, March 26 from 3-4 p.m.  
 St. Alphonsus, March 27 at 6 p.m.  
 Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling, March 29, from 6-7 p.m.

## Greenbrier Valley's Weekly Lenten Dinner Features St. Patrick's Flare This Evening

**WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS**—The Friday Lenten fried or baked Tilapia dinner, sponsored by the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus and held in downtown White Sulphur Springs, will feature a St. Patrick's Day look from 4-7 p.m. in the White Sulphur Springs Community Center behind Emanuel United Methodist Church, one block south of the Main Street Bridge.

"No, we will not be serving 'green tilapia,' but we are using more green in decorations and those wonderful home-made desserts we have been serving," said Andrew Wrzosek of Waiteville. He is also grand knight of Council 8689.

In addition, Wrzosek announced that the "Pot of Gold" half and half donations for the Knights' half will be donated to the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church Altar and Rosary Society, who, prior to the covid-19 pandemic, sponsored and served

a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on St. Patrick's Day.

Also available during the dinner is the opportunity to win one or all four baskets for which the Parish of St. Charles Borromeo is accepting donations with the proceeds going to the "Raise the Roof" fund for a new roof needed on the 58-year old rectory and office building adjoining the church in White Sulphur Springs.

The dinners, consisting of fried or baked tilapia, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, hard rolls, dessert and drinks, are \$15 for adults; 12 and under, \$8; under 5, free; and an extra serving of tilapia for only \$5.

Proceeds go toward the community, youth, service, church and council projects of the Knights of Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas, and eastern Fayette counties in Virginia.

The dinners will continue March 17, 24 and 31 for this Lenten season.



## FRANCISCAN SISTERS, TOR THE WAY OF LOVE: CRIB, CROSS, EUCHARIST

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Each night of this Lenten mission, our sisters will give reflections on the three loves of St. Francis of Assisi: the crib, the cross, and the Eucharist. Come and join us in meditating on the different ways He humbles Himself in coming to us. We hope you can join us for one or more of the nights, and we really look forward to praying with you and meeting you!

# Two CCHS Seniors Receive Prestigious Recognitions



**Chaz Frizzell**



**Meredith Romanek**

**WHEELING** — Wheeling Central Catholic High School is proud to announce the selection of two outstanding senior students as the recipients of prestigious awards.

Chaz Frizzell of Glen Dale has been named a National Merit Finalist. The son of Chuck and Christine Frizzell, Chaz is a four-year letterman in both cross country and swimming and is the captain of the CCHS Robotics Team. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Rho Kappa Alpha Social Studies Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society. He represented CCHS at the American Legion West Virginia Boys' State and West Virginia Math Day, where he has advanced to the regional round. He is also the president of the Teens for Life Club, is a math tutor and an altar server.

Meredith Romanek of Wheeling has been selected as a National Honor Society Scholarship Semi-Finalist. The daughter of Michael and Sheila Romanek of Wheeling, Meredith is a four-year letterman on the CCHS Volleyball Team. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Rho Kappa Alpha Social Studies Honor Society, French National Honor Society and the Science National Honor

Society. She represented CCHS at the West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary Rhododendron Girls' State and was a Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Participant. A four-year member of student council, Meredith is her senior class secretary and is a member of the We Stop Hate and Big Sisters Clubs.

"We are incredibly proud of these seniors and their recognitions," said Rebecca Sancomb, principal at CCHS. "In what is an extremely competitive academic arena, these students have distinguished themselves as outstanding not only academically, but also in extra-curricular activities and service to school and community."

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



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

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

# German Synodal Assembly Allows Women to Preach at Mass, Clears the Way for Church Blessing of Same-Sex Couples

By KNA, OSV News

**FRANKFURT, Germany (OSV News)** — The final assembly of the German Synodal Way took place in Frankfurt March 9-11, where 230 bishops and lay representatives discussed issues such as blessings for homosexual couples, the ordination of women, a relaxation of mandatory celibacy and greater church involvement for lay people.

The agenda, with 10 resolution texts, reflected the will of the local church to “arrive at visible changes,” the president of the German Bishops’ Conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, said in Frankfurt March 9. “This church deserves that we do not leave it as it is,” the German news agency KNA reported him saying.

The president of the Central Committee of German Catholics, Irme Stetter-Karp, said that looking back on the process so far, “there were phases of disappointment, of anger and of despair, but also phases of euphoria and of successful cooperation. Now we have to prove that we were worthy of the trust so many people placed in us.”

On March 10, KNA reported, the assembly decided that in the near future, there will be blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples in the Catholic Church in Germany. It also said people who have divorced and then remarried in a civil partnership also should be able to have their relationships blessed in the Catholic Church.

Following a controversial debate, KNA wrote, the Synodal Path reform project adopted a corresponding text in Frankfurt on March 10, with a majority of over 90%. The paper recommends developing and introducing appropriate liturgical celebrations and ceremonies.

Of the 58 bishops who voted, 38 voted in favor, nine voted against and 11 abstained. Since abstentions in the vote on the Synodal Path are counted as votes not cast, the result was counted as a majority of just under 81% in favor. Twenty votes against would have been enough to reject the text, since according to the statutes, the bishops must approve decisions with a two-thirds majority.

Manuals for blessing ceremonies for different types of couples will now be developed. Pastors will not be forced to perform such blessings. The

paper, titled “Blessing Celebrations for Couples who Love Each Other,” emphasizes that a refusal to bless the relationship of two people “who want to live their partnership in love, commitment and responsibility to each other and to God” shows a lack of compassion.

One of the first decisions on March 10, reported by KNA from the synodal assembly, was one allowing women to preach at Mass. After what KNA reported has been a “long struggle,” a paper to this effect was adopted by the Synodal Assembly in Frankfurt on the morning of March 10, with a majority of about 90%.

The paper calls for a general permission that would allow qualified and commissioned women and men to preach at Masses in Germany. Up to now, only ordained clergy have been allowed to do so, KNA wrote.

The text originally contained demands that were even more far-reaching. According to KNA, it included the possibility of non-ordained persons being able to baptize and assist at church weddings, but also the proposal to examine “lay confession” and the participation of laypeople in the anointing of the sick. Whether or not non-priests can be involved in the leadership of parishes also should be looked at, it said.

KNA reported that, at the request of Auxiliary Bishop Matthaeus Karrer of Stuttgart, these questions will now be discussed in a further consultation process in which religious orders and lay associations also will participate.

In the course of a “lively debate,” KNA reported, bishops expressed different views on the question of what role laypeople should have in administering sacraments. While some, such as Bishop Michael Gerber of Fulda, advocated new roles for laypeople, others, such as Auxiliary Bishop Ansgar Puff of Cologne, expressed concern that this would establish a kind of “sacraments in a light version.”

Bishop Bertram Meier of Augsburg said he did not want clerics to be pushed aside “in order to then actually ask the question: ‘Why do we still need ordained people?’” Katharina Ganz, a Franciscan sister, replied that it was not clerics who were being pushed aside, but women who were repeatedly excluded from church life. The question of

opening up the priesthood to women in the church is not explicitly addressed in the text, KNA reported.

Another issue for the German Synodal Way was the Vatican’s concern against the establishment of a permanent “Synodal Council” in Germany, but for Bishop Peter Kohlgraf of Mainz, this does not represent an insurmountable obstacle, KNA reported.

At a Synodal Path press conference March 10 in Frankfurt, Bishop Kohlgraf said that the project was not about the concept of the Synodal Council, but about the principle of “strengthening synodality in a permanent way.”

He argued that the project does not weaken the bishops’ authority when bishops involve laypeople in deliberative and decision-making processes, underlining that laypeople are already involved in church deliberations and decisions. The meeting comes amid mounting tension after the Vatican recently restricted the scope for change. It is uncertain whether the Synodal Path will have the necessary two-thirds majority of bishops present to pass far-reaching decisions seen as more and

more liberal by observers.

The Synodal Path had suffered “losses,” Stetter-Karp said, as reported by KNA, pointing out that individual delegates had resigned their mandates in the reform project. “Obviously, the will to integrate and the ability to integrate have limits,” she said.

Overall, she hoped for a successful outcome, but said, “We also need confidence in ourselves that we are able to change things together.” For this to happen, there also must be a will to compromise, she added. During the bishops’ springtime assembly in Dresden, Feb. 27-March 2, Bishop Bätzing said that a majority of bishops were sticking to the Synodal Way, despite opposition from Rome. The aim, he said, was to involve church people more in decision-making. A minority of the bishops, however, is skeptical of the proposed reforms.

The Vatican recently further restricted the scope for internal church reforms in Germany: The planned establishment of a joint governing body of laypeople and clergy is not permissible, according to a letter by Vatican officials that was published Jan. 23. Such a

Synodal Council would limit the authority of each individual bishop, as reported by KNA.

“We must and we want to remain in dialogue with Rome, that is the express wish that has come out of the German Bishops’ Conference,” Bishop Bätzing said March 2. The broad majority of the bishops, he said, stood behind the Synodal Path’s reform proposals and wanted lasting changes.

On March 10, the delegates of the Synodal Way in Frankfurt heard a final address from the leader of the Taizé ecumenical brotherhood, Brother Alois, KNA wrote.

At the end of September, the prior of Taizé will lead an evening of prayer with representatives of various churches in St. Peter’s Square in Rome to mark the beginning of the next phase of the Catholic Church’s world Synod of Bishops.

The German Bishops’ Conference and the Central Committee of German Catholics launched the Synodal Path in 2019, in part to help restore lost trust in the church in the wake of the abuse scandal. In three years, a sixth Synodal Assembly is to evaluate what the initiative has achieved.



## 20/20 Vision Series

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

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Feb 27	Let us be Bread – Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27	The Eucharist as a noun – Bernadette McMasters Kime
April 24	Eucharist in the early church – Fr. John Di Bacco
May 22	Lord I am not worthy – Alex Nagem
June 26	The Eucharist as a verb – Deacon Paul Lim
July 31	Eucharist IS thanksgiving – Kate Marshall
August 28	Bread broken and shared – Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ
Sept. 25	Eucharistic Reflections through song – Chad Carter
Oct 30	The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? – Fr. Walt Jagela
Nov 27	Bread for the journey – Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.
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# Gathering to Sing, Pray for Death-Row Inmate before Execution Called Spiritual Work of Mercy

By Glenda Meekins

**RAIFORD, Fla. (OSV News)** — At 5:45 p.m. Feb. 23, 15 minutes prior to the time Donald David Dillbeck would die via lethal injection at Florida State Prison, a crowd began to sing.

"When the way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near. When my life is almost gone," they sang. "Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

Among those in the crowd, nearly 60 were parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Daytona Beach. The crowd included veteran opponents of the death penalty who have been to Raiford before, young middle school students from Lourdes Academy there for the first time and those who lost relatives at the hands of violent criminals.

Father Phil Egitto, Our Lady of Lourdes pastor, led his contingent in this spiritual work of mercy — praying for the dead, dying and those afflicted by acts of violence, especially the victims of criminals. This is a sad pilgrimage he has made for decades.

The group hoped that through their singing and praying outside the prison walls, Dillbeck, 59, would understand he was cherished, even as the state of Florida administered a lethal injection into his veins.

Dillbeck was sentenced to death March 15, 1991, after being convicted of killing a woman in a Tallahassee mall parking lot in 1990 after escaping from prison, where he was serving a life sentence for killing a sheriff's deputy in 1979.

"We have gathered here tonight in prayerful response to acts of hatred and violence in our society. We gather not just as a Christian group, but in union with many groups throughout the state and country who are also holding prayer vigils on this day and time. We are all gathered in the name of God, who is love, here with us," Father Egitto prayed. "We strive to be instruments of healing and love ... instruments of true justice. Let us respond in prayer and in deed."

In the prayers of the faithful, he asked for intercessions for Dillbeck's victims and all those of other crimes — that the Lord might provide healing for their wounds.

"Our church is very much pro-life," he continued. "Very often people don't focus on all life. I think it's really important to provide the balance — that people need to understand that all life is sacred from conception to natural

death." He noted many Catholics understand that abortion is wrong, but some "think it's OK to kill people for killing people. And it's not OK."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." (2267)

Among the death penalty opponents was 13-year-old Nashalie, an eighth grader at Lourdes Academy. She said her faith brought her there.

"I'm here standing up for what I believe in, even if it's just in this little way with my family, friends and teachers around me. In another way, it's kind of frightening. It's kind of nerve-racking," she told the Florida Catholic Orlando, the diocesan news outlet. "Killing is killing. I carry that with me no matter what happens."

Since 1973, 30 death-row inmates in Florida have been exonerated, more than in any other state.

One exoneree, Herman Lindsey, spent three years on death row before a unanimous jury declared there was never enough evidence to convict him, let alone put him to death. Released in 2009, Lindsey speaks annually to Our Lady of Lourdes students.

"He may not realize it, but he's made a difference," said religion teacher Nancy Sturm. Her grandson and others who heard Lindsey speak years ago are still passionate opponents of capital punishment.

"The youth is our future," said Lindsey. "That is why I find it important to speak out."

Another death penalty opponent at the prison was Karen Delisle, whose sister, Patty Ann, was murdered. "A day like this just makes you think — No. 6 — 'Thou shalt not kill,'" she said of the Sixth Commandment.

"So, we're going to kill somebody because they killed somebody. Where is the wisdom in that? And for the families of the murder victim, this is all just reigniting their trauma," she said, recalling her experience in a courtroom 41 years ago when facing a final verdict on her sister's case. "We need to be life-giving, not life-taking."

Those singing and praying outside the prison were invited to ring a large bell brought to the event as a symbol of solidarity in opposing the death penalty. When it is rung, witnesses have testified they can hear the sound within the death chamber. Delisle took her turn and rang the bell hard.

After Dillbeck was pronounced dead at 6:13 p.m. the group grew silent. Many stared at the exit where witnesses to the execution came out to board vans and return to the parking lot. Among those with eyes glued to the exit was Father Fred Ruse, a retired Orlando diocesan priest. He is shocked by the speed of the process — 11 minutes.

"What does that say about us? We have perfected death," he noted.

Father Ruse spent five years visiting "Ricky" Sanchez-Velasco on death row and accompanied him to his death in 2002, singing hymns and praising God for his great love and mercy in his cell. Then in the death chamber, he said, "the two of us fixed our sight on each other during that moment, not to be distracted from what is and always will be of the kingdom of God."

"Every time I arrive at (Florida State Prison) for an execution, I am transported back to my time with Ricky," he told a friend days later. "It is uncomfortable, but also very rich. That was a gift to serve that way and come to know him and

witness who he was and what was going on deep within him."

In an email to the Florida Catholic, he shared his feelings at the time of Dillbeck's death. "Sad. Infuriating. More of the same. The story of our broken and self-preferential/self-serving way of operating. Shallow. Serious injustice. An outcry to God," he said.

"We throw no one away ..., because of the one to whom we all belong — who looks upon us all with equal love and care — our God," the priest added. "And in that gaze, there is both the truth and the mystery that we just don't know the entire story, which is our healing and our hope. We can't. And in that, there is the measurement of our authenticity and honesty in being a community."

On Feb. 22, there were 300 people listed on death row in Florida, including 297 men and three women. At 6:13 p.m. Feb. 23, that number was reduced to 299.

(Glenda Meekins is writer/editor of the Florida Catholic Orlando e-edition, which serves the Diocese of Orlando and is part of Florida Catholic Media.)



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# High School Juniors, Seniors Invited to Enter USCCB Religious Liberty Essay Contest

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, along with the USCCB Secretariat of Catholic Education and the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, is hosting a religious liberty essay contest for high school juniors and seniors.

The contest, titled "Witnesses to Freedom," requires participants to "share the story of a witness to freedom."

"Participants should choose one person or group, such as an organization or community, who is important in the story of religious freedom," according to the contest rules, posted at the USCCB's website ([usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay-contest-rules](https://www.usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay-contest-rules)).

Essays are due March 24. Winners will be announced in May. The first-place essay will be published by Our Sunday Visitor, the newspaper of OSV (the parent company of the OSV News wire service), and the author will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship.

Second place will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, and third place will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The USCCB's general information about the contest (found at [usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay](https://www.usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay)) urges contestants to consider these questions: "Was there a key moment in the person's life that bears witness to freedom? Or was it the life as a whole? Did the person articulate important concepts for religious freedom, and if so, what arguments did she or he make? Why is this person a witness to religious freedom? What lessons can we learn from this person's witness?"

"Religious freedom is a fundamental right," the USCCB said. "But the truth of religious freedom has needed, and continues to need, witnesses. Philosophers and statesmen have articulated key principles and ideas. Advocates have stood up for the freedom of others. Saints have suffered persecution and even martyrdom. These witnesses to freedom show us what it means to promote religious freedom and what it means to be truly free."

Information about the contest and rules are at the USCCB's website: <https://www.usccb.org/religious-liberty-essay-contest-rules>.



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## Eucharistic Prayer Companion for the Lenten Season & Sacred Triduum

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Each Eucharistic Meditation will follow this format:

- ✦ Begin with the opening prayers, asking Jesus for the grace of that week. This prayer is intended to help us learn how to seek a gift from God in prayer.
- ✦ Pray with the Scripture passage provided. Be open to this encounter with Jesus.
  - ◆ Read that week's passage, usually from the Old Testament, 3-4 times slowly. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.
  - ◆ Sit with a series of reflection questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.
  - ◆ Read the next passage, usually from the Gospels, 3-4 times slowly. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally through this passage.
  - ◆ Spend time in silence with the Lord using the next reflection question. Allow him to speak to your heart in that silence. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.
- ✦ Pray the Closing Prayer, usually taken from the Collect for Mass.
- ✦ Reflect on the liturgical connection each week.

Thank you for praying with us as we seek to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.

[eucharisticrevival.org/newsletter](http://eucharisticrevival.org/newsletter)

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# Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant


- Sunday, March 19:** Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, March 26:** St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 15:** St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, April 15:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
- Sunday, April 16:** St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 18:** St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 24:** St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 25:** St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 30:** St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 6:** St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 6:** St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 11:** St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 13:** Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 14:** Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 14:** St. Joseph, Huntington, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 17:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 19:** St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 20:** St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 20:** St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 21:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 21:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 22:** Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 28:** St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 1:** St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 10:** Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 10:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 18:** Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, June 24:** Mater Dolorosa, Paden City, 5:00 p.m.



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# ‘Fraternidad, lágrimas, sonrisas’: El Papa comparte esperanzas para el futuro

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — En entrevistas centradas en el décimo aniversario de su elección, el Papa Francisco insistió en que no es su tarea hacer un recuento de lo que ha logrado o no desde el 13 de marzo de 2013.

"El Señor hará la evaluación cuando lo considere oportuno", dijo el Papa al periódico italiano *Il Fatto Quotidiano*.

Sin embargo, dijo estar seguro de que los criterios de juicio serán los de Mateo 25: dar de comer al hambriento, acoger al forastero, vestir al desnudo, cuidar a los enfermos y visitar a los presos.

Pero tenía tres palabras para lo que espera del futuro: "Fraternidad, lágrimas, sonrisas".

Mientras el Papa Francisco conmemoraba su aniversario celebrando Misa con cardenales en la capilla de su residencia, Vatican News publicó un breve "popecast" que incluía la respuesta de tres palabras del Papa a una pregunta sobre sus sueños para la Iglesia, el mundo y la humanidad.

"Todos somos hermanos y hermanas", explicó, y hay que esforzarse más por vivir como tales.

"Y aprender a no tener miedo a llorar y a sonreír", dijo. "Cuando una persona sabe llorar y sabe sonreír, tiene los pies en la tierra y la mirada en el horizonte del futuro".

"Si una persona ha olvidado cómo llorar, algo va mal", dijo el Papa Francisco. "Y si esa persona ha olvidado cómo sonreír, es aún peor".

El Papa, de 86 años, también preguntó al entrevistador de Vatican News: "¿Qué es un podcast?".

En el puñado de entrevistas que el Papa Francisco concedió con motivo de su aniversario, varios temas salieron a relucir: la guerra en Ucrania y las guerras en todo el mundo, las mujeres en la Iglesia, el acercamiento a los católicos LGBTQ, el manejo de las críticas e incluso si piensa en la muerte.

Si piensa en la muerte, según declaró al sitio web argentino Perfil. Dijo que piensa en la muerte a menudo y "muy tranquilamente" porque "es necesario recordar" que nadie vive para siempre.

El diario argentino La Nación preguntó al Papa Francisco sobre la importancia del Sínodo de los Obispos sobre la sinodalidad, un proceso que el Papa lanzó en octubre de 2021 y que culminará con asambleas sinodales en 2023 y 2024.

En el contexto de explicar cómo ha intentado revitalizar los sínodos, que fueron reinstaurados por San Pablo VI tras el Concilio Vaticano II, el Papa dijo a La Nación que incluir más voces es un proceso continuo.

Durante el Sínodo de los Obispos de 2019 para la Amazonia, dijo, "se hizo la pregunta: ¿Por qué las mujeres no pueden votar? ¿Son cristianas de segunda clase?".

La respuesta del Vaticano siempre había sido que, si bien la aportación de muchos era esencial para un sínodo, correspondía a los obispos discernir y votar. Sin embargo, 10 sacerdotes — y ocasionalmente un hermano religioso — eran elegidos tradicionalmente por la Unión de Superiores Generales de las órdenes religiosas masculinas como miembros con pleno derecho a voto en el sínodo, junto a los obispos.

En febrero de 2021, el Papa Francisco nombró a la Hermana Nathalie Becquart, quien es una misionera de Xavière, una de las subsecretarias de la secretaría general del sínodo, cargo que la convertiría automáticamente en miembro votante de la asamblea. Por ello, La Nación preguntó al Papa si sólo una mujer tendría voto en la próxima asamblea sinodal.

"Todo el que sea participante del sínodo va a votar. El que sea invitado u observador no va a votar", dijo, pero quien participa en un sínodo como miembro "tiene derecho al voto. Sea varón o sea mujer. Todos, todos. Esa palabra 'todos' para mí es clave".

Sobre la cuestión de los católicos LGBTQ, el Papa Francisco insistió al entrevistador de Perfil que "Todos son hijos de Dios y cada uno busca a Dios y lo encuentra, por el camino que puede".

Aunque el Papa insistió en que el matrimonio sólo puede ser entre un hombre y una mujer, también reiteró su apoyo a los derechos legales garantizados por las uniones civiles para las parejas homosexuales y otras personas que comparten una vida. Y afirmó, como dijo a Associated Press en enero, que la homosexualidad no debe ser criminalizada.

En cuanto a la enseñanza católica de que los actos homosexuales son pecaminosos, como cualquier actividad sexual fuera del matrimonio, el Papa Francisco dijo que no creía que esos pecados enviaran a una persona al infierno.

"Dios solamente aparta a los soberbios, los demás pecadores estamos todos en la fila", dijo, y Dios siempre está tendiendo la mano para sal-

var a los pecadores que buscan su ayuda.

En las entrevistas tanto con La Nación como con Perfil, el Papa Francisco insistió en que hay una diferencia entre un acercamiento pastoral a los católicos LGBTQ y aceptar la "ideología de género", que, dijo, "es una de las colonizaciones ideológicas más peligrosas".

"¿Por qué es peligrosa? Porque diluye las diferencias, y lo rico de los hombres y de las mujeres y de toda la humanidad es la tensión de las diferencias. Es crecer a través de la tensión de las diferencias", dijo el Papa.

Una teoría de género que ve el ser hombre o mujer como una construcción social o una elección en lugar de un hecho relacionado con la identidad biológica "va diluyendo las diferencias y haciendo un mundo igual, todo romo, todo igual", dijo el Papa. "Y eso va contra la vocación humana".

En cada una de las entrevistas, habló del horror de la guerra y de su preocupación por la continuación de los combates en Ucrania.

Al ser preguntado por Vatican News qué querría como regalo por su 10º aniversario, el Papa Francisco respondió: "La paz. Necesitamos la paz".

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

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

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números 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 Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de

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

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

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

# Franciscan University Launches New Faith and Reason Website

## Plus, New Franciscan University Presents Podcast

**STEUBENVILLE, OHIO**—Franciscan University of Steubenville recently launched Faith and Reason, a new online platform. The site, available at FaithAndReason.com, makes engaging Catholic resources created by Franciscan University more easily accessible to a wider audience.

“We are very excited to launch Franciscan University’s Faith and Reason website and offer Catholic content that educates, evangelizes, and encourages people to dive deeper into their faith journey and grow in their love for Jesus Christ,” said Kimberly Sponseller, executive director of Marketing and Communications at Franciscan University.

Faith and Reason includes: Full, recent episodes of Franciscan University’s long-running EWTN show, Franciscan University Presents, covering a variety of theological and cultural topics. Hosted by Franciscan University President Father Dave Pivonka, TOR ’89, with theology professors Dr. Regis Martin and Dr. Scott Hahn, the show features guests such as Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Noelle Mering, and Father Gerald Murray.

It also includes Franciscan Magazine stories highlighting academics, student and alumni profiles, current and historical events, theology, and more; as well as podcasts from Franciscan University, including the Legends From the Hill alumni podcast and the They That Hope podcast hosted by Father Pivonka and catechetics professor Deacon Bob Rice.

It also features a brand-new podcast, Franciscan University Presents. The podcast brings episodes from the hit EWTN television show to an audio-only format for the first time,

allowing listeners to enjoy Presents episodes about prayer, Church teachings, societal issues, and more while on the go. The Franciscan University Presents podcast is available to stream on Faith and Reason, as well as most major podcast apps.

Faith and Reason’s resources will continue to expand in the future, said Sponseller.

“We will regularly add new videos, articles, and other faith-filled content featuring Franciscan University’s top theologians, scholars, evangelists, guest speakers, and more for our Catholic audiences to enjoy and be edified,” she said.

The site’s name draws inspiration from St. John Paul II, who said, “Faith

and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.”

To learn more, visit [faithandreason.com](http://faithandreason.com).

One of only 15 faithfully Catholic universities endorsed by the Cardinal Newman Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville continues to lead the renaissance of Catholic higher education called for in *Ex corde Ecclesiae*.

Franciscan University, founded in 1946 by friars of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, integrates excellent academic programs with a dynamic faith environment to serve 2,600 students from all 50 states and 17 countries on campus and an additional 1,000 students online.

Franciscan’s 86 percent first-year retention rate shows that when students come to Franciscan they stay,

drawn to its Christ-centered campus culture and integration of faith and reason in the classroom.

Ranked in the top tier of Midwest universities by U.S. News & World Report since 1998, Franciscan offers over 100 programs of study including 45 undergraduate degrees, 11 graduate programs, and 17 online programs—all grounded in Franciscan’s acclaimed Catholic core curriculum.

Home to the largest undergraduate Theology Program in the U.S., Franciscan also has a well-regarded Priestly Discernment Program, which has seen over 250 members ordained to the priesthood since 1985.

For more about Franciscan University of Steubenville and its mission to educate, evangelize, and send forth Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, visit [Franciscan.edu](http://Franciscan.edu) or connect with Franciscan on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

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**WEST VIRGINIA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES**

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

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

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

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



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA MISSION MOMENT

## Supporting Relative Caregivers

In recent years, an increasing number of West Virginians have opened their hearts and homes to parent their grandchildren, nieces or nephews.

When parents are unable to raise their children due to addiction, incarceration, or mental illness, it takes great courage – and resources – to step in.

Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) is a form of specialized case management providing support to these families. Launched as part of CCWVa's response to the opioid epidemic, RAPP assists caregivers in addressing their social, emotional, and educational needs.

"Currently, I have a five-year old grandson, a three-year old granddaughter, that I'm raising as well as three foster kids through the state of West Virginia," said Gail Paige, CCWVa RAPP client.

Paige said she greatly benefited from the RAPP monthly meetings. CCWVa provides child care and an activity for the

children while the adult caregivers gather to support one another and learn from various speakers.

"We'd have various topics that we'd talk about... or if there was a topic that we had an interest in, she [Diana Bell, CCWVa case management specialist] would try to bring the resource to us."

"Sometimes when you lose hope and think that others aren't watching or caring, they really still are," said Paige. "I feel blessed to be a part of the Catholic Charities RAPP program."

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



Courtesy Photo  
Diana Bell (left), CCWVa case management specialist, and Gail Paige (right), CCWVa RAPP client, catch up at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center.

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**CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL**

Let us Pray.  
Use me God,  
Show me how to give generously,  
pray purposefully, and serve joyfully  
for a purpose greater than myself.  
Amen.

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[dwc.org/CSA](http://dwc.org/CSA)

# March is National Nutrition Month

**M**arch 8 was Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day and March is National Nutrition Month.

WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital posted the following on social media: “Registered dietitian nutritionists are an important part of our healthcare team. Our nutritionists not only encourage people to make healthy eating choices, they also help our patients manage and reduce their risk of chronic diseases. They are experts in food and nutrition whose training qualifies them to support a variety of patient needs. During National Nutrition Month our dietitians are encouraging everyone to make informed food choices and develop healthy eating and physical activity habits that they can follow all year long. Learn more at [www.EatRight.org](http://www.EatRight.org).

“Thank you to all of our Registered Dietitian Nutritionists for promoting good nutrition to our community.”



Courtesy Photo

Registered Dietitians pictured at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital are, from left: Director of Clinical Nutrition Lynn Kaminski, Emily Wojcik, Christina Brandon, Theresa Brinsky, Mary Rose Nichols, Lorraine Fedak, and Renae Riley.

## ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

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The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

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Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD  
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