Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a penitential prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica March 25, the Vatican said.

On the same day, the Vatican said, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, will carry out a similar consecration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

According to the Vatican's translation of the messages of Fatima, when Mary appeared to the three shepherd children in Fatima in 1917, she told them, “God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace.”

Warning of “war, famine, and persecutions of the church and of the Holy Father,” Mary told the children, “to prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart.”

The Eastern- and Latin-rite Catholic bishops of Ukraine had been asking Pope Francis for the consecration.

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Eastern-rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, said March 16, “Ukrainian Catholics have been asking for this act since the beginning of Russian aggression in 2014 (in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine) as urgently needed to avoid the worsening of the war and the dangers coming from Russia.”

“The invasion of Russia on a massive scale,” in late February, he said, “prayers to do this came from all parts of the world from our faithful.”

The country's Latin-rite bishops published their appeal to Pope Francis March 2, telling him that their priests, religious and laity all asked that he “consecrate our motherland and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Some groups have continued to argue that Mary's wish was never fulfilled or that it was never done properly because the pope consecrated the world and not “Russia.” The

See “Mary” on Page 2
Confirmation Schedule
Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate church 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 Schueckers, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org. Click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator: Please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under “Accountability,” then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.


Mary...

Cont’d from Page 1

Vatican, however, has insisted St. John Paul II did so in 1984 when he led the world’s bishops in the consecration of Russia and the world. The late Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last surviving visionary and the one who received the instructions for the consecration, had said that it was properly performed.

At his Sunday recitations of the Angelus since Russia invaded Uk-

raine Feb. 24, people have been showing up in St. Peter’s Square with signs asking the pope for the consecration of Russia or of Russia and Ukraine to Mary.

The Fatima message promised: “If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her e-
rors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be anni-
hilated.”

But, the message continued: “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will con-

secrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

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 Di-

ocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Safe Environment Program consists of the follow-
ing components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or in-
directly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese’s Policy Relat-
ing to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click “Diocese,” then “Offices,” then “Office of Safe Environment.”
Many parishes and Catholic schools of the diocese are praying for and raising funds for relief efforts in Ukraine. Across West Virginia, the Catholic faithful are doing all they can to support the people suffering.

On Ash Wednesday, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston held a special collection for the Church in Ukraine. Donations are still being collected and can be made on the diocese’s website at dwc.org. The website notes that funds will be used to provide humanitarian aid to victims of the war as well as refugees who have fled their homelands in search of safety.

When he announced the special collection, Bishop Mark Brennan also asked that the following prayer intention be added to the Universal Prayer at all Masses as the conflict continues: “For the Ukrainian people, that they may experience a swift end to the conflict with Russia, restoration of peace and freedom in their homeland, and that refugees may be welcomed and receive the help that they need, let us pray to the Lord.”

The Knights of Columbus Council in Shepherdstown recently made a $1,000 donation to the diocese’s collection for the Church in Ukraine. After participating in the Ash Wednesday collection, parishes and Catholic schools in West Virginia are continuing to offer prayers and support.

For the rest of Lent at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, money collected through the Wednesday night collection and the poor boxes will go to help with relief for Ukrainian refugees. In addition, parishioner Gus Boné is hand-making rosaries in the colors of the Ukrainian flag for donations.

On Ash Wednesday, Fairmont Catholic School students offered “PRAYERS for PEACE” in Ukraine after Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont.

“Students in grades PreK through eight sang the song, ‘Let’s Build a World,’ to show support to the Ukrainians,” said Diane Burns, principal. “We also joined together to focus on Christ’s life and sacrifices as we began the Lenten season.”

Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg is showing support by sponsoring a Ukrainian sunflower fundraiser.

“The national flower of Ukraine, the sunflower, has become an international symbol of solidarity with the Ukrainian people,” NDHS officials posted on the school’s Facebook page. Notre Dame students will be selling paper sunflowers printed in blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, for $5 each.

“These sunflowers will be displayed in the windows of Notre Dame as a sign of solidarity and continued prayers for the people of Ukraine,” school officials said.

Money collected will go to Catholic Relief Services for humanitarian aid.

Donations may be mailed to Notre Dame High School, 127 East Pike Street Clarksburg, WV 26301. Project organizers ask donors to include a name to be printed on the flower and “let’s watch our windows blossom with support!”

Kindergartners at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling also made sunflowers to show support for Ukraine. “They hope their sunflowers will help us pause to pray for the people...” SVS officials said in a Facebook post about the students’ project.

At Charleston Catholic High School, the Student Activities Council is sponsoring a friendly competition among the classes to raise money for the people of Ukraine and refugees all over the world.

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington held a dress down day and so far has raised $3,500 for relief efforts.

Religion classes at Corpus Christi School in Wheeling concluded their Novena for Peace in Ukraine March 10.

“We plan on doing a novena in April and May that our Corpus Christi family may pray with us,” CCS officials said in a Facebook post. “Our Lady of Pochaev, pray for us.”

These are just a few of the ongoing efforts of parishes and Catholic schools of the diocese in support of the people of Ukraine.
Scension Parish in Hurricane hosted a Ukrainian Luncheon March 13 raising almost $10,000 for Ukrainian charities.

Olga Matsyuk-Roush, a native of Ukraine and a member of Ascension Parish, spearheaded the dinner, which was attended by 350 people from the community March 13.

When war began in Ukraine, for about a week all she could do was constantly read, pray and cry.

“I felt helpless being so far away from my family and friends and unable to do anything for them!” she said.

“When I finally forced myself to go outside to get some fresh air I had a sudden idea (which I truly believe was sent from above!) that I can do something! I thought of having a luncheon fundraiser to support Ukrainian people.”

Matsyuk-Roush then contacted a few Ukrainian friends who live in the area and they all agreed that it would be a great idea and that everyone will help with preparations if such an event would take place.

She then reached out to her RCIA family at the Ascension Parish “and they were so supportive and willing to help that I knew, the event has to happen! After we spoke with Father Bill and church secretary Amanda, who supported the idea, the preparations have started!”

The first surprise, she said, was with the amount of responses they started receiving after the dinner was announced.

“When at first we were getting ready for around 50-100 people, everyday the amount grew bigger and after it was close to 200, I stopped counting and we just worked to the maximum of our abilities to prepare as much food as possible,” she said.

Those involved in the planning of the luncheon worked all day every day for about a week at church making pierogies, cabbage rolls, baking rolls and making dessert.

“This was, even though tiring, but a wonderful time of fellowship, building new friendships and personal connections,” she said. Other crew members worked at home—some baking, cooking, others preparing decorations, and information displays.

Everyday, different people were coming in to help. “I treasure everyone of them and am tremendously grateful to each and every person that was willing to show their support!” Matsyuk-Roush said.

The hall was decorated in colors of the Ukrainian flag and information, history, and scenes from the war were on display. The dinner was beyond everyone’s expectations.

“I was extremely impressed with all the parishioners, especially the RCIA team, sponsors, elect, and their family and friends who worked tirelessly all week to make this event a rousing success,” said Father Bill Matheny, pastor of the parish. “It is the first major event we have held since COVID. The fellowship was beautiful. We had displays showing Ukrainian sites before and after the Russian bombings and local Ukrainian youth sold handmade crafts. I had the opportunity to greet many visitors who came from throughout the Kanawha Valley, including many local Ukrainians.”

Everyone was very kind, supportive and responsive, Matsyuk-Roush said.

“We have received very generous donations and you can rest assured that they will go to a good cause to help the most vulnerable of Ukrainians,” she said.

“I feel very blessed to live in this community, to be surrounded by these amazing people, who reached their helpful hand to a group of Ukrainian women and through us to the millions of Ukrainian people!”

“We feel your support, we are incredibly grateful for it and we have no doubt, that thanks to everybody’s help and prayers Ukraine has no other choice but to win this war against evil, and hopefully the rest of the humankind will never have to go through such terrible events ever again!”
Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act Passes Senate, Awaits Governor’s Signature

With just four minutes left in the regular 60-day session, the Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act (SB 468), a bill supported by West Virginians for Life (WVFL), successfully passed in the West Virginia Senate by a bipartisan 27-5 vote, after an 81-17 vote in the House of Delegates earlier in the day.

The bill will protect unborn babies from being aborted due to a diagnosis of a disability and will require doctors to provide educational materials and information on the support systems available to families raising children with disabilities.

“Killing an unborn child because of a disability is an extreme form of discrimination against people with disabilities,” said West Virginians for Life Political Liaison Karen Cross. “I’m so proud of the West Virginia Legislature for protecting these vulnerable babies with disabilities from abortion.”

A Marist Poll (January 2021) showed that of the 1,173 adults surveyed, 70% “oppose abortion due to the expectation a child will be born with Down syndrome.” After the victory, National Right to Life (NRLC) State Legislative Director Ingrid Duran stated, “The National Right to Life Committee applauds the great state of West Virginia for putting a stop to eugenic abortions and providing helpful resources for families that are given a disability diagnosis in their unborn child.”

WVFL President Wanda Franz, Ph.D., pointed out that “Worldwide, a substantial body of research conducted over the past several decades has revealed that women who chose to terminate a pregnancy due to a fetal anomaly compared with those who carried their babies to term are at risk for serious, prolonged mental health problems.

With the expected signature by Gov. Jim Justice, the bill will take effect July 1.

MERCER COUNTY—Sacred Heart parishes in Princeton and Bluefield are participating in Catholic Extension this Lenten season.

“In each parish collects $1,000, it will enable us to help poor faith communities which are suffering even before the pandemic,” officials from the parishes said. “These parishes are the ‘poorest of the poor’ with no diocese, no neighbors on which they could fall back and seek support.”

There will be a second collection during Masses at the two parishes for “Adopt a Parish” March 26 and 27 for the endeavor.

Catholic Extension has been partnering with faith communities for over 115 years by building churches, training leaders and supporting ministries. They work in solidarity with people in the country’s poorest regions.

“In this very special season of Lent, our Lord asks us to give alms,” parish officials said. “At the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis reminded us that the worst discrimination faced by the poor was the lack of spiritual care.”

Catholic Extension parishes have a greater percentage of people living in poverty, a greater percentage of racial / ethnic minorities, and a greater percentage living with the least amount of medical and charitable resources.

“What better alms giving project could you give God this Lenten season than adopting and saving one of his most impoverished parishes? For $1,000 we can provide support and spiritual care to the poorest among his people.”

“In the year of St. Joseph we are called to honor the patron saint of the poor. There is no better way to do this than through Catholic Extension which can answer the prayers of the most needy, isolated faith communities in the United States.”

Both parishes thank all for considering giving to Catholic Extension.

St. Leo’s Parishioner Reaching out to Those Struggling with Mental Health Issues

INWOOD—Maureen Newburg, LCSW-C, is a new resident of Berkeley County and a new member of St. Leo Parish in Inwood. She has a private practice, Veritas Psychotherapy, which she has operated for 25 years. Her practice specializes in treating depression, anxiety, OCD, marital problems, psychological trauma, and issues resulting from abuse or dysfunction in families.

She is licensed in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Newburg will be donating three hours a month at St. Leo’s until May 30. These will be confidential, 30-minutes sessions available on a first come, first serve basis.

A $10 donation to St. Leo’s Homeless Ministry is encouraged. Please call (301) 873-0556 or e-mail paradigm782@gmail.com to schedule a session. Copies of Newburg’s biography and business cards are available in the narthex of the church.

Global Catholic Tours of Va

9 Days Holy Land. Sep 12-20, 2022 $3199. 1 night Tel Aviv, 2 nights Galilee, 5 nights Jerusalem. With Fr. Dan Pisano from Peters burg, WV.

9 Days Vienna- Salzburg- Budapest. Sep 19-28, 2022 $3999. Includes 3 nights Vienna, 3 nights Salzburg, 4 nights Budapest. With Fr. Bjorn Linderberg from Winchester, VA.


11 Days Catholic Ireland. Sep 12-22, 2022 $3950. Includes 1 night Limerick, 2 nights Killarney, 3 nights each in Galway and Dublin. With Fr Art Bufogle from Manassas, WV.

For brochures or more information, contact John Taggesi PH 1-888-544-4461 or jtag1964@verizon.net

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March 18, 2022

The Catholic Spirit
INWOOD—The Seeds of Hope: Grand Auction Benefit Dinner supporting St. Joseph School in Martinsburg will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at St. Leo Church in Inwood. Tickets for the event, for ages 21 and older, are $50 per person or $450 for a table of 10. The evening will include dinner, beverages, door prizes, a raffle, tip jars, and silent and live auctions. Attire is semiformal.

Gala Will Benefit St. Joseph School in Martinsburg

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Join the Knights of Columbus for Family Rosary

Please join the Knights of Columbus for their weekly family rosary every Sunday at 7 p.m. at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/397192053. On the third Sunday of each month following the rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited.

Central Catholic High School’s Annual Reverse Raffle Set for April 24

WHEELING—It’s time for the CCHS Reverse Raffle! Sponsored by the CCHS Boosters, the reverse raffle is the school’s single largest fundraiser of the year. “The boosters support everything that we do, from sports to academics to special events and so much more! Let’s show our love for this great organization by supporting the 38th Annual Reverse Raffle!” CCHS officials posted on the school’s Facebook page. Call the school for information at (304) 233-1660.

St. Mary Central’s Ryker Leonard Wins Second Place in Chemistry I at State Science Fair

Ryker Leonard, a student at St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg, won second place in the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair for Chemistry Division I March 7 for his project “Baking Powder: The Rising Superhero.” He is pictured here holding his medal.

Ryker Leonard, a student at St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg, won second place in the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair for Chemistry Division I March 7 for his project “Baking Powder: The Rising Superhero.” He is pictured here holding his medal.

Daily Living with Fr. Chapin

Sunday Mornings

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

In honor of Father McGivney’s Beatification......

On-Line Membership is FREE until June 30, 2022.

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Sto. Niño de Cebu Celebration Returns to Berkeley Springs

By Colleen Rowan

The celebration of the feast of Sto. Niño de Cebu returned to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs Jan. 29.

“Because of the pandemic, we skipped the celebration in January 2021,” said Father Michael Lecias, pastor. “Since I arrived at St. Vincent’s, we tried to celebrate it annually at the last Sunday of January.”

More than 100 attended the celebration traveling from all over West Virginia and from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Many carried their own statues of Santo Nino into the church.

“They considered this annual celebration as their annual pilgrimage in honor of the Holy Child Jesus,” Father Lecias said of the pilgrims.

He continued by saying that the celebration, aside from being deeply religious and spiritual in nature, “also speaks of our Catholic identity and its roots that started in Cebu, Philippines back in 1521 where the Image of the Sto. Niño was brought by the Augustinian Missionaries along with the Portuguese explorer Fernando Magalanes. The celebration is also an opportunity to reaffirm our strong belief in the Holy Child and to celebrate our culture through a religious dance called, ‘Sinulog,’ which is a dance of worship and paying homage to the Holy Child.

The first “Sinulog,” he said, was done by the locals or the native Indios who were converted and baptized into the Catholic faith by the Augustinian missionaries. Since then, the “Sinulog” has become an integral part of the annual celebration not only in the Philippines, but also in many parts of the world where Filipinos celebrate the feast, Father Lecias said.

The pilgrims and parishioners who attended the celebration, he said, are always looking forward to next one.

This past January, Father Lecias was the main celebrant at the Mass in celebration of the Feast of Sto. Niño de Cebu at the Shrine of the Sto. Niño at St. Paul’s Church in Tampa. The Image of the Sto. Niño at the Shrine of Sto. Niño at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston is the twin-image of the one at St. Paul’s Church in Tampa.

“Thus, this has added more meaning to the celebration knowing that there is that significant connection,” Father Lecias said.

Father Michael Lecias, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs, and pilgrims participate in the celebration of the feast of Sto. Nino de Cebu at the parish Jan. 29.

Pilgrims attend the celebration of the feast of Sto. Niño de Cebu at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs.
CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH WITH A PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
An Evening of Music and Prayer ~ 7 p.m.
to Honor Saint Joseph at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center (light reception will follow)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
Celebration to Close the Diocesan Observance of the Year of Saint Joseph
Arrive and Check-In ~ 9:30 a.m.
Prayer/Adoration/Confessions ~ 10 a.m.
Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph/Tours of the Basilica ~ 11 a.m.
Boxed Lunch ~ 12:30 p.m.
Reflections and Presentations on Saint Joseph ~ 1:15 p.m.
Music Program/Concert ~ 2 p.m.
Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan ~ 3 p.m.

Please register at www.dwc.org/pilgrimage or by scanning the QR code.
Overnight accommodations available at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center located at 100 Hodges Road, Charleston. Please call 304-342-0507.
The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is located at 1114 Virginia Street East, Charleston.
Knights of Columbus Hold Forth Degree Knighting in Huntington

Who Are the Fourth Degree Knights?

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

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

JOIN THE FOURTH DEGREE!!!

Exemplification of the Fourth Degree—Saturday—March 26th—10:00am
Knights of Columbus—334 Pike Street, Clarksburg, WV 26301
Registration Fee $70.00: Social Baldric, Lapel Pin, Certificate and Luncheon
Form 4 Available from your Council/Assembly and Must Have All Signatures by 3/21.

Mail to: 34 River Park Circle, St. Albans, WV 25177-9538 Questions: ginooffice@aol.com 304-545-5100

CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

Knights of Columbus
Fourth Degree - WV District
Paul Niedbalski - District Master
Sam Gross - District Marshal
Lent is a Time to Wake up, Pray More, Care for Others, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lent is a good time to ask God’s help in throwing off any spiritual “drowsiness” that dulls a person’s prayer life and attentiveness to the needs of others, Pope Francis said.

“Is a period in which God wants to awaken us from our inner lethargy, from this sleepiness that does not let the Spirit express itself,” he said March 13 before leading the Angelus prayer with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

Looking at the Sunday Gospel reading, which recounted the transfiguration of Jesus, Pope Francis pointed out that the story says that Peter, James and John “had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his (Jesus’) glory and the two men standing with him.”

It wasn’t the last time the disciples would snooze at an important moment, the pope said; it would happen in the Garden of Gethsemane.

“This somnolence in such important moments is surprising,” he said. But it is possible that initially they, too, were praying like Jesus was, “until tiredness prevailed.”

Pope Francis asked people to reflect on whether they also are afflicted by an “ill-timed slumber,” especially in the evening when they had tried or promised to pray.

Lent is the time to ask God for help in being wakeful in prayer, he said, because “keeping the heart awake does not depend on us alone: it is a grace and must be requested.”

The Gospel story, he said, speaks about Jesus’ face changing appearance and his clothing being “dazzling white” just before the disciples wake up.

It is possible, he said, “that it was the light of Jesus that reawakened them. Like them, we too are in need of God’s light, which makes us see things in a different way: it attracts us, it reawakens us, it reignites our desire and strength to pray, to look within ourselves and to dedicate time to others.”

During Lent, the pope said, “ask the Holy Spirit to bring us out of this slumber that prevents us from praying.”

Thankful for Monetary Donations, Bishop Says

Recovery, Rebuilding are Focus

By Elizabeth Wong Barnstead, Catholic News Service

OWENSBORO, Ky. (CNS) — Shortly after he was ordained the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, Bishop William F. Medley learned that his rural diocese had managed to gather more than $240,000 in a special collection after the surge of the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Bishop Medley has long considered that special collection to be one of the most powerful examples of Catholics in western Kentucky reaching out to help others.

He never imagined his own diocese would one day be the recipient of a similar kindness.

Eleven years later, a series of tornadoes raged across Kentucky and surrounding regions during the night of Dec. 10. Western Kentucky alone suffered the loss of 80 lives from the tornadoes, which traveled approximately 200 miles in what has been declared the worst tornado event in state history.

Two Catholic churches within the Diocese of Owensboro were impacted: St. Joseph Parish’s church in Mayfield lost its bell tower in the storms, and the church building of Resurrection Parish in Dawson Springs was severely damaged and expected to be a total loss.

That’s not to mention the many people of western Kentucky who lost homes entirely or whose houses and apartments were damaged enough to render them uninhabitable.

Bishop Medley said that “having never been in this situation before,” he was unsure what was going to happen or how his people would ever recover from the disaster.

On Saturday morning, the day after the storms, the bishop released a message to the diocesan requesting prayers and a special collection that weekend for those impacted.

“The Diocese of Owensboro, through our Catholic Charities office, would like to offer immediate help and services for those who are displaced or who have immediate emergency financial aid,” wrote the bishop in his Dec. 11 letter.

Parishes quickly took up the collection for their neighbors, but then donations began flooding in from outside the diocese as well. The city of Owensboro itself was unscathed by the storms, and the McAraith Catholic Center in Owensboro, home to diocese’s central offices, traveled out to the impacted communities to assist with immediate relief efforts.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro was able to use the donated funds to purchase quantities of gift cards which they in turn distributed to the parishes in affected areas. From there, pastors and parish volunteers could provide direct assistance to those who needed help purchasing basic necessities.

Five days after the storms, coincidently on Bishop Medley’s 12th anniversary of his appointment as bishop of Owensboro, he drove 400 miles to visit the various impacted communities within his region.

Several days after that, he rode in a small plane across the paths of the tornadoes, carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance and blessing all below.

Three months have now passed since the storms.

As of March 15, more than $8 million has been received in donations from more than 6,100 donors. This includes $1,755,616 contributed by 24 dioceses and archdioceses around the United States; $394,000 contributed from within the Diocese of Owensboro itself; and $1,892,395 contributed by Catholic Charities USA.

Approximately $4 million has been contributed by donors outside the diocese — including but not limited to individuals, businesses, foundations, religious communities, parishes, and schools outside the diocese.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro needed to hire several more staff members as it became the operations base for tornado relief in western Kentucky.

Working with Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz in Louisville, Kentucky, it also has expanded its efforts beyond diocesan boundaries to help four counties within the archdiocese that were impacted by the tornadoes.

“Since December, Catholic Charities has embraced the recovery,” said Bishop Medley.

To date, the agency has spent more than $280,000 in helping with immediate needs, housing and rental assistance, food and gift cards.

“Now our efforts are to help people recover and rebuild,” said the bishop, and added that Montalvo-Gesser has a goal to rebuild 350 homes in the next two to four years.

Bishop Medley said that because “there is a new humanitarian crisis — the crisis in Ukraine,” he is asking the people of western Kentucky to remember those suffering amid the Eastern European turmoil.

Specifically, he has asked pastors to hold special collections for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine over the next few weeks.

“We have received; now let us respond to others in need,” he said.

Monetary donations may be given digitally via https://owensborodiocese.org/give. Checks may be mailed, with “Tornado Disaster Relief” written in the memo, to Catholic Charities, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, Ky. 42301. To learn more about ways to help, call the McAraith Catholic Center at (270) 683-1545.

(Barnstead is editor of The Western Kentucky Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Owensboro.)
Senate Passes Omnibus Spending Bill with Hyde, Other Pro-Life Provisions

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairmen of several U.S. bishops’ committees and the head of March for Life March 11 praised the U.S. senators who voted to pass the government’s omnibus bill with the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life provisions included in it.

The bishops also commended lawmakers for including “critical humanitarian assistance for the victims of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.”

In a 68-31 vote late March 10, the Senate OK’d a $1.5 trillion government funding bill that includes $13.6 billion in aid to Ukraine. The House passed the measure a day earlier. It will now be sent to President Joe Biden for his signature.

To avoid a government shutdown, both chambers also passed a four-day stopgap measure to extend current funding levels through March 15 in case the massive bill was not passed.

The 2,741-page text was released around noon March 9, leaving many lawmakers complaining they had little time to review the measure before having to vote. The measure was “the product of months of negotiations,” as CNN reported.

“We applaud Congress for including provisions in the omnibus appropriations package that uphold the sacred dignity of human life and will support and assist many vulnerable people here and abroad,” said the chairmen of five U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees in a joint statement.

“In particular, we are grateful that Congress has maintained long-standing, bipartisan, and life-saving provisions including the Hyde, Helms and Weldon amendments that prevent our tax dollars from paying for the tragedy of abortion and protect people from having to participate in abortion against their consciences,” they said.

The bishops also noted the final measure covers “improvements to maternal health care, investments that will support refugees and other vulnerable migrants.”

The bishops who issued the joint statement and their committees are: Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, pro-life activities; New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, religious liberty; Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, international justice and peace; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, domestic justice and human development; and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, migration.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, applauded “the pro-life senators who successfully fought and voted to maintain all legacy pro-life riders.”

“While this bill still sends far too many of our tax dollars to abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood, these pro-life riders will continue to save lives,” she said in a statement.

“In fact, the Hyde Amendment alone has been estimated to have saved more than 2.4 million American lives,” she added, “and a consistent majority of Americans say they don’t want to be forced to pay for this life-ending procedure.”

The Hyde Amendment first became law in 1976 to prohibit federal funds appropriated through the Labor Department, the Health and Human Services Department and related agencies from being used to cover abortion or fund health plans that cover abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

It has been reenacted in spending bills every year since it was first passed.

The Helms Amendment — which has been called “the Hyde Amendment for the rest of the world” — has prohibited using U.S. taxpayer funds to directly pay for abortions in other countries since 1973. It was passed in the wake of the Roe v. Wade decision handed down by the Supreme Court that year to legalize abortion nationwide.

The Weldon Amendment has been included in the annual appropriation for Health and Human Services since 2005. It allows health care providers as well as insurance plans to refuse to provide abortions, pay for them or refer women to abortion clinics.

CNN reported that a group of Democrats who object to these pro-life provisions wanted them stripped from the final bill, but they failed in the effort.

In their joint statement, the USCCB committee chairman praised other parts of the omnibus bill, such as increased spending for affordable housing and food security and environmental provisions including climate resilience and PFAS remediation.

“PFAS” stands for polyfluoroalkyl substance, which are widely used, long-lasting chemicals whose components break down very slowly over time.

“Finally,” the bishops said, “we welcome the inclusion of provisions that address the unique vulnerability of pregnant and postpartum mothers impacted by the U.S. immigration system, as well as critical services for other at-risk populations.”
A key part of the mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is working to ensure that every child in our state has access to the services that he or she needs to be healthy, happy, and to reach his or her full potential.

Our CCWVa Child Care Food Program helps to support the health and growth of children by supporting healthy meal choices in homes of child care providers. Our program provides education and assistance to care givers in meal planning and application for meal reimbursements.

March 13-19 is National Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week.

“This week especially, we celebrate the partnership between parents, children, providers, and Catholic Charities West Virginia,” recognizing the important role that the CACFP plays in promoting lifelong healthy eating habits in children,” said Jane Rose, CCWVa Child Care Food Program director.

“Our program provides education and support services that help serve nutritious meals to children attending child care homes and centers. Secondary goals are: 1. The establishment of positive eating habits at the earliest stages of development; 2. Reduction of future health care and education costs due to lack of proper early development; 3. Training and support of local child care personnel.

“Children in our program gain from early nutrition education that helps them establish positive eating habits that will enrich the quality of their diet throughout their lives,” said Rose.

Child care providers in the program receive nutrition education and support services that help them serve nutritious meals and create a positive eating environment for children.

“The quality of child care provided in West Virginia is improved due to educational and financial resources available to caregivers through our program,” said Rose.

The CCWVa Child Care Food Program serves children in 29 counties of West Virginia.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit 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.
Parish Mission with Father Leo Patalinghug to be Held in Wheeling

WHEELING—He will be standing behind a skillet of hot oil, sautéing something delicious, all the while serving God’s message.

Sound intriguing? Father Leo Patalinghug definitely is. You can see for yourself at Corpus Christi Parish in the Warwood area of Wheeling on Sunday, March 27 in the Corpus Christi Parish Center. The schedule of events with Father Leo Patalinghug is as follows: on Saturday, March 26, he will concelebrate and preach at the Mass at 4:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi. On Sunday, March 27, he will preach at Mass at Corpus Christi at 8 a.m and 10:30 a.m; noon, live Cooking Demo & Dessert Competition; 6 p.m., talk “How to Become a Saint” at Corpus Christi; and 7:15 p.m., Communal Penance Service. On Monday, March 28, 6 p.m., talk “Mary and Spiritual Combat”; 6:50 p.m., Meditation and Eucharistic Exposition.

“We are excited to be able to bring Father Leo to Corpus Christi Parish as part of our Parish Mission. He was scheduled back in March 2019 but due to unforeseen Covid issues we had to cancel at the last minute due to safety. We cannot wait for him to be with us this weekend. All are welcomed to join,” said Miranda Zambito, Corpus Christi School advancement director.

Father Patalinghug is not your stereotypical priest. He is the host and director of Plating Grace.com, and has a weekly television show, “Savoring our Faith”, on EWTN. That’s not all that makes him unique. He has two black belts in the martial arts, performed as a break dancer in the 1990s, authored four books on the theology of food, hosts a cooking show on EWTN, and travels the world to feed the flock – body, mind, and soul.

“Oh, and he was on The Food Network’s “Throwdown with Bobby Flay”, a cooking competition against Flay, and won.

“I’m here to elevate our culture, Catholicism, and family life one meal at a time,” he said. If you want to reenergize your faith “there is room for you at our table.

“I have found it very effective to not just deliver my message by people listening to me,” Father Patalinghug said. “Engaging in all five senses – taste, sight, smell, hearing, and touch – makes the message memorable.”

His demonstrations, as evident by his videos, are positive, high energy, and delicious fun. According to the cooking priest, we need to all hear how we can feed God’s people.

“We need to do what we can to reach out to people who are no longer in the pews,” Father Patalinghug said. “These people left because they weren’t being fed. We need to define how we can best serve and feed them. We need to deliver our message of faith, hope, forgiveness and love in ways that reach all ages of our population. We need to feed them the message and help them apply it in today’s world.”

Find out more about Father Leo Patalinghug on his website: https://platinggrace.com.

Tickets must be purchased to attend the Live Cooking Demo. Tickets are $15 per person; kids 6 and under are free. Attendees will also be able to participate in a dessert contest at the cooking demonstration. Anyone who purchased a ticket can make a dessert for Father Patalinghug to taste, test, and judge!

For more information and to purchase tickets, please call (304) 277-2911.

Synod Listening Sessions Continue Across WV

Holy Cross, Pineville: March 20, 4 p.m.
Holy Redeemer, Spencer: March 20, 10 a.m.; March 27, 10 a.m.
Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland: March 20, 9:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart, Bluefield: March 27, 10 a.m.
Sacred Heart, Huntington: March 19, 6 p.m.; March 20, 10 a.m.
Sacred Heart, Powhatan: March 27, 12:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart, Princeton: March 20,12:30 p.m.
St. Anthony, Charleston: April 3, 11:40 a.m.
St. Augustine, Grafton: March 27, 10 a.m.-noon
St. Elizabeth, Phillipi: April 3, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
St. John, Benwood: March 20, noon
St. Leo, Inwood: March 25, 5-7 p.m.; April 3, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Virtual Session-TBA
St. Peter, Farmington: March 20, following Sunday Mass
St. Peter the Fisherman, Fairmont: March 20, 11:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.
St. Sebastian, Kingwood: March 20, 2 p.m.
Let us Pray,

Use me God, show me how to give generously, pray purposefully, and serve joyfully for a purpose greater than myself.

Amen.

Principal Needed

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Weston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Patrick Catholic School, pre-school through eighth grades.

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

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

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

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Rev. Father Douglas A. Ondeck, dondeck@dwc.org or mailed to 210 Center Ave., Weston, WV.
**Papa consagrará Ucrania y Rusia a María**

**Por Catholic News Service**

CUIDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco consagrará Rusia y Ucrania al Inmaculado Corazón de María durante un servicio de oración penitencial en la Basílica de San Pedro el 25 de marzo —dijo el Vaticano.

Ese mismo día, el cardenal Konrad Krajewski, el limosnero papal, llevará a cabo una consagración similar en el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Fátima en Portugal —dijo el Vaticano.

Según la traducción del Vaticano de los mensajes de Fátima, cuando María se apareció a los tres niños pastores en Fátima en 1917, les dijo: "Dios quiere establecer en el mundo la devoción a mi corazón inmaculado. Si se hace lo que les digo, se salvarán muchas almas y habrá paz".

Adviertiendo de "la guerra, el hambre y las persecuciones a la Iglesia y al Santo Padre", María les dijo a los niños: "para evitarlo, vendré a pedir la consagración de Rusia a mi inmaculado corazón".

El arzobispo Sviatoslav Shevchuk de Kyiv-Halych, jefe de la Iglesia católica ucraniana de rito oriental, dijo el 16 de marzo: "Los católicos ucranianos han estado pidiendo este acto desde el comienzo de la agresión rusa en 2014 (en Crimea y el este de Ucrania) como una necesidad urgente para evitar el recrudecimiento de la guerra y los peligros provenientes de Rusia".

"Con la invasión de Rusia a gran escala", advirtió a finales de febrero, dijo, "las oraciones para hacer esto llegaran de todas partes del mundo de nuestros fieles".

Los obispos de rito latino del país publicaron su llamamiento al papa Francisco el 2 de marzo, diciéndole que todos sus sacerdotes, religiosos y laicos le pedían que "consagrara nuestra patria y Rusia al Inmaculado Corazón de María".

Algunos grupos han seguido argumentando que el deseo de María nunca se cumplió o que no se hizo correctamente porque el papa consagró el mundo y no "Rusia". El Vaticano, sin embargo, ha insistido en que san Juan Pablo II lo hizo en 1984 cuando dirigió a los obispos del mundo en la consagración de Rusia y del mundo. La difunta Sor Lucía, la última de los videntes en fallecer y la que recibió las instrucciones para la consagración, había dicho que ésta se realizó correctamente.

En sus rezos dominicales del Ángelus desde que Rusia invadió Ucrania el 24 de febrero, la gente se ha presentado en la Plaza de San Pedro con carteles pidiendo al papa la consagración de Rusia o de Rusia y Ucrania a María.

El mensaje de Fátima prometía: "Si se atienden mis peticiones, Rusia se convertirá y habrá paz; si no, propagará sus errores por todo el mundo, provocando guerras y persecuciones a la Iglesia. Los buenos serán martirizados; el Santo Padre tendrá mucho que sufrir; varias naciones serán aniquiladas".

Pero, el mensaje continuaba: "Al final, mi Corazón Inmaculado triunfará. El Santo Padre consagrará Rusia a mí, y se convertirá, y se concederá al mundo un período de paz".

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**Anúnciate con El Espíritu Católico**

Póngase en contacto con Colleen Rowan en crowan@dwc.org
Blessed Carlo Acutis
Youth Adventure Camp

With Him on the Mountain

We are a Catholic youth adventure camp that ministers to youth through rock climbing, equestrian activities, archery, Adoration, overnight backpacking, outdoor Mass and more! Register your camper at CampCarloww.org by June 1st to receive our early bird rate of $275.

June 26th – July 2nd, A “catch all week” from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

July 3rd – July 9th, Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.

July 10th – July 16th, Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.

July 17th – July 23rd, A “catch all week” from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

July 24th – July 30th, “A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation” free program for 7–12 year olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Charities.

Contact Assistant Director, Sadie Shields, for more information: sshields@hec.org or (304) 276-9015

Dr. David Burkland

Medical Director of the Emergency/Trauma Department

OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.
Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don’t ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

We’ll protect you, and take good care of you.