

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Diocese Begins Year of St. Joseph

Bishop Brennan will Celebrate Mass This Evening, March 19, at the Cathedral for the Solemnity of St. Joseph

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is beginning the Year of St. Joseph today, March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. This evening, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate a 6 p.m. Mass which will be livestreamed on the diocese's website: www.dwc.org.

Other prayerful gatherings on the solemnity at the cathedral are planned and will be livestreamed as well: morning prayer at 9 a.m., Mass at 12:05 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 5 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 5:15 p.m., and the Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan at 6 p.m.

In a letter to the faithful last month announcing that the Year of St. Joseph would begin in the diocese on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the bishop said: "This special day in our Church's liturgical calendar honors Joseph, foster father of Christ and spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the declaration of the foster father of Jesus as Patron of the Universal Church. St. Joseph is also the patron of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, so this moment also brings a special opportunity to Catholics of West Virginia.

The diocese has also launched a special Year of St. Joseph page on its website which may be accessed by visiting dwc.org/year-of-st-joseph/. The page offers in depth information on St. Joseph, including patronage, feasts, prayers and liturgies, and more. The page also provides a look at the

See "St. Joseph" on Page 3

Special Blessings From Fairmont Catholic



Courtesy Photo

Fairmont Catholic Grade School has been busy this Lenten season placing crosses in people's yards across the community as a fundraiser for the school. Each person blessed receives morning prayers each school day offered by Fairmont Catholic students and staff. People make donations to the school to nominate others to have their yards blessed and prayers offered on their behalf. This fundraiser began Ash Wednesday and will run through Easter. Pictured above is one of the many homes with the crosses in the yard. "We are certainly blessed at Fairmont Catholic to have such widespread community support," school officials said.

Inside: Statement from Bishop Brennan on Attacks on Asian Americans, Page 2

Statement from Bishop Brennan on Attacks on Asian Americans

March 18, 2021

Along with millions of other Americans, I deplore and condemn the recent deadly attacks on Asian Americans in Georgia and other incidents of violence against them elsewhere. From the Chinese Exclusion Act of the 19th century to the internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II in the 20th century to the resentment shown in our own day toward Asian American students who work hard and get good grades, men, women and children who trace their origins to the ancient societies of Asia have been subject to many kinds of prejudice and unfair discrimination in this country. Such racism and nativism have no place in our national life.

I have worked closely with Korean, Vietnamese and Filipino Americans throughout my priesthood. I have the joy of working now with priests from India and other countries, who have come here to serve our people. They are good people. They enrich our nation with their cultures, their talents and their hard work. We should all welcome them and defend them against attacks.

May the Lord Jesus, who came to us as a foreigner from heaven, laying aside the prerogatives of his divinity in order to share our human lot, give us wisdom and courage to speak the truth that all men and women, regardless of race or place of origin, are made in God's image and deserve respect and fair treatment. I trust the basic goodness of our people to live by and proclaim that truth.

Pro-Life Bill Advances in West Virginia House

CHARLESTON—The Second Chances at Life Act (HB 2982/SB 609) successfully passed the House Health Committee by a 19-5 bi-partisan vote on March 16 and passed out of House Judiciary on March 18 by a bi-partisan vote of 22-3.

Sponsored by Delegate Kayla Kesinger, the bill will require that a woman be informed that the effects of the chemical abortion pill can be reversed to save her baby if she changes her mind after taking it. House co-sponsors include Delegates Trent Barnhart, Jordan Bridges, Adam Burkhammer, Josh Holstein, Laura Kimble, Todd Longanacre, Margitta Mazzocchi, Jeff Pack, Jonathan Pinson, and Terri Sypolt. Senate Lead Sponsor of companion bill S.B. 609 is Senator Patricia Rucker.

Facts regarding the Second Chances at Life Act:

Providing information to the abortion client in no way interferes with any patient-client relationship. It is not an attack on personal freedom, but a guarantee of it. The bill does not tell physicians how to practice medicine, or place obstacles on women seeking abortions.

The American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a 2,500-member OB-GYN medical group, supports offering the Abortion

Pill Reversal (APR) protocol (by knowledgeable health care providers) to women who regret initiating the abortion pill process, after appropriate informed consent. The APR involves use of progesterone to reverse the effects of the Mifepristone.

Progesterone is a natural element in the woman's body required to retain her pregnancy. As such, it does no damage to the baby. It has been used for 30 years in infertility clinics to help women retain their pregnancies. The only birth defect attributed to the abortion pill, Mifepristone, is death.

Nine states have enacted these laws: Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah. (A 10th – Arizona's – was repealed and replaced with weaker language.)

In West Virginia, chemical abortions account for more than 40% of abortions. To date over 2,000 babies have been saved nationwide by the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol.

"Any woman or girl wanting to save her baby once the chemical abortion process has started should contact a health care professional. Health care professionals can be found at abortionpillreversal.com or by calling 877-558-0333," said WVFL Communications Director Mary Anne Buchanan.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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

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

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

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

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

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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Baltimore Province Meeting



Photo by Matt Riedl, Catholic Diocese of Arlington

Following Mass March 18 during the Baltimore Province meeting, are from left: Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Denis J. Madden of Baltimore; Auxiliary Bishop Adam J. Parker of Baltimore (standing in back); Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore; Bishop Mark E. Brennan; Auxiliary Bishop Bruce A. Lewandowski, C.Ss.R., of Baltimore; and Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond.

St. Joseph ...

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parishes and missions of the diocese named for the saint: the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton, St. Joseph Parish in Huntington, St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, St. Joseph Mission in Proctor, St. Joseph Chapel in Mason, St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro, and St. Joseph the Worker Mission in Whitesville. Links to resources are also available on the page.

St. Joseph prayer cards are being created for the faithful as well. The diocese will be releasing a series of four different prayer cards, with four different images featuring a statue of St. Joseph from around the diocese.

"Each one will be released at a different time throughout the Year of St. Joseph, beginning

with first one depicting the St. Joseph Altar in the Cathedral of St. Joseph," said Bernadette McMasters Kime, director of the Office of Worship and Sacraments. "Permission was given by the Vatican for the diocese to use the prayer written by Pope Francis when he issued his proclamation on the Year of St. Joseph."

The diocese is preparing resources for parishes, catechists, and schools for the special year. Kime said there will be two guidebooks: Parish Resource Guide and Catholic Educational Guide. They will contain prayers, resources, activities, lesson plans, and liturgical resources.

The prayer cards and guidebooks will be mailed to parishes this month.

During the special year, The Catholic Spirit will have a Spotlight on St. Joseph page in print editions, which are published on the first Friday

of each month.

Bishop Brennan also noted in his letter that the Solemnity of St. Joseph falls on a Friday this year, when the faithful would normally abstain from meat for Lent. However, Catholics have a dispensation from abstaining from meat today because March 19 is a solemnity. The bishop encouraged the faithful, as is the custom of St. Joseph's Table, to double efforts to feed the poor, either by donations of food to local shelters, or volunteering to serve meals to the poor.

Ending his letter, the bishop said: "Together let us give thanks to God for the life and example of St. Joseph, especially as we prepare to begin this special Year of St. Joseph in our Church."

See Bishop Brennan's full letter on the Solemnity of St. Joseph at www.dwc.org.

Vatican Says No Blessing Gay Unions, No Negative Judgment on Gay People

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While homosexual men and women must be respected, any form of blessing a same-sex union is “illicit,” said the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The negative judgment is on the blessing of unions, not the people who may still receive a blessing as individuals, it said in a statement published March 15.

The statement was a response to a question or “dubium” that came from priests and lay faithful “who require clarification and guidance concerning a controversial issue,” said an official commentary accompanying the statement.

The response to the question, “Does the church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex?” was “Negative.”

“It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage — i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life — as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex,” the doctrinal office said in an explanatory note accompanying the statement. Pope Francis approved both the statement and the note for publication.

“The Christian community and its pastors are called to welcome with respect and sensitivity persons with homosexual inclinations and will know how to find the most appropriate ways, consistent with church teaching, to proclaim to them the Gospel in its fullness,” the explanatory note said.

The clarification “does not preclude the blessings given to individual persons with homosexual incli-

nations, who manifest the will to live in fidelity to the revealed plans of God as proposed by church teaching.”

“Rather, it declares illicit any form of blessing that tends to acknowledge their unions as such. In this case, in fact, the blessing would manifest not the intention to entrust such individual persons to the protection and help of God, in the sense mentioned above, but to approve and encourage a choice and a way of life that cannot be recognized as objectively ordered to the revealed plans of God,” said the doctrinal office.

The statement came days before the launch March 19 of a yearlong reflection on “Amoris Laetitia” that will focus on the family and conjugal love.

The date marks the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” (“The Joy of Love”), which affirmed church teaching on family life and marriage, but also underlined the importance of the church meeting people where they are in order to help guide them on a path of discernment and making moral decisions.

The doctrinal congregation said in its note that some church communities had promoted “plans and proposals for blessings of unions of persons of the same sex.”

“Such projects are not infrequently motivated by a sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons, to whom are proposed paths of growth in faith,” it said.

In fact, the question of blessing same-sex unions arose from this “sincere desire to welcome and accompany homosexual persons” as indicated by Pope Francis at the conclusion of the two synodal assemblies on the family, it said.

That invitation, it added, was for communities “to evaluate, with appropriate discernment, projects and pastoral proposals directed to this end,” and in some cases, those proposals included blessings given to the unions of persons of the same sex.

The doctrinal congregation said the church does not and cannot have the power to impart her blessing on such unions and, therefore, “any form of blessing that tends to acknowledge their unions as such” is illicit.

That is because a blessing “would constitute a certain imitation or analogue of the nuptial blessing invoked on the man and woman united in the sacrament of matrimony,” it said, citing paragraph 251 of “Amoris Laetitia,” which reiterated the synod members’ conclusion that “there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God’s plan for marriage and family.”

“Only those realities which are in themselves ordered to serve those ends are congruent with the essence of the blessing imparted by the church,” it said. As such, it is illicit to bless any relationship or partnership that is outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open to the transmission of life, it added.

Declaring “the unlawfulness of blessings of unions between persons of the same sex is not therefore, and is not intended to be, a form of unjust discrimination, but rather a reminder of the truth of the liturgical rite and of the very nature of the sacramentals, as the church understands them,” the doctrinal office said.

The church teaches that “men and women with homosexual tendencies ‘must be accepted with respect,

compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.”

As such, the doctrinal note makes a “fundamental and decisive distinction between persons and the union. This is so that the negative judgment on the blessing of unions of persons of the same sex does not imply a judgment on persons,” it said.

Such blessings are illicit for three reasons, it said:

— In addition to such a blessing implying “a certain imitation or analogue of the nuptial blessing” imparted to a man and a woman united in the sacrament of matrimony, there is the nature and value of blessings.

— Blessings belong to “sacramentals, which are ‘liturgical actions of the church’ that require consonance of life with what they signify and generate,” so “a blessing on a human relationship requires that it be ordered to both receive and express the good that is pronounced and given by the blessing.”

— And, “the order that makes one fit to receive the gift is given by the ‘designs of God inscribed in creation, and fully revealed by Christ the Lord.’” The church does not have power over God’s designs nor is she “the arbiter of these designs and the truths they express, but their faithful interpreter and witness.”

“God himself never ceases to bless each of his pilgrim children in this world, because for him ‘we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit,’” the congregation said. “But he does not and cannot bless sin: he blesses sinful man, so that he may recognize that he is part of his plan of love and allow himself to be changed by him. He in fact ‘takes us as we are, but never leaves us as we are.’”

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Gift of the Holy Spirit Connects People to Christ, Pope Says at Audience

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

— Every Christian is unique because the Holy Spirit inspires something new and original in each person, creating “an endless field of holiness,” Pope Francis said.

“The one God, the Trinity of love, allows the variety of witnesses to flourish — all are equal in dignity, but also unique in the beauty that the Spirit has willed to be expressed in each of those whom God’s mercy has made his children,” the pope said March 17 during his weekly general audience.

During the audience livestreamed from the library of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis concluded his series of talks about prayer by looking at prayer as a relationship with the Holy Trinity, in particular with the Holy Spirit.



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis speaks during his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican March 17.

“The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit,” he said. It is the key, essential gift because without the Holy Spirit, “there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father.”

The Spirit opens the human heart to Christ’s

presence “and draws it into that ‘vortex’ of love that is the very heart of God,” he said.

The Holy Spirit “dwells in us; it is he who transforms us deeply and makes us experience the moving joy of being loved by God as his true children,” the

pope said.

The Spirit writes the story of the church and of the world, he said, and “we are open pages, available to receive his handwriting.”

“In each of us, the Spirit composes original works because there is never one Christian who is completely identical to another,” creating a vast and flourishing “field of holiness.”

The church invites the faithful to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, to make Christ present so he can guide and transform his disciples, he added.

Calling on the Spirit for support and inspiration is important, especially when one has not prayed in a long time, has lost the desire to pray or recites prayers “like a parrot,” with no depth of feeling or faith, he said.

“This is the moment to say to the Spirit, ‘Come. Come, Holy Spirit and

warm my heart. Come, teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, the son, teach me the way the path of faith goes, teach me to love, and above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope.”

“If Christ were only far away in time, we would be alone and lost in the world,” Pope Francis said, but with the Spirit, “the possibility of encountering Christ is open to Christians of every time and place.”

Christians must “keep alive this flame” of the Holy Spirit, of God’s love, in their heart, the pope said, the same way the lamp next to the tabernacle stays lit “even when the church empties and darkness falls, even when the church is closed.”

“No one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord,” he said. “That’s how the Spirit is in our heart, always present like that lamp.”

Jesuits Pledge \$100 Million to Benefit Descendants of Enslaved People

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)

— The Jesuit order is pledging to raise \$100 million for descendants of enslaved people once owned and sold by their order as a way to make reparations and also help the nation move toward racial healing.

The funds will be placed in a new partnership called Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation formed by the Jesuit order and the GU272 Descendants Association — named after the 272 enslaved men, women and children who were sold by the Jesuit owners of Georgetown University to plantation owners in Louisiana in 1838.

The New York Times first announced this foundation March 15. A news release about the partnership said it was the “first of its kind” between the descendants of enslaved persons and the descendants of their enslavers.

“Our shameful history of Jesuit slaveholding in the United States has been taken off the dusty shelf, and it can never be put back,” said Jesuit Father Tim Ke-

sicki, president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

“Racism will endure in America if we continue to turn our heads away from the truth of the past and how it affects us all today. The lasting effects of slavery call each of us to do the work of truth and reconciliation,” he added in a release announcing the new partnership.

The priest told The New York Times the Jesuits have already put \$15 million into a trust established to support the foundation, whose governing board will include representatives from other institutions with roots in slavery. He also said the order has hired a national fundraising firm to help raise the rest of the funds within the next three to five years.

Joe Stewart, acting president of the new foundation, is a retired corporate executive and one of more than 1,000 descendants of Isaac Hawkins, an enslaved man sold by Georgetown University.

In the announcement of the new partnership, he said the group

would “set an example and lead America through dismantling the remnants of slavery and mitigating the presence of racism.”

He also said it would “support the educational aspirations of descendants for future generations and play a prominent role in engaging, promoting and supporting programs and activities that highlight truth, accelerate racial healing and reconciliation, and advance racial justice and equality in America.”

Cheryllyn Branche, president of the GU272 Descendants Association, said that from its start this group has worked on identifying and rebuilding ancestors’ families impacted by slavery and to create investments to help them move forward, an effort the new partnership can continue for future generations.

The group also aims to work with institutions of higher education and other entities that profited from slavery.

In the past several years, Georgetown University and the Jesuit order which sponsors the school, has been looking closely at

what it can do to make reparations for the sale of enslaved people, which helped finance the school’s operations.

In 2017, Georgetown and the Jesuits’ Maryland Province apologized for their roles in the sale of enslaved individuals for the university’s benefit at an event with over 100 descendants of the enslaved.

That same year, the university renamed a building as Isaac Hawkins Hall, named after one of the enslaved people sold by the university. Another building, once named for Jesuit Father William McSherry, who helped with the 1838 sale, has been renamed Anne Marie Becraft Hall in honor of a free woman of color and pioneer educator who founded a school near the campus for Black girls in 1820.

In 2019, undergraduate students at the university voted overwhelmingly to pay a new student fee that would be for paying reparations to the descendants of the enslaved who were sold by the school.

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Jesuits ...

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A few years before that, the university announced that descendants' families will receive the same admissions benefits as other members of the Georgetown community, including faculty, staff and alumni.

"We have honored a commitment that we made years ago in meeting the descendant community — that, as we proceed, we would find ways to proceed together, in collaboration and partnership," John DeGioia, Georgetown's president, said in a March 16 letter to the Georgetown community.

"It is with hope and gratitude that we begin this next phase of our work in partnership with the descendant community and the Society of Jesus, as we continue to grapple with and respond to the enduring legacies of the enslavement of people of African descent," he added.

The sale of the enslaved people by Jesuits at Georgetown brought in the equivalent of \$3.3 million today. At the time, Citizens Bank of New Orleans, later acquired by JPMorgan Chase, used some of the enslaved people as collateral.

"The institution of slavery and systemic racism are tragic parts of America's history, and we have a responsibility to drive sustainable change for the people and communities who have been impacted by this bitter legacy," said Brian Lamb, the global head of Diversity and Inclusion at JPMorgan Chase, a major supporter of the foundation.

In a statement, he said the bank was proud to support this new foundation as it seeks "solutions through truth, racial healing and transformation to help dismantle the legacy of slavery and to build a more equitable society both now and for generations to come."



LENT & HOLY WEEK 2021

AT THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH

LENT

Solemn Vespers
Sundays during Lent
6:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration
Fridays during Lent
12:45 PM to 5:45 PM

Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent
6:00 PM

Confessions
Fridays 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM
Saturday 5:00 PM to 5:45 PM



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HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
March 28
Masses 6:00 PM (VIGIL), 8:00 AM, & 10:30 AM
Vespers 6:00 PM

Chrism Mass
March 30
4:00 PM

Holy Thursday
April 1
Confessions 12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM
Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:00 PM
Eucharistic Adoration following Mass until Midnight

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
April 2
Stations of the Cross 12:00 NOON
Confessions 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 PM

Holy Saturday
April 3
Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday
April 4
Masses 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

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Lenten Food Drive to Benefit Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay County



On a food distribution day, cars line the road leading to Risen Lord Food Pantry in Maysel, Clay County.

Courtesy Photo

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—The 40 Cans for Lent Food Drive being conducted at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston will benefit the Risen Lord Food Pantry in Maysel, Clay County. Leading the effort is the Knights of Columbus St. Michael the Archangel Council #12630.

A ministry of Risen Lord Mission in Maysel, the food pantry is one of the only places residents who have fallen on hard times can find food and assistance.

In information provided by Father Thien Duc Nguyen, pastor of Risen Lord and of St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway, Risen Lord Food Pantry has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve those in need in Clay County.

“Since March 2020, we spent more than \$50,000 to run our food pantry, backpack program and help people in emergency situations and needing assistance for utility cut off notice, medical bills and gasoline,” he said. “We have a drive-thru food pantry (starts at 6 a.m.) and serves

around 200 families a month (food and hygiene products) and food for many children weekly.

From March to October 2020, with the help of teachers at Clay Elementary School, Risen Lord served more than 27,000 bags of food for children in Clay County (1,200-1,700 kids weekly).

Since October 2020, the pantry has served 350 students of Clay Elementary weekly.

“We are unable to do this without the help of many benefactors, such as The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, WVU, Pittsburgh Oratory and especially parishioners of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and members of the Knights of Columbus St. Michael the Archangel Council #12630 in Charleston,” Father Thien said.

For Thanksgiving and Lent, basilica parishioners and Council #12630 collect food and funds for the food pantry. For Thanksgiving last year, they collected a full truck load of food and \$5,570 for the food pantry, Father Thien

said, “so that we were able to get food, turkey, ham...to over 287 families, and 240 families for

Christmas.”

A member of Risen Lord said, “It See “Food” on Page 8

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Wheeling Serra Club and Team Sledd Diaper Drive for the Gabriel Project Benefits Northern Panhandle Families

WHEELING—The Wheeling Serra Club recently presented \$1,810 to the Gabriel Project to help struggling families with babies and toddlers. For the past 11 years, Serrans have raised funds to support the Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project.

The Gabriel Project provides practical help to pregnant women and families with infants and children in need. Serrans Jim Gilligan and Jay Prager led the fundraising effort for the Gabriel Project for the second consecutive year.

Team Sledd, the convenience store distribution leader, has once again agreed to match the Serrans' contribution, dollar for dollar, up to 5,000 diapers. Rob Sincavich, president of Team Sledd, and his wife Dianne also give the Gabriel Project a good deal all year long on things families need.

The relationship between the Gabriel Project, Team Sledd and the Wheeling Serra Club has become "a continuing blessing for Ohio Valley families," said Gabriel Project Northern Panhandle Program Director Faith Hicks.

For more information about the Gabriel Project, call (304) 639-5039.

Courtesy Photo

From left are Team Sledd's Rob, Evan and Dianne Sincavich; Gabriel Project volunteer Peggy Clark; Gabriel Project NP Coordinator Faith Hicks; and Wheeling Serra Club President Chris Freeman.



Madonna Students Praying for Unborn Babies, Collecting Items for the Gabriel Project

WEIRTON—In past years, Madonna High School in Weirton has done a spiritual adoption of unborn children throughout the school year with a "baby shower" welcoming little ones into the world towards the end of the year. The gifts from the baby shower have been donated to the Gabriel Project which helps parents in need provide for their children.

This year a change was made to this process. In the nine (school) days that lead up to the Solemnity of the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive and bear the Son of God, the school community will be praying for unborn children and other pro-life causes. In union with this, the school will be collecting diapers, baby wipes, and baby wash/shampoo to donate to the Gabriel Project this month. Each class is focusing on certain items on the list. The students' collection will end March 25.

Food ...

Cont'd from Page 7

is a supplemental blessing to our food pantry. It helps us feed those extra people who come through the line that we did not expect. It helps us make sure that no one in need in Clay would go hungry."

With the only grocery store in the county closing more than a year ago, the food pantry's presence has become vital to the community, especially to those most in need.

The basilica and Council #12630's current Lenten food drive will run through Easter Sunday, April 4. Members of Council #12630 are passing out slips of paper with donation information which may be returned to the council's Post Office Box: P.O. Box 11578 Charleston, WV 25339-1578 or the Sunday collection basket at Masses.

"If you wish to donate non-perishable food, we will collect food before and after Mass the weekends of March 13-14, 20-21, and 27-28," council members said. "We encourage monetary donations by check. Father Thien is skillful in knowing how to purchase food in quantity and will certainly put any money donated to good use."

For those who prefer to donate food rather than money, the council offers

Father Thien's most requested items, in order: peanut butter, canned tuna fish, canned soup, any canned vegetable, and canned fruit.

"We thank our parishioners for their generosity during this time of special need," members of the council said.

The pantry also helps people in emergency situations and in need of assistance for utility cut off notice, medical/pharmacy bills, and gasoline.

"With their generous donation," Father Thien said of the basilica and Council #12630, "we are able to continue our ministry to serve the poor in Clay Country. Once again, we are sincerely thankful for their support. Thank you good neighbor."



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All Decked out for St. Patrick's Day

Courtesy Photo
 It's a tradition in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for students and teachers to get all decked out in green in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Pictured at right are second graders from Ss. Peter and Paul School in Oak Hill. They are, from left, Maggie Campbell, Kennedy O'Neal, Tripton Kiliany, Caroline Swank, and Adalyn Queen. Ss. Peter and Paul School is now enrolling pre-kindergarten through sixth grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Check out the ad at the bottom right of this page and discover all that the school has to offer.



Huntington Catholic Daughters to Hold Lenten Retreat at St. Joseph Church

HUNTINGTON—The Catholic Daughters of The Americas Court in Huntington will sponsor a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 20 from 10 a.m. until noon.

The topic will relate to St. Joseph. There will also be a period of adoration and benediction, and the opportunity for confession.

The retreat will be held in St. Joseph Church in Huntington, and will follow COVID-19 guidelines.

There will be a \$5 registration fee.

The speaker of the retreat will be Father Shaji J. Thomas. He currently serves as the administrator of Sacred Heart and St. Peter Claver parishes in Huntington.

The retreat will be held in St. Joseph church and follow COVID-19 guidelines. There will be a \$5 registration fee.

For more information about the retreat, call St. Joseph Parish at (304) 525-5202

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Mrs. Moody's Annual 'Eggciting' Project Underway

By Susan Moody, first-grade teacher at St. Patrick School in Weston

Hatching chicks at St. Patrick School is something we all look forward to. This project has been going on each year, with the exception of last year, for 13 years. It is something that students remember; the good, the bad, and the ugly. And we have had all of that. This project lasts for 4-4 ½ weeks. Three weeks of the incubation process and then a week or so of the chicks living in our classroom. We have been getting our eggs from a local chicken farmer and former first-grade parent, Liza Surrock, for about 6 years.

We start off with a discussion on the incubator and the importance of a constant temperature and humidity. We track the progress of development each day by watching a Youtube Video that shows what is happening inside the egg from day 1 through day 21.

Students keep a Chick Hatching Journal, which teaches them some vocabulary such as brooding, candling, egg tooth, etc. Students also draw what the chick looks like on a specific day and write a description of the development; for example on day 2 the heart begins to beat. I mark each egg with a letter of the alphabet and students name the eggs according to the letter. This way we can track who is fertilized and who isn't and who hatches and who does not.

Throughout the 3 weeks, we do some different projects along with doing the journal. In one project the students each take care of their



First graders at St. Patrick School in Weston participate in the annual hatching chicks project. At right, Father Doug Ondeck blesses the eggs and the "candling" process.

Courtesy Photo

own egg (hardboiled of course). They make a nest for the egg to stay warm, name their egg, turn their egg (which is what a mamma hen does) and do frequent safety checks. If they leave their egg without someone watching it, then a predator (me) may come and take it, because that can happen in real life.

Another project we do is candling the eggs. This is how we find out which eggs are fertilized and which ones are not. We use a high-powered flashlight on the eggs to see inside. If it is fertilized, we will see the chick's eye, veins and the air sac.

Students also do a life cycle project sometime during the three weeks. The last project we do is with the book "Chicks and Salsa".

Students get to eat chips and salsa.

Day 21 is the most exciting day of the year! If a chick has hatched before they come in, I always send pictures to parents so the kids can see. During the school day, I put the Elmo on the incubator so everything will show on the Smartboard. Students will cry when they watch a new life happening. They already know these chicks from spending so

much time with them in the previous three weeks.

For the next week or so, the chicks will live with us. Students will get to watch them and hold them and love them. At the end of the project, if a parent wants a chick or two, then they will go to their new home. I have never had a chick that wasn't wanted. But, Liza Surrock, the chicken farmer we get our eggs from, has a home.

Sisters of the Infant Jesus Continue Collection of Rosaries for Zimbabwe

CLARKSBURG—The Sisters of the Infant Jesus at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg are continuing their collection of rosaries (intact or broken) or religious medals to send back to Zimbabwe, one of the poorest lands in Africa.

"This country, which is on the verge of starvation and genocide, is one of the poorest lands in Africa," parish officials said in December. "Do you have extra rosaries (intact or broken) or religious medals? Consider donating them for distribution to Zimbabwe Catholics. Your help in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated! This is from our hands directly into hands that are not able to afford or find these items which we take for granted."

The sisters ask the faithful to send rosary beads before May 14 to Sister Maria/Sister Beritha, Immaculate Conception Church, 150 S. Maple St., Clarksburg, WV 26301. They also ask that donors include a note with the name or his or her parish/organization so the sisters can add them to their prayer lists and express their thanks.

For more information, call (304) 203-8399.

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Celebrating National Child and Adult Care Food Program Week: March 14-20, 2021

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist

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 14-20, 2021 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.

The primary goal of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is to serve nutritious meals to children attending childcare homes and centers. Secondary goals are as follows: 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 benefit 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 served 2,997 children in 21 counties of West Virginia last year.

Through the CCWVa



Courtesy Photo

The CCWVa Child Care Food Program supports healthy meal choices in homes of child care providers in West Virginia.

Child Care Food Program and all of our children's services, we work to give the young people in our state the best possible start, helping to ensure that their opportunity to succeed is not hampered by circumstances beyond their control.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, 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.

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Papa: Don del Espíritu Santo conecta a las personas con Cristo

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—Cada cristiano es único porque el Espíritu Santo inspira algo nuevo y original en cada persona, creando "un campo infinito de santidad", dijo el papa Francisco.

"El Dios único, la Trinidad de amor, permite que florezca la variedad de testigos; todos son iguales en dignidad, pero también únicos en la belleza que el Espíritu ha querido expresar en cada uno de los que la misericordia de Dios ha hecho sus hijos", dijo el papa el 17 de marzo durante su audiencia general semanal.

Durante la audiencia transmitida en vivo desde la biblioteca del Palacio Apostólico, el papa Francisco concluyó su serie de charlas sobre la oración mirando la oración como una relación con la Santísima Trinidad, en particular con el Espíritu Santo.

"El primer don de toda existencia cristiana es el Espíritu Santo", dijo. Es el don clave, esencial porque sin el Espíritu Santo, "no hay relación con Cristo y con el Padre".

El Espíritu abre el corazón humano a la presencia de Cristo "y lo arrastra hacia ese 'vórtice' de amor que es el corazón mismo de Dios", dijo.

El Espíritu Santo "habita en nosotros; es él quien nos transforma profundamente y nos hace experimentar la conmovedora alegría de ser amados por Dios como sus verdaderos hijos", dijo el papa.

El Espíritu escribe la historia de la iglesia y del mundo, dijo, y "somos páginas abiertas, disponibles para recibir su letra".

"En cada uno de nosotros, el Espíritu compone obras originales porque nunca hay un cristiano que sea completamente idéntico a otro", creando un vasto y floreciente "campo de santidad".

La iglesia invita a los fieles a invocar al Espíritu Santo todos los días, para hacer presente a Cristo para que pueda guiar y transformar a sus discípulos, agregó.

Invocar al Espíritu en busca de apoyo e inspiración es importante, especialmente cuando uno no ha orado en mucho tiempo, ha perdido el deseo de orar o recita oraciones

"como un loro", sin profundidad de sentimiento o fe, dijo.

"Este es el momento de decirle al Espíritu: 'Ven. Ven, Espíritu Santo y calienta mi corazón. Ven, enséñame a orar, enséñame a mirar al Padre, al hijo, enséñame el camino de la fe, enséñame a amar y, sobre todo, enséñame a tener una actitud de esperanza'".

"Si Cristo estuviera muy lejos en el tiempo, estaríamos solos y perdidos en el mundo", dijo el papa Francisco, pero con el Espíritu, "la posibilidad de encontrar a Cristo está abierta a los cristianos de todos los tiempos y lugares".

Los cristianos deben "mantener viva esta llama" del Espíritu Santo, del amor de Dios, en su corazón, dijo el papa, de la misma manera que la lámpara al lado del tabernáculo permanece encendida incluso cuando la iglesia se vacía y cae la oscuridad, incluso cuando la iglesia está cerrada.

"Nadie lo ve, sin embargo, arde ante el Señor", dijo. "Así está el Espíritu en nuestro corazón, siempre presente como esa lámpara".

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; 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, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida.

Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Human Resources

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire a Director of Human Resources, a full-time position based at the Chancery Building in Wheeling, West Virginia. Reporting to the Vicar General of the Diocese, the Director of Human Resources develops policy and directs and coordinates human resources activities such as employment, compensation, labor relations, benefits, training and employee services. Essential duties include overseeing the employee onboarding system, providing data on wage and salary information, explaining policy directives to department managers, consulting with legal counsel on a regular basis regarding employment issues, managing records in compliance with law or governmental authorities, delivering presentations to department directors regarding human resources policies and practices, administering all benefit programs and government regulatory standards, and maintaining all records required by the Affordable Care Act, including all necessary ACA reporting requirements.

Qualification requirements include a Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred), 4-10 years of experience in an administrative position, expertise in federal and state employee legislation, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, ability to provide direction on personnel issues, familiarity with payroll databases and Microsoft Office suite, ability to work within a team environment and the successful candidate must adhere to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church and possess a clear sense of a Catholic Theology of work and compensation. Position will remain posted until filled. Applications may be directed to the Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Office Manager/Vocations

This is to announce an opening in the Vocations Office at the Diocese for a person to assist the Director of Vocations as Office Manager. This is a Part Time position requiring 20 hours per week. The position is located at the Chancery building in Wheeling.

The Office Manager will assist the Director of Vocations by performing all secretarial, clerical and office work necessary to effectively manage the operations of the office. This person will also assist the Director of Vocations in developing and implementing retreats and events to help promote Priestly vocations. The individual will monitor and guide potential seminary candidates through all phases of the process leading to acceptance and entrance to the seminary. The Office Manager will maintain communication with seminarians to assist them with policy, benefit and other clerical work necessary during their formation. The person must be willing to attend meetings both nationally and regionally as well as working evenings and/or weekends as necessary.

Eligible candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree preferably in a Religious field of study. Individual must be an active member of a Roman Catholic Parish Faith Community who adheres to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Excellent organizational, presentation and communications skills are required. This Person must be reliable and maintain confidentiality. Office skills and use of MS Word, Microsoft Office and Outlook are necessary.

Interested person should send letter of introduction and Resume to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Camp Carlo Summer Hiring

The Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, affectionately known as Camp Carlo, is dedicated to leading young people to Christ & His Church. If you're committed to growing in faith, modelling faithful Catholic community life to young people, and living the adventure of His Creation, we want YOU at Camp Carlo for Summer 2021!

Our Culture: At Camp Carlo, we strive to model authentic Catholic life and community to young people. St. John Chrysostom called the church a "hospital for souls." Our program is residential – one could say that makes us an "in-patient" wing of the hospital for souls. Because our program is residential, we live the values of our faith 24 hours a day even when no earthly person is watching. We replace the daily distractions in the lives of youth with faithful, healthy, and engaging activities, relationships, and community.

Staff at Camp Carlo always: Strive to center their life and ministry at Camp Carlo on Christ Jesus; Put the needs of campers above themselves; Help others succeed; Know how to separate work and personal life; Excite youth, volunteers, and colleagues about our mission, ideas, and taking action; Take the initiative – see a job that needs doing and do it; Put in the work, striving to do the job right the first time.

Some Expectations: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said, "[...] You were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness."

Life at Camp Carlo will: Be physically intensive – long hours, hard work, not as much rest as we might be accustomed to in our life at home; Require a tremendous amount of patience with the youth you serve, not to mention the peers you live and work with; Deepen your faith life, build character to the extent that you commit – "You get out of camp what you put in"; Require you to try and learn new things; Ask you to set aside the day-to-day distractions in your own life (social media, constant communication, modern conveniences).

Standards of Professional Conduct: Staff at Camp Carlo are held to high standards of professional conduct, including: Good manners; Good personal hygiene; A dress code that is modest and functional; No personal guests throughout the week without permission from the director; No personal pets; No weapons, drugs, tobacco; Staff with cars must provide proof of insurance & license, keys kept in camp office while campers are on property; Always – without exception – following all policies for keeping children safe; Keeping peer romantic relationships from interfering with work; No co-ed sleeping arrangements on weekends; Be willing to go without personal electronic devices for extended periods of time; Understanding that a successful summer is a team effort.

Whom & When You'll Serve: On-site staff training will be from Monday, June 14th thru Sunday June 20:

June 20th – June 26th, Blessed Sacrament parish camp serving ages 7-13.

June 27th – July 3rd, Rising 3rd graders to 5th graders. July 4th – July 10th, Rising 6th graders to 8th graders. July 11th – July 17th, Rising freshmen to seniors in high school. July 18th – July 24th, A "catch all week" from 3rd grade thru 12th grade. July 25th – July 31st, C.A.M.P Wade (Pocahontas County parishes) serving ages 7 to 15.

Application & Hiring: Camp Carlo's goal is to have all summer staff positions filled by April 1, 2021. Applications can be requested from Camp Carlo by emailing Riley Keaton at rkeaton@dwc.org, subject line: "COUNSELOR APPLICATION – [YOUR NAME]." Upon reviewing this brochure, complete the application and return it via email to the email above or mail at: ATTN: Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp, 1311 Byron St., Wheeling, WV 26003.

Once your application has been reviewed, camping director Riley Keaton will reach out to schedule an interview.

Applications returned before February 1 will receive preference – all applicants will be informed of the status of their application by March 31.

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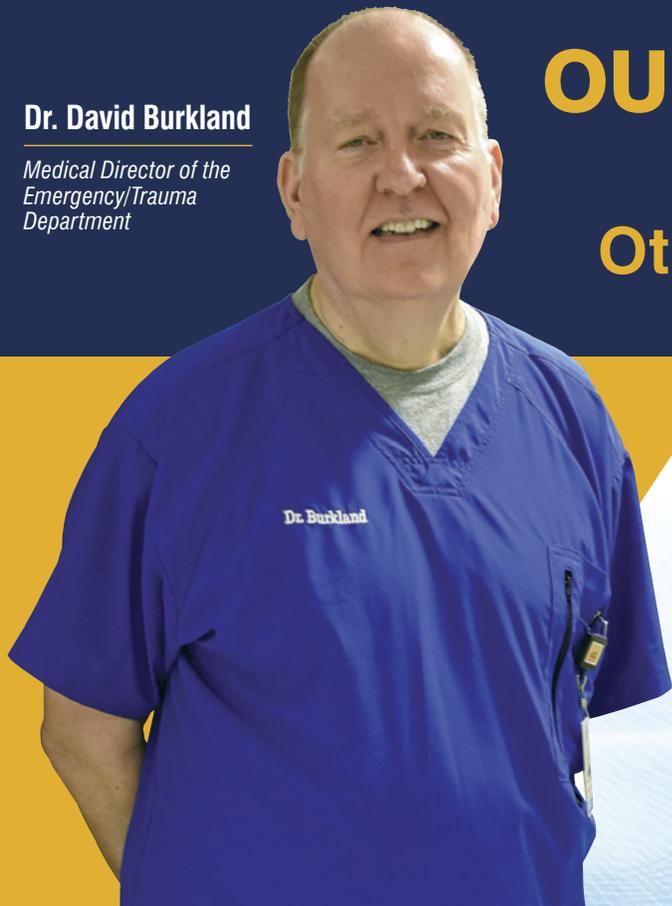
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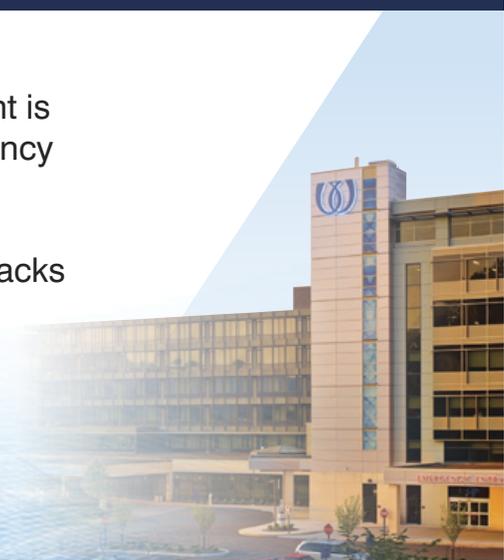
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