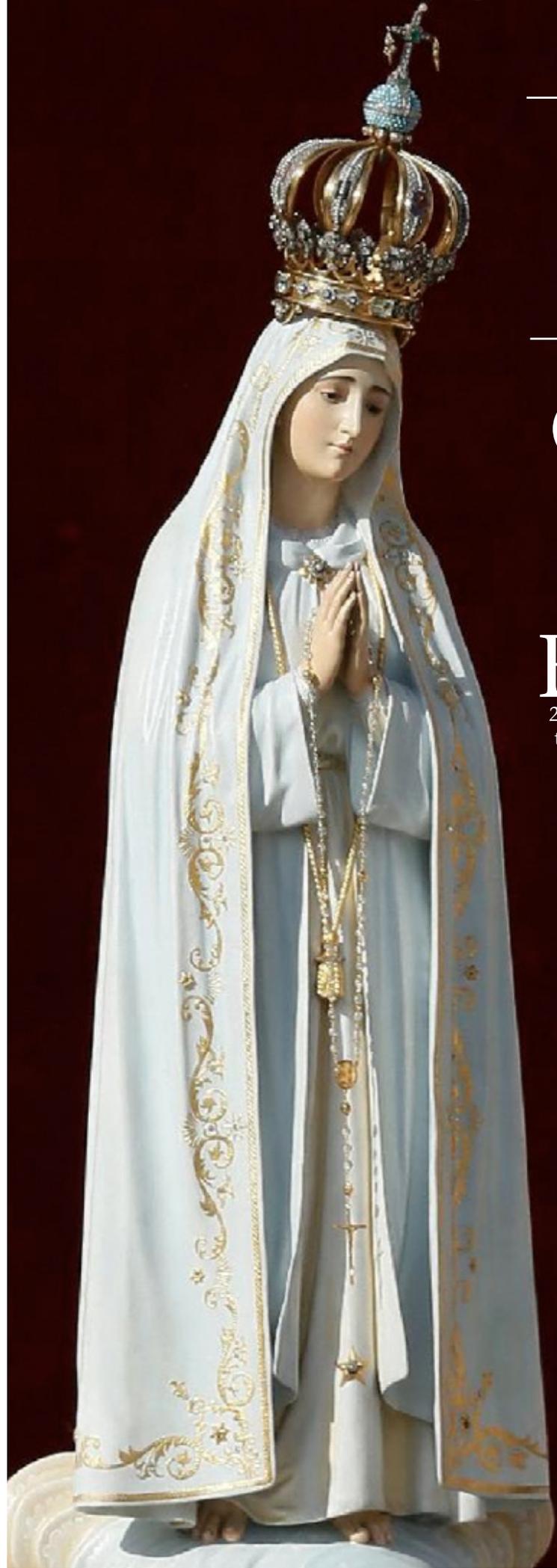


THE CATHOLIC

Spirit



Read the text of the
Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
on Page 2 and in Spanish on Page 15

Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Mary

Bishop Mark Brennan and priests throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will join the Holy Father in an Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary today, the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25). The Consecration by Bishop Brennan will take place during 12:05 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling (corresponding with the Holy Father's Consecration which begins at 5 p.m. in Rome).

Mass from the Cathedral will be livestreamed on the DWC Facebook page as well as on the diocesan website, dwc.org.

With Russia's invasion of Ukraine and responding to a request particularly from Ukrainian bishops, Pope Francis had announced that he would make the act of consecration during a previously scheduled Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis and bishops around the world will consecrate themselves and all humanity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, they will include the phrase, "especially Russia and Ukraine."

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, will lead the act of consecration at the same time at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. When Mary appeared to three shepherd children at Fatima in 1917 with a message encouraging prayer and repentance, she also asked for the consecration of Russia to Mary's immaculate heart.

The papal text pleads with Mary to "accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end, and peace spread throughout the world."

Text of the pope's prayer was sent to chanceries around the globe so that bishops can join the pope March 25. The pope's prayer can be found on Page 2 and in Spanish on Page 15 of this issue of *The Catholic Spirit*.

The original statue of Our Lady of Fatima, shown on this page, is seen before Pope Francis' celebration of a Mass at which he consecrated the world to Mary, in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 13, 2013.

CNS Photo/Paul Haring

Inside: Faithful Gather for the Closing of the
Year of St. Joseph, Page 3

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Basilica of Saint Peter

25 March 2022

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion.

At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world. Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May

your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

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



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Martina Hart Photos

From left, Bishop Mark Brennan greets the faithful following the Mass he celebrated at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 19 closing the Year of St. Joseph; laymen light candles in front of an image of St. Joseph.

Faithful Gather for Closing of Year of St. Joseph

By Martina Hart

Faithful from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston embarked on a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph and the Closing of the Diocesan Observance of the Year of St. Joseph on March 19.

Festivities began with an evening of music and prayer at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston on Friday, March 18. On the morning of March 19 pilgrims gathered at the basilica for a Prayer Service with Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Interactive breakout sessions to reflect on various aspects and attributes related to St. Joseph were facilitated by five presenters in classrooms at Charleston Catholic High School. Pilgrims were also able to tour the Basilica and to receive the sacrament of penance.

A concert and music program at 2 p.m. included hymns and songs to honor St. Joseph, interspersed with short spoken reflections. It was presented by the Adult Choir and Singers of the Diocese, the Sacred Heart Grade School Choir of Charleston, handbell choirs from Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston and St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown, as well as other musicians. The pilgrimage culminated in the Eucharistic Celebration at 3 p.m. with

Bishop Mark Brennan as the main celebrant.

“We conclude our special year of St. Joseph in this Mass on the solemnity of his feast,” Bishop Brennan said. “I invite you to enter into this Mass with a spirit of genuine confidence in God’s love for each and every one of you, a love that he manifested to St. Joseph, a love that bore fruit in the saving ministry of Jesus.”

Concelebrants were Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the Basilica, Father Dominic Athishu, vice rector, and other priests of the diocese, assisted by Deacons Doug Breiding of Wheeling and David Wuletich of Charleston.

“St. Joseph’s role in the coming of God’s son into the world as man highlights both the fundamental principle of obedience to God and the mysterious ways in which we can often be called upon to carry it out,” Bishop Brennan said in his homily. He recalled Joseph’s merciful intention to quietly divorce Mary after finding out she was pregnant, rather than handing her over to be tried as a potential adulteress, according to Jewish law. However, Joseph instead follows the message received in a dream to take Mary as his wife, as the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He thus fulfills God’s plan that through Joseph’s lineage the Son of God would also be a de-



Martina Hart Photo

The Sacred Heart Grade School Choir sings during the Mass closing the Year of St. Joseph at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston March 19.

scendant of the House of David.

“The greatness of Joseph is his willingness to obey God even in mysterious circumstances,” Bishop Brennan pointed out. He gave examples of people who were not afraid to do God’s will in adversity. A Catholic high school in a rundown section of a city did not give in to fear that parents would stop their kids. Instead of moving to the supposedly crime-free suburbs, school leaders decided to just make some security improvements, and the school continued to flourish. Politicians may lose support, even in their party, for standing up for unborn children or for fair treatment of immigrants.

However, they will not be forgotten by God who rewards those who are faithful to him and to his will.

“Joseph, whom we are privileged to have as patron of our diocese and of the universal church, has many qualities that we can admire and emulate: courage, humility, chastity, a tender love for the Virgin Mary and for the Child Jesus, a willingness to work hard for the good of his family, and surely, he was generous to the poor,” Bishop Brennan said.

Furthermore, he encouraged those gathered to remember St. Joseph as a powerful intercessor, recounting the story of St. André Bessette of Montreal, a lay brother of the Congre-

gation of the Holy Cross. Often credited with healing miracles, Brother André would only respond that he had just prayed to St. Joseph for the person, who in turn obtained the grace of their cure.

“Our year of St. Joseph is coming to an end, but our devotion to him must continue,” Bishop Brennan concluded. “He has a special relationship with all of us in this diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. So, let us take that to heart and pray to him and to Mary, his wife, to obtain the graces we need to navigate the often-treacherous waters of this life until we come safely to the peaceful

See “St. Joseph” on Page 4

Governor Signs Law Protecting Unborn Babies with Down Syndrome from Abortion

By Colleen Rowan

CHARLESTON—Flanked by advocates and children with Down syndrome along with their families, Gov. Jim Justice signed into law the Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act.

The new law will prohibit medical professionals from performing abortions solely because of a disability in an unborn child, such as Down Syndrome, barring a medical emergency. It also will require doctors to provide educational materials and information on the support systems available to families raising children with disabilities.

The governor signed the new law on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day.

"I got to meet these kids. They are just so happy. They are such wonderful, wonderful gifts to all of us," Justice said.

On March 12, the bill 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.

Present for the signing was Kurt Kondrich and his daughter Chloe, who rallied support for the act in February at the annual Pro-Life Rally Day at the Capitol, sponsored by West Virginians for Life (WVFL). Kurt and his wife Margie learned that with prenatal testing, 90 percent of Down syndrome children



Courtesy Photo
Gov. Jim Justice is pictured with Chloe Kondrich after signing into law the Unborn Child with Down Syndrome Protection and Education Act March 21. Chloe was born in 2003 with Down syndrome, and since then she and her family have been advocates for children with Down syndrome.

"are identified, targeted, and terminated before they're allowed to come on to this earth. So, we changed our life, and became advocates," he said.

In his talk, Kurt posed a grim thought of the future: "If today we have a test for Down syndrome, what if next week we have one for

autism? For heart disease? Or depression? The list is endless for where prenatal testing could lead us. It's called a silent genocide." He went on to say, "Identifying, targeting, and terminating a human being who receives a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis because they don't meet a cultural mandate

for unattainable perfection represents the ultimate extreme form of discrimination, prejudice, profiling, bigotry, racism, intolerance, exclusion, and hatred. It's something that none of us will ever tolerate."

At the end of his talk at the rally, Kurt said he and Chloe were looking forward to coming back to West Virginia when the governor signs the act into law. And they were happy to return to the Mountain State for that moment.

Also present at the signing were members of West Virginians for Life.

"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."

WVFL President Wanda Franz, Ph.D., said 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 fetal anomaly compared with those who carried their babies to term are at risk for serious, prolonged mental health problems."

St. Joseph...

Cont'd from Page 3

harbor of eternity and meet Joseph and Mary and all the saints face to face."

About 140 people from various parts of the diocese had registered for the day-long event, with more joining just for the closing Mass.

"In planning for this event, the diocese wanted to organize a festive celebration to close our diocesan observance of the Year of St. Joseph with the hope of gathering a representation of the faithful from across the state," said Chad Carter, chancellor of the Diocese of Wheeling-

Charleston. "It was a true delight to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph with all of the attendees. You could sense the excitement and joy of all who gathered as they participated in prayer, breakout sessions and fellowship. In particular, we welcomed musicians from various parts of the diocese who helped present a beautiful afternoon concert as well as lead the music for the concluding Mass. I believe this Year of St. Joseph and the events throughout the year as well as this concluding event, have helped people better understand the attributes of St. Joseph and deepen their devotion to him."

USCCB President, Committee Chairmen Recommit Church to Pro-Life Initiatives

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the nation awaits the U.S. Supreme Court's most significant abortion ruling in decades, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the chairmen of eight USCCB committees joined together "in prayer and expectant hope that states will again be able to protect women and children from the injustice of abortion."

"As we affirm the value of every human life, we welcome the possibility of saving countless unborn children as well as sparing women and families the pain of abortion," they said in a statement released late March 21.

All eyes are on the high court for its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which involves a Mississippi law that bans most abortions after 15 weeks.

If the court's ruling in *Dobbs*, expected in June or early July, overturns the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide, it will leave abortion to the states. Already, lawmakers in several states are working to codify *Roe* in their laws; other states have passed bills similar to the Mississippi law.

In their statement, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, and the chairmen of USCCB committees concerned with pro-life activities, domestic and international policy, evangelization and other issues reviewed the years of outreach by the Catholic Church through various initiatives, parishes, agencies other entities to pregnant women in need and their children and families.

They recommitted the USCCB and its various resources and ministries to these initiatives and urged Catholic dioceses, parishes, agencies and institutions to do the same.

"We proclaim a vision for our society that upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable — a society in which the legal protection of human life is accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children," the bishops said.

"We exhort our nation to prioritize the well-being of women, children, and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child," they added.

Besides Archbishop Gomez, the bishops who signed the statement and their committees are: Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane, Washington,

Catholic education; Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Reed of Boston, communications; Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, evangelization and catechesis; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, domestic justice and human development; Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, international justice and peace; Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, laity, marriage, family life and youth; Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, migration; and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, pro-life activities.

"The Catholic Church has a long history of service to those who are most vulnerable and remains the largest private provider of social services in the United States," they said. "Through the sacrificial efforts of faithful Catholics, the church serves millions through diocesan ministries and agencies, Catholic hospitals and health care systems, immigration clinics, shelters, and Catholic schools and parishes.

"From religious communities to pregnancy care centers, from refugee resettlement services to foster care and adoption agencies, and from maternity homes to parish-based ministries, the church consistently bears witness in word and deed to the beauty and dignity of every human life — including both mother and child."

The prelates said the U.S. church will recommit itself to its many pro-life efforts, including:

— Accompanying women and couples facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies and during their early years of parenthood, "offering them loving and compassionate care through initiatives such as Walking with Moms in Need and countless others."

"Walking with Moms in Need" is a nationwide initiative launched by the U.S. bishops "to engage every Catholic parish in providing a safety net to ensure that pregnant and parenting moms have the resources, love and support they need to nurture the lives of their children."

— Ensuring "our Catholic parishes are places of welcome for women facing challenging pregnancies or who find it difficult to care for their children after birth, so that any mother needing assistance will receive life-affirming support and be connected to appropriate programs and resources where she can get help."

— Helping Catholics "recognize the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in their communities, enabling parishioners to know these mothers,

to listen to them, and to help them obtain the necessities of life for themselves and their children."

— Being witnesses "of love and life by expanding and improving the extensive network of comprehensive care including pregnancy help centers, maternity homes, and Catholic health care and social service agencies.

— Proclaiming "with a clear and united voice that our society can and must protect and care for both women and their children."

— Redoubling "our advocacy for laws that ensure the right to life for unborn children and that no mother or family lacks the basic resources needed to care for their children, regardless of race, age, immigration status, or any other factor."

— Continuing to support and advocate for public policies and programs directed toward "building up the common good and fostering integral human development, with a special concern for the needs of immigrants and low-income families."

"We are deeply conscious that, after nearly half a century of legalized abortion, more than 65 million children have died from abortion and an untold number of women, men and families suffer in the aftermath," the bishops said.

In response to this suffering, they said the USCCB's committees and other Catholic entities will recommit themselves "to proclaim God's mercy after abortion and compassionately accompany women and men who are suffering after an abortion."

They also said the church will expand diocesan "abortion healing ministries," commonly known as Project Rachel Ministry, "so that women and men receive forgiveness, healing, and spiritual renewal through Christ's infinite mercy."

The prelates also pledged to "transform our parishes into what Pope Francis calls 'islands of mercy in a sea of indifference'" by raising Catholic awareness of "the great struggle involved in an abortion, and the guilt, pain and grief that follow."

"In all these ways and more, the Catholic Church witnesses to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death, and works to build a true culture of life in our nation," they said.

"May a renewed commitment to life overflow into increased protection of unborn children and expanded support for their mothers and families," they said in conclusion.

Synod listening sessions are in full swing across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the faithful to engage in sharing about Church life. Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests encourage everyone to be alert to their parish's routine means of communication, such as bulletins, websites, social media pages, and emails, which will announce specific details about their local synod process.

Find a listening session near you at: dwc.org/synod-sessions/

Synod Listening Sessions Continue Across WV

Holy Redeemer, Spencer: March 27, 10 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Bluefield: March 27, 10 a.m.

Sacred Heart, Powhatan: March 27, 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. Leo, Inwood: March 25, 5-7 p.m.; April 3, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Virtual Session-TBA



Pope Promulgates Curia Reform, Emphasizing Church's Missionary Nature

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nine years after taking office, Pope Francis promulgated his constitution reforming the Roman Curia, a project he began with his international Council of Cardinals shortly after taking office in 2013.

“*Praedicate Evangelium*” (“Preach the Gospel”), which was published only in Italian by the Vatican March 19, will go into effect June 5, the feast of Pentecost.

Merging some congregations and pontifical councils and raising the status of others — particularly the charitable office of the papal almoner — Pope Francis said he hoped the constitution would ensure that the offices of the Vatican fulfill their mission in helping promote the church as a community of missionary disciples, sharing the Gospel and caring for all those in need.

Part of that effort, he wrote, requires including more laypeople in Curia leadership positions.

“This new apostolic constitution proposes to better harmonize the present exercise of the Curia’s service with the path of evangelization that the church, especially in this season, is living,” the pope wrote in the document.

To emphasize the importance of the church’s missionary nature, in the new constitution Pope Francis specified that he is the prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization; he will be assisted by a “pro-prefect” for “basic questions regarding evangelization in the world” and a “pro-prefect” for “the first evangelization and the new particular churches,” those previously supported by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

In a similar way, until 1968, the popes were prefects of what became the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“*Pastor Bonus*” began its description of the doctrinal congregation’s responsibility saying, “The proper duty of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is to promote and safeguard the doctrine on faith and morals in the whole Catholic world; so, it has competence in things that touch

this matter in any way.”

The new constitution begins its description by saying, “The task of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith is to assist the Roman pontiff and the bishops-eparchs in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world, promoting and safeguarding the integrity of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals, drawing on the deposit of faith and also seeking an ever deeper understanding of it in the face of new questions.”

The new constitution does away with the previous distinctions between “congregations” and “pontifical councils,” referring to all of them simply as “dicasteries.”

In addition to creating the Dicastery for the Service of Charity in place of the almoner’s office, the constitution merges the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization into the new Dicastery for Evangelization, and it merges the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture into the new Dicastery for Culture and Education.

“*Praedicate Evangelium*” replaces St. John Paul II’s 1988 constitution, “*Pastor Bonus*,” but, unlike it, does not reserve the leadership of certain offices only to cardinals and bishops, although the individual statutes of those offices may make such a specification.

However, Pope Francis wrote in the document that offices that have “their own statutes and laws shall observe them only insofar as they are not opposed to the present apostolic constitution and shall propose their adaptation for the approval of the Roman pontiff as soon as possible.”

Insisting that every Christian is “a missionary disciple,” the constitution said, the reform of the Curia also needed to “provide for the involvement of laymen and women, including in roles of governance and responsibility.”

The participation of laypeople “is indispensable, because they cooperate for the good of the whole church and, because of their family life, their knowledge of social realities and their faith that leads them

to discover God’s paths in the world, they can make valid contributions, especially when it comes to the promotion of the family and respect for the values of life and creation, the Gospel as leaven for temporal realities and the discernment of the signs of the times.”

Describing the personnel of the offices, the constitution said the leadership, “as far as possible, shall come from the different regions of the world so that the Roman Curia may reflect the universality of the church.”

They can be clergy, religious or laypeople “who are distinguished by appropriate experience, knowledge confirmed by suitable qualifications, virtue and prudence. They should be chosen according to objective and transparent criteria and have an adequate number of years of experience in pastoral activities.”

Pope Francis described the reform of the Curia as part of the “missionary conversion” of the church, a renewal movement aimed at making it reflect more “the image of Christ’s own mission of love.”

He also linked it to the ongoing process of promoting “synodality,” a sense of the shared responsibility of all baptized Catholics for the life and mission of the church.

True communion among all Catholics, he said, “gives the church the face of synodality; a church, that is, of mutual listening in which each one has something to learn: the faithful people, the College of Bishops (and) the bishop of Rome listening to the other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth.”

Addressing one of the main concerns expressed by bishops around the world in the past, the constitution said, “The Roman Curia does not stand between the pope and the bishops, but rather places itself at the service of both in ways that are proper to the nature of each.”

Pope Francis wrote that in reorganizing the Curia, he wanted to promote a “healthy decentralization” that would, at the same time, promote “co-responsibility” and communion with the bishops and among the Vatican offices.

The Curia, he said, should support individual bishops in their mission as pastors as well as the work of bishops’ conferences and synods of Eastern Catholic bishops.

Because “the face of Christ” is reflected in the faces of his disciples, the document said, members of the Roman Curia should be “distinguished by their spiritual life, good pastoral experience, sobriety of life and love for the poor, spirit of communion and service, competence in the matters entrusted to them, and the ability to discern the signs of the times.”

In the ordering of the Roman Curia, the Secretariat of State maintains its position of leadership and coordination, but the new Dicastery for Evangelization is placed above the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The description of the organization of the doctrinal dicastery includes changes announced by Pope Francis in February, creating separate doctrinal and disciplinary sections, reflecting the growing importance of the office that investigates allegations of clerical sexual abuse and the abuse of office by bishops or religious superiors.

The constitution places the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors “within the dicastery” and says “its task is to provide the Roman pontiff with advice and consultancy and to propose the most appropriate initiatives for the protection of minors and vulnerable people.

Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the commission and a member of the Council of Cardinals that drafted the constitution, said, “For the first time, Pope Francis has made safeguarding and the protection of minors a fundamental part of the structure of the church’s central government.”

“Linking the commission more closely with the work of the new Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith represents a significant move forward in upgrading the place and mandate of the commission, which can only lead to a stronger culture of safeguarding throughout the Curia and the entire church,” he said in a statement March 19.

Food for Preston Marks Two Years of Outreach

“Your faithful support helps provide Preston County families, students, and seniors with safe access to food.”

—Tammy Laney, director of Food for Preston.

“In assisting our neighbors in need, the Knights of Columbus St. Luke Council at Cheat Lake recently passed the two-year mark of our food donation efforts to citizens of neighboring Preston County known as Food for Preston,” council members said.

This program began as the council’s annual “40 Cans for Lent” initiative in 2020. Due to the dire need for assistance in this region, the program has continued uninterrupted. It is estimated that nearly 16 percent of Preston County’s citizens rely on the services provided by Food for Preston.

“There is a severe shortage of food in this area,” said council member Ron Manzo.



Knight Dennis Lusin loads the donation for delivery to Food for Preston.

Courtesy Photo

The organization operates 11 food pantries, a backpack program for students, a mobile food pantry, and a Senior Box Program, which provides non-perishables, produce, dairy, and meat to 350 senior households every month in

cooperation with the Mountaineer Food Bank and Buckwheat Express Buses.

As part of their ongoing collection efforts, the St. Luke Knights are now providing parishioners with a secure place to drop off

their donations. Members are also encouraging parishioners to participate in regular food distributions at the Kingwood mobile food pantry.

“Many thanks to Knights of Columbus and everyone at St. Luke’s Cath-

olic Church for your weekly donations to Food for Preston,” said Tammy Laney, director of Food for Preston. “Your faithful support helps provide Preston County families, students, and seniors with safe access to food.”

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

13 Days Istanbul- Greece-Crete Nov 7-19, 2022 \$4999. Includes 2 nights-Istanbul, 1 night each in Kavala, Thessaloniki, Kalambaka & Delphi, 2 nights in Crete & 4-nights in Athens. With Fr. Eric Shafer from Colonial Beach, VA

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

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

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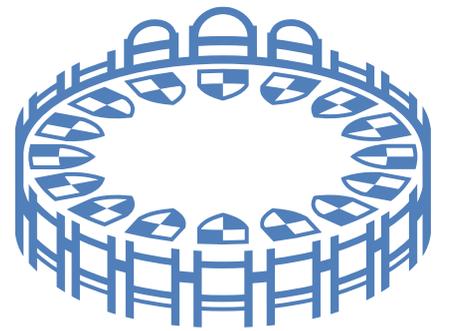
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Our Lady of Peace Student Wins Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

WHEELING—The West Virginia Knights of Columbus recently conducted a Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest on the topic of how one has overcome everyday obstacles while living a life of authentic faith. As St. James wrote, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” Pictured is state contest winner Jana Schodzinski of Our Lady of Peace School in Wheeling, with her parents E.J. and Lorri Schodzinski. Jana wrote “these tests are challenging, and it is tempting to give in to these hardships. I was always taught to pick up my cross and carry-on showing witness of God’s love, so I’ve kept my faith my whole life.... Through mental anguish, to scoliosis, surgery and physical pain, God has been with me through it all and overall, I am so glad to have the privilege of worshipping Him daily at Our Lady of Peace School.”



Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree - WV District

Paul Niedbalski - District Master

Sam Gross - District Marshal

CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

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.

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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

Don't Miss the Diocesan Celebration of World Meeting of Families This Summer!

The World Meeting of Families is a biennial, global event of the Roman Catholic Church which both celebrates and helps form married couples and families in the way of Christian life. The event promotes vocations, the family, holiness, love, children, healthy parenting, grandparents, the elderly, and even civil, communal behavior.

This year the event will cover five days and be held in dioceses around the world.

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we will celebrate the World Meeting of Families with Masses, presentations, and receptions across the state, as well as with a special, all-day Catholic Family Festival at St. Francis de Sales in Morgantown on June 25.

The complete schedule is as follows:

—Wednesday, June 22, 6 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston: Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan, presentations, and a reception

—Thursday, June 23, 6 p.m., St. Leo Parish, Inwood: Mass with

Father Alfred Obiudu, presentations, and a reception

—Friday, June 24, 6 p.m., St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston: Mass with Msgr. Samuel Sacus, presentations, and a reception

—Saturday, June 25, Catholic Family Festival, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown: Mass with Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati (two Masses offered: 5:15 p.m. and 8 p.m.), all-day presentations, music, adoration, confessions, food, and activities for children

—Sunday, June 26, 3 p.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling: Mass with Bishop Brennan, presentations, and a reception

Please join us for any or all of these diocesan celebrations. For more information, and to register, please visit our website at <https://dwc.org/world-meeting-of-families/> or call the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at (304) 233-0880, ext. 374.

See the event poster on Page 11.

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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 CampCarlowv.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@dwc.org or 1 (304) 476-9015





JOIN US AND SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION!



Scan the QR code or visit dwc.org/world-meeting-of-families/ for more information and to register.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

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.

Wheeling University Awarded \$538,735 Through Gov. Justice's Nursing Workforce

WHEELING—Wheeling University has been awarded \$538,738 through West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice's Nursing Workforce Expansion Program, which is designed to address the state's nursing shortage through a multifaceted approach to attract, train and retain nurses in the Mountain State.

Representing a fundamental part of this approach, an award program was established to fund nursing program expansion projects at colleges, universities, schools of nursing and career technical education centers across West Virginia.

Through Wheeling University's award, the institution plans to develop a 16-month Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree completion program. Under this accelerated format, students who have completed an associate or bachelor's degree in any field can earn a BSN degree in a year and a half. Additionally, this grant will allow the university to establish a two-day summer Healthcare Careers Academy beginning in the Summer of 2023, to encourage more high school students

to enter the field, as well as fund installation of a new state-of-the-art medical care simulation laboratory. Wheeling University will partner with WVU Medicine, Belmont College, West Virginia Northern Community College and local high schools to enroll, educate and graduate more BSN students.

Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede said, "Wheeling University, along with our partners, are grateful to Gov. Justice for this funding, which will help produce more licensed nurses to meet the health care needs of residents across West Virginia. Our mission calls us to serve and care for others, especially those in need. We thank Gov. Justice and his team for recognizing that Wheeling University is committed to addressing the nursing shortage, as well as producing health care professionals who are grounded in the Catholic mission of 'cura personalis' – to care for the whole person."

The nursing program expansion awards are administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community

and Technical College System. Twenty-six funded projects across the state were announced by Justice on March 17. Approved projects were required to be focused on timely degree completion and licensure for graduates.

"We are extremely grateful to Gov. Justice for providing this historic funding to support the expansion of nursing education programs across West Virginia," said Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker, West Virginia's chancellor of Higher Education. "Through these new projects, our postsecondary education community will be better positioned to help shore up West Virginia's nursing workforce – which in turn, will help support our nurses working tirelessly on the front lines right now."

Justice announced the West Virginia Workforce Expansion Program in December 2021 by dedicating \$48 million to support new and expanded initiatives that will train new nurses, fully fund the West Virginia Nursing Scholarship Program, value nurses already practicing and recruit nurses into West Virginia.

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—LIAM GAUGHAN, DALLAS OBSERVER





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MISSION MOMENT

Community Shines Light on the Path Out of Darkness

“The person is not only sacred but also social,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Humans rely on one other. We are created to live in relationships. We need each other as we celebrate or mourn; when we’re struggling or thriving; as we give and receive.

And yet, community and encouragement can elude us in our darkest moments. We may feel afraid to reach out, or ashamed that we need help in the first place. People struggling to overcome substance use disorder often feel this acutely before coming to Catholic

Charities West Virginia (CCWVa).

CCWVa and Jobs and Hope West Virginia have partnered to meet the unique needs of people recovering from substance use disorder. Jobs and Hope West Virginia refers clients to CCWVa for wrap-around social support services, such as helping clients meet their goals of obtaining housing, a photo ID, job training and more.

Community is absolutely essential for people in recovery. “Jeff’s” story illustrates this truth beautifully. He went from jail to self-sufficiency through the blessing of nonjudgmental support and an

employer willing to give Jeff a chance.

Because the community rallied around Jeff and helped him find tools to succeed, Jeff has been promoted twice since March 2021 and is currently a general manager. He continues to achieve new goals through his perseverance and the support of Jobs and Hope West Virginia and CCWVa.

Pope Francis reminds us: “Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit

of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds.”

To learn more about our work, 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.

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Employment Opportunities

Director for Curriculum and Instruction

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Department of Catholic Schools

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Department of Catholic Schools, is seeking a Director for Curriculum and Instruction to assist the Superintendent in developing, coordinating, and supervising the effective development, implementation, and ongoing revision of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston system-wide curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional learning.

Personal & Professional Requirements:

- Practicing Catholic in good standing;
- Master's degree in the field of education, preferably Curriculum & Instruction, from an accredited college/university;
- Hold current, or be eligible for, West Virginia state teaching and/or leadership license;
- Minimum of 5 years teaching experience, preferably in Catholic Schools;
- Catholic school leadership experience preferred; and
- Hold a valid driver's license, be able to drive and qualify under the diocesan insurance carrier when operating a district vehicle.

Start Date: July 1, 2022

For a copy of the full job description for the Director for Curriculum & Instruction position, please contact jlink@dwc.org.

To apply for the Director for Curriculum & Instruction position, please send the following information as a PDF to Julie Link at jlink@dwc.org

- Letter of Interest
- Resume
- Credential File (or 3 letters of recommendation)
- Copy of transcripts

Closing Date: April 30, 2022

Principal

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.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the Lord Jesus was about to ascend back to his Father, he commanded his Apostles: Go, make disciples of all nations [Matthew 28:19]. Bringing others to the Lord, directly through speaking to them of Christ or indirectly through our good works, is our primary mission as followers of Jesus Christ.

The annual Catholic Sharing Appeal makes our proclamation of Christ's lordship credible by showing that we are striving to fulfill his command to love our fellow human beings, be they children in need of education, the homebound in need of the Eucharist or a family needing help with a rent payment or utility bill.

Over the past several years, the need for outreach to the young, the vulnerable and the less fortunate across West Virginia has continued to grow. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to make a significant contribution toward meeting those needs, making more resources available to care for those around us, despite a declining Catholic population. But imagine how much more we could do if we convinced more people to cast their lot with us in following Jesus Christ!

As we join together to bring the Gospel of Christ to those who have left us and those we have never had with us, I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this year's Catholic Sharing Appeal. By your gift you are putting your faith into action in union with Christ as we serve those in need of prayer, healing and concrete help. Such gifts, I pray, prepare the way for the Gospel to be heard.

Thank you for your willingness to join with me in sharing the Good News of our Savior with those in need. The Appeal enables all of us to reach out beyond the walls of our parish church to advance the Church's mission.

May God richly bless you and all your loved ones!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



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Acto De Consagración Al Corazón Inmaculado De María

Oh María, Madre de Dios y Madre nuestra, nosotros, en esta hora de tribulación, recurrimos a ti. Tú eres nuestra Madre, nos amas y nos conoces, nada de lo que nos preocupa se te oculta. Madre de misericordia, muchas veces hemos experimentado tu ternura providente, tu presencia que nos devuelve la paz, porque tú siempre nos llevas a Jesús, Príncipe de la paz.

Nosotros hemos perdido la senda de la paz. Hemos olvidado la lección de las tragedias del siglo pasado, el sacrificio de millones de caídos en las guerras mundiales. Hemos desatendido los compromisos asumidos como Comunidad de Naciones y estamos traicionando los sueños de paz de los pueblos y las esperanzas de los jóvenes. Nos hemos enfermado de avidez, nos hemos encerrado en intereses nacionalistas, nos hemos dejado endurecer por la indiferencia y paralizar por el egoísmo. Hemos preferido ignorar a Dios, convivir con nuestras falsedades, alimentar la agresividad, suprimir vidas y acumular armas, olvidándonos de que somos custodios de nuestro prójimo y de nuestra casa común. Hemos destrozado con la guerra el jardín de la tierra, hemos herido con el pecado el corazón de nuestro Padre, que nos quiere hermanos y hermanas. Nos hemos vuelto indiferentes a todos y a todo, menos a nosotros mismos. Y con vergüenza decimos: perdónanos, Señor.

En la miseria del pecado, en nuestros cansancios y fragilidades, en el misterio de la iniquidad del mal y de la guerra, tú, Madre Santa, nos recuerdas que Dios no nos abandona, sino que continúa mirándonos con amor, deseoso de perdonarnos y levantarnos de nuevo. Es Él quien te ha entregado a nosotros y ha puesto en tu Corazón inmaculado un refugio para la Iglesia y para la humanidad. Por su bondad divina estás con nosotros, e incluso en las vicisitudes más adversas de la historia nos conduces con ternura.

Por eso recurrimos a ti, llamamos a la puerta de tu Corazón, nosotros, tus hijos queridos que no te cansas jamás de visitar e invitar a la conversión. En esta hora oscura, ven a socorrernos y

consolarnos. Repite a cada uno de nosotros: "¿Acaso no estoy yo aquí, que soy tu Madre?". Tú sabes cómo desatar los enredos de nuestro corazón y los nudos de nuestro tiempo. Ponemos nuestra confianza en ti. Estamos seguros de que tú, sobre todo en estos momentos de prueba, no desprecias nuestras súplicas y acudes en nuestro auxilio.

Así lo hiciste en Caná de Galilea, cuando apresuraste la hora de la intervención de Jesús e introdujiste su primer signo en el mundo. Cuando la fiesta se había convertido en tristeza le dijiste: «No tienen vino» (Jn 2,3). Repíteselo otra vez a Dios, oh Madre, porque hoy hemos terminado el vino de la esperanza, se ha desvanecido la alegría, se ha agitado la fraternidad. Hemos perdido la humanidad, hemos estropeado la paz. Nos hemos vuelto capaces de todo tipo de violencia y destrucción. Necesitamos urgentemente tu ayuda materna.

Acoge, oh Madre, nuestra súplica.

Tú, estrella del mar, no nos dejes naufragar en la tormenta de la guerra.

Tú, arca de la nueva alianza, inspira proyectos y caminos de reconciliación.

Tú, "tierra del Cielo", vuelve a traer la armonía de Dios al mundo.

Extingue el odio, aplaca la venganza, enséñanos a perdonar.

Líbranos de la guerra, preserva al mundo de la amenaza nuclear.

Reina del Rosario, despierta en nosotros la necesidad de orar y de amar.

Reina de la familia humana, muestra a los pueblos la senda de la fraternidad.

Reina de la paz, obtén para el mundo la paz.

Que tu llanto, oh Madre, conmueva nuestros corazones endurecidos. Que las lágrimas que has derramado por nosotros hagan florecer este valle que nuestro odio ha secado. Y mientras el ruido de las armas no enmudece, que tu oración nos disponga a la paz. Que tus manos maternas aca-

ricien a los que sufren y huyen bajo el peso de las bombas. Que tu abrazo materno consuele a los que se ven obligados a dejar sus hogares y su país. Que tu Corazón afligido nos mueva a la compasión, nos impulse a abrir puertas y a hacernos cargo de la humanidad herida y descartada.

Santa Madre de Dios, mientras estabas al pie de la cruz, Jesús, viendo al discípulo junto a ti, te dijo: «Ahí tienes a tu hijo» (Jn 19,26), y así nos encomendó a ti. Después dijo al discípulo, a cada uno de nosotros: «Ahí tienes a tu madre» (v. 27). Madre, queremos acogerte ahora en nuestra vida y en nuestra historia. En esta hora la humanidad, agotada y abrumada, está contigo al pie de la cruz. Y necesita encomendarse a ti, consagrarse a Cristo a través de ti. El pueblo ucraniano y el pueblo ruso, que te veneran con amor, recurren a ti, mientras tu Corazón palpita por ellos y por todos los pueblos diezmados a causa de la guerra, el hambre, las injusticias y la miseria.

Por eso, Madre de Dios y nuestra, nosotros solemnemente encomendamos y consagramos a tu Corazón inmaculado nuestras personas, la Iglesia y la humanidad entera, de manera especial Rusia y Ucrania. Acoge este acto nuestro que realizamos con confianza y amor, haz que cese la guerra, provee al mundo de paz. El "sí" que brotó de tu Corazón abrió las puertas de la historia al Príncipe de la paz; confiamos que, por medio de tu Corazón, la paz llegará. A ti, pues, te consagramos el futuro de toda la familia humana, las necesidades y las aspiraciones de los pueblos, las angustias y las esperanzas del mundo.

Que a través de ti la divina Misericordia se derrame sobre la tierra, y el dulce latido de la paz vuelva a marcar nuestras jornadas. Mujer del sí, sobre la que descendió el Espíritu Santo, vuelve a traernos la armonía de Dios. Tú que eres "fuente viva de esperanza", disipa la sequedad de nuestros corazones. Tú que has tejido la humanidad de Jesús, haz de nosotros constructores de comunión. Tú que has recorrido nuestros caminos, guíanos por sendas de paz. Amén.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

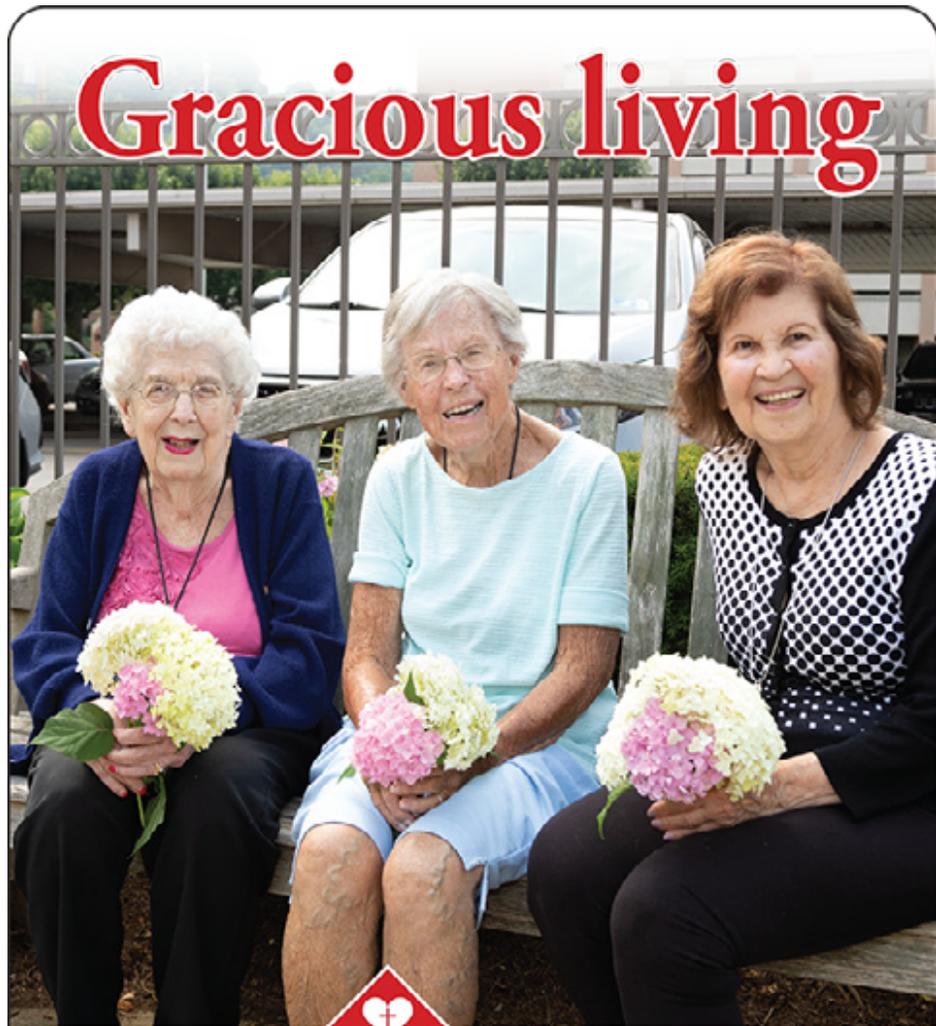
Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese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

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



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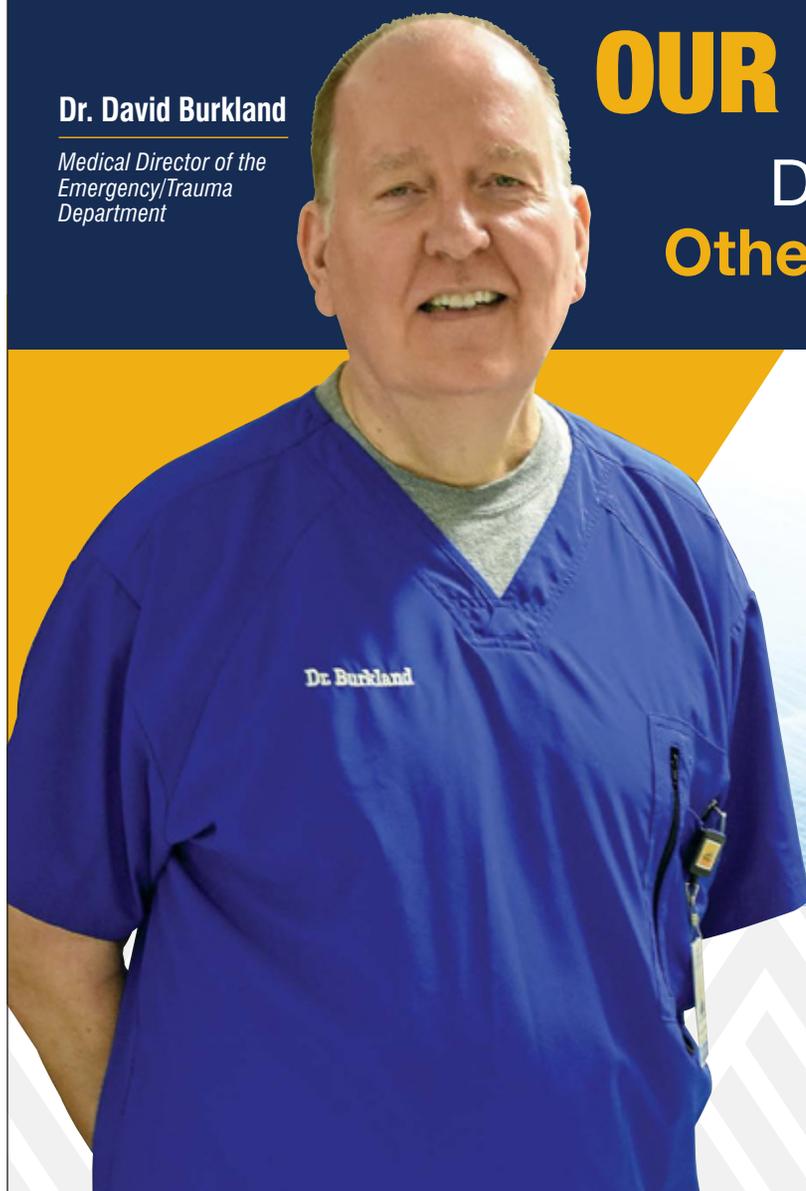
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