



Updates to Diocese's Safe Environment Announced

A Letter from Bishop Brennan

February 23, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I write today to inform you of some updates regarding the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's requirements for maintaining a Safe Environment for children and vulnerable adults. The worldwide sex abuse crisis in the Catholic church continues to impact our methods for keeping children and vulnerable adults safe here in the United States. In our diocese, we continue to make every effort to create and maintain a culture of safety. In October of 2022, our Independent Review Board, at my request and as a matter of best practice, initiated a policy review relative to Safe Environment, and I would like to inform you of the updates that resulted.

First, some history: As you know, since 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has adhered to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a document which mandates Safe Environment requirements and mechanisms to hold U.S. dioceses accountable in these efforts. Here, and in dioceses across the U.S., members of the clergy are required to undergo background checks, sex abuse awareness training, receipt and review of our Diocese's Sex Abuse Policy, and acknowledgements related to mandated reporting and our Code of Conduct. In addition, the diocese requires fingerprinting and completion of monthly training bulletins for clergy and those who are employed in Catholic schools. Every quarter, we convene an Independent Review
See "Updates" on Page 3

Distribution of the Sacred Cup, Sign of Peace to be Reinstated

A Letter from Bishop Brennan

March 1, 2023

My Dear Brother Priests and Brothers and Sisters in Christ, During the COVID-19 pandemic, I asked that several safety measures be implemented in parishes and during Mass out of concern for the health of our parishioners. Please take a moment to read this letter which shares updates to those safety measures I previously implemented.

PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

After much prayerful discernment and consultation with members of the medical community, I am reinstating the distribution of the Sacred Cup to the

faithful who wish to receive it effective April 6, 2023. This date is most appropriate as it is Holy Thursday, when we recall that our Lord Jesus first gave the Church this precious gift of His Body and His Blood at the Last Supper.

While we believe that when one receives either the Body or Blood of Christ, one is receiving the whole Christ, "His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity," nevertheless, "sharing in both eucharistic species reflects more fully the sacred realities that the Liturgy signifies" (Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America, #8, #10). I urge you to begin preparing and catechizing the assembly, and most
See "Reinstated" on Page 2

'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'



John Sherwood Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan, left, and Deacon Marcus Pressl of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town.

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Reinstated...

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importantly, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The faithful should be reminded that the reception of the Sacred Cup has always been optional; those who are uncomfortable or fearful of drinking from the chalice should not feel badly. Moreover, from a practical point, it may take a while for members of the assembly to re-engage receiving under both forms, so that needs to be taken into consideration regarding the amount of wine that is consecrated as well as the number of communion stations. In fact, I advise that if any of us has an illness to refrain from the Sacred Cup out of concern for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be reminded of the theological significance of their ministry as well as review practical procedures of wiping the chalice thoroughly after each communicant. Also, keep in mind that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I mandated that all priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion use hand sanitizer before they begin to distribute com-

munion. I still urge that the protocol remain in place for priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sanitize their hand after distributing the Body of Christ on the tongue. Considering the lifting of mask restrictions for most public venues, I have decided that priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are no longer required to wear face masks when distributing Communion to the faithful. This is effective immediately.

SIGN OF PEACE

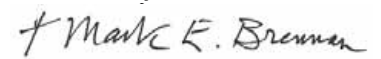
Another part of our sacred liturgy that has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic is the Sign of Peace. If you recall, prior to the pandemic we were encouraged to greet those around us with a handshake or a gentle embrace. I have decided to allow both "tactile" and "non-tactile" gestures. This is also a timely opportunity to catechize the faithful on the liturgical meaning of this moment within the liturgy. Remind the assembly that this is not a time for "Hello, how are you doing?" or "Good morning!" Rather we are bestowing one another with the Peace of Christ. In the Gospel of John

(14:27), Jesus makes it clear that the peace that he bestows on us, that we in turn share with one another, is not as the world gives. The Church tells us that "It is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace only to those nearest to them" (GIRM, #82).

In closing, in my travels throughout the state I am privileged to have good conversations with the faithful in our parishes. I know that most will rejoice that this day has finally arrived. Since March 2020, we have learned and developed many precautionary wellness habits to care for our own health and wellness, and that of our neighbors. Out of respect for our brothers and sisters in Christ, let us not diminish this mindfulness.

Invoking the intercession of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, I ask that God continue to bless all of you, your families and parishes, and our great Mountain State.

Faternally in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

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 priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



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Diocesan Web site: www.dwc.org
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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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Updates...

Cont'd from Page 1

Board which ensures that any matters are reported in a proper and timely fashion. These volunteers also advise the Diocese on matters of concern, credibility, and courses of action on sex-abuse related matters.

As a result of the recent policy review, and in addition to the requirements mentioned above, we have strengthened our Safe Environment efforts by:

— Expanding the scope of the diocese's Independent Review Board: The Independent Review Board will always prioritize clergy-related sex abuse of minor claims, in accordance with the Charter. However, the board's scope now also includes boundary violations and other adult behavioral issues and concerns relative to clergy as well as employees and volunteers. Diocesan review boards across the U.S. are implementing best practices to address other areas of concern and impropriety, in addition to those central to the clergy sex abuse of minors issues. The Review Board in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has been moving in this direction

for the past several years and formalized this best practice through policy changes at its January 2023 meeting.

— Updating language to include guidelines and best practices for use of social media, digital and internet platforms, and electronic communications; expanded and modern reporting mechanisms; and clarification regarding the inappropriateness of all types of pornography.

— Including a comprehensive list of employee and volunteer roles at the parish and school level to which the Safe Environment process applies in an effort to assist our clergy and staff as they manage the administration of locations and programs.

These updates were formalized and took effect on January 11, 2023, at the Independent Review Board's first quarterly meeting of the year.

In our Diocese, we continue to encourage reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been alleged. We also continue to promote the use of EthicsPoint, a mechanism for anonymous reporting of various concerns that are not limited to sex abuse. We also encourage reporting to the national Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting website.

Regarding sex abuse-related claims, the Diocese does not request or require non-disclosure agreements as part of civil settlements. However, the Diocese does respect confidentiality when requested by victims. Funds to settle claims are paid from investment income. They are not paid using any funds donated through parishes, schools, or fundraising appeals.

We also have resources to help any priest, employee, or volunteer navigate disclosures, sex abuse-related issues, or any other issues related to inappropriate conduct should they receive one throughout the course of their ministry, work, or service here.

As a diocese, we continue to focus on prevention and healing and offer support to all who assist in carrying out this important and necessary work.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

REPORT ON CHILD SAFETY MEASURES

What Happens...

When abuse is alleged:

- Report to the appropriate civil authorities
- Cooperation and investigation
- Initiate communications
- Engage Victims Assistance Coordinator
- Review by independent Review Board comprised primarily of lay members

When someone wants to work or volunteer:

- Background screening completed
- Awareness training completed
- Review of Diocese's Policy on Sex Abuse

When someone wants to become a priest:

- Background screening completed
- Psychological and physical evaluations completed
- Reference check (minimum of 5 references)
- Interviews with Diocesan leadership
- If accepted, multi-year formation training

To hold the Diocese accountable:

- Independent compliance audits (electronic and on-site)
- Electronic platform and process for parishes and schools to document compliance
- Oversight of independent Review Board comprised primarily of lay members

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston figures for the most recent reporting year: 2021-22



6,021

children/youth received awareness training applicable to their grade levels

109 priests, **40** deacons, and **9** seminarians are in compliance with Safe Environment protocol and received ongoing awareness education

5,847 employees and volunteers, including Catholic school principals and teachers, are in compliance with Safe Environment protocol

150

There are approximately local level Safe Environment coordinators working in our parishes, schools, and other Catholic organizations throughout the Diocese to help keep our youth and vulnerable adults safe by administering the Safe Environment process to employees and volunteers.

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Falling in Love with Jesus in the Eucharist



Throughout this Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, each print edition of *The Catholic Spirit* (published on the First Friday of each month) will feature a guest article on the Eucharist.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

By Clare Tupta. Clare is a member of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish and a student at Ave Maria University majoring in theology.

I heard once in a talk on vocations given at my college that I am at the “age of falling in love”. I found this to be an interesting way to put it, but I understand the point the speaker was making. As a junior in college, I am in a unique place of intentionally contemplating and praying for openness to God’s will for my life. Whether that be a call to natural marriage and motherhood, to a life of total consecration as a religious sister, whatever it may be, it is all about where I will best live out union with my Beloved during this lifetime. If you consider it this way, every single one of us, no matter age or marital status, is at the age of falling in love, namely, with He Who is Love.

Living out union with Our Beloved is the very reason for our existence. In perceiving that we were created in the Imago Dei, the “Image of God”, we come to terms with this. We have been created as human beings by Being Himself. It is important to recognize we are human beings, not human doings. In accepting this, we are able to recognize our life purpose to a greater degree, that is, “to love and be loved”. The fundamental way we do this while on earth is through devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Growing up, I was catechized well. I was exposed to Eucharistic devotions such as adoration, processions, and fervent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. As a young child I remember being beyond delighted when I thought about receiving my first Holy Communion, mindful of the saints I read about and how they spoke of the Eucharist as the greatest treasure. I was so excited to share in this treasure. As a child, loving our Lord was simple. It was clear to me that my call was to love God.

As I grew in age, I simultaneously grew in the awareness that the world was not under the primary mission of loving God. Our fallen world draws further and further away from peace, from reverence, and

from the recognition that our lives are not about ourselves. I encountered this as I grew into adolescence and, as a result, shifted my focus from what was most important to what others thought of me, my personal comforts being met, and worldly goods as a whole. Instead of allowing the visible to point me to the invisible, I began seeking my end in the visible. Nevertheless, I remained faithful to praying and attending Sunday Mass. Yet, in a way, I compartmentalized God. I had not given Him my total self, but rather, only those parts of me that appeared better than others, the parts that were easy to surrender.

Soon after this, I was faced with the reality that Jesus’ entire life on earth was about me and, therefore, it only makes sense that my entire life is about Him. Coming to terms with this hurt. It involved immense suffering. A real death had to take place. However, it is only in dying to ourselves that we can allow Christ to live in and through us. And here is where my journey to falling in love with Jesus in the Eucharist began.

Like most everyone, the spring of 2020 consisted of monumental life shifts. The biggest one being the absence of weekly reception of the Blessed Sacrament. The saying, “you don’t



infinitely greater was His hunger for me.

In the hours I have spent before Our Lord in Adoration, I often have contemplated why, of all things, He has chosen to come to us in the form of bread. Jesus Who I know to be the Son of God appears before me in a simple, flavorless Host. I realized that God’s purpose in veiling Himself is not to hide from us, but rather to reveal profound truths about Himself. Namely, how great He is and how little I am. In my littleness, I could not handle any more than the utmost humbleness of appearance. Therefore, it only makes sense that the proper response on my part is the utmost reverence, the utmost love in receiving Our Lord.

I am still learning what this means and will spend my whole life learning what it means to love my Beloved. Yet, what a dignified call this is. What a gift it is to be received into His Own Life through the reception of Holy Communion. The taste of eternity lies before me, how can I seek fulfillment elsewhere?

Editor’s note: the image accompanying this column is one of Clare Tupta’s favorites of Christ with the Eucharist, lovingly embracing the young woman who adores His Real Presence. She imagines it is her. Artist and origin unknown.

know what you’ve got until it’s gone”, though cliché, rendered absolutely true. I distinctly remember kneeling before our television screen on Sunday mornings reciting the spiritual communion prayer with an ache inside of me. I knew that Our Lord was present in the midst of my prayers, but in the absence of His physical Presence, there was a real lack. I recognized that not only did I long for Our Lord in the Eucharist, but I hungered for Him, signifying a true need. Not only this, but my own hunger led me to experience how




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NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Eucharistic Congresses

Spring 2023

DATE & LOCATION	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
April 21-22 St. James Church Charles Town	 Fr. Luke Spannagel
April 28-29 Cathedral of St. Joseph Wheeling	 Fr. Timothy Anastos
June 2-3 Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Charleston	 Fr. Joe Freedy

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS AT DWC.ORG
 and in the FaithInWV e-bulletin & *The Catholic Spirit*

Catholic Sharing Appeal 2023 Begins

Faithful Called to Strengthen the Ministries of the Church

By Joyce Bibey

As the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston kicks off the 2023 Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA), Bishop Mark Brennan reminds the faithful they are called to strengthen the ministries of the church with their gifts of prayer and financial support.

In his letter to the faithful, Bishop Brennan said, “Recently during my quiet time in prayer, I reflected on the Beatitudes, Christ’s teachings on authentic Christian discipleship. He began his instruction by saying, ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.’ Jesus goes on to tell them that they are also the salt of the Earth. What an incredible concept. But what does it mean?”

“During the time of Christ, salt was a vital element. It was used to preserve food, sustaining the lives of many during times of drought or famine. It was so important that Romans used salt as currency in many regions. This is what Christ meant for His disciples. They were the vital element to build and sustain Christ’s

church on Earth. They were called to preserve Christ’s teachings and spread the Gospel to all nations.

“We too are to be the salt of the Earth. As disciples ourselves, we are called to spread the Gospel, especially to those who are in need of God’s love and light. In serv-

See Parish/Mission Goals on Page 6

ice to others, we share His light, compassion, and love with those who need it most throughout our state. When you give to the CSA, you put your faith into deeds and help deliver shared ministries of our local church.”

Gifts to the CSA support parishes and their missions/chapels; our Catholic schools; and Catholic evangelization and outreach efforts covering all reaches of the state.

The funds from the CSA are crucial for Catholic schools including school-based health and wellness programs; tuition assistance programs; professional devel-

opment for faculty, staff, and advisory boards; retreats; religious sisters in schools; and school enrichment programs.

Funds raised for evangelization and outreach will help fund local activities for the Eucharistic Revival Parish Year planned by churches; Camp Carlo; food pantries; social ministries such as the new Walking With Moms program, addiction recovery, and prison ministry; and Catholic Charities.

“The kickoff of the CSA is always such an exciting time of year for our office, because we get to work closely with pastors, administrators and volunteers to go over the various ministries and programs supported by the appeal,” said Heidi Sforza, director of annual giving for the diocese.

“I’ve learned so much about our churches and state through our various meetings and programs over the years. Having the opportunity to meet with pastors and help them fulfill their parish needs, whether it be for building maintenance, technology upgrades, or expanded ministries is always a joy.”

Director of Stewardship and Development Krissie Benson concurs with Sforza and added that the CSA is an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the uniqueness of our parishes that unite to strengthen our work as Christ’s hands and feet.

“Over the years the Catholic Sharing Appeal has proven to be an opportunity for the faithful to unite together to serve the needs throughout our diocese,”

Benson said. “This was very true this year. As we see the costs rise, unemployment uncertainty, and an unstable economy, we are even more aware that many throughout West Virginia need our help now more than ever. Donors are making a huge difference in the lives of those who benefit from programs and services made possible through the help of the CSA.”

Through the generosity of the faithful in West Virginia more than \$2.2 million was raised during the 2022 CSA for the good of God’s people. Since 2002, the CSA has raised more than \$27 million to enliven parishes, Catholic education, ministries, and outreach efforts all within the state of West Virginia.

For more information, go to dwc.org/CSA.

Each parish and mission receives an appeal goal. Together, the 2023 parish goals total \$2 million. The first 50% of the parish goal supports the various ministries and outreach efforts outlined below. Everything over 50% of the parish goal goes to the parish (free of Cathedralicum and PHRA). It is up to each parish to determine how they wish to use the funds they receive, whether it be for building maintenance, youth programs, debt reduction, etc.

THE PORTION OF APPEAL MONEY THAT REMAINS AT THE DIOCESE WILL BE ALLOCATED THE FOLLOWING WAY:

Evangelization and Outreach – 31.5% (Up to \$335,000)

- Evangelization & Formation
- Camp Carlo
- Food Pantry Grants
- Social Ministry
- CCWVa

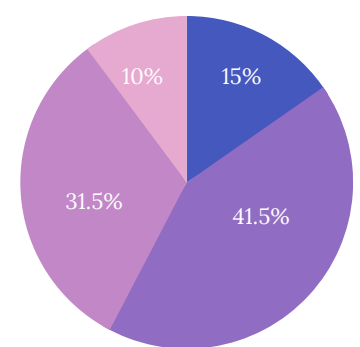
Catholic Education – 41.5% (Up to \$415,000)

- School-Based Health
- Tuition Assistance
- Professional Development
- Professional Formation for Faculty/Staff
- Religious Sisters in Schools
- School Grants

Parishes & Missions – 15% (Up to \$150,000)

- Parish & Mission Grants

CSA Costs – 10% (Up to \$100,000)



- Parishes & Missions
- Catholic Education
- Evangelization & Outreach
- CSA Costs



CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL 2023

PARISH & MISSION GOALS

\$2 MILLION GOAL

WHEELING VICARIATE

Cathedral of St. Joseph	Wheeling	\$18,730
Corpus Christi Parish	Wheeling	\$27,315
Immaculate Conception Parish	New Cumberland	\$8,225
Our Lady of Peace Parish	Wheeling	\$24,920
Our Lady of Seven Dolours Mission	Triadelphia	\$5,145
Sacred Heart Parish	Chester	\$14,825
Sacred Heart of Mary Parish	Weirton	\$15,595
St. Alphonsus Parish	Wheeling	\$9,985
St. Anthony Parish	Follansbee	\$23,295
St. Francis Xavier Parish	Moundsville	\$21,385
St. James Parish	McMechen	\$4,285
St. John Parish	Benwood	\$5,240
St. John Parish	Wellsburg	\$16,335
St. Joseph Parish	Proctor	\$4,830
St. Joseph the Worker Parish	Weirton	\$47,525
St. Jude Parish	Glen Dale	\$10,460
St. Michael Parish	Wheeling	\$67,630
St. Paul Parish	Weirton	\$30,325
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	Wheeling	\$38,655

CHARLESTON VICARIATE

Ascension Parish	Hurricane	\$24,375
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart	Charleston	\$68,660
Blessed Sacrament Parish	South Charleston	\$41,390
Christ the King Parish	Dunbar	\$6,725
Holy Trinity Parish	Nitro	\$8,080
Immaculate Conception Parish	Montgomery	\$4,180
Our Lady of Fatima Parish	Huntington	\$40,585
Our Lady of the Hills Parish	Elkview	\$6,100
Risen Lord Mission	Clay	\$1,755
Sacred Heart Mission	Point Pleasant	\$3,475
Sacred Heart Parish	Huntington	\$11,665
Sacred Heart Parish	Williamson	\$7,830
St. Agnes Parish	Charleston	\$18,775
St. Anthony Parish	Charleston	\$10,470
St. Anthony's Shrine Mission	Boomer	\$5,820
St. Barbara Mission	Chapmanville	\$1,420
St. Francis of Assisi Parish	Logan	\$6,810
St. Francis of Assisi Parish	St. Albans	\$24,370
St. Joseph Parish	Huntington	\$65,375
St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish	Madison	\$2,450
St. Patrick Mission	Bancroft	\$3,450
St. Peter Claver Parish	Huntington	\$5,540
St. Stephen Parish	Ona	\$7,580

BECKLEY VICARIATE

Holy Family Parish	Richwood	\$3,495
Sacred Heart Parish	Bluefield	\$25,340
Sacred Heart Mission	Powhatan	\$2,420
Sacred Heart Mission	Rainelle	\$2,405
Sacred Heart Parish	Princeton	\$19,510
Ss. Peter and Paul Parish	Oak Hill	\$17,270
St. Anne Parish	Webster Springs	\$2,175
St. Brendan Parish	Elkins	\$20,695
St. Catherine of Sienna Parish	Ronceverte	\$8,280
St. Charles Borromeo Parish	White Sulphur Springs	\$7,800
St. Francis de Sales Parish	Beckley	\$44,145
St. John the Evangelist Parish	Summersville	\$14,600
St. John Neumann Parish	Marlinton	\$4,065
St. Mark the Evangelist Mission	Bartow	\$1,545
St. Patrick Parish	Hinton	\$6,060
St. Peter Parish	Welch	\$2,070

CLARKSBURG VICARIATE

All Saints Parish	Bridgeport	\$49,120
Good Shepherd Parish	Glenville	\$2,210
Holy Rosary Parish	Buckhannon	\$13,350
Holy Spirit Parish	Monongah	\$12,775
Immaculate Conception Parish	Clarksburg	\$73,450
Immaculate Conception Parish	Fairmont	\$23,970
Our Lady of Mercy Mission	Parsons	\$5,520
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Stonewood	\$33,805
Sacred Heart Mission	Salem	\$3,080
St. Ann Parish	Shinnston	\$13,620
St. Anthony Parish	Fairmont	\$16,800
St. Augustine Parish	Grafton	\$8,210
St. Boniface Parish	Camden	\$5,580
St. Edward the Confessor Mission	Terra Alta	\$2,930
St. Elizabeth Parish	Philippi	\$5,820
St. Francis de Sales Parish	Morgantown	\$77,710
St. James the Apostle Parish	Clarksburg	\$10,685
St. John University Parish	Morgantown	\$40,575
St. Luke the Evangelist Parish	Cheat Lake	\$25,485
St. Mary Parish	Star City	\$48,530
St. Patrick Parish	Coalton	\$5,280
St. Patrick Parish	Mannington	\$7,730
St. Patrick Parish	Weston	\$22,490
St. Peter Parish	Farmington	\$6,715
St. Peter the Fisherman Parish	Fairmont	\$24,195
St. Sebastian Parish	Kingwood	\$12,200
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish	Thomas	\$14,720
St. Thomas Parish	Gassaway	\$5,250
St. Zita Mission	Masontown	\$5,885

MARTINSBURG VICARIATE

Annunciation of Our Lord Parish	Fort Ashby	\$10,485
Assumption Parish	Keyser	\$18,280
Epiphany of the Lord Parish	Moorefield	\$5,890
Our Lady of Grace Parish	Romney	\$8,890
St. Agnes Parish	Shepherdstown	\$48,785
St. Anthony Parish	Ridgeley	\$4,095
St. Bernadette Parish	Hedgesville	\$20,370
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish	Franklin	\$2,840
St. James Parish	Charles Town	\$72,430
St. Joseph Parish	Martinsburg	\$56,530
St. Leo Parish	Inwood	\$28,950
St. Mary Parish	Petersburg	\$4,820
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	Berkeley Springs	\$14,455

PARKERSBURG VICARIATE

Christ Our Hope Mission	Harrisville	\$1,845
Holy Redeemer Parish	Spencer	\$5,655
Holy Rosary Mission	Sistersville	\$4,730
Mater Dolorosa Parish	Paden City	\$5,670
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission	Elizabeth	\$2,570
St. Francis Xavier Parish	Parkersburg	\$32,990
St. John Parish	St. Marys	\$8,070
St. Margaret Mary Parish	Parkersburg	\$49,435
St. Matthew Parish	Ravenswood	\$10,790
St. Michael Parish	Vienna	\$29,915
St. Monica Mission	Lubeck	\$3,595
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	New Martinsville	\$16,765

A Letter from Bishop Brennan on the Audit of Diocesan Finances

Dear members of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

Keeping a promise made to you, I am happy to present the audit of diocesan finances for fiscal 2022, which ended June 30, 2022. The full audited financial statements of the Diocese may be found online at www.dwc.org. My letter is part of a summary of information for readers of The Catholic Spirit, our diocesan newspaper, in its electronic and printed versions.

In reviewing the audit, keep in mind that diocesan revenue should support the efforts of the Church to promote the Gospel and bring people to Jesus Christ. Money should follow mission.

What a difference a year can make! In the fiscal 2021 report, we saw increased value in the diocesan investment portfolio. Due to a myriad of factors, stock and bond markets in fiscal 2022 put downward pressure on our assets. Even with mineral income trending higher than last year, we experienced nearly a \$29 million dollar unrealized loss in assets. My Diocesan Finance Council, our Finance Department and I continue to resist knee-jerk spending decisions because of short-term increases or decreases in investments or oil revenue. Rather, we seek long-term financial stability so that our Diocese can continue its mission in a balanced manner. With stronger policies, careful administration and trust in God's Providence, we will seek to balance our budgets and live within our means.

Having served as your Bishop since 2019, I have observed how intricate and complex is the network of relationships among our parishes, schools, charitable agencies, cemeteries, foundations and social outreach efforts. It reminds me of the diversity in our Appalachian home as we seek together to spread Christ's Good News. As St. Paul says: As in one body we have many parts and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another [Romans 12:4-5]. Our diocesan funds support a large and varied number of good works.

One unique and evolving ministry in our Diocese is our three pastoral centers. The adult side of the Mary, Help of Christians Center in Huttonsville, has closed owing to lack of use and large financial shortfalls but the camping side remains open to benefit our youth with Christ-centered camping experiences in the summer. The St. John XXIII Center in Charleston has seen increased use by Catholic and other groups. The Priest Field Center in the Eastern Panhandle has been leased to St. James Parish in nearby Charles Town. That Center is used for traditional retreats and meetings but also serves as a base for St. James' outreach ministries, feeding programs, emergency shelter placements and other

stewardship projects. During the first year of this plan, Priest Field has recorded a \$600,000 turnaround, which you will see reported in the lower cost of pastoral center operations in the financial report.

Some of our Catholic schools are bursting at the seams with higher enrollments while others have not grown or have seen a decrease in enrollment. The West Virginia Hope Scholarship program, a publicly funded program but not in operation until fiscal 2023, gives us an opportunity to attract more students to our Catholic schools, which did an outstanding job during the COVID pandemic. In the end, though, it is Catholic parents who must show they want Catholic education to succeed by being willing to send their children to Catholic schools.

Some Catholic parishes are growing with more parishioners now than before the pandemic. Others continue to webcast their liturgies for the homebound while encouraging the healthy and able to come to church. You will note in the financial report that diocesan support for parishes and schools is significantly higher than last year, in large part because of the financial toll of a changing economy.

Last year I urged parishes and schools to consider retiring long-term debt because of a rising interest rate environment. I'm pleased to report that several parishes and schools have retired long-term debt through fund-raising campaigns, careful financial planning and debt elimination strategies supported by the diocesan Chancery. Dollar-for-dollar write-off options are available to all parishes in the diocese, based on debt management commitments and endowment development in the West Virginia Catholic Foundation. In fiscal 2022 we implemented a new capital matching grant program, whereby parishes can earn up to \$50,000 for approved projects that also enjoy local financial support. I relish these opportunities to collaborate with our parishes and schools that are striving to better position themselves to carry on Christ's work.

Jesus said, The poor you will always have with you and whenever you wish you can do good to them [Mark 14:7]. A requirement of our faith in good economic times and bad is to care for our neighbor in need. Increased parishioner support of the 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal enabled the Diocese to earmark funds for parish food pantries, Catholic school tuition assistance and other outreach efforts towards children and families, regardless of religious affiliation. As you will see in the financials, the CSA has rebounded dramatically since the pandemic. This partnership with our parishes is flourishing thanks to your stewardship and generosity, even in a time of high inflation and rising costs to families. I am most grateful

to you who support the CSA and your parish collections.

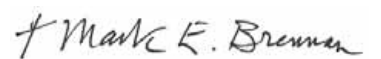
You will note in the audit report that the Diocese had more lawsuit settlements in fiscal 2022. The Lord once said: Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him [Matthew 5:25]. That is good advice. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, settlements that are reasonable avoid contentious trials that can reopen the wounds of abuse victims and obscure the good work our people are doing to keep Church environments safe for children and youth. We continue to pay for counseling for victims of abuse or harassment from funds derived from the sale of the former episcopal residence and the return of some money from the previous bishop. To strengthen our efforts to ensure the safety of our young people, I have asked for onsite audits of parish and school safe environment measures to be conducted annually in our Diocese rather than every three years. We cannot fall asleep at the switch. Our children's safety is of paramount importance.

Every day, priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers and lay faithful in 55 counties across the 24,000 square miles of the Mountain State find ways to use their gifts and build up the Church in love. As St. Paul told a young

disciple: I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God . . . For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control [II Timothy 1: 6-7]. Our diocesan financial resources are directed to sustaining and enhancing their efforts, for money should follow mission.

I pray that we may all have the courage to step forward in faith and use our material resources and personal talents in service to others. When we do so, we fulfill the Lord's will by "living the truth in love." God bless you, your families and all your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

N.B. I am very grateful for the hard work and dedication of our diocesan Finance Office, which once again this year has received a clean audit letter. The members of that Office are helping me be a trustworthy steward of the resources which the Diocese is blessed to have.

See Information Below
and Report on Pages 8-9

PARISH ASSESSMENTS

5 Things You Should Know

What exactly happens to the money you donate at your parish on Sunday?
Where does the money go?
How is it spent?

Here are five important things you should know about the Diocesan Assessment and what it means at your parish.

THE NUMBERS 1

91 cents of every dollar (or more in many instances) stays right in your parish. The Diocese does, however, assess some collections in the parish.

6% of the Diocesan Assessment is used to fund the Priest Health and Retirement Fund (PHRA). This money does not come to the Diocese but rather is allocated to a separate entity. It is used to support our priests as they age and leave active ministry and enter retirement.

3% of the assessable income is Cathedraticum. This is what is used to provide operational support for the Diocese. The assessment in our Diocese is one of the lowest in the country. What we receive in assessments that the Diocese collects is not alone sufficient to sustain Diocesan operations. The 3 percent is returned to parishes in need, such as mission parishes or parishes that have difficulty covering parish operations through their collections. The assessment is also used to support Catholic Charities West Virginia and Catholic Education.

DEDUCTIONS 2

Just like with taxes, there are deductions referenced above. Under the current structure, parishes are able to maximize their offertory income by taking advantage of the following deductions:



- The first \$100,000 of offertory and memorial contributions are exempt from the 3% and 6% assessments.

YOUR OFFERTORY DONATION

3% - Cathedraticum
"Amount of parish funds assessed annually by the Diocese."

6% - Priest Retirement Fund
"Now Diocesan Held"

91% - Stays with Parish


2ND COLLECTIONS 4

Second collections are not assessed. These funds are collected for specific agencies outside the Diocese and the parish. Unless conducted by the parish for debt reduction, building funds, etc., the second collection is strictly a pass through the funds are not retained by the parish or the Diocese, but forwarded to the appropriate agency.

SCHOOLS 5

School funds and fundraisers are NOT assessed by the Diocese. Tuition payments, donations to schools and school fundraising revenues are not assessed by the Diocese in any form. Any Catholic Schools donation goes directly to the school and is used solely by the school for the benefit of students.

To review the Independent Auditors' Report, Audited Financial Statements, and Notes to Financial Statements please visit
www.dwc.org

• The first \$150,000 of parish support given to the school is deducted from assessable income.

• The first \$50,000 of parish support given to a Catholic high school is deducted from assessable income.

• The first \$100,000 of total bequests received in a calendar year are exempt.

• The first \$750,000 of principal and interest paid on a DWC or bank loan is deducted from assessable income.

• Approved capital campaign donations are exempt from assessment.

These deductions, which total more than \$1 million, are a great benefit to parishes as they reduce the amount parishes are assessed and increase the resources available for parish needs.

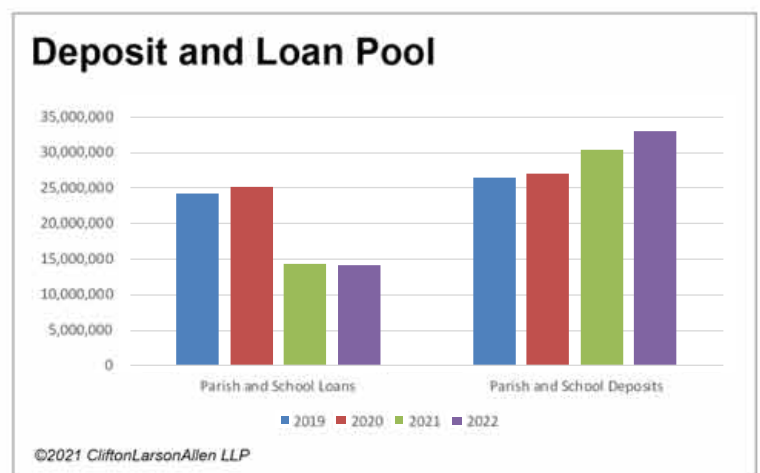
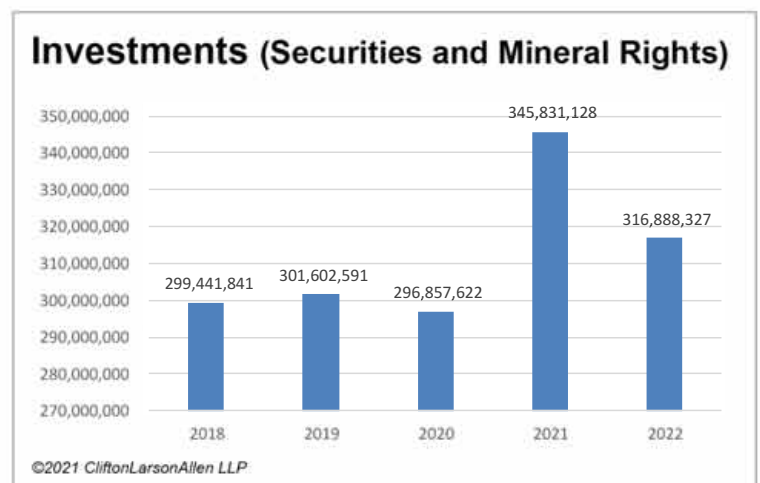
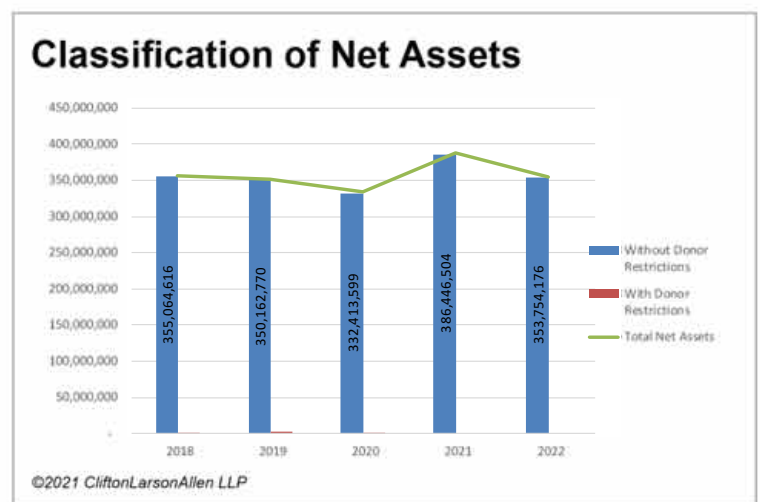
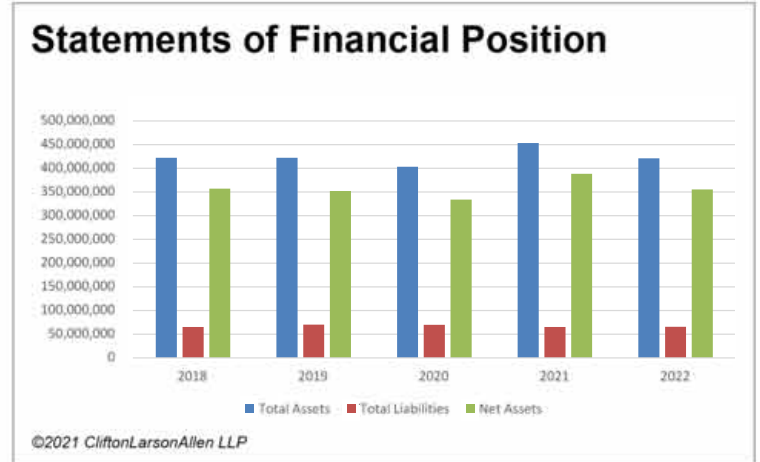
HOW IT IS SPENT 3

Cathedraticum is given right back to parishes. Currently, only about 75% of parishes across the Diocese are able to pay Cathedraticum. As noted in the recently released audit report, the Diocese collected \$405,010 in Cathedraticum for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022. The receipts from cathedraticum combined with Diocesan Funds subsidized parishes and schools at an expense of \$5,294,703. None of the Cathedraticum collected by the Diocese is used to fund Chancery operations. Cathedraticum is also not used to pay legal fees or settlements.

Statements of Financial Position - June 30, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,468,001	\$ 636,196
Investments		
Securities, at Fair Value	241,940,327	283,633,128
Mineral Rights, at Fair Value	64,948,000	52,198,000
Total Investments	306,888,327	335,831,128
Receivables, Net of Allowances for Uncollectible Amounts		
Mineral Rights	2,770,278	1,662,093
Investment Income	553,561	612,196
Promised to Give and Bequests	142,585	357,553
Accounts	173,846	134,635
Premiums, Reimbursements, and Assessment	3,300,377	3,167,444
Notes Receivable	11,673,979	12,324,207
Prepaid Expenses and Other	337,064	299,534
Property, Buildings, and Equipment		
Net of Accumulated Depreciation	64,368,918	68,150,825
Interest in Net Assets of Diocesan Real Estate, Inc	28,403,988	29,181,524
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	1,003,622	1,193,585
Total Assets	421,084,546	453,550,920
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	5,270,952	1,751,113
Payable for Securities Purchased	9,014	765,861
Catholic Sharing Appeal Grants Payable	262,563	306,828
Amounts Payable for Collections to Other Organizations	228,516	361,608
Loan Payable	--	--
Promise to Give Payable	1,687,500	2,500,000
Deferred Revenue	580,731	534,182
Certificates of Deposit Payable	32,981,060	30,334,810
Lines of Credit Payable	24,532,446	28,422,581
Total Liabilities	65,552,782	64,976,983
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	287,861,286	316,482,471
Designated - Victim Outreach	1,594,808	1,854,078
Invested in Property and Equipment	64,298,082	68,109,955
Total Without Donor Restrictions	353,754,176	386,446,504
With Donor Restrictions	1,777,588	2,127,433
Total Net Assets	355,531,764	388,573,937
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 421,084,546	\$ 453,550,920

Statements of Financial Position is represented in the following graphs

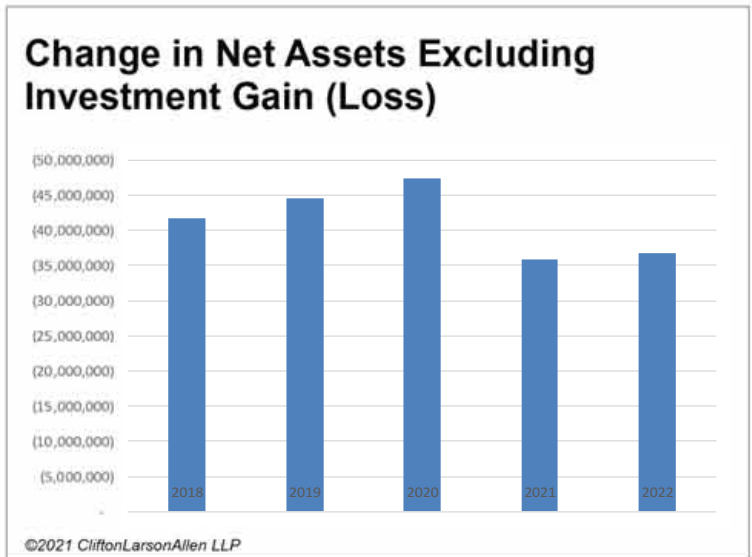
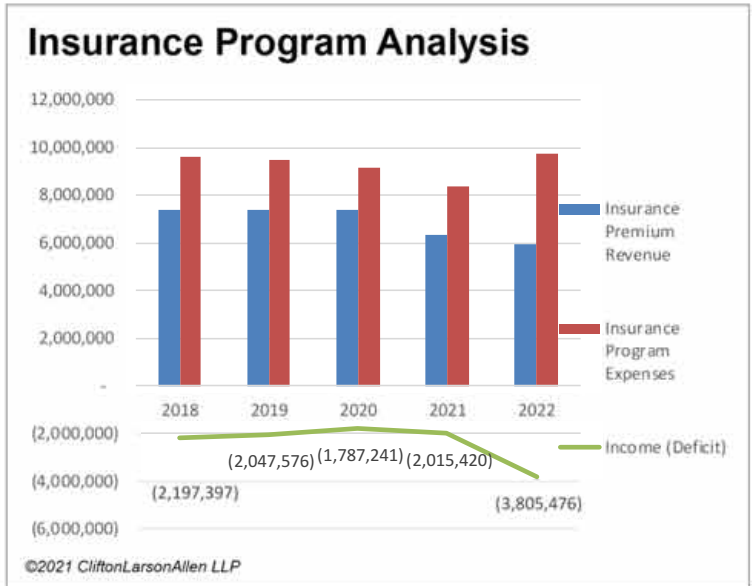
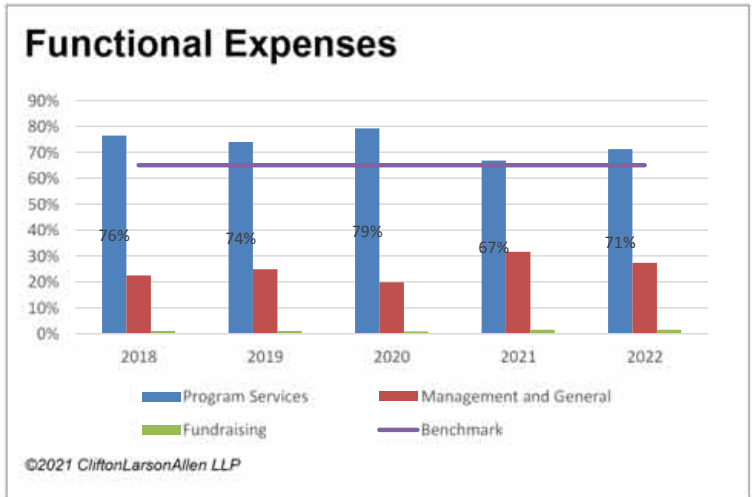
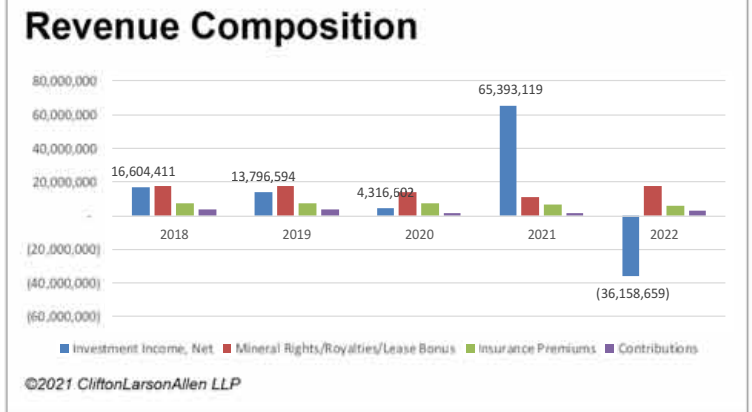


Statements of Activities - June 30, 2022 and 2021

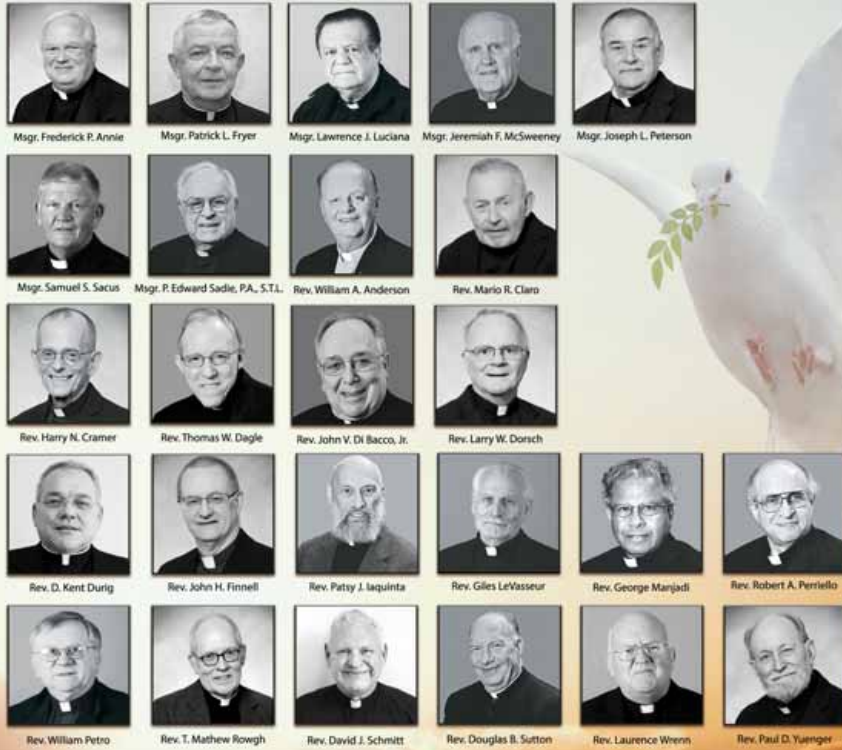
* Does Not Reflect Donor Restrictions

	<u>2022 Totals</u>	<u>2021 Totals</u>
Revenues		
Cathedraticum	\$ 405,010	\$ 346,339
Bequests and Contributions	533,576	609,532
Catholic Sharing Appeal	2,301,013	1,037,515
Use of Facilities	744,058	625,150
Insurance Premiums	5,958,734	6,360,008
Cemetery Fees	460,540	498,951
Gain (loss) on Disposal of Assets	(654,604)	(407,155)
Gain (loss) of Diocesan Real Estate, Inc	(777,536)	(1,002,686)
Gain on extinguishment of note payable	--	2,019,312
Other Income	276,552	242,287
Total Revenues	9,247,343	10,329,253
Income from investments		
Investment Income, Net	(36,158,659)	65,393,119
Mineral Rights Royalties and Lease Bonus Revenue, Net	17,823,740	10,790,828
Unrealized Loss on Oil and Gas Properties	12,750,000	3,905,000
Total Income from Investments	(5,584,919)	80,088,947
Total Revenues and Income from Investments	3,662,424	90,418,200
Expenses		
Program Services		
Insurance Programs	9,764,210	8,375,428
Parish and School Deposit and Loan Program	(856,717)	610,889
Pastoral Centers	1,825,857	2,140,211
Parish and School Subsidies	5,294,703	4,173,384
Parish Catholic Sharing Appeal Grants	1,490,311	325,026
Vocations and Seminarians	1,077,817	656,711
Catholic Charities Subsidy	1,452,240	1,441,280
Evangelization and Education	2,868,358	2,590,823
Communications and Technology	1,394,336	1,427,742
Mt Calvary Cemetery	812,972	737,051
Outside Entity Support	1,010,074	594,439
Wheeling University	--	850,000
Total Program Services Expense	26,134,161	23,922,984
Support Services		
Management and General	\$ 5,302,125	\$ 5,255,922
Mineral Management	1,158,941	1,833,334
Diocesan Properties	1,155,426	1,173,431
Investigations, Suits, and Related	2,411,798	3,055,335
Fundraising and Development	542,146	547,304
Total Supporting Services Expense	10,570,436	11,865,326
Total Expenses	36,704,597	35,788,310
Change in Net Assets	(33,042,173)	(54,629,890)
Net Assets, June 30, 2022	\$ 355,531,764	
Net Assets, June 30, 2021		\$ 388,573,937

Statements of Activities is represented in the following graphs



“HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.”
-ROMANS 5:5



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- Paul Grist

West Virginia Senate Passes SB 552, Women’s Right to Know Act

CHARLESTON—On March 1, the West Virginia Senate voted to reinstate laws that provide informed consent to women who qualify for an abortion. The vote was 31-2. SB 552 now moves on to the House.

“Despite the circumstances of conception, women in West Virginia deserve to be provided with factual fetal development information, directed toward help organizations, and to be informed about all their options when it comes to herself and the child growing in her womb. This law will protect women from facing future regret because they were unaware of their options,” said West Virginians for Life (WVFL) Legislative Director Sadie Keaton.

SB 552, the Women’s Right to Know Act, will reinstate laws that were repealed when the Unborn Child Protection Act was passed last fall. It will provide women, who qualify for abortion exceptions, with information on surgical and chemical abortions and the alternatives, on abortion pill reversal, and on disabilities and support organizations when the mother is told that her child has special needs.

“The pro-life movement has always served women by providing them with care, resources, knowledge, and support. We are very thankful for the senators who worked hard to keep their pro-life promise by reinstating the Women’s Right to Know Act,” said West Virginians for Life President Wanda Franz.

Wheeling University Has Sanction Lifted by Higher Learning Commission

WHEELING — The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has removed the sanction of probation for Wheeling University effective immediately. The HLC took this action during its meeting on February 23.

In a letter to Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede, the accrediting body noted the “HLC took this action based on the institution’s ability to demonstrate it is now in compliance with all of HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation.”

The HLC stated in its report to Wheeling that the university “has made significant progress in all areas of concern that resulted in the sanction of probation ... Notably, the progress in reversing the enrollment free-fall, in returning to growth, and in beginning the process to make plans and projections more realistic are commendable.”

Additionally, the accrediting board noted the university has “stabilized staffing after a period of downsizing and employee turnover associated with fiscal exigency,” returning to regular academic and operational processes. Also, it applauded “the institution’s demonstrated improvements and its return to compliance with HLC criteria.”

“We are forever grateful for God’s continued grace on Wheeling University and thankful to the HLC Board of Trustees for its decision,” said

Favede. “This is wonderful news, and the culmination of two years of hard and dedicated work of our faculty, staff, alumni and Board of Trustees, and their steadfast commitment to Wheeling University.”

Accreditation by HLC, commonly known as ‘regional accreditation,’ is awarded to qualifying higher education institutions following an investigation by independent external auditors through the Higher Learning Commission. It validates the quality of an institution’s academic programs at all levels. Regional accreditation is highly regarded worldwide, because it is a comprehensive, peer-reviewed process that ensures a consistent quality standard for higher education institutions. Institutional accreditation by the HLC assures current and prospective students that credits and degrees earned from Wheeling University meet quality higher education standards and ensures that Wheeling students are eligible to take advantage of all federal and state financial aid programs.

Favede said, “The university community viewed this challenge as an opportunity to improve as an institution. At Wheeling University, resilience is part of our institutional DNA. On behalf of the Wheeling University’s Board of Trustees, I thank the faculty, staff and students for their

herculean effort in making this accomplishment possible. While this is exciting news, all of us at Wheeling University remain committed to constantly assessing our work to continuously grow and improve Wheeling University. In addition, our commitment remains to provide our students an excellent education, grounded in Ignatian principles, which has been our top priority since 1954.”

In February 2021, the HLC changed Wheeling’s status from ‘accredited’ to ‘accredited – on probation.’ Since then, the university remained fully accredited, and this status did not alter its ability to award degrees or its status regarding academic programs. At that time, the Higher Learning Commission also removed the financial distress designation it imposed on the university in May 2019. The Higher Learning Commission posted Wheeling University’s change of status on its website Tuesday, Feb. 28.



Support for Susan

Courtesy Photo
Catholic Charities case managers work one-on-one with clients to support them as they work toward their goals.



Recently, a young mother named Susan came to us after being negatively affected by COVID. She had lost her home and was looking for help for herself and her three children.

While she was happy to hear about the housing and utility assistance that we provide, she wanted a more permanent solution – a way forward for her family. For clients like Susan, we provide case management.

In case management, we utilize a strengths-based approach, respecting our clients as the experts in their own journey, and promoting their positive skills and lived experiences as they decrease barriers toward goal attainment.

Six months after being enrolled in case management, Susan had gained new employment skills, support for her children, and permanent housing.

The people that come to us are capable of amazing things, and our case managers support and encourage them as they accomplish their goals.

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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Film Stars, Others Kick off Hallow ‘Pray40 Challenge’

CHICAGO (OSV News) — Former agnostic Alex Jones, co-founder and CEO of the popular Hallow app, has tapped actors Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie and Jim Caviezel, as well as “Bible in a Year” podcast host Father Mike Schmitz and Rwandan genocide survivor and author Immaculée Ilibagiza, for this year’s Pray40 challenge.

The daily prayer and meditation series, available on the Hallow app beginning on Ash Wednesday, invites participants to set aside time with God each day leading up to Easter. Prayers and reflections are also available in Spanish and Portuguese, led by Eduardo Verástegui and Juliano Cazarre respectively.

A former agnostic, Jones,

29, told OSV News that he returned to his faith after exploring other forms of meditation, and he now wants to use modern technology to invite others to contemplative Catholic prayer.

“God is able to sanctify every aspect of our lives,” Jones said. “There’s nothing he can’t use to help us grow close to him.”

Brothers Serving in Summersville Complete Service in West Virginia

SUMMERSVILLE—Father Rene Gerona, SVD, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville, announced that two religious brothers who were serving in Summersville are returning to their province. Brother John DeBold and Brother Gerard “Jerry” Raker will be moving back to the Society of the Divine Word retirement facility in Techny, IL.

The departure was unplanned, but necessary due to the medical attention that Brother John needs, Father Rene noted. The planned date for their move was Feb. 28.

“In the name of all of us here in the diocese, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Brother John and Brother Jerry for the years of service rendered to St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville,” said Sister Martha Gomez,

RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. She asked all the faithful to pray for these missionaries, as she knows they will continue to pray for us.

If you would like to send Brother John and Brother Jerry a card you can use the address for the missionaries: Society of the Divine Word, 1985 Waukegan Rd, Techny, IL 60082

Founded in 1875 by St. Arnold Janssen, the Society of the Divine Word is the largest Roman Catholic order that focuses on missionary work. Worldwide, the Society of the Divine Word is organized into 60 provinces. Each province is made up from men from all difference parts of the globe. With 250 men, the Chicago Province is the Society of the Divine Word’s largest province in the Western Hemisphere.

Take a Free Online Course at Catholic Distance University during Lent

Prayer is the first pillar of Lent, a time of renewal and reflection. As you strive to grow in holiness and reflect on what it means to follow Christ, deepen your prayer life by taking an online non-credit independent study course at Catholic Distance University (CDU).

Tuition is free, thanks to a partnership with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and study can be completed when one has time available. Sign up and enroll at <https://www.pathlms.com/cdu>. Be sure to use the access code, CDU20DIOCESEWC, to receive your free tuition. Nearly 60 courses are offered, but here are a few that are especially meaningful during Lent:

The Gospel of St. Matthew

Immerse yourself in St. Matthew’s account of Christ’s ministry, which reveals that Jesus of Nazareth is truly the Messiah foretold by the prophets, the Son of God.

The Our Father: Gateway

to Scripture

When the disciples asked Jesus how they should pray, he taught them the Our Father. Come to understand the the wisdom and power of the prayer you’ve known since childhood.

Liturgy of the Hours

Learn more about the daily prayer of the Church that marks the hours of each day and sanctifies it through reflection on the mystery of Christ and Scripture, especially the Psalms.

The Psalms: Israel’s Prayer and Ours

The Psalms were the daily prayer of Jesus and are also the prayer of the Church, prayed daily in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Introduction to the Catechism

Taking a deeper dive into the Catechism this year? Learn about the history and background of Catholic Catechisms and how the current Catechism was developed.

Christ: The Suffering Servant of Isaiah

The Suffering Servant, the

mysterious figure described in the Book of Isaiah, is a messianic prophecy of Christ and is highlighted during the readings of Holy Week.

For any questions or help with enrolling, contact continuingeducation@cdu.edu or call 1-888-254-4CDU, ext. 731.



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Eucharistic Revival to be Held at Fairmont Parish

FAIRMONT—St. Anthony Church in Fairmont will sponsor a Eucharistic Revival with Father Walt Jagela as presenter March 12-16 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Father Jagela, pastor of All Saints Parish in Bridgeport, will present the reflections of Cardinal Blasé Cupich of Chicago in a five-part series.

All area parishioners are welcome from high school youth to adults. Refreshments will be provided.

Catholic Men of West Virginia, Married or Single, Consider the Vocation of a Deacon

The diocese is accepting applications for the next class of permanent deacons.

Note: Only the application form and the letter of recommendation from your pastor must be submitted prior to April 15.

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



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Estrellas de cine, una sobreviviente de genocidio, y un sacerdote conocido por sus podcasts inician el desafío de oración para la Cuaresma 'Pray40' de Hallow

Por Gina Christian

(OSV News)—Un ex agnóstico se ha asociado con tres estrellas de cine, una autora y un sacerdote para lanzar una iniciativa de oración de Cuaresma.

Alex Jones, cofundador y director ejecutivo de la popular aplicación de oración Hallow, ha contactado a los actores Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie y Jim Caviezel, así como al presentador del podcast "Bible in a Year", el Padre Mike Schmitz, y a la sobreviviente del genocidio de Ruanda y autora Immaculée Ilibagiza, para el desafío para la Cuaresma "Pray40" de este año.

La serie diaria de oración y meditación, disponible en la aplicación móvil Hallow a partir del Miércoles de Ceniza, invita a los participantes a reservar un tiempo con Dios todos los días antes de la Pascua. El Padre Schmitz, Wahlberg, Caviezel, Roumie e Ilibagiza narran las oraciones y reflexiones, que también están disponibles en español y portugués, dirigidos por Eduardo Verástegui y Juliano Carré respectivamente.

La campaña de oración cuaresmal Pray40 del año pasado

atrajo a unos 250,000 participantes diarios, según un comunicado de prensa de Hallow, un número impresionante dado que hace solo unos años, Jones se describía a sí mismo como un "agnóstico" que, a pesar de haber sido criado como católico, "nunca había oído hablar de la profunda tradición de la oración cristiana", dijo a OSV News.

"Me alejé de mi fe en la escuela secundaria y la universidad", dijo.

Habiéndose graduado en ingeniería en la Universidad de Notre Dame, Jones, de 29 años, comenzó a trabajar en consultoría estratégica y se sintió atraído por lo que llamó "meditación secular".

Usando aplicaciones para guiar sus meditaciones, Jones dijo que, sin embargo, "se sintió atraído hacia algo cristiano" y comenzó a preguntar al clero y a los religiosos si la meditación y la fe católica eran compatibles.

"Se rieron y dijeron: 'Llevamos haciendo eso 2,000 años. Se llama oración contemplativa', recordó Jones.

Volviendo a la práctica de su fe, Jones empezó a pensar en cómo crear una aplicación cató-

lica de oración, y dio con el nombre mientras "abría la Biblia al azar" en Mateo 6:9-15, el texto del Padre Nuestro.

"La palabra que más me llamó la atención fue 'hallow' ('santificado')", explica Jones. "Me hizo llorar. Era una hermosa combinación de una profunda sensación de paz y de sentido y propósito. ¿Santifico el nombre de Dios? ¿Dios me está santificando? ¿Estoy ayudando a otros a crecer en santidad?"

Sabiendo algo de programación, Jones creó un prototipo de la aplicación Hallow, cuya primera versión para iPhone era "terrible", admitió.

Pero con la ayuda de programadores profesionales, lanzó Hallow en 2018, e incluyó un componente de Cuaresma al año siguiente.

Ahora, la aplicación Hallow ocupa actualmente el número 5 entre las principales descargas de Apple para iPhones, justo detrás de TikTok y por delante de Instagram.

Jones dijo que él y su equipo cuentan con un consejo asesor teológico que incluye al Padre Schmitz, así como al director general de Word on Fire, el Padre

Steve Grunow, y al Obispo Kevin C. Rhoades, de Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

Los usuarios también sugieren sus propias devociones y textos favoritos, lo que llevó a la inclusión del clásico espiritual "La imitación de Cristo" en el reto de oración cuaresmal Pray40 de este año, dijo Jones.

"Lo leí cuando empecé a recuperar mi fe, y lo he leído unas dos o tres veces", dijo Jones. "Cada vez me impacta más. Un libro tan intenso y desafiante pone fuego en tu fe".

Mientras que las redes sociales pueden ser "increíblemente adictivas", Jones dijo que Hallow reduce las oportunidades de distracción al estar basado en audio.

Una vez que la aplicación se ha personalizado para uso personal, "no interactúas realmente con el teléfono", afirma.

E incluso si los usuarios se encuentran mirando fijamente la pantalla, "Dios es capaz de santificar todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas", dijo Jones. "No hay nada que no pueda utilizar para ayudarnos a acercarnos a Él".

(Gina Christian es una reportera nacional para OSV News.)

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, diacono, 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.

Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, March 19: Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 26: St. Ann, Shinnston, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Augustine, Grafton, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15: St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown, 5:15 p.m.
Sunday, April 16: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, April 18: St. John, Benwood, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 24: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25: St. Patrick, Weston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30: St. Matthew, Ravenswood, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. Mary, Star City, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 6: St. John University, Morgantown, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 11: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 13: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 14: Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 14: St. Joseph, Hun-

tington, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 19: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 20: St. James, Charles Town, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 21: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 22: Assumption, Keyser, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 28: St. Paul, Weirton, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 1: St. Agnes, Charleston, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 10: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 11: Sacred Heart, Princeton, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 18: Immaculate Conception, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 24: Mater Dolorosa, Paden City, 5:00 p.m.

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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.

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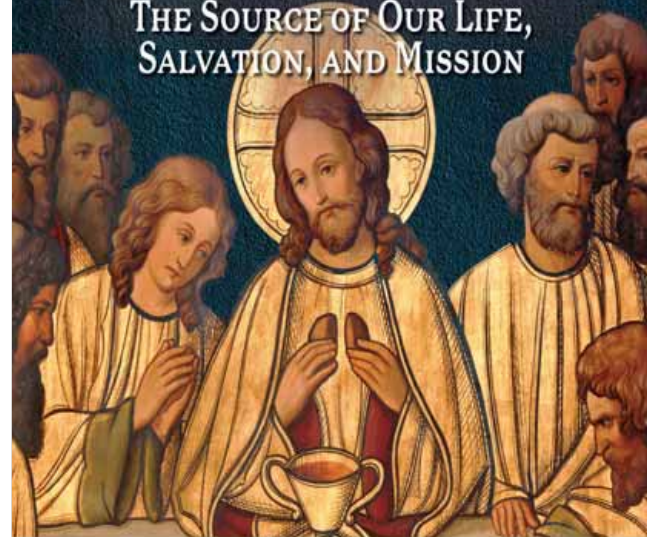


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