

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## \$512,160 Raised for Catholic Schools

One Mission  
One Day Giving  
Event Sets  
Record, Doubles  
Last Year's Total

By Colleen Rowan

**WEST VIRGINIA**—One Mission One Day (OMOD) was a tremendous success raising a record \$512,160 for the diocese's Catholic schools. This was more than double the amount raised in last year's campaign.

All of the diocese's 24 schools participated in the giving event, which was held April 27-May 4 with a total of 1,779 donors.

For St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling, \$157,152 was raised by 56 donors who took the school way past its \$100,000 goal.

"We have so many parishioners, school families, former students, and families of alumni who are exceedingly generous to our school," said Laurajenn Rossell, principal of St. Vincent's. "We are thankful to them and are truly touched by their support."

The funds raised are being used to strengthen the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Education Fund.

"This fund was designed to provide families with tuition assistance long into the future," Rossell said. "Families who entrust the care of their children to us can be assured that we are trying to provide the best possible education for these youngsters. We plan to continue the great tradition of excellent education at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School well into the future!"

See "Schools" on Page 7

Elijah Czapp, a sixth-grader at Corpus Christi School in Wheeling, and his sister Sarah Czapp, a third-grader at the school, express their thanks for the \$36,578 raised for CCS through One Mission One Day.  
Courtesy Photo



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# U.S. Bishops urge Catholics to Sign Petition against Hyde Amendment's Repeal

By **Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Diocesan Respect Life coordinators and the Pro-Life Secretariat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are encouraging Catholics to speak out against the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, legislation which bans federal Medicaid funding of abortions.

"It is so important for people in our parishes to learn about the Hyde Amendment and the life-saving, conscience-protecting impact it has had for the past 45 years. Without this protection, our federal tax dollars will contribute to millions more abortions around our nation and beyond," said Rachel Hendricks, diocesan Respect

Life coordinator for the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.

The Hyde Amendment, which first became law in 1976, prohibits use of federal Medicaid dollars for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

Named for former Representative Henry Hyde, Illinois Republican, the amendment is renewed every year as part of the appropriations bill for what is now the Department of Health and Human Services.

It was excluded, however, in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that was signed into law

March 11 by President Joe Biden.

As the amendment faces an uncertain future, the USCCB's Pro-Life Secretariat is encouraging Catholics to sign the petition asking members of Congress to oppose the Hyde Amendment's repeal at <https://www.notaxpayerabortion.com/>

The petition urges members of Congress "to ensure that the Hyde Amendment and all similar life-saving appropriations riders remain in place during the 117th Congress and beyond."

"Do not force Americans to subsidize the taking of innocent life," it adds, urging Congress to "oppose any bill, including any appropriations bill, that expands taxpayer funding of abortion."

## 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](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

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

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

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

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of 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](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

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

## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

*Spring 2021*

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling – Sunday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m.  
 St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville – Saturday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m.  
 St. Paul, Weirton – Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m.  
 St. Michael, Wheeling – Monday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Assumption, Keyser – Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 p.m.  
 St. James, Charles Town – Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m.  
 St. Leo, Inwood – Friday, May 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.  
 St. Bernadette, Hedgesville – Sunday, May 30 at 11:00 a.m.  
 St. Joseph, Martinsburg – Sunday, May 30 at 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
 St. Patrick, Weston – Wednesday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m.  
 St. Francis of Assisi, Logan – Thursday, June 3 at 5:00 p.m.  
 Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton – Wednesday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 St. Anthony, Fairmont – Friday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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# Pastoral Letter from Bishop Brennan at the end of the Easter Season, 2021

Dear clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,

## 1. The COVID-19 Pandemic

As we approach the end of the Easter season with the solemnity of Pentecost on May 23, I am pleased to share with you the good news that our recently revised norms for parish life, effective as of May 1, should help our parishes resume those social gatherings, such as coffee and donuts after Mass, funeral lunches and spaghetti dinners, that the pandemic obliged us to suspend for over a year. The revised norms are available on the diocesan website.

We still have to observe safety measures at these parish gatherings, but aren't those measures comparable to insect repellent we put on our arms and other exposed skin so we can enjoy the outdoors? We put up with a little annoyance for the greater benefit of spending time with our brothers and sisters in the faith.

Regarding Masses and other liturgical events (baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, etc.), we still must follow the safety measures that have worked so well for us for almost a year: washing our hands, physical distancing by households, sanitizing our churches (less often, based on the latest guidelines from the Center for Disease Control). I applaud all of you for your cooperation in these matters, that have enabled us to gather safely for Mass for the past year.

With respect to wearing masks at Mass and other liturgical celebrations, we have always respected our Governor's mandates, never doing less than he required. He has now stated publicly that on June 20, West Virginia Day, the mask-wearing mandate will be lifted for indoor events, assuming the state is at or close to having 65% of its inhabitants vaccinated. The Diocese will monitor this situation closely. If we decide it is safe to forego masks at Mass, we will happily do so; but if the percentage of vaccinated West Virginians is far short of the goal, we will continue to wear masks at Mass so that our people can come together to worship God safely. Since developments are happening fast and furiously, we will base our actions on the most up to date information.

Most of us older folk in West Virginia have been fully vaccinated. We now need the younger generations to step up and do the same. I urge grandparents to encourage your children and grandchildren to be vaccinated. The vaccines are safe and protect not only the one vaccinated but others with whom he or she comes into contact. This is one way of putting into practice the Lord's commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. Being vaccinated does not deny an individual's freedom, but allows that individual to freely choose to do something to promote the common good. Older folks: please talk to your family members and urge them to cooperate for everyone's good by getting vaccinated.

## 2. Feasts and Liturgical Matters

The Second Vatican Council taught that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." Everything in our life leads up to it and all our power to live in newness of life and to love as Jesus loved flows from it. Why is this so? Because the Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ in person. In a mysterious way that we can describe but not truly explain, he changes bread and wine in their deepest reality into his Body and Blood, so that he can build us up from within. A genuine belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is essential to Catholic faith and to receiving the benefits of our Holy Communion.

The solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, often called by its Latin name, Corpus Christi, this year on June 6, is a time to reaffirm

our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist. But it should not be limited to Mass. There is a great tradition of public processions in which the Eucharist is carried through the streets on Corpus Christi Sunday, letting us Catholics show our friends and neighbors, whether Catholic or not, that we joyfully proclaim our faith in the Eucharistic Lord. I ask the pastor of every parish to organize such a procession, ending, if possible, with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

This year the Gospel for Ordinary Time is St. Mark. But Mark is a sprinter, not a long-distance runner. St. John fills in for several weeks in the summer, starting July 25, in what is called the Bread of Life Discourse. It is an excellent opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist as John takes us from seeing Jesus feed thousands with ordinary bread as a sign of his messiahship, to hearing the call to put our faith in Jesus as the new manna sent down from heaven, to grasping that everything about him – his words, his actions, his person – is "bread" for us to feed on, to believing that he, the living bread from heaven, offered his flesh for the life of the world, to recognizing, finally, that Jesus' Body is "true food" and his Blood "true drink," the densest, most concrete presence of him who suffered, died and rose again for our sake. I urge homilists to preach on these Eucharistic themes and the faithful to meditate at Mass and at home on the intense love that moves the Son of God to give himself to us as food for our journey of faith.

On another liturgical matter: does the posture we assume at different moments in the Mass matter? The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), which governs the celebration of the Mass, thinks so: "A common posture, to be observed by all the participants, is a sign of the unity of the members of the Christian community gathered for the sacred Liturgy: it both expresses and fosters the intention and spiritual attitude of the participants." Certain postures are seen to be more appropriate than others for particular moments in the Mass: we sit for the first readings but stand for the Gospel; we kneel from the end of the "Holy, holy" until the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, with its Doxology and Great Amen.

Normative postures are not absolutes and have varied over time. It would be a mistake to equate them in importance with believing that the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass are divinely inspired or that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. Nonetheless, as the GIRM says, common postures express bodily a unity of intention and spiritual attitude that befits the specific liturgical action taking place. I urge all, clergy, religious and lay faithful, to respect the norms for posture during Mass. Kneeling is the appropriate posture for the Eucharistic Prayer, except for circumstances in which it would be unreasonable to insist on it, such as a field Mass with no chairs, a person's health issue or an overflow congregation in which some persons are obliged to stand.

Standing has for the past fifty years been the normative posture for the reception of Holy Communion in the United States. A common posture at this moment is highly appropriate because the Eucharist manifests and builds up our unity in faith and love. No one should be denied Holy Communion because he or she kneels, but I ask those who prefer kneeling to recognize that they are adopting a private preference at a moment when manifesting with their bodies a common purpose is more appropriate.

A last note on posture: Bishop Bernard Schmitt almost twenty years ago availed himself of the permission, given by Rome to the local bishop, to establish standing as the normative posture after the Lamb of God. The three bishops of Wheeling-Charleston since then, myself included, have not seen fit to change his norm. Our young

**See "Letter" on Page 4**



## Letter ...

**Cont'd from Page 3**

people have grown up with this practice. Since tourists and neighbors from nearby dioceses, where kneeling after the Lamb of God is the practice, are often at Masses in our Diocese, it is best not to make an issue of this. We welcome them as brothers and sisters. "The law of charity is the highest law."

### 3. Equality Act

This bill, passed by the US House of Representatives and now before the US Senate, modifies the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964. It has a wonderful name and purports to prohibit discrimination against gay, lesbian, transgendered and other persons. The Catholic Church affirms the full human dignity of persons with these sexual orientations and agrees that they must be treated with respect and accorded basic human rights – for example, to employment, housing and jury duty.

If the Equality Act limited itself to these areas, it would probably be seen benignly by many who now oppose it. But the Act goes far beyond these basic protections for gay and lesbian persons. With regard to transgendered persons, it codifies in federal law a concept of gender identity that is untethered to reality; basically, you are the sex you think you are, regardless of what your body says. Having listened to persons with gender dysphoria, I know they suffer. To honestly believe you are in the wrong body, to hate the shape of your body and the sound of your voice, is a constant source of psychic pain. Such persons deserve compassion and need relief.

However, to insist that a physician, who believes that hormone treatments or surgical interventions are bad medical practice for what is essentially a psychological condition, must nonetheless give those treatments or perform that operation under threat of legal sanctions, is unfair. It is also unfair to insist that teachers and administrators in a school must agree that Joseph is now Josephine and allow the transgendered student full access to activities that are exclusively for girls. But that is what the Equality Act stipulates.

The Act commendably prohibits discrimination in employment against pregnant women. That is good. If a pregnant woman can do

her work well, even up to the day before delivery, she should be allowed to. But the Act also prohibits discrimination against those with "pregnancy-related conditions," language that some federal agencies and courts have interpreted to include abortion and other actions that end or prevent a pregnancy. A Catholic hospital could be forced to perform abortions or face the loss of federal funds. A Jewish nurse could lose her job because she objects to taking part in a sterilization of a young woman.

Finally, the Equality Act explicitly exempts itself from any appeal based on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to any of the Equality Act's provisions. No conscientious objection based on religious belief could be lodged by a person faced with doing something he or she considers morally wrong. How consistent is that in a nation that grants conscientious objector status to citizens because they object to fighting in a war?

I ask you to contact our two United States Senators, the Honorable Joseph Manchin and the Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, and urge them to vote against the Equality Act when it comes before the Senate. Tweaking it will not work. It must simply be defeated – and then a bill dealing with genuine discrimination issues could be crafted. Americans are generally fair-minded. We Catholics have the added motivation from our faith to treat our neighbor as we would want to be treated. Respecting people is necessary but agreeing with everyone's interpretation of reality is not. We who have profound problems with the Equality Act also deserve respect and a serious consideration of our views. I hope my observations on this subject are of some help to you.

Thank you for reading a very long letter which treats some very important subjects. May God bless you, your families and parishes and our great Mountain State.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



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generously,  
pray purposefully, and  
serve joyfully for a  
purpose greater than  
myself.  
Amen.





# Cardinal Ladaria Cautions U.S. Bishops on Politicians and Communion

By **Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has urged the U.S. bishops to proceed with caution in their discussions about formulating a national policy “to address the situation of Catholics in public office who support legislation allowing abortion, euthanasia or other moral evils.”

Cardinal Luis Ladaria, congregation prefect, reiterated what he said he had told several groups of U.S. bishops during their 2019-2020 “ad limina” visits, namely that “the effective development of a policy in this area requires that dialogue occurs in two stages: first among the bishops themselves, and then between bishops and Catholic pro-choice politicians within their jurisdictions.”

In the letter to Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Ladaria also insisted: such a policy cannot usurp the authority of an individual bishop in his diocese on the matter; the policy would require near unanimity; and it would be “misleading” to present abortion and euthanasia as “the only grave matters of Catholic moral and social teaching that demand the fullest level of accountability on the part of Catholics.”

The letter, dated May 7 and obtained by Catholic News Service in Rome, said it was in response to a letter from Archbishop Gomez informing the doctrinal congregation that the bishops were preparing to address the situation of Catholic politicians and “the worthiness to receive holy Communion.”

Cardinal Ladaria warned that without the unanimity of the bishops, a national policy, “given its possibly contentious nature,” could “become a source of discord rather than unity within the episcopate and the larger church in the United States.”

The cardinal also suggested the discussion “would best be framed within the broad context of worthiness for the reception of holy Communion on the part of all the faithful, rather than only one category of Catholics, reflecting their obligation to conform their lives to the entire Gospel of Jesus Christ as they prepare to receive the sacrament.”

Given the importance of the issue, which goes beyond the boundaries of the United States, Cardinal Ladaria also said, “Every effort should be made to dialogue with other episcopal conferences as this

policy is formulated in order both to learn from one another and to preserve unity in the universal church.”

The cardinal’s letter also mentioned a reference by Archbishop Gomez to a letter then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger sent in 2004 to then-Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington about Catholic politicians and Communion. The letter, Cardinal Ladaria said, was in “the form of a private communication” to the bishops and should be read only in the context of the formal 2002, “Doctrinal note on some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life.”

When the U.S. bishops made their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican in 2004, Cardinal Ladaria said, “it was clear that there was a lack of agreement regarding the issue of Communion among the bishops.”

“At that time, the development of a national policy was not under consideration, and Cardinal Ratzinger offered general principles on the worthy reception of holy Communion in order to assist local ordinaries in the United States in their dealings with Catholic pro-choice politicians within their jurisdictions,” he said.

“Cardinal Ratzinger’s communication,” he said, “should thus be discussed only within the context of the authoritative doctrinal note which provides the teaching of the magisterium on the theological foundation for any initiative regarding the question of worthy reception of holy Communion.”

The 2002 note said, “Those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a ‘grave and clear obligation to oppose’ any law that attacks human life. For them, as for every Catholic, it is impossible to promote such laws or to vote for them.”

The 2002 note did not, however, mention reception of the Eucharist.

Cardinal Ratzinger’s 2004 letter, which was never published by the Vatican, said, “Regarding the grave sin of abortion or euthanasia, when a person’s formal cooperation becomes manifest — understood in the case of a Catholic politician as his consistently campaigning and voting for permissive abortion and euthanasia laws — his pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the church’s teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist.”

“When ‘these precautionary

measures have not had their effect or in which they were not possible,’ and the person in question, with obstinate persistence, still presents himself to receive the holy Eucharist, ‘the minister of holy Communion must refuse to distribute it,’” Cardinal Ratzinger wrote, quoting from a declaration of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts on the issue of Communion for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics.

Writing to Archbishop Gomez, Cardinal Ladaria said the U.S. bishops need an “extensive and serene dialogue” among themselves and between individual bishops and Catholic politicians in their dioceses who do not support the fullness of the church’s teaching to understand “the nature of their positions and their comprehension of Catholic teaching.”

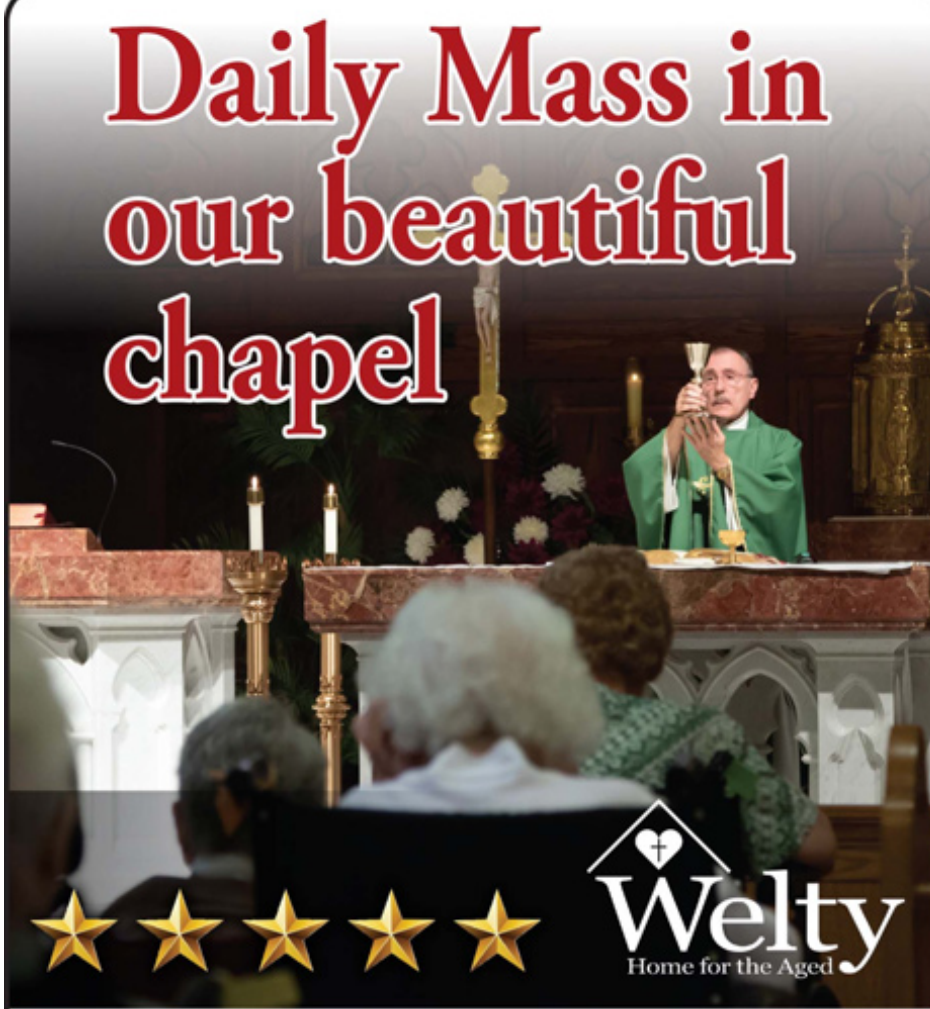
Only after both dialogues, the cardinal said, the bishops’ conference “would face the difficult task of discerning the best way forward for the church in the United States to witness to the grave moral responsibility of Catholic public officials to protect human life at all stages.”


“If it is then decided to formulate a national policy on worthiness for Communion, such a statement would need to express a true consensus of the bishops on the matter, while observing the prerequisite that any provisions of the conference in this area would respect the rights of individual ordinaries in their dioceses and the prerogatives of the Holy See,” the cardinal said, citing St. John Paul II’s 1998 document on bishops’ conferences.


Cardinal Ladaria specifically pointed to paragraphs 22 of the document, “Apostolos Suos,” which says bishops’ conferences may publish doctrinal declarations when they are “approved unanimously,” but “a majority alone” is not enough for publication without the approval of the Vatican.

He also cited paragraph 24, which says the bishops’ conference cannot hinder an individual bishop’s authority in his diocese “by substituting themselves inappropriately for him, where the canonical legislation does not provide for a limitation of his episcopal power in favor of the episcopal conference.”

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# Being a Catechist is a Vocation, Pope Says in Establishing Formal Ministry

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Calling for formal recognition of “those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis,” Pope Francis has instituted the “ministry of catechist.”

“The Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Christian faith,” the pope wrote in “Antiquum Ministerium” (Ancient Ministry), his document released at the Vatican May 11.

In addition to releasing texts of the document in Italian, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish, the Vatican distributed a video of the text translated into Italian sign language.

Pastors must support laypeople in answering the Spirit’s call and “enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the ‘penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors,’” the pope said, quoting what he had written about the vocation of laypeople in his 2013 document, “The Joy of the Gospel.”

Bishops’ conferences will need to determine the “process of formation and the normative criteria for admission to this ministry” and devise “the most appropriate forms for the service which these men and women will be called to exercise,” the pope said.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, he said, “will soon publish the Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of catechist.” The congregation already is working on revised rites for the ministries of lector and acolyte, which Pope Francis opened to women in January.

While millions of lay men and women around the world already serve as catechists, readers and altar servers, formal institution into the ministries signifies that the service is stable, delegated by the bishop and publicly recognized by the church.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, noted how St. Paul VI wrote in 1975 about the importance of laypeople using their gifts for the growth of the entire church.

“It has taken almost 50 years for the church to come to recognize that the service rendered by so many men and women through their catechetical commitment truly constitutes a distinctive ministry for the growth of the Christian community,” the archbishop told reporters at a news conference to present the pope’s document.

In his document, Pope Francis noted how teachers of the faith were present from the earliest days of the Christian community and were recognized as having a special gift of the Holy Spirit for carrying out their role



**Michael Ouma, a lay Catholic catechist who serves in the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya, is pictured in this Feb. 16, 2011, file photo. In a document released May 11, 2021, Pope Francis instituted the “ministry of catechist.”**

CNS Photo/Nancy Wiechec

within the community.

“At times,” he wrote, “the charisms that the Spirit constantly pours out on the baptized took on a visible and tangible form of immediate service to the Christian community, one recognized as an indispensable ‘diakonia’ for the community.”

In looking at the history of evangelization, the pope said, Catholics cannot overlook “the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction. Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness, who in some cases were also founders of churches and eventually died as martyrs.”

Still today, he said, “many competent and dedicated catechists are community leaders in various parts of the world and carry out a mission invaluable for the transmission and growth of the faith.”

Especially in communities without a resident priest, catechists are the leaders of the local Catholic community, evangelizing, convoking and guiding their fellow Catholics in prayer and works of charity. And, in missionary territories under the guidance of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, they already serve with a specific mandate from their bishop.

“The long line of blessed, saints and martyrs who were catechists has significantly advanced the church’s mission and deserves to be recognized, for it represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality,” Pope Francis wrote.

The formal institution of catechists, he said, should be a sign and encouragement for

all lay Catholics to recognize “even more the missionary commitment proper to every baptized person, a commitment that must however be carried out in a fully ‘secular’ manner, avoiding any form of clericalization.”

Archbishop Fisichella said Pope Francis was insisting that lay “men and women are called to express their baptismal vocation in the best possible way, not as substitutes for priests or consecrated persons, but as authentic laymen and laywomen who, in the distinctive nature of their ministry, are able to experience the full of extent of their baptismal vocation of witness and effective service in the community and the world.”

Laypeople who feel called to the ministry of catechists should be actively involved in the life of their Catholic communities and faithful to the Gospel and the teaching of the church, he said. But they also must receive “suitable biblical, theological, pastoral and pedagogical formation to be competent communicators of the truth of the faith.”

“Catechists are called first to be expert in the pastoral service of transmitting the faith as it develops through its different stages from the initial proclamation” of the Gospel, preparation for receiving the sacraments and support in living a Christian life, the pope said.

Presenting the document to reporters, Archbishop Fisichella said catechesis “cannot be improvised.”

“Those who will be catechists must know that they speak in the name of the church and transmit the faith of the church,” he said.



# Schools ...

## Cont'd from Page 1

One Mission One Day, she said, was an opportunity for the parish and school to work collaboratively for the benefit of the school.

St. Vincent's also was awarded a \$500 tuition assistance grant from the West Virginia Catholic Foundation, which pledged the money to the school that raised the most money.

The foundation also awarded \$500 to the school with the most donors, which was St. Paul's in Weirton with 317 donors.

"Our school community gave an outpouring of support this year for One Mission One Day," said Michele Martin, principal of the school. "We also saw a lot of support from our church parishioners."

St. Paul's raised \$29,448, surpassing its \$29,000 goal for the campaign.

"Our school and church community knew how much everyone has worked so hard this school year to make things as normal as possible," Martin said. "The love they showed back to us has been such a blessing. The students were excited to help also, especially since they got a chance to pie their teacher or principal in the face with the class challenges."

Martin said that all of the funds raised will be used for tuition assistance. She credited the school's Advancement Director Kim Edmiston for her creative ways to get all families involved.

The school with the second highest amount raised in the campaign was St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington going over its \$50,000 goal to raising more than \$51,351 by 124 donors. Collectively, the St. Joseph community raised almost \$60,000, said Dr. Carol Templeton, principal of St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, as almost \$8,400 was raised for the high school.

"The support of our school community has been truly overwhelming," Templeton said. "Supporting our Catholic schools will help to provide curricular enhancements, physical plant improvements, additional tuition assistance, and extracurricular opportunities that sit outside of each schools' operating budgets. On behalf of the St. Joe community, I would like to extend a big thank you for always being there to support our Catholic schools."

The third largest amount of more than \$46,109 was raised by



The Catholic Spirit Photo

Pictured is a screen shot of the One Mission One Day website at [www.onemissiononeday.org](http://www.onemissiononeday.org).

the 201 people who donated to St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling. On its page of the One the One Mission One Day website, the school listed what a donation could be used for: \$75 could provide workbooks for a student; \$130 could provide a subscription to Scholastic News for a classroom; \$500 can help provide a weekly salary for a first-year teacher; and \$1,000 helps pay for online platforms for students.

A number of other schools also provided this information on their pages of the website, including St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley. The school's 115 donors raised \$35,775 far surpassing its \$24,000 goal. The school went a step farther noting that a gift of \$2,500 covers the school's electric bill for one month, and a gift of \$5,000 covers the cost of paper for the year. Because the school surpassed its goal, the students will be treated to schoolwide pizza party and uniform holiday.

Rounding of the list of the top five schools that raised the most through the giving event are Cen-

tral Catholic in High School in Wheeling with \$37,950 raised by 123 donors, and Corpus Christi School in Wheeling with more than \$36,577 raised by 113 donors. CCS's goal was \$30,000.

School advancement directors, principals, teachers and parent volunteers really outdid themselves with this year's One Mission One Day Campaign, said Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the diocese.

"They worked so hard not only to raise funds but to bring their students, families, alumni and supporters together for a day of fun and excitement!" she said. "They worked hard for months preparing fundraisers, contests, prizes and games and it truly paid off! Not only did our schools more than double the amount of funding that they raised from last year, but they also created memories for their students that will last a lifetime. I had so much fun following their websites and social media accounts—pastors were singing and offering blessings, students were winning homework passes and dress down

days. There were even some teachers willing to take a pie to the face for the cause! I am extremely proud of what our schools were able to accomplish in such a short window of time! Everyone who supported OMOD truly made a difference in the lives of our Catholic school students!"

Although all 24 Catholic Schools did participate in One Mission One Day, a few schools held separate giving events. Parkersburg Catholic Schools participated in a separate giving event for which they raised \$19,380, and St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown held its giving day Feb. 4 during Catholic Schools Week raising \$17,680.

For a full list of results for the diocese's Catholic schools, visit [www.onemissiononeday.org](http://www.onemissiononeday.org). The site is closed for donations, but the leaderboard can still be viewed. The information will be accessible on the site until the new site is built next year.

The date for next year's One Mission One Day has not been released.

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## Diocesan Employees Offer Prayers for Bishop Brennan for His 45th Anniversary of Priesthood



Colleen Rowan Photo

Continuing the observance of the Year of St. Joseph, diocesan employees at the chancery in Wheeling gathered in front of the statue of St. Joseph in the courtyard of the Cathedral of St. Joseph for a prayer service. Employees surprised Bishop Mark Brennan, pictured at left, with prayers for his 45th anniversary of priesthood, which he celebrates May 15.

## Gov. Justice Signs ‘Second Chances at Life Act’

By **Mary Anne Buchanan**

**CHARLESTON**—West Virginians for Life (WVFL) is pleased that Gov. Jim Justice has signed the Second Chances at Life Act of 2021. The bill will require that a woman be informed that the effects of the chemical abortion pill can be reversed to save her baby if she changes her mind after taking the first pill, but not the second.

There was no formal ceremony due to Covid.

The Second Chances at Life Act (HB 2982/SB 609) successfully passed in the West Virginia Senate on April 10, the final day of the legislative session, by a bipartisan 27-6 vote. The 84-15 bipartisan House vote to concur came within a couple hours of the Senate’s action before the session ended at midnight.

“National Right to Life (NRLC) ap-

plauds West Virginians for Life, Gov. Justice, and all of the pro-life legislators who worked tirelessly to ensure that women have a right to be informed about the possibility of counteracting the effects of chemical abortions,” said NRLC State Legislative Director Ingrid Duran. “These informed consent laws provide hope and a second chance at life should the mother choose it,” Duran added, “but she must first know that the abortion pill reversal protocol exists, and that it has already saved over 2,000 babies and that her baby could be next.”

The new bill, the latest in a series of pro-life success stories in West Virginia, will require (1) the girl/woman be informed that if she changes her mind, she may be able to save her baby with the help of medical professionals; and

(2) it provides her the ability to act by informing her of the existence of a list of medical professionals versed in abortion pill reversal protocol on the existing West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Women’s Right to Know website.

Montana’s Governor Gianforte just signed a similar bill, making Montana the 11th state to do so, while Indiana’s Governor Holcomb should also be signing his state’s bill anytime now. Thus, West Virginia is the 12th state to pass abortion pill reversal legislation.

According to Lead Sponsor Delegate Kayla Kessinger, the bill will be effective 60 days from passage.

“I am pleased that other states are joining this effort to give a second chance to those girls and women who change their minds. Women deserve

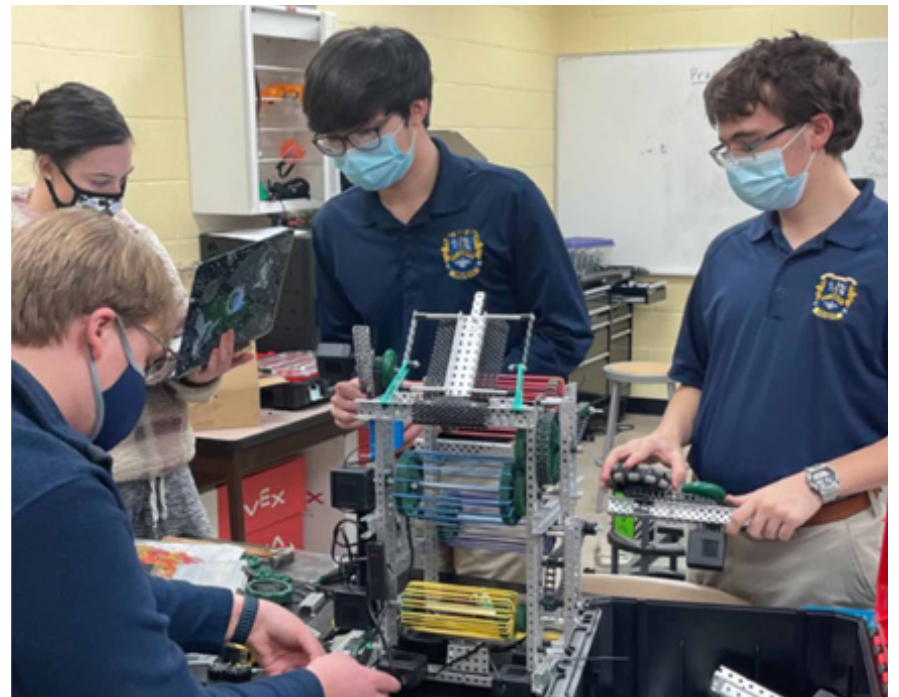
full information when making this life changing decision,” said Karen Cross, West Virginians for Life Political Liaison.

The American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a 7,000-member OB-GYN medical group, supports offering the Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) protocol to women who regret initiating the abortion pill process.

APR involves use of progesterone to reverse the effects of the Mifepristone, the first of two drugs that make up the chemical abortion technique. Progesterone has routinely been given to women during pregnancy for over 50 years and is, in fact, standard of care to prevent miscarriages. Also, it has not been shown to cause any type of harm to women or their pre-born children.



# VEX Robotics Teams from Huntington's St. Joseph Schools Competing in World Championship



Courtesy Photo

VEX Robotics teams from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington (left) and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington (right) will compete in the VEX Robotics World Competition in Dallas, Texas, this month.

**HUNTINGTON**—VEX Robotics teams from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington, are heading to the VEX Robotics World Competition in Dallas, Texas, this month.

In just their second year competing, both St. Joseph Central's VEX Robotics teams have earned their spots at the 2021 VEX World Championship! Four spots were designated for West Virginia teams and 34107K, Team Que, and 34107M, JMAMAZ, were awarded two of the four spots.

Team JMAMAZ (their team nickname representing the first letter of each member's name) won this year's Design Award, qualifying them for the world championship. The team now has the highest driving score in West Virginia. The team faced unique challenges in that they changed their robot's design mid-season. Its building took place during the ice storm that hit West Virginia mid-February.

Team Que won this year's Excellence Award at the State Championship, qualifying them for the world championship. Over the course of the season, the team has been praised for their notebook and their switch to

CC+, or text, coding. "These teams have worked diligently since August, despite the many challenges COVID-19 has presented," school officials said. "At the high school level, a great deal of planning, preparation, and patience goes into every stage of building and coding. We congratulate the teams as well as their coach, Kara Mullins, and assistant coach, Phillip Kellison. We also thank Dr. Carol Templeton (principal) for her support and dedication to this program."

The St. Joseph Catholic School Vex Robotics program competed in the West Virginia Vex IQ State Championship on April 17 fielding several teams in both the elementary and middle school divisions. St. Joseph teams earned six of the 12 spots awarded to West Virginia for the Vex Robotics World Championship.

For the second year in a row, Team 34017F, the Darth Vexers, qualified for the World Championship in the elementary division. The team won this season's Excellence Award, which is the highest honor awarded at the West Virginia Vex IQ State Championship, and also finished runner-up in the

Skills competition. The Darth Vexers finished the season ranked 15th out of 1,009 teams in the United States, and 36th out of 1,529 teams in the world.

Team 34107H, earned their World Championship entry by winning the Think Award, which is presented to the team with the most effective and consistent programming strategies and solutions to solve the game challenge. The team also finished third in the Skills competition.

Other Elementary World qualifiers from St. Joseph's include Team 34107B, The Vexters, who won the Build Award presented to the team that built the most durable robot. Two additional St. Joseph teams—Team 34107E, the West Mopz, and Team 34107D, the Vexalorians—qualified for the World Championship through their position in the World Skills Standings, ranking seventh and eighth, respectively, in the West Virginia rankings.

In the Middle School division, Team 34107A, Hot Garbage, won the Innovate Award, which is presented to the team with the most effective and efficient design process. The award earned this group of middle schoolers

their second trip to the World Championship.

Starting with last season's cancelled World Championship, the past year has presented tremendous challenges to the Vex IQ program. Despite this, St. Joseph Catholic School and its Robotics Program endured, fielding eight of 22 total West Virginia robotics teams this season.

"We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck at the World Championship," school officials said. "A very special thank you to Dr. Carol Templeton, principal of St. Joseph Central Catholic High School and St. Joseph Catholic School, for always prioritizing STEM opportunities for her students, as well as Mr. Sean Farrell, St. Joe's Vex IQ Program director. Additional thanks to the individual team mentors who volunteered countless hours the past year to make this season a reality for our students."

Team mentors include Jamie Marlowe, Whitney Heatherman, Sapna Neginhal, Joab Dellinger, Gabe Carroll, Holly Cheshire, Bernard Vallejos, Michael Sandifer, and Rex McClure.

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# Deacon Szabo's Ordination to Priesthood will be Livestreamed on Diocese's Website

By Colleen Rowan

**CHARLES TOWN**—Can't make it to Deacon Phillip Szabo's ordination to priesthood? Just watch the livestream on the diocese's website at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org).

Deacon Szabo will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Mark E. Brennan at 11 a.m. May 29 at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town. The livestream will be especially helpful to those who cannot travel that distance or who cannot attend because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Joining Deacon Szabo's family and friends for the ordination will be the priests, religious, and faith-

ful of the diocese.

"Those who cannot travel are so pleased to have the ability to watch this holy ceremony virtually," said Gina Boggess, a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton. "It is a blessing and honor for the faithful to be present in spirit witnessing Brother Phillip accepting God's call to love and serve His people."

Deacon Szabo spent a summer assignment with the people of this parish and the people of Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield, and Boggess said he is very dear to them.

"He has stayed connected to our people throughout the years and

they feel like they are a part of his journey to the priesthood," Boggess said.

A small caravan of eight to 10 members of the parishes, she said, are making the trip to Charles Town for the ordination including Father Sebastian Devasya, pastor; Deacon Don Hammond, permanent deacon; Loretta Hammond, Deacon Hammond's wife; among others.

"Living in the southern part of West Virginia, most of our people have never been afforded the opportunity to attend a priestly ordination, so there is a great sense of excitement!" Boggess said.

At his ordination, Deacon Szabo will stand before

Bishop Brennan and make the promise to serve the people of God as a priest. As he kneels before the altar, the bishop will lay his hands upon Deacon Szabo's head, calling upon the Holy Spirit to ordain him a priest. The bishop will then pray the prayer of ordination.

Deacon Szabo will be vested with the stole and chasuble by Father Giles LeVasseur and Father Timothy Grassi, two priests who have had a great impact on his life.

Deacon Szabo is the son of Joseph Szabo and Theresa Michael, and hails from Augusta in the Eastern Panhandle's Hampshire County. His home parish is



**Deacon Phillip Szabo**

Our Lady of Grace in Romney. He attended St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. He is also a registered nurse and attended Fairmont State University.

## 'Leap Hunger' Inspiring Catholics to Serve Others

By Michael Bush

**WHEELING**—On February 29, 2020 members of the Knights of Columbus gathered in Wheeling at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Mt. Olivet for a meal-packing event organized by Cross Catholic Outreach and the Knights of Columbus Carroll Council 504. This "Leap Hunger" event was the latest of multiple events coordinated with the Knights West Virginia State Council, and the response from the local Catholic community was an inspiration to watch.

Along with members from Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Peace, Carroll Council and Knights members from around the state, local children and families came together for the event. At this "Leap Hunger" event, your financial support led to a generous gift of \$14,595, and as a result, 80,000 Vitafood meals were packed for delivery to Guatemala, which needed this aid more than ever as the ensuing Covid-19 crisis plunged the Central American country into deeper poverty and hunger. These 80,000 meals increased the overall total Vitafood meals packed by West Virginia Knights to a quarter million meals.

Guatemala has one of the most acute hunger problems in the entire Western Hemisphere. Recent droughts have

affected large portions of the country. Inadequate rainfall has led to poor harvests and low agricultural production, especially for the corn and bean crops that the Guatemala economy relies on. This has led to fewer jobs and less food for poor families to feed their children.

With the pandemic creating even more hunger in Guatemala, Vitafood shipments were rushed to local partners. This included Caritas Santa Rosa, which under the compassionate leadership of Father Raul Monteroso, has been transforming lives in poor rural communities.

Through the Santa Rosa feeding program, struggling families received monthly hampers of food, preventing hunger and helping their children excel in school. In addition to this physical nourishment, the priests involved in the program minister to the spiritual need of the people with the love of Christ.

Maria Pirir is a 35 year old mother of three children, Diana, 14; Luis, 12; and Gabriel, 10. Both Maria and her husband, Miguel, grew up in poverty and could not afford to finish school. Making matters worse, Luis suffers from a speech impediment and Gabriel was born with heart

See "Hunger" on Page 11

## St. Albans Knights Install New Flagpole and Flag at Parish School



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Knights of Columbus Council #4694 in St. Albans installed a new flag and flagpole for the students and faculty of St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans. Pictured after the installation are, from left, council members Brent Estep; Dave Marra; Joe King; and Matthew Matheny, deputy Grand Knight of Council #4694.



# Convocation Gathers Priests in Charleston



Martina Hart Photo

**Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Mass for the Convocation of Priests at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston May 5.**

**By Martina Hart**

**CHARLESTON**—Over 100 priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston gathered at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center May 4-6 for their annual convocation.

They included diocesan priests of Wheeling-Charleston and from other dioceses currently serving here, religious order priests, and retired priests, all forming one presbyterium.

“It was one of the best attended convocations in the last decade,” said Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E. “The convocation proved to be a successful time of substantial fraternity, growth in intellectual and faith formation, and a true celebration of anniversaries, retirement and our beloved brothers who have gone before

us marked with the sign of faith.”

Gathering with them was Bishop Mark E. Brennan who celebrated Masses with them throughout the convocation.

Besides time for personal meditation and prayer, the convocation program included presentations by Dr. Kevin Kennedy, from the archdiocese of Washington on the theology of healing.

“His insights were practical, challenging, and ultimately, uplifting,” Father Schuelkens said. “There was a great spirit of honesty and joy throughout the three days as we address real issues,” he added. “It brings to mind the scripture, ‘Behold how good, how pleasant it is when brothers live in unity’ (Psalm 133:1).”

This year’s jubilarians were recognized during a Jubilee Eucharistic Liturgy on May 5. They are Father Patsy J. Iaquina and Father James B. McCafferty, SM, celebrating 50 years of priestly service, as well as Father Pius Akajiofor, Father William K. Matheny, Jr., Father John P. McDonough, and Father John H. Tran, SVD, with 25 years of service.

Remembered were priests who had passed away since February 2020: Father J. Michael Beers; Father Benedict E. Kapa; Father James La-Crosse, SM; Father Patsy J. Wash; Father Ronald A. Getsinger; Father Jeremiah J. Cullinane; Father Xavier Cooney, SVD; Father F. Leon Alexander; Father Stanley Uroda, SVD; and Father William P. Linhares, TOR.

## Hunger ...

Cont'd from Page 10

problems. These mounting hardships became almost too much for Maria to bear, and she came close to losing her faith. But the Santa Rosa feeding program has altered the family’s circumstances in a miraculous way. Encouraged by the food support, Maria began taking her children to church again, and Gabreil experienced a vision of Jesus and St. Peter! Since that divine encounter, he has not suffered from any heart problems, and he can help his father during harvest time without fear for his health. The other children are also doing well. Luis is improving in speech and has lost his stutter, and Diana is on the honor roll at school, better able to focus on her studies now that she has something to eat.

As you can see, your gift of service to help provide food to this family and others in Guatemala has provided much more than food. It has restored faith in God and hope for the future. Carroll Council 504 and all Knights in West Virginia thank each of you!

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# Congressman McKinley Encourages Wheeling University Grads to Find Courage to Sing Their Song

**WHEELING**—U.S. Congressman David McKinley, R-W.Va., told the Wheeling University Class of 2021 that as they take the next step in their life's journey "to find the courage to sing their song."

University President Ginny R. Favade conferred more than 200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees during Wheeling University's 63rd Commencement exercises, held Saturday, May 1, on Bishop Schmitt Field.

McKinley, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives since January 2011, served as the Commencement speaker and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University for his work on behalf of the people of West Virginia. He said his ties to the university run deep—his wife, Mary, brother-in-law are both graduates, and his grandmother was a 'house mother' at Sara Tracy Hall.

The U.S. Representative from West Virginia's First District said he was reminded of a sermon he heard by a Baptist pastor 33 years ago. McKinley said the pastor used a metaphor that "goals and aspirations are like songs trapped inside of each of us. For each of us, our songs are unique. But we must first find the confidence and courage to sing our songs."

He noted that the faculty has prepared the graduates for the next chapter of life's journey. "But you must take the next step out in the world. Fewer and fewer people are willing to take risks, unwilling to reach that higher bar."

McKinley recalled the pastor's message – "What keeps my song from being sung? Is it

past hurts, deep fears, a timid tongue? There will be times when you doubt yourself. There will be times when you fail, and that's okay. But you should not fear failure because it's through these challenges and failures you grow as a person ... you grow the most."

He told the graduates to take risks and embrace uncertainty and "to reach down inside your soul to find your song and to sing it. But don't let fear of failure stand in your way."

The Class of 2021 Valedictorian Kayla Smith, an exercise science major from Shadyside, Ohio, said, "It is kind of ironic that I am standing up here and giving this speech today, because between the years 2007 to 2015, my mom served as a faculty member and eventually the department chair of the nursing program here at Wheeling. I would always look at her and say, 'Mom, I am never going to go to that school.' I mostly said it because, one, I was acting like a brat, and two, who wants to ride to school with their mom when they're in college anyway?"

She told her classmates they endured much during their time at the university—change in leadership, a worldwide pandemic, the loss of "a well-loved and respected professor, Dr. Ken Rastall ... We preserved and are finishing strong."

On behalf of her classmates, Smith offered thanks to "the people that have gotten us here today."

Smith thanked the faculty and administration for their support, guidance, "and providing us with an education that has set us up for success. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the selfless professors who devoted countless hours to ensure that we exceed expectations and achieve our dreams."

Secondly, she thanked the families. "I know that my parents spent countless hours listening to me complain about the exams I had to take and the assignments I had to finish, but they were always in my corner cheering me on, and I can't thank them enough for that. So, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings, thank you for the unconditional love and support you've given us through some of our most difficult times."

Wheeling University, Smith said, allowed the graduates to build friendships that will last long after Saturday. She said to her friends, "You all have given me memories that will last a lifetime, and I couldn't imagine a better group of friends to have supported me the way you all did."

In closing, the valedictorian said to her classmates, "Attending Wheeling has provided us with knowledge about life and the importance of serving others, giving us the ability not to fear the future, but instead face challenges and obstacles head-on. In the Bible, Jeremiah 29 verse 11 says, 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' A few short years ago, we came here with dreams and aspirations, but today we are leaving with even bigger ambitions. We are the future doctors, nurses, educators, politicians, engineers, and everything in between. It is now our time to contribute to society and make a lasting impact on the world."

Favade could not let the graduates leave without offering them a special message.

The self-proclaimed "helicopter mom" to 800 students told the Class of 2021 that Saturday was a celebration of the "mark you're going to leave on the world. Your class has endured more in one academic



Courtesy Photo

Wheeling University conferred more than 200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees during its 63rd Commencement Ceremony May 1. From left are: Valedictorian Kayla Smith, Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favade, and Commencement Speaker, U.S. Congressman David McKinley, R-W.Va.

year than many people have endured in their lifetime."

In a year like none other, she noted the class experienced shutdown, lockdown, COVID testing, contact tracing and quarantine, the cancellation of breaks and dances, and the loss of many experiences "that seniors in any other given year would have had."


Favade told the graduates that their education "is rooted in the mission to inspire students to learn, lead and serve in a diverse changing world. Now, more than ever, you are poised to answer this call to action. You possess the necessary tools to understand varying perspectives and empathize deeply with others while also possessing the courage to call out discrimination and stand in solidarity with the marginalized."

"To say you have persevered doesn't quite describe

your experience over the past year ... I love each of you deeply. I am proud of you, of who you have become. I am grateful you stayed here with me over the past two years. That you chose to remain when others left ... You stayed, and you helped all of us save this beautiful, special university."

Finally, Favade left the graduates with words from prophet Micah - And what does the Lord require of you? To seek justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

"Seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God. Your life is an invaluable, priceless gift ... find gratitude for all you have, stay open to all that remains possible, and remain diligent in the pursuit of both personal success and selfless significance. Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."



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# Three of Ohio County's Four Golden Horseshoe Winners are St. Michael's Students

**WHEELING**—Students at St. Michael Parish School continue to shine. Thursday, May 6, Principal Kim Burge opened her email to learn that three of the four Ohio County Golden Horseshoe winners were eighth graders at her school.

"This is an amazing accomplishment and I am so proud of our students," says Burge. "This year has been so challenging for all of us and they continue to excel in and out of the classroom!"

One of the highlights of the eighth-grade year is the opportunity for a student to become a Knight or Lady of the Golden Horseshoe. This prestigious program takes its name from the golden horseshoes given to the early explorers of West Virginia. This historical tradition was revitalized in the late 1920s. To promote the study of state history. The Golden Horseshoe became known as a symbol of scholastic achievement to honor students who excel in the study of West Virginia.

The program of studies in combination with state awards is unique in its statewide recognition of scholastic achievement. Each year approximately 22,000 eighth grade students spend the school year studying a comprehensive West Virginia curriculum. The curriculum engages the students in the intense study of the history, geography, economy and government of the Mountain State. The primary goal of the program is to promote pride in the state, develop intellectual and participatory skills as well as foster attitudes that are necessary for students to participate as effective, involved, and responsible citizens. The State Department of Education, in effect, uses the Golden Horseshoe award to honor "all-state" West Virginia

Studies students.

Each year 221 eighth-grade students are honored for their knowledge of the state in a one-day ceremony held in Charleston. The Golden Horseshoe winners have outscored their classmates in school and county wide testing competitions and made top scores on a West Virginia Department of Education test which measures their grasp of West Virginia Studies. Students also write an essay focusing on some aspect of West Virginia current events. A minimum of two students from each county and one student from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind at Romney are selected for the award. The other 110 honorees are selected from the 55 counties based on each county's eighth-grade population.

While in Charleston to celebrate the Golden Horseshoe Day, the honorees are treated to a tour of the Capitol and Cultural Center and a luncheon held in their honor. The high point of the Golden Horseshoe Ceremony is the induction of the students into the Golden Horseshoe Society. The State Superintendent of Schools presides over the induction ceremony. Each student kneels and, with a tap of a sword on the shoulder, is dubbed either a Knight or Lady of the Golden Horseshoe Society. Each student is presented a Golden Horseshoe pin and the 70-year honor and tradition continues.

The SMPS winners this year are Luke Tiu, son of Jeremy and Melissa Tiu, of Wheeling; Ava Hanson, daughter of Jason and Mandi Hanson, of Bridgeport, Ohio; and Emily Blatt, daughter of Ronald and Kathy Blatt, of Wheeling. Thomas Olivier is the Social Studies teacher at SMPS that helped to prepare the students.



Courtesy Photo  
At St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling are, from left: Thomas Olivier, Social Studies teacher; Golden Horseshoe winners Emily Blatt, Luke Tiu, and Ava Hanson; and Kim Burge, principal.

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## CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA MISSION MOMENT

# Rebuilding Together at the Margins: Congratulations to Contest Winners!

**By Susan Hollis, Diocesan Director, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities West Virginia**

Each year, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development hosts the Creating on the Margins Art Contest for students in grades 7 – 12. This year's theme, Rebuilding Together at the Margins, seeks to help the students under-

stand how the vast disparities that occur in our world were only amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The contest encourages students to envision a new world where these inequalities are eliminated and to look for answers about how to get there.

The winners of the contest in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston came from St. Joseph Central

Catholic High School in Huntington.

The younger category, for grades 7 – 9, was won by 9th grader Amanda Day. She submitted a painting titled, "If Humanity Could Head towards Salvation." This work of art highlighted Amanda's belief that depending on God is vital to moving forward as a society. She wrote of the need to follow Jesus' commandment to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" [Matthew 7:12]. Our

faith calls us to go out and love people, repent of our sins, and cherish the world."

The older category, for grades 10 – 12, was won by 10th grader Elexis Spurlock. Elexis's work of art was a poem titled, "An Addictive Escape." Her poem addresses the struggles of homelessness and having no place to go during the day or night. The desperation felt by the person narrating the poem is only escaped by going to sleep and dreaming.

Congratulations, as well, to the Second and Third place winners in both categories: David Cooney, Taylor Karnes, MaKayla Smith, and Nic Frazier.

First place winners were entered in the national Creating on the Margins Art Contest run by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in Washington, D.C.

For more information on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, please contact Susan at [shollis@ccwva.org](mailto:shollis@ccwva.org).



Courtesy Photos

Pictured are the winning works of the Creating on the Margins Art Contest. Both winners are from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington. Above is 9th grader Amanda Day's painting, "If Humanity Could Head towards Salvation." At right is 10th grader Elexis Spurlock's poem, "An Addictive Escape."

### An Addictive Escape

I love when I dream.  
Something so rare but so addictive.  
For the most time within them I'm happy.  
I see my smile that seems so distant when I'm conscious.

Happy and a smile.  
Two strangers that I cannot help but to miss.  
So when I feel myself starting to wake to my cruel reality, I seal my eyes in hopes it will stop the contentment from leaking out of them.

Hope.  
Another stranger that only seems to find me in these moments.  
Sometimes, I force myself to smile wanting it to be real.

But I still wake up with my shoes on.  
A bed of concrete and hardships under me.  
The amount of faith within me can fill the cylinder tin that engulfs my worn, intellectual hands.  
2 ounces of faith and a dollar thirty seven.

Desperation lining my hollowed out eyes.  
My best company is my old recollections.  
They have a lot to say.  
What an aching distraction from the greed and pity filled souls that cross mine as the second hand ticks.

The dreams floating above the ones who walk past, are the ones that just seemed to have gotten away.  
Somehow, even with nothing, pieces are taken from me.  
A stranger to my testimonials, a fear to who I used to be.

Coldness, even in the midst of the hottest summers, is what fills this soul that has lived a thousand lives.  
How comical one with no soil, has planted so many roots.

So when my constant tired eyes have seen enough of the world it is damned to,  
I blanket myself under the stars and let the moon crater me to my escape.  
A dream.

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# Ser catequista es una vocación, dice el papa al establecer un ministerio formal

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)**—Instando al reconocimiento formal de "aquellos hombres y mujeres laicos que se sienten llamados en virtud de su bautismo a cooperar en la labor de la catequesis", el papa Francisco ha establecido el "ministerio del catequista".

"El espíritu está llamando a hombres y mujeres a salir al encuentro de todos aquellos que esperan descubrir la belleza, la bondad y la verdad de la fe cristiana", escribió el papa en "Antiquum Ministerium" (Ministerio antiguo), su documento publicado en el Vaticano el 11 de mayo.

Además de publicar los textos del documento en italiano, francés, inglés, alemán, español, portugués y polaco, el Vaticano distribuyó un video del texto traducido al lenguaje de signos italiano.

Los párrocos deben apoyar a los laicos para que respondan a la llamada del espíritu y "enriquezcan la vida de la comunidad cristiana mediante el reconocimiento de los ministerios laicos capaces de contribuir a la transformación de la sociedad a través de la penetración de los valores cristianos en los sectores sociales, políticos y económicos", dijo el papa, citando lo que había escrito sobre la vocación de los laicos en su documento de 2013, "La alegría del Evangelio".

Las conferencias episcopales deberán determinar "el proceso de formación y los criterios normativos para la admisión a este ministerio" y definir "las formas más adecuadas para el servicio que estos hombres y mujeres serán llamados a ejercer", dijo el papa.

La Congregación para el Culto Divino y los Sacramentos, dijo, "publicará pronto el Rito de Institución del ministerio laico del catequista". La congregación ya está trabajando en los ritos revisados para los ministerios del lector y acólito, que el papa Francisco abrió a las mujeres en enero.

Mientras millones de hombres y mujeres laicos en todo el mundo ya sirven como catequistas, lectores y monaguillos, la institución formal en los ministerios significa que el servicio es estable, delegado por el obispo y reconocido públicamente por la iglesia.

El arzobispo Rino Fisichella, presidente del Consejo Pontificio para la Promoción de la Nueva Evangelización, señaló cómo San Pablo VI escribió en 1975 sobre la importancia de que los laicos utilicen sus dones para el crecimiento de toda la iglesia.

"Han tenido que pasar casi 50 años para que la iglesia llegue a reconocer que el servicio prestado por tantos hombres y mujeres a través de su compromiso catequético constituye verdaderamente un ministerio distintivo para el crecimiento de la comunidad cristiana", dijo el arzobispo a los periodistas en una conferencia de prensa para presentar el documento del papa.

En su documento, el papa Francisco señaló cómo los maestros de la fe estaban presentes desde los primeros días de la comunidad cristiana y se les reconocía un don especial del Espíritu Santo para llevar a cabo su papel dentro de la comunidad.

"A veces --escribió-- los carismas que el espíritu derrama constantemente sobre los bautizados adquirirían una forma visible y tangible de

servicio inmediato a la comunidad cristiana, reconocida como una diaconía indispensable para la comunidad".

Al mirar la historia de la evangelización, dijo el papa, los católicos no pueden pasar por alto "los innumerables hombres y mujeres laicos que participaron directamente en la difusión del evangelio a través de la instrucción catequética. Hombres y mujeres de profunda fe, auténticos testigos de santidad, que en algunos casos fueron también fundadores de iglesias e incluso murieron como mártires".

Afirmó que todavía hoy "muchos catequistas competentes y dedicados son líderes comunitarios en diversas partes del mundo y llevan a cabo una misión inestimable para la transmisión y el crecimiento de la fe".

Especialmente en las comunidades que carecen de un sacerdote residente, los catequistas son los líderes de la comunidad católica local, evangelizando, convocando y guiando a sus compañeros católicos en la oración y las obras de caridad. Y, en los territorios misioneros bajo la guía de la Congregación para la Evangelización de los Pueblos, ya sirven con un mandato específico de su obispo.

"La larga lista de beatos, santos y mártires que fueron catequistas ha hecho avanzar significativamente la misión de la iglesia y merece ser reconocida, pues representa un rico recurso no sólo para la catequesis, sino también para toda la historia de la espiritualidad cristiana", escribió el papa Francisco.

La institución formal de los catequistas, dijo, debe ser un signo y un estímulo para que todos los católicos laicos reconozcan "aún más

el compromiso misionero propio de todo bautizado, un compromiso que, sin embargo, debe llevarse a cabo de manera totalmente "secular", evitando cualquier forma de clericalización".

El arzobispo Fisichella dijo que el papa Francisco estaba insistiendo en que "los laicos están llamados a expresar su vocación bautismal de la mejor manera posible, no como sustitutos de los sacerdotes o de las personas consagradas, sino como auténticos laicos que, en la naturaleza distintiva de su ministerio, son capaces de experimentar la plenitud de su vocación bautismal de testimonio y servicio efectivo en la comunidad y en el mundo".

Los laicos que se sientan llamados al ministerio de catequistas deben participar activamente en la vida de sus comunidades católicas y ser fieles al evangelio y a la enseñanza de la iglesia, dijo. Pero también deben recibir "una adecuada formación bíblica, teológica, pastoral y pedagógica para ser comunicadores competentes de la verdad de la fe".

"Los catequistas están llamados, en primer lugar, a ser expertos en el servicio pastoral de transmisión de la fe a lo largo de sus diferentes etapas, desde el anuncio inicial" del evangelio, la preparación para recibir los sacramentos y el apoyo para vivir una vida cristiana, dijo el papa.

Al presentar el documento a los periodistas, el arzobispo Fisichella dijo que la catequesis "no se puede improvisar".

"Los que van a ser catequistas deben saber que hablan en nombre de la iglesia y transmiten la fe de la iglesia", dijo.

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

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

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades 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](http://www.dwc.org), haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988. Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, 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](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.



## Principal Needed

St. Patrick Church of 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 at dondeck@dwc.org or mailed to 210 Center Ave., Weston, WV May 14, 2021.

## Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (DRE/YM)

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, WV seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (DRE/YM) to build and administer a total parish catechetical and youth ministry program for a parish of 1,000+ parishioners. The DRE/YM will oversee the recruitment and training of parishioners to lead various aspects of faith formation including preparation for the sacraments of initiation, adult RCIA, our Sunday Parish School of Religion and an annual Summer Camp for middle school and high school youth. Experience in Catholic schools or parish ministry required. Bachelor's or Master's in theology or Catechetics. Salary based upon education and experience. Benefits offered. Submit resume to Rev. Msgr. Paul Hudock, pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish 2244 Marshall Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003, (304) 242-0406

## Faith Formation Director Opening

Progressive parish of 600 families (St. Mary Parish) is seeking a vibrant individual to coordinate formation programs, enable the gifts of the faithful, and to engage our youth to live a life of faith. We are located in Morgantown, WV, home of West Virginia University. Our parishioners are ethnically diverse. Our people have a deep love for celebrating Mass, gathering for fellowship, opportunities for adult formation and growth and for mission to the least of these. The position is full-time and reports to the Pastor. Responsibilities & Duties: Coordinates and manages all Faith Formation ministries and volunteers including, but not limited to: Religious Education (PK-5th), Youth Ministry (Middle and High School), Children's Liturgy of the Word and Vacation Bible School; sacramental preparation program for Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Christian Initiation for adults and children (RCIA); and helps facilitate adult faith formation. The Faith Formation Director is also the Safe Environment Coordinator for the parish. Qualifications and Skills: BA in Theology/Religious Education or related educational field; Excellent organizational, supervisory and leadership skills; Excellent verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills; Works well in collaborative efforts with other parish ministers; Seeks ongoing educational opportunities to keep current on trends in catechetical ministry; Excellent computer skills including the use of Microsoft Office and communication via social media. Fluency in Spanish is beneficial but not required. Salary & Benefits Health, vision, dental, participation in 403B plan, paid vacation and personal days, and education stipend. If interested please submit a letter of interest and resume by May 15, 2021. Position will begin on August 1, 2021. Send letter and resume to Fr. John by email papajohnwv@msn.com or via mail to: Attn: Father John McDonough, St. Mary Parish, 3346 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505.

## REFUGEE OUTREACH WORKER (Part-time)

### Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services, Morgantown

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices. CCWVa is seeking a part-time Refugee Outreach Worker (28 hours per week), located in Morgantown, WV. The Refugee Outreach Worker is responsible for assisting in the development and provision of services to refugees throughout the state of West Virginia.

Job duties include: Provide initial resettlement services to refugees in accordance with the Remote Placement Program and Cooperative Agreement guidelines. Provide continuous outreach services through the Refugee Support Services program to eligible populations in accordance with ORR guidelines. Develop a Resettlement Plan with each client, assist in job placement, and provide an action plan for self-reliance. Collaborate with the CCWVa Immigration Attorney for assistance with refugee permanent residency, work authorization documentation, family reunification petitions, and citizenship. Maintain client records and files; maintain electronic record keeping for reporting purposes.

Qualifications include: Bilingual preferred (fluent in Spanish and English, or English and Arabic). Bachelor's Degree preferred. Previous experience working with immigrant and/or refugee population required. Prior experience preferred working across cultures, in particular with trauma survivors. Ability to work independently, strong organizational skills and attention to detail, and ability to link clients to existing resources.

Please email cover letter, resume and three references by May 20, 2021, to Kellie Rogers at krogers@ccwva.org. Application materials can also be delivered to: Kellie Rogers, Managing Attorney/Director, Catholic Charities WVa, 827 Fairmont Road, Suite 203, Morgantown, WV 26501.

## Asst. Principal Needed

St. Mary's Central School, Clarksburg is seeking an (elementary) Asst. School Principal.

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

The ideal candidate must have an earned master's degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or be in 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.

Applications may be emailed with all attachments to jkonikattil@dwc.org or smkonikattil@gmail.com

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