



Catholic Charities West Virginia Launches Campaign to Tackle Poverty in West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA—Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is proud to announce the launch of its “Together for West Virginia” fundraising and awareness campaign, running from May 20 through June 20, culminating on West Virginia Day. The campaign aims to unite communities around a shared mission: to reduce poverty

and strengthen the dignity of every West Virginian.

With deep roots in all 55 counties, CCWVa is the state’s largest private social service provider—offering support to tens of thousands each year, regardless of background, faith, or family status. Through Together for West Virginia, CCWVa is inviting the entire

state to join a movement of compassion, hope, and meaningful change.

The campaign will feature a variety of ways for people to get involved:

- **Make a Donation:** Contributions can be made online at <https://Donate4WV.givesmart.com>.
- **Double Your Impact:**

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, all donations will be matched up to \$10,000.

- **Wear the Mission:** Purchase a limited-edition Together for West Virginia t-shirt; a portion of every sale directly supports CCWVa’s programs.
- **Be a Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser:** See **“Campaign” on Page 3**

Rosary Crusade for Vocations Kicks off with Procession Honoring Our Lady of Fatima in Wheeling

By Joyce Bibey

It may have seemed like an ordinary Tuesday evening, but it was extraordinary in Wheeling as more than 100 people sweetly sang Immaculate Mary a cappella and prayed the rosary in the streets — for the Church, for those who have left the Church, for our families, for those suffering due to illness or silent struggles, and for strong Catholic vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

On Tuesday, May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, local forecasters called for rain, but not a drop fell upon the solemn and peaceful procession, singing and praying from St. Alphonsus Church in the Centre Market district to the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The crowd representing youth in our parishes and Catholic schools to elders, who despite physical aches and pains (offering the latter for their special intentions), walked the half mile, kicking off the encore to the diocesan Rosary for Vocations from two years ago.

See **“Rosary” on Page 4**



Joyce Bibey photo

Faithful pray and walk in the rosary procession on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima in Wheeling May 13. From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our diocesan Rosary Crusade for Vocations in West Virginia. The diocese has created a webpage for rosary pledges at: <https://dwc.org/rosary-crusade/>. Click here to view page.

Inside: Shirley Carter Named Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese, Page 2

Memorial Day Mass to be Celebrated at the Bishop’s Chapel in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling, Page 3

Shirley Carter Named Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese

WHEELING—Shirley Carter has accepted the position of director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Very Rev. John A. Rice, V.G., V.F., made the announcement May 14.

Carter has been serving as interim director of the department since last November. Prior to that, she has served as campus minister at West Liberty University and Bethany College, and is an instructor for Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation.

Carter holds a bachelor's degree from West Liberty and a Master of Applied Theology degree from Wheeling Jesuit University and brings vast experience in the area of catechesis and Campus Ministry. She has been involved in various forms of ministry throughout her life including director of parish youth ministry and director of spiritual formation at a local elementary school followed by seven years as the director of retreats and leadership programs at Wheeling Jesuit University, and most recently as director of Campus Ministry at West Liberty University and Bethany College.

She is the mother of four grown daughters and 12 grandchildren.



Shirley Carter

Seminarians Reece Lopatka and Michael Tupta Co-Directing Camp Carlo

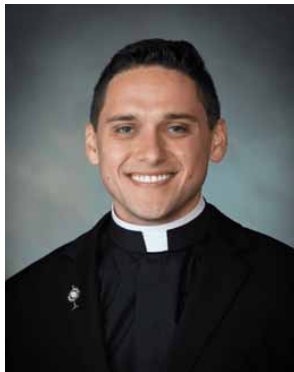
HUTTONSVILLE — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston announced that Seminarians Reece Lopatka and Michael Tupta as co-directors of Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp.

Known as Camp Carlo, the program is a summer youth camp "dedicated to leading young people to Christ and His Church," the website states. "Join us as we grow in Christ's love while backpacking up a mountain, horseback riding through hidden trails, sliding down mystic waterfalls and humbling ourselves in front of the true Presence of our Lord during Mass and Adoration. We want you to experience His immense love at Camp Carlo for Summer 2025!"

The following are the dates for the 2025 program: June 29 – July 5 – High School Week; and three "Catch All" weeks for different groups July 6-12, July 13-19, and July 20-26. Register at <https://campcarlo.org>.



Reece Lopatka



Michael Tupta

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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2025 Print Issues and Dates:

Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23; Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19

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Memorial Day Mass to be Celebrated at Bishop's Chapel in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling

Special Recognition will be Made to Honor Bishop John J. Kain on the 150th Anniversary of His Consecration as Bishop

WHEELING — All are invited to attend a special Mass on Memorial Day (May 23) at the Bishop's Chapel in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling at 10 a.m. Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate the Mass in which all military personnel who died while serving our country in the U.S. Armed Forces will be remembered.

Also during this Mass, a special recognition will be made to honor Bishop John J. Kain (the second bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston) as the 150th anniversary of his consecration as bishop is May 23.

Upon his death in 1874, Bishop Richard V. Whelan was laid to rest at the center of Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling. Soon after, plans were adopted to erect a mortuary chapel over his grave, today known as the Bishop's Chapel. The chapel serves as a memorial to Bishop Whelan and has become the burial place for many of his successor bishops of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The cornerstone of the Elizabethan stone chapel was laid by Bishop Kain on August 27, 1876. Work was completed in three years, and the chapel was dedicated before a large



Bishop John J. Kain

crowd on November 2, 1879. Bishop Whelan's re-

mains were transferred to one of several vaults recessed into the chapel floor.

Bishop Kain was the pastor of St. Peter Church in Harpers Ferry when he received his appointment to succeed Bishop Whelan as the second bishop of the diocese.

Bishop Kain, who was born in Martinsburg, had intended to serve out his days in Wheeling, relocating his family to live in the city and transferring the remains of his father and sister to Mount Calvary Cemetery, so they might be buried together as a family. Instead, in May 1893, Bishop Kain was appointed

coadjutor archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, succeeding Archbishop Peter Kenrick in June 1895. Bishop Kain administered the archdiocese for the following eight years until his death on October 13, 1903. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis.

Today, the Bishop's Chapel at Mount Calvary Cemetery serves as the final resting place for six diocesan bishops. The chapel is an intimate and sacred setting to celebrate Funeral Rites and for quiet prayer and contemplation.

Mass is offered in the chapel on the first Friday of each month.

Campaign ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Individuals can rally their networks to raise awareness and donations through personalized fundraising pages.

- Spread the Word: Follow and share CCWVa stories and updates on social media, through email, and via our newsletter.

"This campaign is about more than fundraising—it's about coming together as neighbors, as West Virginians, and as people who care," said Mark Phillips, president and CEO of Catholic Charities West Virginia. "When we support one another, we build stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger West Virginia."

Every dollar raised through Together for West Virginia helps provide food, shelter, and essential services to individuals and families working toward stability and self-sufficiency. These aren't handouts—they're lifelines grounded in dignity, hope, and the belief that everyone deserves the chance to thrive.

Catholic Charities West Virginia walks with people in their most difficult moments, offering compassionate care and long-term solutions rooted in Catholic social teaching. With your help, Together for West Virginia will spark lasting change in the lives of our neighbors across the Mountain State.

Catholic Charities West Virginia is the largest private social service provider in the state, serving all 55 counties with compassionate care for tens of thousands of people each year. We serve all people—regardless of faith or background—working alongside communities to create lasting change and help individuals reach their full potential. To learn more, please visit www.ccwva.org.



Rosary ...

Cont'd from Page 1

From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our diocesan Rosary Crusade for Vocations in West Virginia. The diocese has created a webpage for Rosary pledges at: <https://dwc.org/rosary-crusade/>. Click here to view page.

As we unite in prayer for vocations, let us call to mind the lyrics of Immaculate Mary as the faithful, clergy, deacon, sisters, and religious educators sang out:

Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing;
 You reign now in splendor with Jesus our King.
 Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!
 In heaven, the blessed your glory proclaim;
 On earth we, your children, invoke your sweet name.
 Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!
 We pray for the Church, our true Mother on earth,
 And beg you to watch o'er the land of our birth.
 Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!



Joyce Bibey photos

Clockwise from top left: A sister serving in the diocese prays and walks in the rosary procession on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima in Wheeling May 13; a woman places a flower in front of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the Cathedral of St. Joseph; the statue stands at the cathedral following the procession; and faithful pray and walk in the procession. From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our diocesan Rosary Crusade for Vocations in West Virginia. The diocese has created a webpage for Rosary pledges at: <https://dwc.org/rosary-crusade/>. Click here to view page.

Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:
 Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
 (304) 3233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Walking with
Moms in Need



Pope Leo Prays for Vocations, for Peace and for Mothers on Mother's Day

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a huge and festive crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV led his first Sunday recitation of the "Regina Coeli" prayer and urged all Catholics to pray for vocations, especially to the priesthood and religious life.

Before the pope appeared on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica May 11, the crowd was entertained by dozens of marching bands and folkloristic dance troupes who had marched into the square after attending an outdoor Mass for the Jubilee of Bands and Popular Entertainment.

Pope Leo also noted that it was Mother's Day in Italy, the United States and elsewhere. "I send a special greeting to all mothers with a prayer for them and for those who are already in heaven," he said. "Happy holiday to all moms!"

Italian officials estimated 100,000 people were in St. Peter's Square or on the surrounding streets to join the new pope for the midday prayer.

In his main address, Pope Leo said it was a "gift" to lead the crowd for the first time on the Sunday when the church proclaims a passage from John 10 "where Jesus reveals himself as the true Shepherd, who knows and loves his sheep and gives his life for them."

It also is the day the Catholic Church offers special prayers for vocations, especially to the priesthood and religious life.

"It is important that young men and women on their vocational journey find acceptance, listening and encouragement in their communities, and that they can look up to credible models of generous dedication to God and to their brothers and sisters," the pope said.

Noting that Pope Francis had released a message in March in preparation for the day of prayer, Pope Leo told the crowd, "Let us take up the invitation that Pope Francis left us in his message for today: the invitation to welcome and accompany young people."

"And let us ask our heavenly Father to assist us in living in service to one another, each according to his or her state of life, shepherds after his own heart, capable of helping one another to walk in love and truth," the new pope said.

Setting aside his prepared text, he told young people in the square, "Do not be afraid! Welcome the call of the church and of Christ the Lord."

After reciting the "Regina Coeli," he mentioned how the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe was celebrated May 8, the day of his election.

While that is reason to celebrate, he said, "'the Third World War is being fought piecemeal,' as Pope Francis often said. I, too, appeal to the leaders of the world, repeating this ever-relevant plea: Never again war!"

Pope Leo prayed for the people of Ukraine, saying, "May everything possible be done to achieve as soon as possible an authentic, just and lasting peace. May all prisoners be freed, and may the children return to their families." Ukraine says thousands of children have been forcibly taken to Russia during the war.

The pope also told the crowd, "I am deeply saddened by what is happening in the Gaza Strip. Let the fighting cease immediately. Humanitarian aid must be given to the exhausted civilian population, and all hostages must be released."

He praised India and Pakistan for reaching a ceasefire agreement, but said, "But how many other conflicts are there in the world?"

Pope Leo entrusted his "heartfelt appeal" for peace to Mary, "Queen of Peace, that she may

present it to the Lord Jesus to obtain for us the miracle of peace."

Earlier in the day, Pope Leo had celebrated Mass at an altar near the tomb of St. Peter in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica. Father Alejandro Moral Anton, the prior general of the Order of St. Augustine, to which the pope belonged, was the principal celebrant.

Afterward, the Vatican press office said, he stopped to pray at the tombs of popes who are buried in the grotto.

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Planned Parenthood Annual Report Shows Abortions, Public Funding up after Dobbs

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Planned Parenthood’s latest annual report shows an increase in abortions from the previous year’s report, while also showing a \$100 million increase in government funding amid an overall decrease in cancer screenings and prevention services.

The organization’s 2023-2024 annual report, titled “A Force for Hope,” detailed its operations from 2022-2023, most of which followed the June 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and sent the abortion issue back to lawmakers.

Since *Dobbs*, 12 states have banned elective abortions, and six states passed restrictions at or before 12 weeks of pregnancy, according to data from KFF, formerly known as The Kaiser Family Foundation.

However, Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, performed 402,230 abortions in that time, an increase of nearly 10,000 abortions over the previous year’s report (392,715 abortions).

The report also detailed just 2,148 adoption referrals — an increase of about 400 from the previous year’s report of 1,721 adoption referrals.

Meanwhile, total cancer screening and prevention services — such as pap tests and HPV vaccinations — decreased from the previous report, from 464,021 to 426,268. Pap tests alone declined from 197,617 to 173,397, while HPV vaccinations increased.

Testing and treatment for infections spread through sex increased from the previous year’s report to over 5.1 million from about 4.6 million.

The report showed Planned Parenthood received about \$792.2 million in “Government Health Services Reimbursements & Grants” during that time — up more than \$100 million over the previous year’s report (\$699.3 million).

Despite the increase in government funds, the report also described a relatively unchanged \$2 billion revenue situation for Planned Parenthood. The most recent report showed that non-government health services revenue (which includes elective abortion revenues) dropped to \$350.5 million (down \$21.5 million from the previous year).

Private contributions and bequests were down \$313.4 million from the previous year (down to \$684.1 million), but the decline was significantly offset by \$175.4 million in other operating revenue recorded in the latest report.

In a statement, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, a

group that works to elect candidates who oppose abortion to public office, said, “Planned Parenthood’s annual report just released shows a new record high for both lives ended — more than 402,000 abortions — and taxpayer funding, close to \$800 million or well over \$2 million a day.”

“For yet another year, pregnant women seeking help at Planned Parenthood are sold an abortion 97% of the time, while prenatal services, miscarriage care and adoption referrals make up a minuscule minority of the options they offer,” the statement said.

Supporters of allowing Planned Parenthood to receive Medicaid funds point to its cancer screening and prevention services, but critics argue the funds are fungible and could be used to facilitate abortion, despite prohibitions on tax funding for elective abortion procedures.

“This report heightens the urgency to defund Big Abortion and stop forcing taxpayers to fund an industry that de-

stroys unborn lives and preys on women and girls. As community health centers outnumber Planned Parenthood locations 15 to one nationwide and offer far more comprehensive care, including for Medicaid patients, Americans have real choices and much better options,” the SBA statement said. “We commend our House Republican allies for working hard on a budget reconciliation process that finally gets taxpayers out of the abortion business and we encourage them to persevere. Now more than ever, we can hardly wait to see the ‘one big beautiful bill’ advance in Congress.”

A bill from the House Energy and Commerce Committee would cut Medicaid spending, including eliminating funds for groups that perform abortions such as Planned Parenthood. However, some House Republicans have sought to block that provision.

Meanwhile, a decision in *Kerr v. Planned Parenthood*

South Atlantic, a case concerning Planned Parenthood’s ability to use Medicaid funds in states that have restricted abortion is pending from the Supreme Court. A decision in that case is expected by the end of the high court’s current term, typically in June.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



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Southern West Virginia Disaster Work Team Planned

A Disaster Relief Mission Trip is being planned for the week of June 16-20 in cooperation with the Greater Fairmont Council of Churches. Participation is open to all people of faith. The team will be led by Deacon David Lester of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont. Age restrictions for the trip will be 18 years of age or older, unless accompanied by a parent.

The team will do home rebuild work in the area of southern West Virginia impacted by February flooding. More specifics to follow in the coming weeks.

Anyone interested in learning more about this mission trip or to make a donation to the group (Make checks out to "St. Peter the Fisherman", noting "Mission Fund", 407 Jackson St., Fairmont, WV 26554), may contact Deacon Lester at (304) 592-2693, or email davidplester@aol.com. An application will be sent by mail after initial inquiry. A \$75 fee applies to participants.

Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast to be Held in June

MORGANTOWN—The Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, June 7, at St. John's University Parish Hall.

"Looking to deepen your faith? Join us at the next Morgantown Magnificat Inspirational Prayer Breakfast," organization officials said. "Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic women aimed at strengthening and sharing our faith."

The inspirational speaker will be Tracy Riffon, who grew up in a military family with no traditional religious upbringing, and attended 11 different schools in 12 years. Riffon will share her struggle with childhood trauma and depression and how she found love, healing, forgiveness, and peace through a loving God.

Tickets are \$25 per person, \$13 for students, and a buffet breakfast will be served. Click here to register.

For mail-in reservations, print up registration form at [Web-page-event-Reservation-Form.pdf](#) (magnificat-ministry.net) and mail to Morgantown Magnificat, c/o 12 Whites Run Court, Morgantown, WV 26508, by June 1.



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WVU Medicine Announces More Than \$460 Million in New Capital Projects to Expand Healthcare Access across West Virginia



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**Jefferson Medical Center –
Ambulatory Campus Expansion**



**Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds
Memorial Hospital – WVU Cancer
Institute Regional Cancer Center**



**Wheeling Hospital – WVU Medicine
Children's Outpatient Pediatrics**



**United Hospital Center –
Outpatient Surgery Center**



**Summersville Regional Medical Center
– Outpatient Services Expansion**

Collage courtesy of West Virginia University (WVU) Health System

MORGANTOWN — Building on a record-setting \$400 million capital investment announced last year, the West Virginia University (WVU) Health System unveiled a new round of transformative projects totaling more than \$460 million that will further expand access to critical healthcare services in West Virginia and create hundreds of new jobs.

The projects, all subject to regulatory approvals, will be in Berkeley, Jefferson, Ohio, Harrison, and Nicholas counties. Collectively, they reaffirm the WVU Health System's mission to deliver high-quality, accessible care to all West Virginians regardless of where they live and reinforce the system's national leadership in rural healthcare.

"Expanding access to care in West Virginia isn't just a goal — it's our responsibility," Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System, said. "This investment in our mission and infrastructure allows us to better meet the growing needs of the communities we serve, bring more services closer to home, and

continue building a system of care that is truly worthy of West Virginians."

The 2025 capital projects include:

Berkeley Medical Center – New Patient Tower (Berkeley County)

A \$200.9 million investment will fund a new patient tower, increasing inpatient bed capacity from 190 to 316 and eliminating all semi-private rooms. The project includes a replacement linear accelerator for cancer treatment, redesigned emergency department flow, and 300 additional parking spaces.

Estimated cost is \$200.9 million. Anticipated Completion is Q1 2028

Jefferson Medical Center – Ambulatory Campus Expansion (Jefferson County)

This \$60 million project includes a three-story building with medical office space, ancillary services, and shelled space for future growth. Renovations within the hospital will create a new infusion and cancer care suite that will be part of the WVU Cancer Institute. The plan also includes significant infrastructure

modernization and improved parking access.

Estimated Cost is \$60 million. Anticipated Completion is Q4 2027.

Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds Memorial Hospital – WVU Cancer Institute Regional Cancer Center (Ohio County)

A \$122.6 million investment will build a four-story, 127,000-square-foot state-of-the-art outpatient cancer center affiliated with the WVU Cancer Institute on the former Ohio Valley Medical Center site in Wheeling. The center will consolidate cancer services from Wheeling and Reynolds hospitals and include infusion therapy, radiation oncology, imaging, labs, specialty clinics, and space for future expansion.

Estimated Cost is \$122.6 million. Anticipated Completion is October 2028.

Wheeling Hospital – WVU Medicine Children's Outpatient Pediatrics Center (Ohio County)

Located on the Wheeling Hospital campus, this 21,000 square foot, one-stop outpatient

See "Projects" on Page 9

Projects ...

Cont'd from Page 8

pediatrics facility will include 38 exam rooms, dedicated well- and sick-child zones, lab and imaging spaces, lactation rooms, after-hours care, and an Austin's Playroom sponsored by the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

Estimated Cost is \$16.6 million. Anticipated Completion is November 2026.

United Hospital Center – Outpatient Surgery Center (Harrison County)

This new 48,000 square foot, two-story outpatient surgery center will be adjacent to United Hospital Center. The facility will include eight operating rooms (four initially active), pre-and post-op recovery areas, same-day total joint replacement capabilities, and shelled space for future growth. The operating rooms will be orthopedic-focused but can also accommodate other specialties.

Estimated Cost is \$48 million. Anticipated Completion is December 2026.

Summersville Regional Medical Center – Outpatient Services Expansion (Nicholas County)

This \$16 million project transforms a former extended care facility into a modern space that will serve as a branch campus of the WVU Cancer Institute with oncology and infusion services. The facility will also offer rehabilitation therapies, cardiac rehab, nuclear medicine, and pharmacy operations. It will include updated waiting areas and improved patient wayfinding.

Estimated Cost is \$16 million. Anticipated Completion is September 2026.

This year's initiative builds on WVU Medicine's \$400 million investment in 2024, which focused on expanding hospital campuses and care capabilities throughout the state.

The investments from this year and last year total nearly \$1 billion over two years — a historic commitment to the health and well-being of West Virginians.

For more information, visit WVUMedicine.org.



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David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology



Courtesy photo

After crowning a statue of Our Lady at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown on May 1, second graders from St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown stand with Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, S.T.D., their teachers, and Deacon Pierce.

On May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker and the first day of the month dedicated to Mary, second graders from St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown led St. Francis de Sales Parish in a beautiful May Crowning ceremony.

“Inside the church, the children formed the May Crowning Entourage, honoring our Blessed Mother with joy and reverence,” the parish posted on Facebook. “They then processed outside to our Shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary, where they crowned her statue

and lovingly placed flowers in her honor.

“May Crowning is a cherished Catholic tradition where we recognize Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth, especially during the month of May, which the Church dedicates to her. Through this simple but beautiful act, we offer Mary our love, gratitude, and prayers.

“Thank you to our second graders, their teachers, and all who helped make this such a special day! Be sure to watch the video of the crowning moment” on the parish Facebook page.

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Catholic Death Penalty Abolition Group Eager for New Pope to Build on Francis' Legacy on Issue

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Catholic opponents of the death penalty said they are eager for Pope Leo XIV to build on his predecessor's legacy of opposition to capital punishment.

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, a group that advocates for the abolition of capital punishment in line with Catholic teaching, told OSV News, "From what I understand of Pope Leo XIV, he is prepared, capable and — I pray — eager to build upon" the legacy of Pope Francis.

"From his very first words on the balcony at St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV stressed the need for a 'synodal church' and went on to say: 'We have to look together how to be a missionary church, building bridges, dialogue, always open to receiving with open arms for everyone, like this square, open to all, to all who need our charity, our presence, dialogue, love,'" Vaillancourt Murphy said.

Pope Francis revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 2018 to clarify the church's teaching that capital punishment is morally "inadmissible" in the modern world and that the church works with determination for its abolishment worldwide.

Vaillancourt Murphy pointed to Pope Francis' direct call for the commutation of death sentences in the U.S. last year. Several days after speaking with Pope Francis, President Joe Biden announced Dec. 23 that he would commute most existing federal death sentences to life in prison.

"Pope Francis' death felt like a loss for the death penalty abolition movement," Vaillancourt Murphy said. "After all, he was perhaps the world's most persuasive champion to end the scourge of capital punishment. Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis consistently underscored the death penalty as a critical issue on the continuum of the consistent ethic of life."

Vaillancourt Murphy said Pope Leo has demonstrated "his heart for the marginalized," including in his social media presence.

Prior to becoming pontiff, then-Bishop Prevoost wrote in a March 5, 2015, post on X, then known as Twitter, "It's time to end the death penalty."

The man who would become Pope Leo shared on the same account a call from the editors of Catholic media outlets — including the Our Sunday Visitor newspaper, which has since become a magazine — to end

the practice.

Vaillancourt Murphy said those posts are "a welcome affirmation of his sentiments on the matter, even before the catechism was revised in 2018."

"Capital punishment seems to be an issue he has paid close attention to and demonstrated a willingness to step forward publicly to witness toward abolition," she said.

A longtime missionary in Peru, the 69-year-old Chicago-born pope holds both U.S. and Peruvian citizenship.

"Given his global experience, his humble presence, and his serious commitment to the community and shared journey found in the Augustinian charism, Pope Leo XIV demonstrates that human dignity is at the heart of his vocation," Vaillancourt Murphy said.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)



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Growing Through Service: A WVU Student's Path to Purpose

At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we believe that service is not only a gift we give to others—it is a path to growth, purpose, and connection with Christ. For Andrew Tiu, a third-year pre-med student at West Virginia University, volunteering at our Grace Shelter in Morgantown has been exactly that.

Originally from Wheeling and a proud graduate of St. Michael Parish School and Central Catholic High School, Andrew is no stranger to the call to serve. "I've always heard of the importance of service as a way to grow in virtue and build your relationship with Christ," Andrew shared. "This has really been the first time in my life I feel I have been able to live up to that calling."

Andrew first felt this call more deeply during a shadowing experience with Project HOPE—a street medicine initiative that serves individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction in his hometown. That encounter opened his heart and eyes. "It's easy to turn a blind eye to these issues when you're seeing this population from a distance," he said. "But hearing their stories gave me another perspective and a bit more urgency to do something about it."

Now, Andrew brings that urgency to his work at



Courtesy photo

WVU student volunteer, Andrew Tiu, sits with Grace Shelter guest.

Grace Shelter, where he supports clients in many ways—from helping with chores and daily tasks to offering guidance on re-

sumes and job interviews. But for Andrew, the heart of it all is the relationships he builds.

"I genuinely look for-

ward to coming in for a shift and chatting with the clients, seeing how life is going. I love celebrating their milestones—like getting a new job or moving into stable housing. It's bittersweet when someone I've gotten to know well leaves the shelter, but it's also so joyful to see them take that next step."

Andrew's journey is a testament to the transformative power of compassionate service—and how giving of ourselves is often the very thing that strengthens our purpose.

"As I work through my degree and the medical school application process, this experience reminds me of what I'm working toward. It's been incredibly fulfilling for the soul."

We're so grateful for volunteers like Andrew, who remind us all what it means to walk with others in love,

dignity, and hope.

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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Spring 2025 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Friday, May 16:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** St. Leo, Inwood; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** St. Bernadette, Hedgesville; 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs;
5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 21:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton;
6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 22:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas;
5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 25:** St. Paul, Weirton; 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 28:** St. Patrick, Weston; 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 31:** Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby;
4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 1:** St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake;
2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 7:** St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 8:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 8:** Sacred Heart, Bluefield, 4:30 p.m.

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

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8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 DC News Now	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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El Papa León reza por las vocaciones, por la paz y por las madres en el Día de la Madre

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Con una multitud enorme y festiva reunida en la Plaza de San Pedro, el Papa León XIV dirigió su primera recitación dominical de la oración "Regina Coeli" e instó a todos los católicos a rezar por las vocaciones, especialmente al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa.

Antes de que el Papa apareciera en el balcón central de la Basílica de San Pedro el 11 de mayo, la multitud fue entretenida por docenas de bandas de música y grupos de danza folclórica que habían marchado a la plaza después de asistir a una Misa al aire libre por el Jubileo de las Bandas y del Espectáculo Popular.

El Papa León señaló también que era el Día de la Madre en Italia, Estados Unidos y otros países. "Envío un afectuoso saludo a todas las madres, con una oración por ellas y por las que ya están en el cielo", dijo. "¡Feliz Día de la Madre a todas las madres!".

Las autoridades italianas estimaron que 100.000 personas se encontraban en la Plaza de San Pedro o en las calles aledañas para unirse

al nuevo Papa en la oración del mediodía.

En su discurso principal, el Papa León dijo que era un "un don de Dios" que su primer domingo como obispo de Roma fuera el domingo del Buen Pastor, en el que la Iglesia proclama un pasaje de Juan 10 "donde Jesús se revela como el verdadero Pastor, que conoce, ama y da la vida por sus ovejas".

También es el día en que la Iglesia Católica ofrece oraciones especiales por las vocaciones, especialmente al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa.

Es importante, dijo, que "los jóvenes encuentren en nuestras comunidades: acogida, escucha, estímulo en su camino vocacional" en sus comunidades, y que "puedan contar con modelos creíbles de entrega generosa a Dios y a sus hermanos", dijo el Papa.

Destacando que el Papa Francisco había lanzado un mensaje en marzo en preparación para esta jornada de oración, el Papa León dijo a la multitud: "Hagamos nuestra la invitación que el Papa Francisco nos dejó en su mensaje para esta jornada en las que nos pedía a acoger y acompañar a los jóvenes".

"Rogemos al Padre celestial el ser, los unos para los otros, cada uno según su estado, pastores 'según su corazón', capaces de ayudarnos mutuamente a caminar en el amor y en la verdad", dijo el nuevo Papa.

Dejando a un lado el texto preparado, se dirigió a los jóvenes presentes en la plaza, diciendo: "A los jóvenes les digo: ¡No tengan miedo! ¡Acepten la invitación de la Iglesia y de Cristo el Señor!".

Tras recitar el "Regina Coeli", mencionó cómo el 8 de mayo, día de su elección, se celebraba el 80 aniversario del final de la Segunda Guerra Mundial en Europa.

Aunque eso es motivo de celebración, dijo, "la Tercera Guerra Mundial se está combatiendo a pedazos, como ha afirmado repetidamente el Papa Francisco. Yo también hago un llamamiento a los líderes del mundo, repitiendo esta súplica siempre actual: ¡Nunca más la guerra!".

El Papa León rezó por el "amado pueblo ucraniano", diciendo: "Que se haga todo lo posible para alcanzar cuanto antes una paz verdadera, justa y duradera. Que todos los prisioneros sean liberados y que los niños vuelvan con sus familias".

Ucrania afirma que miles de niños han sido llevados a la fuerza a Rusia durante la guerra.

El Papa también dijo a la multitud: "Me causa mucho dolor lo que está sucediendo en la franja de Gaza. Que cese inmediatamente el fuego y que se lleve ayuda humanitaria a la extenuada población civil y que se liberen a todos los prisioneros".

Elogió a India y Pakistán por alcanzar un acuerdo de alto el fuego, pero dijo: "Pero, ¿cuántos otros conflictos hay en el mundo?".

El Papa León encomendó su "sentida súplica" por la paz a María, "Reina de la Paz, para que la presente al Señor Jesús y nos obtenga el milagro de la paz".

Previamente, el Papa León había celebrado la Misa en un altar cercano a la tumba de San Pedro, en la gruta de la Basílica de San Pedro. El padre Alejandro Moral Antón, Prior General de la Orden de San Agustín, a la que pertenecía el Papa, fue el celebrante principal.

Después, según la oficina de prensa del Vaticano, el Papa León se detuvo a rezar ante las tumbas de los pontífices enterrados en la gruta.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación.

Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911.

Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas correspondientes.

Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264.

También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al

833.230.5656.

Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, 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. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381.

EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

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The Human Resources Generalist as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Human Resources Generalist will work as part of the HR team with a focus on supporting the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese and serve to drive the onboarding process within the Diocese.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Performs all onboarding for Diocese, including schools and parishes; Works directly with school administration and staff to ensure accuracy and proper use of entire HRIS system; Supports person for Family Medical Leave and Short Term Disability; Ensures all ACA reporting and maintains file accuracy in the payroll system; Assists with open enrollment for all benefit platforms; Helps maintain organizational guidelines; Maintain employee files and records electronically; Monitors HR Help Desk; Backup for Diocesan Pension Plans.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate. Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources or Business; Five(5) years' experience in human resources; Firm knowledge and understanding of human resources best practices; Knowledge and experience working with payroll and HRIS applications. Labor relations and policy experience a plus; Ability to maintain confidentiality; Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment; Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and current resume to: [Debbie Turziano, Director of Human Resources at dturziano@dwc.org](mailto:Debbie.Turziano@dwc.org).


DWC is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. [Click here to apply.](#)

Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests. The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions. Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function. Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area. Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service. Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.


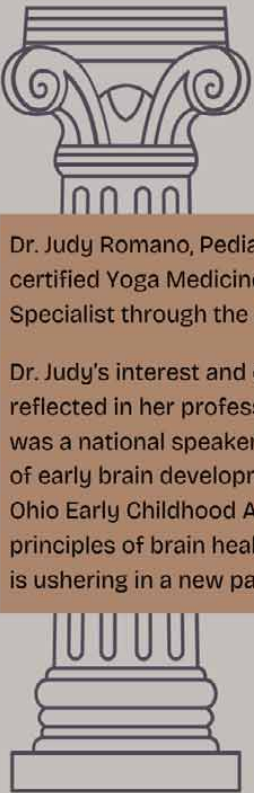
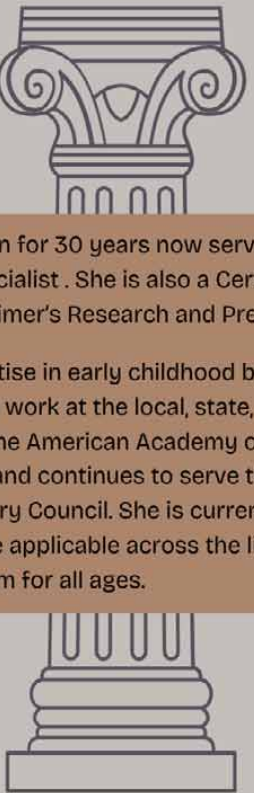
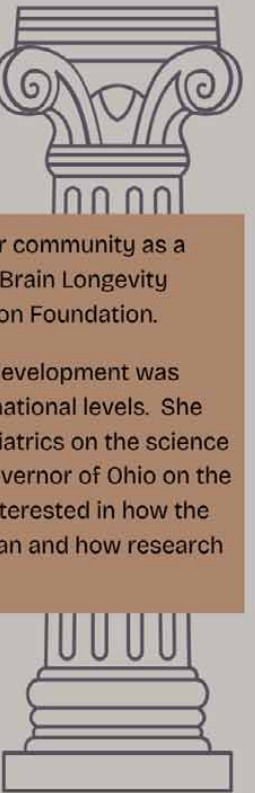
Housekeeper


The Housekeeper at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests. The Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning and preparing the facility, laundry and guest relations. Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen as needed. Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.



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Diet and Supplements	Stress Management	Exercise: Physical and Mental	Spiritual Fitness
			



Dr. Judy Romano, Pediatrician for 30 years now serves her community as a certified Yoga Medicine Specialist . She is also a Certified Brain Longevity Specialist through the Alzheimer's Research and Prevention Foundation.


Dr. Judy's interest and expertise in early childhood brain development was reflected in her professional work at the local, state, and national levels. She was a national speaker for the American Academy of Pediatrics on the science of early brain development and continues to serve the Governor of Ohio on the Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council. She is currently interested in how the principles of brain health are applicable across the life span and how research is ushering in a new paradigm for all ages.

DATE: Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, & 23

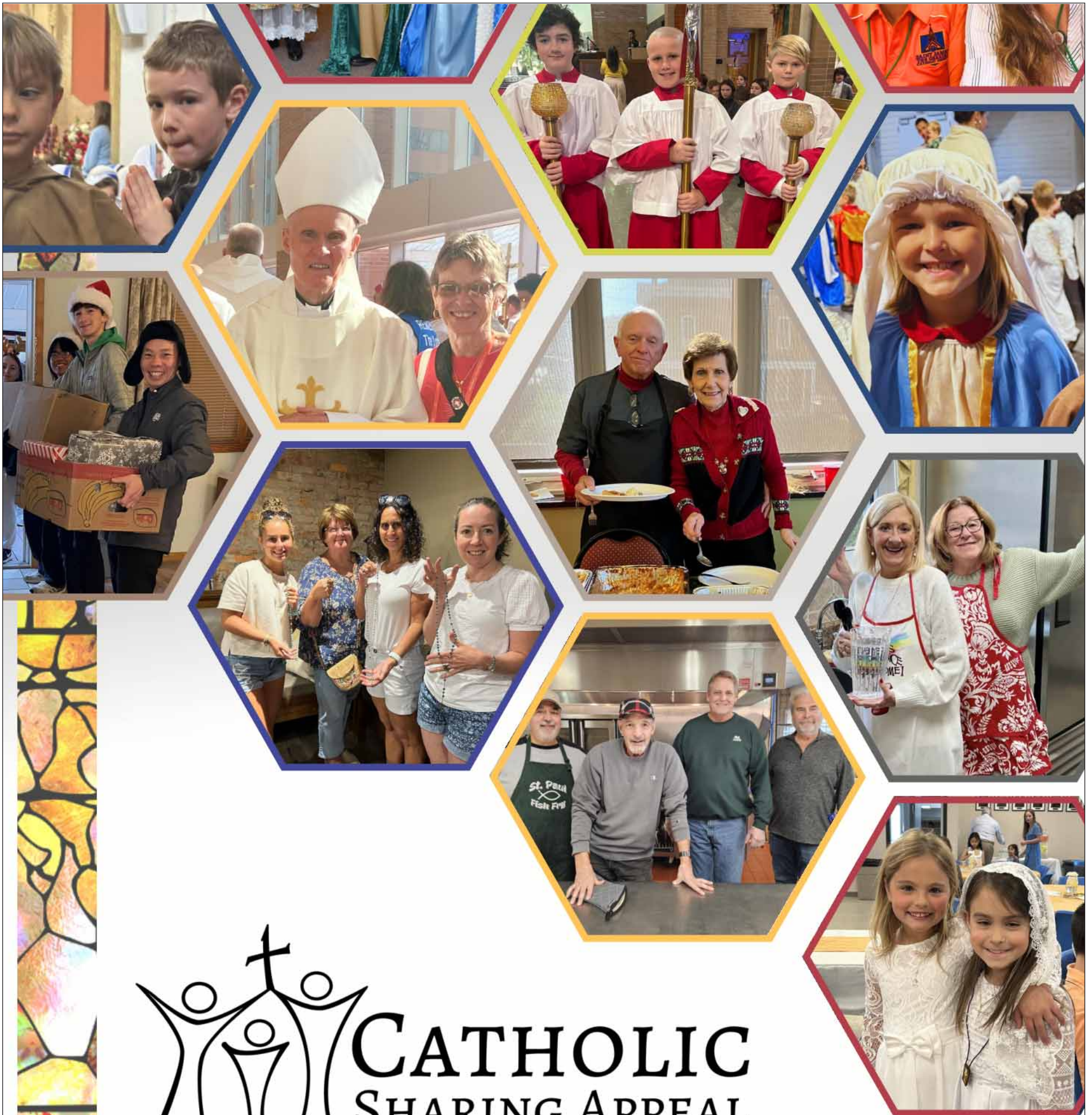
TIME: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Joseph Retreat Center

COST: \$100



Reserve your spot today:
 Contact Anna Marie Troiani
 Phone: 304-907-0171
 Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org



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