

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

# Diocese Announces New Measures to Enhance Child Protection Program

**WEST VIRGINIA**—As part of his ongoing commitment to the protection of young people in our Diocese, Bishop Mark Brennan released the letter below to all priests, parish staff, school staff and volunteers to announce additional measures to enhance the Child Protection program.

The letter details new requirements for all those who work and volunteer in our parishes and schools in any capacity. Please read the letter to learn more about these new protocols as well as other steps being taken to ensure the safety of our young people.

If you serve within your parish or school and these new protocols apply to your ministry, more information will be released to you soon from the Office of Safe Environment.



**DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON**  
1311 BYRON STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 230  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

May 21, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in ministry,  
One of my priorities as your Bishop has been to ensure that our parishes, schools, youth groups and camps are safe for young people. To that end I have worked in concert with our Child Protection Office, headed by Sharon Goudy, and our independent lay-led Review Board to put the sad legacy of child abuse by clergy and other Church personnel well behind us. From what I have seen, our efforts have made a great difference.

Today, I write to inform you about another measure to enhance our Child Protection program. Following the recommendation of the third-party firm that audits all the dioceses of the United States for compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and as a matter of best practice, I am implementing yearly continuing Safe Environment education, starting this year. Going forward, yearly Safe Environment continuing education will be required of all diocesan employees and volunteers. This will entail completion of a yearly module and monthly bulletins for all employees and volunteers.

Keeping this matter in the forefront of our minds is critical to maintaining a safe environment for the young and for vulnerable adults where they worship, study, recreate and camp. More information will be sent

**See "Program" on Page 2**



## Month of Mary

Fifth-grader Kamilla Mork of Sacred Heart Grade School in Charleston places a crown of flowers on the head of a statue of Mary at the school's May Crowning May 10 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. May is the month of Mary. (Courtesy Photo)

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## Program...

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to you from the Office of Safe Environment regarding the timeline and details for completing this yearly training.

We expect to implement this continuing education in phases and will rely primarily on our existing awareness training provider, VIRTUS. With an electronic platform and a built-in tracking mechanism, VIRTUS makes it convenient and easy to complete and document training. Look for more specific information and direction from the Office of Safe Environment in the coming weeks.

I am proud to report that our Safe Environment program has gained strength in the past few years, so that we have reached levels of compliance never before achieved. This is to the good of our young people and vulnerable adults. We must continue to move forward on this path for the benefit of those whom the Lord calls us to serve.

Not long before my arrival in August, 2019, the Diocese released a list of clergy credibly accused of child abuse, an important gesture that

served as a catalyst for the healing process in West Virginia. Since then, other important steps have been taken to upgrade our protection efforts. Among them are:

- mandatory fingerprinting and FBI background checks for priests, deacons, seminarians and Catholic school personnel;
- consolidating the recordkeeping of compliance data through VIRTUS to allow employees and volunteers to work smarter, not harder, leaving them more time for ministry;
- contracting with a third-party reporting system called EthicsPoint to capture concerns regarding clergy as well as employees and volunteers;
- on-site audits every year by a third-party firm utilized by the Bishops' Conference rather than every three years (the Charter's mandate) and other audits performed by our fingerprinting firm, Corporate Security Investigations, in our Catholic schools;
- expanding since 2023 the scope of the independent Review Board to include not only sexual abuse of minors by clergy in accordance with the Charter but also inappropriate behavior toward adults, including but not limited to

boundary violations, harassment, sexual harassment, grooming and financial improprieties. (The Review Board consists of experts in human resources, mental health, medicine and law enforcement.)

- revising the Safe Environment section of the [dwc.org](http://dwc.org) website to include more information and be more transparent; and

- publishing annually the Diocese's financial audit report.

My desire, which I trust you share, is to make our parishes, schools, youth groups and camps as safe as possible for our children, young people and vulnerable adults in order that they may flourish physically, mentally and spiritually as children of God. They deserve this effort on our part. I count on you to join me in making it happen.

Thank you for your service to God and those who benefit from your efforts. May God bless you and keep you close to Him.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston


**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](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; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. 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. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. 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.


## 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. 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, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



Office: 1322 Eoff St.  
Mailing: PO Box 230  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 232-0444  
Web site: [www.thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://www.thecatholicspiritwv.org)  
Diocesan Web site: [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)  
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**Publisher:** Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....  
**Executive Editor:** Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347 ..... [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org)  
**Advertising:** contact Colleen Rowan  
**Freelance Writers:** Martina Hart, John Sherwood,  
**Member:** Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association,  
National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



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## The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org))

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

### Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Month of June

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is June 21

### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day, August 15

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2

### Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Feast Day, September 14

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

### Our Lady of the Rosary

Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

### Advent

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29

### Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

# U.S. Bishops Sue EEOC over Regulation Adding Abortion to Pregnant Worker Protections

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**  
**WASHINGTON (OSV News)**

— The U.S. Catholic bishops' conference, alongside other Catholic groups, filed suit May 22 against a federal agency for including abortion in regulations implementing a law meant to add workplace protections for pregnant workers.

Final regulations for the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in April, grant workers protections for time off and other job accommodations for pregnancy-related medical conditions such as miscarriage, stillbirth and lactation — but also for abortion, which was opposed by many of the bill's supporters, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Chieko Noguchi, USCCB spokeswoman, told OSV News May 23 that the conference "enthusiastically supported passage of this law, because it had nothing to do with abortion."

The conference, Noguchi said, supported the legislation's "reasonable accommodations and things like paid time off and modified work schedules."

"We supported that because we believe it's important to help protect the well-being of expectant mothers and their preborn children," she added.

"But the EEOC, which is an unelected federal agency, hijacked the law, which doesn't mention abortion at all," she said, adding the EEOC's regulation is "mandating that employers accommodate employee abortions."

As such, she said, the regulation would, in effect, force the USCCB to "knowingly support employees as they get abortions, and it forbids us from encouraging them to choose life."

"It bans us from operating in accordance with church teaching," Noguchi said. "So that's why we have filed this lawsuit."

A spokesperson for the EEOC referred OSV News to the Justice Department for comment. The latter did not immediately respond.

The EEOC regulations govern the implementation of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, bipartisan legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in December 2022. The law went into effect in June 2023 and prohibits employment practices that discriminate against making reasonable accommodations for qualified employees due

to their pregnancy, childbirth "or related medical conditions." The final regulations for the law were published in April 2024.

Many pro-life activists, including the USCCB, supported the legislation. But the EEOC regulation governing the implementation of that law, issued after it was enacted, contained broad language including abortion among "related medical conditions," and the potential circumstances for which employers may have to grant workplace accommodations, such as time off for medical appointments or additional rest breaks.

In an April 15 statement about the final regulation, EEOC Chair Charlotte A. Burrows said the law "gives pregnant workers clear access to reasonable accommodations that will allow them to keep doing their jobs safely and effectively, free from discrimination and retaliation."

Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana on behalf of the USCCB, as well as The Catholic University of America and the dioceses of Lake Charles and Lafayette in Louisiana.

The complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, states that "Congress was right and EEOC is wrong."

"The PWFA is not an abortion accommodation mandate. Rather, it fills a gap in federal employment law by ensuring pregnant women receive workplace accommodations to protect their pregnancies and their preborn children," it said.

Daniel Blomberg, vice president and senior counsel for Becket, told OSV News that the case is important because the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act itself is a "really good law."

"It's about protecting pregnant women and their children in the workplace," Blomberg said. "The idea is that you want to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy childbirth, and that's great for a healthy country. That's why USCCB supported that law. That's why a lot of folks supported this bipartisan law."

But the law, he said, "has been hijacked by a partisan EEOC that is trying to use a law about healthy pregnancy to force abortion on employers nationwide, including religious employers, and that's just not right."

When asked what EEOC could do to rectify the issue from Becket's perspective, Blomberg replied, "It's an easy fix: Do what Congress said."

"Congress said, 'We're here to protect pregnancy and childbirth,'" he said. "So let's protect pregnancy and childbirth."

"The core components of this (law) is about protecting moms protecting kids," Blomberg added. "That's wonderful. That's good. We should do that."

Peter Kilpatrick, Catholic University's president, said in a May 23 statement regarding the university's suit against the EEOC that the school has "shown our commitment to supporting the mothers who are a crucial part of our community." He pointed to Catholic University's Guadalupe Project, which was created to support expectant mothers on campus, saying, "We will continue this work."

He added that the EEOC regulation creates the possibility of "substantial liability for employers who express and enforce life-affirming policies and practices in the workplace," and diminished religious protections.

"The Catholic University of America community remains steadfast in our commitments to upholding the sanctity of life and supporting women and pregnant mothers in the workplace," Kilpatrick said. "We firmly reject any suggestion of tension between those two core commitments. We can — and we do — support women as they grow their families, and we believe it is possible to do so wholeheartedly while also supporting the dignity of life at all stages. Our mission to cultivate a culture of love, respect, and compassion demands nothing less."

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

## Quo Vadis Retreat

### Middle School Discernment Retreat

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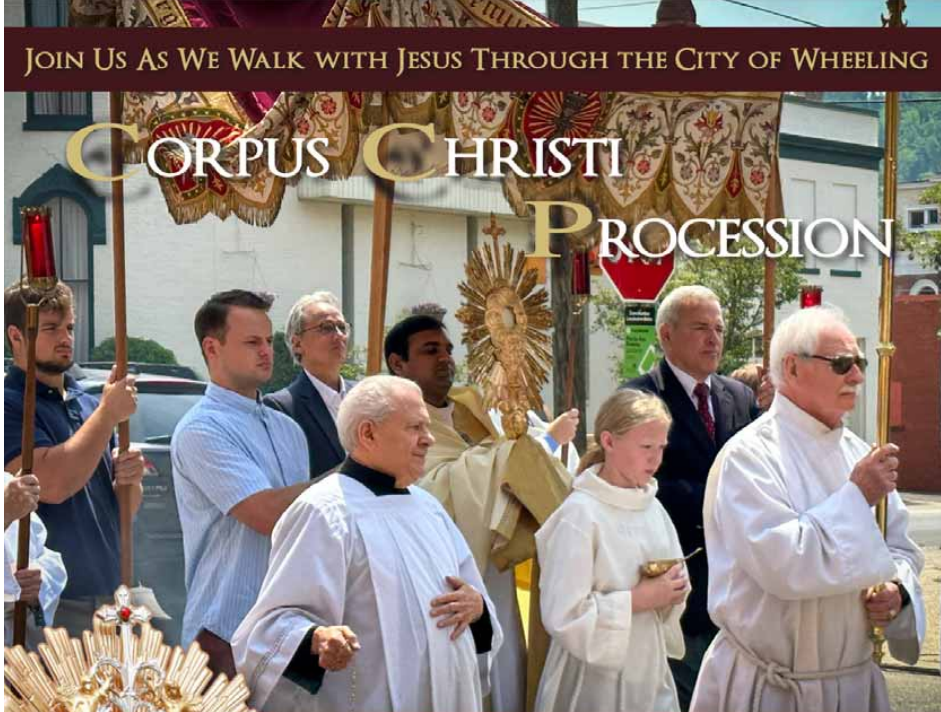
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 BISHOP OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON




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# Join in Prayer for Deacon Soplinski on the Eve of His Ordination to Priesthood

By Colleen Rowan

Family, friends, and faithful coming to Wheeling for Deacon John Soplinski's ordination to priesthood on May 31 at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, are invited to gather in prayer for him the night before at a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Father Brian Crenwelge, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, hopes all will join in this time of prayer before our Lord at 6 p.m. May 30 at the cathedral.

"The holy hour is our way of coming before our Lord humbly and entrusting Deacon John to Him to guide him as a faithful priest," said Father Crenwelge, who is also pastor of St. John University Parish in Morgantown and director of Campus Ministry for West Virginia University in Morgantown.

Deacon Soplinski's ordination to priesthood will be the first presbyteral ordination for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in three years. A great gift for him is the faithful coming together in prayer at the holy hour to ask the Lord to give him the grace he needs in priesthood.

"God works through humility," Father Crenwelge said. "Deacon John will serve our Lord's people in West Virginia, so we are humbly asking the Lord to protect him and to give him the grace to be a good and faithful priest for them. This is why I believe it is such an important and beautiful moment for us

ORDINATION  
*Holy hour*

**6 pm, May 30th**  
**Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
**Wheeling, WV**

Let us gather and pray  
for Deacon John Soplinski  
as he will be ordained  
to the priesthood, May 31, 2024.



 DIOCESE OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON
 
[www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)  




Photo Illustration by Joyce Bibey

as a diocese to come together and pray for him. I hope many people can come."

Priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians of the diocese will be joining the faithful as well at the

holy hour praying for Deacon Soplinski on the eve of his ordination.

## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father John Gallagher** is appointed designated pastor of Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School for a term of one year, effective June 19, 2024. This is in addition to his current assignment as Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Vienna.

In consultation with Bishop Moises Magpantay Cuevas, Vicar Apostolic of Calapan, Philippines, **Father Rey Landicho** is appointed administrator of St. Peter Parish in Welch, Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan, Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Gary, and Holy Cross Chapel in Pineville with residence at the parish rectory in Welch, effective June 19, 2024.

In consultation with Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Kalariparambil, provincial superior of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, South-West India Province, **Father Abraham P. Schariah, MSFS**, is appointed administrator of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 19, 2024.

## CCWVa President & CEO Gives Commencement Address at West Virginia Wesleyan College

**BUCKHANNON** — As the speaker during West Virginia Wesleyan College's 133rd Commencement Exercise emphasized giving to others, the Class of 2024 demonstrated they are hearing the call by raising support for the Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Campus to benefit students in the future.

Mark Phillips, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Charities West Virginia, gave the commencement address entitled "A Defense of Insignificance" and encouraged the graduates to consider how they can give to others.

"By putting aside our own innate selfish interests and recognizing our own insignificance, we can focus on the present moment, on the person beside us, on the people in our communities and the people in our world," Phillips said. "We add meaning in our lives and we increase our sense of satisfaction."

"You must change your life. I challenge you to make your-

self smaller, to lose your lives so that you might save them, to give yourself to your neighbor with love and humility," he said. "To the class of 2024, I wish you luck and I wish you a meaningful life."

The commencement ceremony was held in Wesley Chapel on May 11.

Phillips joined Catholic Charities West Virginia in 2019 as northern regional director before being promoted to chief operating officer in March 2022 and chief executive officer in May 2023.

The class of 2024 chose the Center for Counseling and Well-Being as the recipient of their class gift.

**Mark Phillips, president and CEO of Catholic Charities West Virginia, gives the commencement address at West Virginia Wesleyan College's 133rd Commencement Exercise May 11.**

*Photo courtesy of West Virginia Wesleyan College*



**FORMING  
CONSCIENCES  
FOR FAITHFUL  
CITIZENSHIP**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops's teaching document on political engagement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," provides guidance to Catholic voters during a presidential election year.

(OSV News/Courtesy USCCB)

[Click here to read the document](#)

# Congratulations

class of



# 2024

*Empowered by Knowledge \* Transformed by Faith*



**CATHOLIC**  
SHARING APPEAL  
[dwc.org/CSA](http://dwc.org/CSA)

# In '60 Minutes' Interview, Pope Clarifies Same-Sex Blessings, Speaks out Against War

By **Gina Christian, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — In the latest comment from the Vatican on “Fiducia Supplicans,” the controversial declaration issued by the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith in December 2023 that includes guidelines on the blessing of same-sex couples, Pope Francis clarified that he didn’t allow blessings of “the union” but of “each person.”

“What I allowed was not to bless the union,” the pope said, correcting the question of CBS journalist and interviewer Norah O’Donnell, who stated within her question that the pope had “decided to allow Catholic priests to bless same-sex couples.”

“That cannot be done because that is not the sacrament. I cannot. The Lord made it that way,” said Pope Francis, according to the English translation provided in voiceover by CBS. “But to bless each person, yes. The blessing is for everyone. For everyone. To bless a homosexual-type union, however, goes against the given right, against the law of the church. But to bless each person, why not? The blessing is for all. Some people were scandalized by this. But why? Everyone! Everyone!”

The Spanish-language video, however, reveals that instead of “given right,” Pope Francis said “natural law,” which, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “states the first and essential precepts which govern the moral life.”

“Fiducia Supplicans,” which sparked international uproar within the church, was just one of the many topics touched on in the wide-ranging interview that covered the pope’s thoughts on war, a “globalization of indifference,” conservatism in the church, antisemitism and U.S. policy toward migrants.

The pope spoke with O’Donnell April 24 at his residence, Casa Santa Marta (Domus Sanctae Marthae). A roughly 13-minute portion of

the interview aired May 19 on “60 Minutes,” the long-running newsmagazine of the CBS Television Network, with the balance of the session that was to be broadcast in a one-hour primetime special May 20 on the network and on the Paramount+ streaming platform.

The pair were seated beneath a large image of Our Lady Undoer of Knots, a Marian devotion from 18th-century Germany that is a favorite of Pope Francis, who learned of it some 40 years ago from a nun he had met while he was completing his doctoral thesis in that nation.

As a follow-up to the topic of same-sex blessings, O’Donnell reminded Pope Francis of his previous remarks that “homosexuality is not a crime,” qualifying of “unjust” laws criminalizing the condition of same-sex attraction, which the church recognizes as “objectively disordered” while calling for such persons to exercise chastity and self-mastery, and to be treated with respect and compassion.

Homosexuality “is a human fact,” Pope Francis told O’Donnell.

She asked him how he would respond to “conservative bishops in the United States that oppose your new efforts to revisit teachings and traditions.”

In his reply, Pope Francis defined a conservative as the “suicidal attitude” of “one who clings to something and does not want to see beyond that.”

“One thing is to take tradi-



OSV News Photo/Adam Verdugo, courtesy, 60 minutes, CBS NEWS  
**Pope Francis sits down exclusively with “CBS Evening News” anchor Norah O’Donnell at the Vatican April 24, for an interview ahead of the Vatican’s inaugural World Children’s Day. The CBS interview marked the first time a pope has given an in-depth, one-on-one interview to a U.S. broadcast network, according to CBS. A roughly 13-minute portion of the interview aired May 19 on “60 Minutes,” CBS’ long-running newsmagazine, with the balance of the session that was to be broadcast in a one-hour prime-time special May 20.**

tion into account, to consider situations from the past, but quite another is to be closed up inside a dogmatic box,” he said.

Throughout the interview, Pope Francis underscored his soft-spoken but energetic responses — delivered in his native Spanish through an interpreter — with emphatic gestures, shifting occasionally in his chair and appearing to be in good health, despite a bout with bronchitis earlier this year that saw him taken to the hospital for tests.

Asked by O’Donnell if the Catholic Church had “done enough” to reform and repent of clerical sexual abuse, Pope Francis said “it must continue to do more” since “the tragedy of the abuses is enormous.”

He also stressed the need to “not only ... not permit it but to put in place the conditions so that it does not happen.”

“It cannot be tolerated,” Pope Francis said. “When there is a case of a religious man or woman who abuses, the full force of the law falls upon them. In this there has been a great deal of progress.”

O’Donnell, in the May 19 excerpt, did not ask Pope Francis about Father Marko Rup-

nik, the Slovenian-born priest who was expelled from the Society of Jesus in June 2023, and who has gained international recognition both for his liturgical art and for the numerous accusations of sexual, spiritual and psychological abuse leveled against him in the course of his career.

O’Donnell did ask Pope Francis about the children of Gaza ahead of the Catholic Church’s inaugural World Children’s Day May 25-26, an observance instituted by the Vatican’s Dicastery for Culture and Education.

When O’Donnell, citing the United Nations, said that more than a million in Gaza, mostly children, would face famine on World Children’s Day, Pope Francis replied, “Not just in Gaza. Think of Ukraine.”

He said that many of the Ukrainian children who come to the Vatican “don’t know how to smile ... they have forgotten how to smile. And that is very painful.”

As a follow-up question, O’Donnell asked if the pope had a message for Russian leader Vladimir Putin, who ordered the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

“Please, warring countries, all of them, stop. Stop the war,” replied Pope Francis. “You must find a way of negotiating for peace. Strive for peace. A negotiated peace is always better than an endless war.”

O’Donnell asked the pope how to address international division over the Israel-Hamas war, which has sparked “big protests on college campuses and growing antisemitism.”

“All ideology is bad, and antisemitism is an ideology, and it is bad,” said Pope Francis. “Any ‘anti’ is always bad. You can criticize one government or another, the government of Israel, the Palestinian government. You can criticize all you want, but not ‘anti’ a people. Neither anti-Palestinian, nor antisemitic. No.”

Asked by O’Donnell if he could help negotiate peace, the pope sighed and replied, “What I can do is pray. I pray a

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# Pope...

**Cont'd from Page 8**

lot for peace. And also, to suggest, 'Please, stop. Negotiate.'"

O'Donnell also asked Pope Francis for his thoughts on the state of Texas' efforts to shutter Annunciation House, a Catholic nonprofit sheltering migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"That is madness. Sheer madness. To close the border and leave them there, that is madness," he said. "The migrant has to be received. Thereafter you see how you are going to deal with him. Maybe you have to send him back, I don't know, but each case ought to be considered humanely."

Recalling the pope's July 2013 visit to Lampedusa — the Italian island to which thou-

sands of migrants have fled, with thousands more perishing while crossing the Mediterranean — O'Donnell asked Pope Francis to speak about "the globalization of indifference."

"People wash their hands!" he answered. "There are so many Pontius Pilates on the loose out there ... who see what is happening, the wars, the injustice, the crimes ... (They say), 'That's OK, that's OK' and wash their hands. ... That is what happens when the heart hardens ... and becomes indifferent."

"Please, we have to get our hearts to feel again," Pope Francis implored. "We cannot remain indifferent in the face of such human dramas. The globalization of indifference is a very ugly disease. Very ugly."

No reference was made to

another hot button topic: women in the clergy, except in a post-interview narration in which O'Donnell said that although the pope had appointed more women to positions of church power than his predecessors, "he told us he opposes allowing women to be ordained as priests or deacons."

In a particularly poignant moment in the interview, O'Donnell asked the pope about the church's rejection of surrogacy, saying she knows women who are cancer survivors for whom the practice has become "the only hope" for having a child.

Pope Francis reaffirmed church teaching on the point, saying that surrogacy has sometimes "become a business, and that is very bad."

He also said that for infer-

tile women, "the other hope is adoption," and stressed that "in each case the situation should be carefully and clearly considered, consulting medically and then morally as well."

The pope commended O'Donnell for her sensitivity toward people that "in some cases (surrogacy) is the only chance," saying with a warm smile, "It shows that you feel these things very deeply. Thank you."

O'Donnell, in turn, said the pope has inspired hope among many "because you have been more open and accepting perhaps than any other previous leaders of the church."

Reiterating a cry he issued at World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Pope Francis said that the church is open to "everyone, everyone, everyone."

"The Gospel is for everyone," he emphasized. "If the church places a customs officer at the door, that is no longer the church of Christ."

The May 19 segment concluded with O'Donnell asking the pope what gave him hope.

"Everything," Pope Francis said. "You see tragedies, but you also see so many beautiful things ... heroic mothers, heroic men, men who have hopes and dreams, women who look to the future. That gives me a lot of hope. People want to live. People forge ahead. And people are fundamentally good. We are all fundamentally good. Yes, there are some rogues and sinners, but the heart itself is good."

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)



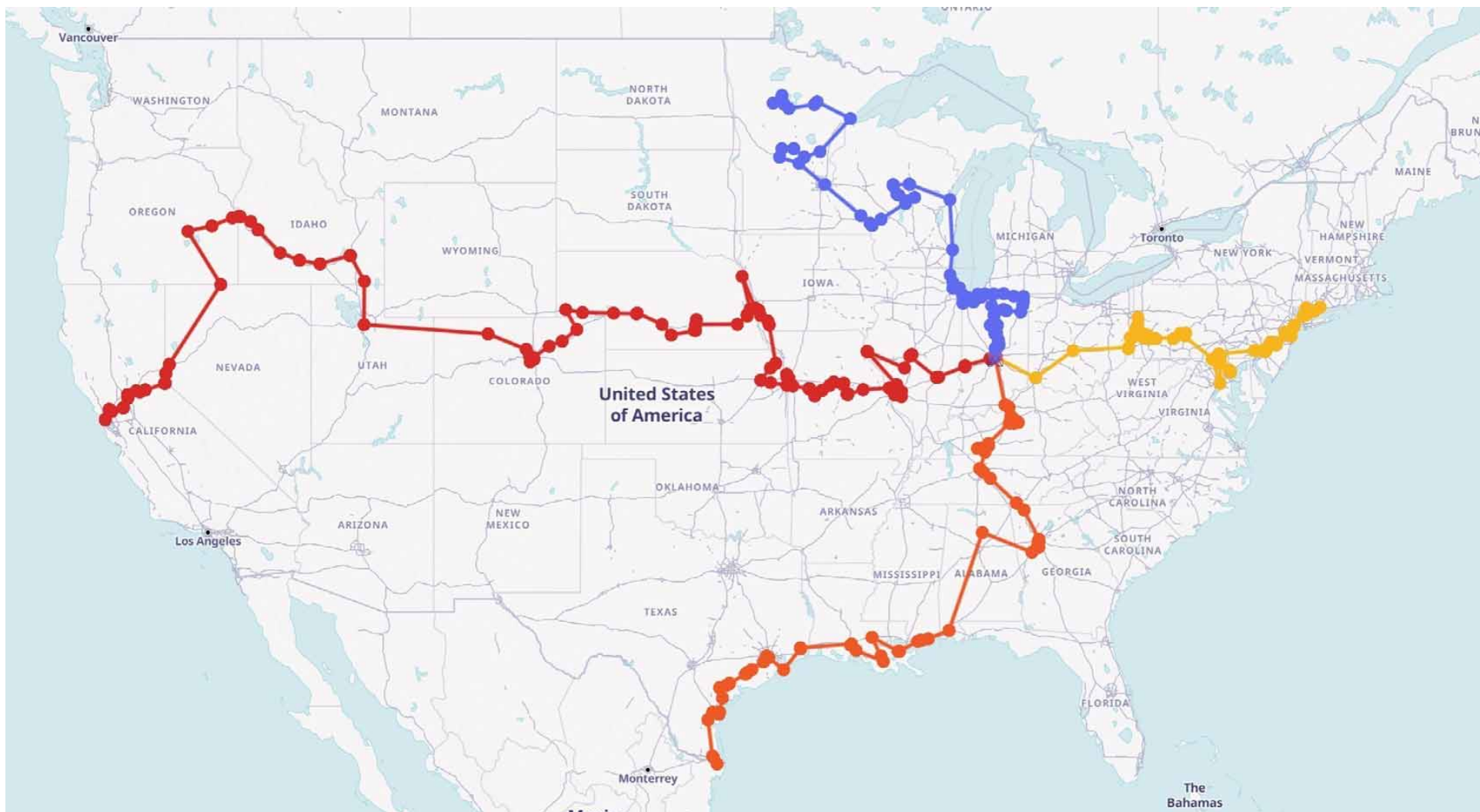
## Permanent Diaconate Ordination



3pm, June 7, 2024

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

# National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Journeys Begin on Pentecost, Inviting Torrents of Grace on U.S.



This is an updated map showing the four routes of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in 2024. The pilgrimage launched from four points in the U.S. May 18-19 and converges eight weeks later in Indianapolis for the July 17-21 congress.

OSV News illustration/courtesy National Eucharistic Congress

**By OSV News**

**LAKE ITASCA, Minn. (OSV News)** — An unassuming stream — just 18 feet across — pours forth from Lake Itasca, forming the start of the Mississippi River’s winding flow down 2,552 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. At this very point among the Northern Minnesota pines, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens held high a golden monstrance on the afternoon of May 19, tracing the sign of the cross over the waters and the people gathered — a humble gesture pleading for a mighty river of grace to flow for the National Eucharistic Revival.

Here at the start of the waters once blessed and named by the earliest Catholic missionaries as the

“River of the Immaculate Conception” — the bishop of Crookston, Minnesota, carrying Jesus in the Eucharist, turned onto a trail into the woods of Itasca State Park, followed by pilgrims whose hymns and psalms were punctuated by long periods of meditative silence — and short bursts of rain from the cloudy gray sky.

The Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage had begun at last.

The May 19 blessing of the Mississippi River headwaters marked the launch of the northern route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, an eight-week journey with the Eucharist from four compass points across the U.S. All routes

began their treks May 18-19, Pentecost weekend, with the other three routes starting from Brownsville, Texas; New Haven, Connecticut; and San Francisco.

The pilgrimage is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative launched in 2022 by the U.S. bishops to inspire a deeper love and reverence for Jesus in the Eucharist, after a Pew Research Center survey found only one-third of U.S. Catholics believed the church’s teaching of Jesus being truly present in the Eucharist.

From these four directions, the pilgrimage routes trace what organizers call “a sign of the cross over the nation,” as pilgrims traverse a combined 6,500 miles ac-

ross 27 states and 65 dioceses, through small towns, large cities and rural countryside — often on foot, always with the Eucharist — until they converge in Indianapolis for the July 17-21 National Eucharistic Congress.

“Brothers and sisters, the revival has to begin with you and me, and has to begin with our repentance, humbling ourselves, turning from our sin,” Bishop Cozzens, who chairs the board of the National Eucharistic Congress Inc., which is responsible for overseeing the congress in Indianapolis, told an estimated 2,500 people gathered for the outdoor Pentecost Mass held in a field near the state park’s

**See “Pilgrimage” on Page 11**

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## Pilgrimage...

**Cont'd from Page 10**  
entrance just prior to the headwaters' blessing.

He encouraged them to seek to receive the Eucharist worthily through frequent confession, ideally monthly.

"That's when the power of the Holy Spirit will be able to inhabit our hearts," Bishop Cozzens said, calling them to undergo a "personal Pentecost," and to ask the Lord "to enkindle in our hearts his fire, so that I can be the saint that he's calling me to be."

As the pilgrims meandered with the Eucharist through the wooded state park, cyclists and hikers respectfully stopped and waited for the procession to pass. Some, like Tom and Jeanne Young, dropped to their knees.

"You recognize that Jesus is really present, and here he is right with us," Jeanne Young said.

### Juan Diego Route: 'The Spirit moves us to join Christ'

In contrast to the gray skies and cool temperatures of Northern Minnesota, the pilgrims and faithful gathered for the launch of the St. Juan Diego Route had bright blue skies and the Texas heat for the start of their journey at the southernmost tip of the U.S.

"The Holy Spirit moves us to join Christ in his sacrifice and in glorifying the Father, and we move with Christ because the Spirit moves us," Brownsville Bishop Daniel E. Flores told the hundreds of Catholics who filled the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Brownsville, Texas, to overflowing May 19 for the Pentecost solemn Mass.

The Mass, celebrated in English and Spanish, marked the start of the southern pilgrimage route named for St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, the Indigenous Catholic visionary who saw Our Lady of Guadalupe and had a deep devotion to the Eucharist.

Jaime Reyna, part of the National Eucharistic Congress' planning team, came

from Corpus Christi, Texas, to join the May 19 launch of the southern route. He explained that at points of the Eucharistic procession in Brownsville, the Blessed Sacrament was being transported in an open trailer decorated with white

flowers pulled by a white truck, as hundreds of people followed. He added that people in their cars, or on the side of the road, would make the sign of the cross when seeing Jesus in the Eucharist passing by them.

About 350-500 people joined the day's observances, according to a diocesan official.

Reyna said that organizers had not expected "to have hundreds of people walk in the Texas heat, and yet people did, and people

were just wanting to keep walking, and keep walking."

"It was just amazing to see that," he said.

Shayla Elm, one of the perpetual pilgrims who **See "Pilgrimage" on Page 12**



## NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

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FROM THE EAST

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route



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### Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

#### Weirton:

St. Joseph the Worker  
Sacred Heart of Mary  
St. Paul's

#### Wheeling:

Cathedral of St. Joseph  
St. Alphonsus



### Pilgrimage Events

#### Thursday, June 20, National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Kickoff in Weirton

**St. Joseph the Worker Church:** Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.

**Eucharistic Procession** from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

**Eucharistic Adoration** with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

#### Friday, June 21

**Morning Mass** with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

**Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary—9:30-10:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, June 23 "Put Out into the Deep" on the Ohio River!"

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

**Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling**—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

**All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil**—8:30 p.m. (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

#### Monday, June 24

**Mass at the cathedral** celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Solemn Eucharistic Procession** through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

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# Pilgrimage...

**Cont'd from Page 11**  
hails from Denver, said she "witnessed a deep level of faith in this community that I've never really experienced before myself in a community here in America."

Describing people responding to the procession by saying "Viva Cristo Rey" or spontaneously offering water to those walking on the road, and the faithful processing alongside her singing religious hymns, Elm said, "It was just really beautiful to see how personal the Lord is with the people here."

## Seton Route: Hearts burning for the Eucharist

On the day of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's eastern route's launch in New Haven, Connecticut, perpetual pilgrim Natalie Garza said her heart was burning.

At a May 18 presentation at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center, the Kansas City, Kansas-area high school theology teacher shared her desire to "witness with my body the truth that I have professed with my words many times, that Jesus Christ is really present in the Eucharist."

For Garza, the eight weeks of pilgrimage are both an opportunity to "intercede for the American

church" and live out "a real expression and experience of discipleship," walking alongside Jesus in the Eucharist.

Under a gray sky punctuated at times by a cold drizzling rain, scores of Catholics in New Haven sang and prayed in procession May 18 with the Eucharistic Jesus, held by Father Roger Landry, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and Catholic chaplain at Columbia University.

Archbishop Christopher J. Coyne of Hartford, Connecticut, celebrated an extended Pentecost Vigil Mass at New Haven's St. Mary Church, the church where Blessed Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus' founder, once served and where his remains are reposed. The archbishop prayed "for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be given to our nation during the Eucharistic Revival" and for the success of the eastern pilgrimage named after the first American-born canonized saint, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

"Our life as Christians is a pilgrimage along the path of salvation. But it is not a solitary one. It is one in which we walk together as the body of Christ," the archbishop said. "In seeking after what God desires of us, we become pilgrims of no path but the one that he would have us follow."

The Seton Route pilgrims experienced an over-

night Holy Hour organized by young adult groups, which concluded at 7 a.m. May 19 and led into a 1.5-mile Eucharistic procession from St. Mary Church to St. Joseph Church for Pentecost Mass. Following Mass, the Seton Route's perpetual pilgrims headed to Long Wharf, New Haven's waterfront district.

Much like Jesus did with his first disciples many times in the Gospels, the Eucharistic Jesus, held aloft by the Seton Route's chaplain, Father Landry, boarded a boat with the pilgrim-disciples and headed out on the sea — this time venturing into the Long Island Sound, toward Bridgeport, Connecticut.

## Serra Route: Proclaiming Jesus' 'way of love'

On the West Coast, Jesus' travels in Galilee were also on the minds of the pilgrims gathered in San Francisco for the start of the western branch of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

"The last time Jesus walked this far across the face of the earth was in Galilee, so to be able to carry him will be extraordinary," said Wisconsin native Jack

Krebs, one of two drivers of the van specially equipped with a tabernacle where the pilgrims will travel when they are not walking the St. Junipero Serra Route of the National Eucharistic Revival.

The six young adults who are the Serra Route's perpetual pilgrims received a special blessing from Oakland Bishop Michael Barber at a May 18 prayer vigil, consisting of Eucharistic adoration and Benediction at Mission Dolores Basilica.

"Junipero Serra would be just in love with this whole idea, because his notion was he was bringing the Gospel and the Eucharist into an area where it had never been brought before," said Andrew Galvan, curator of Mission Dolores and a descendant of the Ohlone Indians evangelized by St. Junipero Serra, noting the saint would often celebrate Eucharistic processions.

The Serra Route finally began in earnest following the Pentecost Mass May 19 at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in San Francisco.

"Christ breathes new life into us, his church," said Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Fran-

cisco, who celebrated the Mass.

He urged those gathered to follow Jesus Christ in his "way of love," living publicly their faith in such a way that people perceive "a better way to live."

He said Jesus' way of love "has the power to change history, to change hearts, to bring the life of heaven to earth and to bring us to the life of heaven when we pass from this world to the next."

At the day's conclusion, after leading about 1,000 pilgrims across the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco archbishop raised the monstrance and blessed the city with the Eucharist from a vista point across from the city.

He then blessed the faithful who had crossed the bridge with him, and the perpetual pilgrims who would continue to journey with Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, all the way to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress.

(OSV News Senior Writer Maria Wiering, OSV News Spanish Editor Maria-Pia Chin, OSV News Culture Editor Laretta Brown, and writers Marietha Góngora V. and Valerie Schmalz, all contributed to this report.)

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# 'Welcome to the Table, Julia'



Courtesy Photo

St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington congratulated Julia Khumbah, who received her first Holy Communion May 19. "Julia, may you always know the Peace of Jesus, the Light of His Love, and the Joy of His Life within you," the parish posted to Facebook. At a reception, the parish had a cake for her with the message: "Welcome to the table, Julia." Above, Julia receives first Holy Communion from Father Shaji Thomas, pastor.

## Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule; Bishop Brennan, Celebrant

**Saturday, May 25:** St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 25:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 26:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 1:** St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 8:** Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, June 9:** Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 15:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 16:** St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.



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# Los recorridos de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional empezaron en Pentecostés, invitando torrentes de la gracia de Dios en EE.UU.

**LAGO ITASCA, Minnesota (OSV News)** -- Un pequeño arroyo, de apenas 4,5 metros de ancho, brota del lago Itasca, formando el inicio del serpenteante curso del río Mississippi, que recorre 3.000 kilómetros hasta el Golfo de México.

En este mismo punto, entre los pinos del norte de Minnesota, el obispo Andrew H. Cozzens alzó una custodia dorada en la tarde del 19 de mayo, trazando la señal de la cruz sobre las aguas y la gente reunida -- un gesto humilde suplicando que fluyera un poderoso río de gracia para el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional.

Aquí, en el comienzo de las aguas que una vez fueron bendecidas y bautizadas por los primeros misioneros católicos como el "Río de la Inmaculada Concepción", el obispo de Crookston, Minnesota, llevando a Jesús en la Eucaristía, se adentró por un sendero en los bosques del Parque Estatal de Itasca, seguido por peregrinos cuyos himnos y salmos eran interrumpidos por largos períodos de silencio meditativo y breves ráfagas de lluvia que caían del cielo gris nublado.

Por fin había comenzado la Ruta Mariana de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional.

La bendición de la cabecera del río Mississippi, el 19 de mayo, marcó el inicio de la ruta norte de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional, un viaje de ocho semanas con la Eucaristía desde cuatro puntos cardinales de EE.UU. Todas las rutas comenzaron sus caminatas el 18 y 19 de mayo, fin de semana de Pentecostés, con las otras tres rutas partiendo de Brownsville, Texas; New Haven, Connecticut; y San Francisco, California.

La peregrinación forma parte del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional, una iniciativa de tres años lanzada en 2022 por los obispos estadounidenses para inspirar un amor y una reverencia más profundos por Jesús Eucaristía, después de que una encuesta del Pew Research Center revelara que sólo un tercio de los católicos estadounidenses creía en la enseñanza de la Iglesia de que Jesús está realmente presente en la Eucaristía.

Desde estas cuatro direcciones, las rutas de peregrinación trazan lo que los organizadores llaman "un

signo de la cruz sobre la nación", mientras los peregrinos recorren un total de 6.500 millas a través de 27 estados y 65 diócesis, a través de pequeños pueblos, grandes ciudades y zonas rurales -- a menudo a pie, siempre con el Santísimo Sacramento -- hasta que convergen en Indianápolis para el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional del 17 al 21 de julio.

"Hermanos y hermanas, el renacimiento tiene que comenzar con ustedes y conmigo, y tiene que comenzar con nuestro arrepentimiento, humillándonos, volviéndonos de nuestro pecado", dijo el obispo Cozzens, que preside la junta del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, responsable de supervisar el congreso en Indianápolis, a unas 2.500 personas reunidas para la Misa de Pentecostés al aire libre celebrada en un campo cerca de la entrada del parque estatal justo antes de la bendición de la cacería.

Les animó a procurar recibir dignamente la Eucaristía mediante la confesión frecuente, idealmente cada mes. "Es entonces cuando la fuerza del Espíritu Santo podrá habitar en nuestros corazones", dijo el obispo Cozzens, llamándoles a vivir un "Pentecostés personal" y a pedir al Señor "que encienda en nuestros corazones su fuego, para que yo pueda ser el santo que me llama a ser".

Mientras los peregrinos caminaban con la Eucaristía por el boscoso parque estatal, ciclistas y excursionistas se detenían respetuosamente y esperaban el paso de la procesión. Algunos, como Tom y Jeanne Young, se arrodillaron.

"Reconocemos que Jesús está realmente presente, y está aquí con nosotros", dijo Jeanne Young.

## **Ruta de Juan Diego: 'El Espíritu Santo nos mueve a unirnos a Cristo'**

En contraste con los cielos grises y las temperaturas frescas del norte de Minnesota, los peregrinos y fieles reunidos para el lanzamiento de la Ruta de San Juan Diego tenían cielos azules brillantes y el calor de Texas para el inicio de su viaje en el extremo sur de los EE.UU.

"El Espíritu Santo nos mueve a unirnos a Cristo en su sacrificio y en glorificar al Padre, y nos move-

mos con Cristo porque el Espíritu nos mueve", dijo el obispo de Brownsville, Daniel E. Flores, a los cientos de católicos que llenaron a rebosar la Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción de Brownsville, Texas, el 19 de mayo para la Misa solemne de Pentecostés.

La Misa, celebrada en inglés y español, marcó el inicio de la ruta de peregrinación del sur que lleva el nombre de San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, el visionario indígena católico que vio a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y cuya profunda devoción por la Eucaristía lo impulsaba a caminar 15 millas para asistir a Misa todos los días.

Jaime Reyna, parte del equipo del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional, vino desde Corpus Christi, Texas, para unirse al lanzamiento de la ruta del sur el 19 de mayo. Explicó que, en algunos momentos de la procesión eucarística en Brownsville, el Santísimo Sacramento era transportado en un remolque abierto decorado con flores blancas tirado por un camión blanco, mientras cientos de personas lo seguían. Añadió que la gente en sus coches, o a un lado de la carretera, hacía la señal de la cruz al ver pasar a Jesús Eucaristía a su lado.

Reyna dijo que los organizadores no esperaban "tener a cientos de personas caminando en el calor de Texas, y sin embargo la gente lo hizo, y la gente sólo quería seguir caminando, y seguir caminando".

"Fue increíble verlo", afirmó.

Shayla Elm, parte del grupo de peregrinos perpetuos y que vive en Denver, dijo que fue "testigo de un profundo nivel de fe en esta comunidad que yo misma nunca había experimentado antes en una comunidad aquí en Estados Unidos".

Describiendo a la gente que respondía a la procesión gritando "Viva Cristo Rey" u ofreciendo agua a los que caminaban por la carretera, y a los fieles que procesionaban junto a ella cantando himnos religiosos, Elm dijo: "Fue realmente hermoso ver lo personal que es el Señor con la gente de aquí".

Después de la procesión (que incluyó paradas en tres iglesias), los peregrinos y los fieles participaron de una Misa en la Iglesia de San Pedro.

Allí, el obispo exhortó a los presentes a buscar satisfacer el hambre

que tenemos del amor de Dios y a "derramarnos nosotros mismos en las pequeñas cosas de cada día, dar un poquito de nuestra vida para construir esa ciudad eterna que Dios está preparando".

## **Ruta Seton: Corazones ardiendo por la Eucaristía**

El día del lanzamiento de la ruta oriental de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional en New Haven, Connecticut, la peregrina perpetua Natalie Garza dijo que su corazón ardía.

En una presentación el 18 de mayo en el Centro de Peregrinación Beato Michael McGivney, la profesora de teología de la escuela secundaria del área de Kansas City, Kansas, compartió su deseo de "testimoniar con mi cuerpo la verdad que he profesado con mis palabras muchas veces, que Jesucristo está realmente presente en la Eucaristía".

Para Garza, las ocho semanas de peregrinación son tanto una oportunidad para "interceder por la Iglesia de EE.UU." como para vivir "una expresión y experiencia real de discípulado", caminando junto a Jesús en la Eucaristía.

Bajo un cielo gris salpicado a veces por una fría llovizna, decenas de católicos de New Haven cantaron y rezaron en procesión el 18 de mayo con el Jesús Eucarístico, sostenido por el padre Roger Landry, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Fall River, Massachusetts, y capellán católico de la Universidad de Columbia.

El arzobispo Christopher J. Coyne de Hartford, Connecticut, celebró una Misa de Vigilia de Pentecostés extendida en la iglesia St. Mary de New Haven, la iglesia donde el Beato Michael McGivney, fundador de los Caballeros de Colón, sirvió una vez y donde reposan sus restos.

El arzobispo rezó "por el don del Espíritu Santo que se concederá a nuestra nación durante el Avivamiento Eucarístico" y por el éxito de la ruta oriental de la peregrinación. Dicha ruta lleva el nombre de la primera santa canonizada nacida en Estados Unidos, Santa Isabel Ana Seton (conocida por su nombre en inglés Elizabeth Ann Seton).

**Ver Eucarística en la página 15**

## Eucarística...

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"Nuestra vida como cristianos es una peregrinación por el camino de la salvación. Pero no es una peregrinación solitaria. Es una en la que caminamos juntos como el cuerpo de Cristo", dijo el arzobispo. "Al buscar lo que Dios desea de nosotros, nos convertimos en peregrinos del único camino que el que Él quiere que sigamos".

Los peregrinos de la Ruta de Seton vivieron una Hora Santa organizada por grupos de jóvenes adultos, y los fieles podían unirse a la adoración eucarística – que duró toda la noche que concluyó a las 7 de la mañana del 19 de mayo. Después de una procesión eucarística de 1,5 millas desde la iglesia de St. Mary hasta la iglesia de St. Joseph para la Misa de Pentecostés. Tras la Misa, los peregrinos perpetuos de la Ruta de Seton se dirigieron a Long Wharf, el distrito ribereño de New Haven.

Al igual que Jesús hizo con sus primeros discípulos muchas veces en los Evangelios, el Jesús Eucarís-

tico, sostenido en alto por el capellán de la Ruta Seton, el padre Landry, subió a un barco con los discípulos peregrinos y se dirigió hacia el mar, esta vez adentrándose en el estrecho de Long Island, hacia la Diócesis de Bridgeport, Connecticut.

### Ruta de Serra: Proclamar el "camino del amor" de Jesús

En la Costa Oeste, los viajes de Jesús por Galilea también estaban en la mente de los peregrinos reunidos en San Francisco para el inicio de la rama occidental de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional.

"La última vez que Jesús caminó tan lejos por la faz de la tierra fue en Galilea, así que poder llevarlo será extraordinario", dijo Jack Krebs, natural de Wisconsin, uno de los dos conductores de la furgoneta especialmente equipada con un sagrario en la que viajarán los peregrinos cuando no estén recorriendo la Ruta de San Junípero Serra de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional.

Los seis jóvenes adultos que son los peregrinos perpetuos de la Ruta

Serra recibieron una bendición especial del obispo de Oakland, Michael Barber, en una vigilia de oración el 18 de mayo, que consistió en adoración eucarística y bendición en la Basílica de la Misión Dolores.

"Junípero Serra estaría encantado con esta idea, porque su idea era llevar el Evangelio y la Eucaristía a una zona donde nunca se había llevado antes", dijo Andrew Galván, conservador de la Misión Dolores y descendiente de los indios Ohlone evangelizados por San Junípero Serra, señalando que el santo celebraba a menudo procesiones eucarísticas.

La Ruta de Serra comenzó en serio tras la Misa de Pentecostés del 19 de mayo en la Catedral de Santa María de la Asunción de San Francisco.

"Cristo respira nueva vida dentro de nosotros, su Iglesia", dijo el arzobispo de San Francisco, Salvatore J. Cordileone, que celebró la Misa.

Instó a los reunidos a seguir a Jesucristo en su "camino del amor", viviendo públicamente su fe de tal

manera que la gente perciba "una manera mejor de vivir".

Y dijo que el camino de amor de Jesús "tiene el poder de cambiar la historia, de cambiar los corazones, de traer la vida del cielo a la tierra y de llevarnos a la vida del cielo cuando pasemos de este mundo al otro".

Al final de la jornada, tras guiar a unos 1.000 peregrinos a través del puente Golden Gate, el arzobispo de San Francisco elevó la custodia y bendijo la ciudad con la Eucaristía desde un mirador situado frente a la ciudad.

A continuación, bendijo a los fieles que habían cruzado el puente con él, y a los peregrinos perpetuos que seguirán viajando con Jesús, verdaderamente presente en la Eucaristía, hasta Indianápolis para el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional.

(La redactora senior de OSV News Maria Wiering, la editora de OSV News en español Maria-Pia Negro Chin, la editora de cultura de OSV News Lauretta Brown, y las escritoras Marietha Góngora V. y Valerie Schmalz, han contribuido a este reportaje.)

### Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de

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

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bien 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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de [www.dwc.org](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.



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