



Statement of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Regarding the School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24

It is with great sadness that I once again call on all West Virginia residents to join with the world in prayer for the victims of the horrendous school shooting that took place yesterday in Uvalde, Texas.

As Catholics, we are called to pray for those who have died and assist in healing the deep

wounds of those who mourn. But we must now do more than offer prayers and support. We must encourage concrete action in the hopes that never again are school children the target of these heinous acts of violence.

It is obvious that mental health issues, unchecked anger, and rage are part of the problem

and can lead to people committing unspeakable acts of evil and violence, and we must address these issues, but it is equally apparent that those perpetrating these terrible atrocities are able to do so because they wield powerful weapons that are able to kill and maim dozens of people in

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CNS Photo/Marco Bello, Reuters
 People react outside the SSGT Willie de Leon Civic Center, where students had been transported from Robb Elementary School after a shooting, in Uvalde, Texas, May 24.

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Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

Father Andrew Switzer will be on sabbatical beginning June 1, 2022, and ending on September 30, 2022.

Father T. Mathew Rowgh is appointed temporary administrator of St. Agnes Parish in Shepherdstown with residence at the parish rectory, effective June 1, 2022, and ending on September 30, 2022.

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.report-bishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

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

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

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

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

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

Statement...

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just seconds. We must do more as a society to limit the availability of these types of weapons; especially to those whose sole purpose is to use such weapons to commit atrocities against our brothers and sisters.

I call on everyone to pray for an end to this evil and implore both gun owners and our elected officials to work together and take action to ensure the safety of our children, our schools, our churches, and our communities.



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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May 27, Vol. 53, No. 22

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
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Member
Catholic Press Association
West Virginia Press Association
National Press Photographers Association, Inc.



Published 24 times per year. All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

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Pope Prays for Texas Shooting Victims, Calls for Stricter Gun Laws

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying his heart was broken at the news of at least 19 children and two adults being shot and killed at a Texas elementary school, Pope Francis said it was time to say “Enough!” and enact stricter laws on gun sales.

At the end of his weekly general audience May 25, with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, the pope prayed publicly for the victims of the shooting the day before at

Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

“With a heart shattered over the massacre at the elementary school in Texas, I pray for the children and adults who were killed and for their families,” the pope told the crowd.

“It is time to say, ‘Enough!’ to the indiscriminate trafficking of guns,” the pope said. “Let’s all work to ensure that such tragedies never happen again.”

Shortly before the audience, Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, an arch-

diocese that includes Uvalde, tweeted: “Holy Father Pope Francis, say some prayers for the souls of our little ones killed today and two teachers. Uvalde is in mourning. The families are having a very dark time. Your prayer will do good to them.”

Local authorities said the children and adults were killed by an 18-year-old student from a high school nearby. He also was reported dead and at least three children remained hospitalized for injuries suffered in the attack.

Bishops Push Gun Control; Some Call Mass Shootings ‘Pressing Life Issue’

By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several U.S. bishops spoke out against the easy accessibility to guns in the country following a May 24 rampage that left at least 19 children and two of their elementary school teachers dead in Uvalde, Texas.

“Don’t tell me that guns aren’t the problem, people are. I’m sick of hearing it,” Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, tweeted May 25. “The darkness first takes our children who then kill our children, using the guns that are easier to obtain than aspirin. We sacralize death’s instruments and then are surprised that death uses them.”

The comments came hours after Texas authorities said an 18-year-old with two assault weapons evaded police after crashing his truck near an elementary school close to the U.S.-Mexico border and entered the school building at around noon armed with what seemed to be a rifle.

“There was several law enforcement that engaged the suspect but he was able to make entry into the school where he did go into several classrooms and, unfortunately, he did fire his firearm,” Sgt. Erick Estrada, of the Texas Department of Public Safety, told CNN late May 24.

A Border Patrol unit subsequently arrived and one

of its officers shot and killed the shooter in the classroom full of fourth graders.

In addition to the dead, reports say 15 children were injured as well as the two law enforcement officers who initially attempted to stop him. Authorities named Salvador Ramos as the shooter and said that prior to arriving at the school, he shot his grandmother, who remains in the hospital.

San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller comforted families outside a local civic center in Uvalde as they waited for news. Along with priests from the Archdiocese of San Antonio, he spent much of the day tending to parishioners and others who needed comfort after the horrific day.

“When will these insane acts of violence end?” the archbishop later said in a statement. “It is too great a burden to bear. The word tragedy doesn’t begin to describe what occurred. These massacres cannot be considered ‘the new normal.’”

“The Catholic Church consistently calls for the protection of all life; and these mass shootings are a most pressing life issue on which all in society must act — elected leaders and citizens alike,” he said. “We pray that God comfort and offer compassion to the families of these little ones whose pain is unbearable.”



People gather at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, May 25, the day after a mass shooting.

CNS Photo/Nuri Vallbona, Reuters

He confirmed to a CNN reporter that there’s an effort to connect with Ramos’ family and said he would show them gestures of “tenderness, compassion because they are suffering, too.” He said Ramos’ actions were evil but said he didn’t agree when he heard someone say “that man is evil.”

“No, they were evil actions. Everyone has dignity and the family is suffering, too,” he said. “It’s easy to make remarks that destroy people’s lives ... there’s already enough destruction.”

Chieko Noguchi, director of public affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catho-

lic bishops, said the organization joined Archbishop García-Siller in prayers for the community.

“There have been too many school shootings, too much killing of the innocent. Our Catholic faith calls us to pray for those who have died and to bind the wounds of others,” she said in a statement. “As we do so, each of us also needs to search our souls for ways that we can do more to understand this epidemic of evil and violence and implore our elected officials to help us take action.”

In a statement, the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, suggested that a course of ac-

tion from the Catholic Church could come “in findings ways to more effectively identify people at risk of such behavior and to push for reasonable limits to the proliferation of firearms.”

From Rome, Pope Francis also weighed in, saying: “It’s time to say ‘Enough’ to the indiscriminate trade of weapons!” and encouraged all to be committed in the effort “so that tragedies like this cannot occur again.”

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich in a May 24 tweet said the right to life trumps the right to have weapons and that “the Second **See “Bishops” on Page 4**

Bishops...

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Amendment did not come down from Sinai."

"The right to bear arms will never be more important than human life," he said. "Our children have rights too. And our elected officials have a moral duty to protect them."

In an address to the nation, President Joe Biden recalled his time as vice president when he could not get enough members of Congress to agree on gun control legislation in 2013, a year after 26 people, including 20 elementary school children, were fatally shot by a gunman at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. "As a nation, we have to ask: When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? When in God's name will we do what we all know in our gut needs to be done?" the president said.

Cardinal Cupich, in his tweets, implored people, not just to lament, but to act.

"We must weep and soak in the grief that comes with the knowledge that these children of God were cut down by a man who was just a few years their senior. But then we must steel ourselves to act in the face of what seems like insurmountable despair," he tweeted. "As I reflect on this latest American massacre, I keep returning to the questions: Who are we as a nation if we do not act to protect our children? What do we love more: our instruments of death or our future?"

The USCCB has consistently called for gun control.

In a presentation titled "Responses to the Plague of Gun Violence" he delivered Nov. 11, 2019, during the U.S. bishops' fall general assembly, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, then chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, spelled out the bishops' support for a ban on assault weapons, universal background checks, a federal gun trafficking bill, regulations on sales of handguns, improved mental health interventions, safety measures and "an honest assessment of violent images and experiences in our society."

Like much of the American public voicing frustrations after the mass shooting in Texas, Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, said the country "must now do more than offer prayers and support."

He called on all, but particularly on lawmakers and gun owners "to work together and take action to ensure the safety of our children, our schools, our churches and our communities."

South Charleston's Blessed Sacrament Parish Conducts a 'Blessing of the Fleet' and Clean-Up River Paddle

By Donna K. Becher

A few months ago, the Creation Care Team at Blessed Sacrament Church in South Charleston decided to focus their educational efforts around the issue of water. They began with a series of bulletin articles on the themes of: Water in Liturgy, Water in Laudato Si, the streams and rivers with which West Virginia is blessed, and an overview of water quality issues in our state.

A kayak/canoe clean-up trip to a "resurrected river" in the area, (i.e. one that a volunteer group had brought back from a severely degraded condition) and "Blessing of the Fleet" was planned as a culminat-

ing event. The team placed a sign-up sheet for the blessing/paddle/clean-up in the church's gathering space surrounded by a display of pictures and information centered around the themes of the bulletin articles.

In 2000, the Coal River was identified by the National Association of Rivers as the dirtiest stream in West Virginia; particularly with respect to e. coli levels, as well as debris from years of neglect and abuse. The e. coli problem was due in large part to the approximately 1,500 homes along the river with malfunctioning septic systems. Around 2004, a group of friends who regularly frequented a



Courtesy Photos

At left and above: Volunteers are pictured at the blessing/paddle/clean-up on the Coal River sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston May 14.

bar/restaurant overlooking the river decided to do something about it. Their efforts and concerns eventually resulted in the founding of the non-profit "Coal River Group."

Bill Currey, who was a founding member of that group, currently serves as its "chair emeritus". He is also chairperson of the new West Virginia Flatwater Trail Commission. Today the Coal River Group has hundreds of volunteers who regularly work to clean the river of debris, as well as speak out about issues that affect the health of this

beautiful river.

On May 14, despite threats of rain, an intrepid group from Blessed Sacrament (20 paddlers, five shuttle drivers, and a number of other parishioners), gathered at the Coal River Group headquarters. There, Bill Currey explained the details of his Group's efforts to resurrect the river. The group then munched their brown bag lunches on a patio overlooking a falls on the river. At the paddle put-in, Blessed Sacrament's pastor Father John Finnell blessed the fleet of kayaks and ca-

noes, paddlers were given trash bags, and the flotilla was launched down the river.

Seven miles and a few hours later, they returned with kayaks and trash bags brimming with various trash picked up in the river, including an old helium tank, beach ball, baby crib mobile, milk carton containers, backpack, and a few canoes' worth of bottles, cups, containers, etc.

All participants made it back safely and, as the last kayaks were being loaded onto cars, the skies opened and the rains came.

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Have you ever needed to answer the question, "Does God exist?" Given our increasingly secular society and the atheistic worldview often promoted by the mainstream media and academic/scientific establishment, the need to equip Catholics

to credibly, convincingly, and compellingly explain and share why we believe in God has never been greater.

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Parish Honors High School and College Graduates



Courtesy Photo

RAVENSWOOD—On Sunday May 22, St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood honored its high school and college graduates at Mass and with a brunch after the celebration. The Knights of Columbus presented the high school graduates with scholarships and the college graduates with gifts and all graduates received gifts from the parish. Abigail Roberts and Annie Pierson graduated from Ripley High School; Carlee Hupp from Ravenswood High School; Mary Pierson from Fairmont State University and Riley Heatherington from the University of Charleston. Not present but graduating from the University of Ohio was Maggie Bowlby. "We are very proud of our graduates and pray for their continued success!" parish officials said.

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San Francisco Prelate Says No Communion for Pelosi over Her Abortion Stand

By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — San Francisco's archbishop declared May 20 that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is not "to be admitted" to Communion unless and until she publicly repudiates "support for abortion 'rights'" and goes to confession and receives absolution "for her cooperation in this evil."

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone said he decided to make this declaration "after numerous attempts to speak with her to help her understand the grave evil she is perpetrating, the scandal she is causing and the danger to her own soul she is risking" as a Catholic who supports legalized abortion.

Pelosi represents California's 12th Congressional District, which is entirely within San Francisco. A call to Pelosi's Washington office from Catholic News Service to request a comment was not returned immediately.

"Please know that I find no pleasure whatsoever in fulfilling my pastoral duty here," Archbishop Cordileone said. "Speaker Pelosi remains our sister in Christ. Her advocacy for the care of the poor and vulnerable elicits my admiration. I assure you that my action here is purely pastoral, not political. I have been very clear in my words and actions about this."

The archbishop opened his 1,300-word letter by saying that Pope Francis "has been one of the world's most vocal advocates of human dignity in every stage and condition of life."

"He decries what he evocatively calls the 'throwaway culture,'" Archbishop Cordileone said. "There can be no more extreme example of this cultural depravity than when direct attacks on human life are enshrined in a nation's law, celebrated by society, and even paid for by the government."

"This is why Pope Francis, as much as any pope in living memory, has repeatedly and vividly affirmed the church's clear and constant teaching that abortion is a grave

moral evil," he said.

Last October, Pelosi met privately with Pope Francis at the Vatican while she was in Rome to speak at a meeting of legislators from around the world in preparation for the U.N. climate summit.

The Vatican released photos of the meeting but provided no details of the encounter. A photo of the pope and Pelosi from that visit is on the homepage of her congressional website.

Pelosi said in a statement it was "a spiritual, personal and official honor" to have an audience with the pope.

"His Holiness' leadership is a source of joy and hope for Catholics and for all people, challenging each of us to be good stewards of God's creation, to act on climate, to embrace the refugee, the immigrant and the poor and to recognize the dignity and divinity in everyone," her statement said.

Archbishop Cordileone said he is bound by canon law to be "concerned for all the Christian faithful entrusted" to his care.

He added that over the years he has heard from many Catholics "expressing distress over the scandal being caused by such Catholics in public life who promote such grievously evil practices as abortion."

In September, Archbishop Cordileone asked Catholics in the archdiocese to pray for Pelosi on abortion. What prompted the call for prayer was her leadership on the Women's Health Protection Act, or H.R. 3755, passed by the House in a 218-211 vote Sept. 24.

The measure establishes the legal right to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy in all 50 states under federal law. The bill was pushed forward over fears by abortion supporters the Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade* in its decision on a Mississippi ban on abortion after 15 weeks. The measure failed to advance to a full vote in the Senate May 11.

Pelosi considers abortion health care and, as recently as May 13 in remarks on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, she warned the Supreme Court



CNS Composite/Evelyn Hockstein, Reuters, and Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone are seen in this composite photo.

to keep its "hands off women's reproductive health care." She also said if *Roe* is overturned, Republicans have a "dangerous and extreme agenda" that could see "an all-out assault" on more rights.

Pelosi's position on abortion "has become only more extreme over the years, especially in the last few months," Archbishop Cordileone said. "Just earlier this month she once again, as she has many times before, explicitly cited her Catholic faith while justifying abortion as a 'choice,' this time setting herself in direct opposition to Pope Francis."

"Conversion is always better than exclusion, and before any such action can be taken it must be preceded by sincere and diligent efforts at dialogue and persuasion," Archbishop Cordileone wrote.

If the person in question still presents himself or herself to receive the Eucharist, "the minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it," he said, quoting canon law.

Aboard the papal flight from Slovakia Sept. 15, Pope Francis said he did not want to comment directly on the issue of denying Communion

in the United States "because I do not know the details; I am speaking of the principle" of the matter.

However, he said that while there is no question that "abortion is homicide," bishops must take a pastoral approach rather than wade into the political sphere.

"If we look at the history of the church, we can see that every time the bishops did not act like shepherds when dealing with a problem, they aligned themselves with political life, on political problems," he said.

He also said he never denied Communion to anyone, but he "never aware of anyone in front of me under those conditions that you mentioned."

Recalling his apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium," the pope said that "Communion is not a prize for the perfect," but rather "a gift, the presence of Jesus in his church and in the community. That is the theology."

However, Pope Francis also said he understood why the church takes a hard stance because accepting abortion "is a bit as if daily murder was accepted."

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University President Ginny R. Favede believes Wheeling will produce well-educated Athletic Trainers who will help address a national shortage in the field. Athletic Training, she said, is a fast-growing career field with many opportunities.

"With health care ever changing, there is a high demand for Athletic Trainers to serve in a variety of settings outside the traditional sports team related job," said Favede. "More and more qualified athletic trainers are needed to serve patients of all ages, across many fitness and health related settings. Today, athletic trainers can be found in doctor's offices, hospital emergency rooms, sports medicine clinics, and occupational and industrial settings."

Dr. Melissa Bozovich, DPT, ATC, director of the MSAT program and assistant professor of Athletic Training, agreed that the demand for athletic trainers is on the rise. She believes Wheeling's 18-month format and the problem-based learning curriculum is what sets it apart from many others.

"Three aspects of Wheeling's MSAT program make it unique. First, the program offers undergraduates a 3+2 format, which allows the students to complete their undergraduate degree in three years and finish the master's degree in an additional 18 months," Bozovich explained. "Secondly, is the Problem Based Learning (PBL) format, which is an integrated approach where learning is student-centered with objectives driven by real-life scenarios. Lastly, Clinical Education is woven throughout the curriculum, so students are able to gain practical experience using skills they are learning in the classroom."

Additionally, Bozovich said the PBL curriculum teaches students to work in small groups focused on active learning, discussion and collaboration. "This approach to learning develops the student's critical thinking, clinical judgment and self-appraisal skills – skills that will make them work-place ready upon

graduation."

Favede said Wheeling's widely popular undergraduate Exercise Science program allows students in that major to make an easy transition into the master's program. "The MSAT program offers our undergraduate students a seamless transition and the ability to complete their degrees in just five years. In addition, Wheeling alumni will be given a 25 percent discount when they enroll."

Historically, Wheeling University, like many other institutions, offered a bachelor's level Athletic Training program in the past, which was sufficient for licensure and beginning a career.

However, as of fall 2022, students looking to earn a degree in Athletic Training will need to obtain a graduate-level degree. Key stakeholders in Athletic Training agreed that all these programs had to transition to a professional level master's degree in accordance with guidelines adopted by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Trainers Education (CAATE).

Bozovich added, "NATA and CAATE spent two years examining what is the appropriate degree level to best prepare athletic trainers for their role in today's evolving health care system. After careful study, these two organizations decided a master's level education would provide Athletic Trainers with the best resources to serve the patients entrusted in their care. With Athletic Trainers becoming more and more integral members of interprofessional patient care, the advanced degree was the appropriate next step in their professional development."

"Athletic Training is recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as an allied health care profession. Overall, this program is intended to provide improved access to health care and additional healthcare providers in the Appalachian communities that are lacking important medical resources," Favede said.

Wheeling's MSAT program is just one of five offered in the state of West Virginia. To learn more about the MSAT program, interested students can contact Bozovich at mbozovich@wheeling.edu.

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Youth Leader Position Opening

Oakview Juvenile Residential Center, a community corrections facility located in St. Clairsville, Ohio has a full-time youth leader position available. The youth leader will oversee, monitor, and supervise daily programming. Qualifications include possession of high school diploma or GED; must be 21 or older. The projected salary is \$15.83 per hour with county health benefits, paid holidays, and PERS retirement.

All interested candidates may contact John M. Rowan, executive director of Oakview, at (740) 695-3500. For more information on our facility, please see our website www.oakviewrc.org.



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'The Options Wouldn't Have Been Available to Me Anywhere Else'

– Chrystal's Story

Chrystal has been working with the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Adult Education program for a few months to get back on her feet. Chrystal came to us as a condition of her bond after getting out of jail for a drug-related offense.

"At first I had to be here," Chrystal said. "Now I see I needed to be here to get sober. 'Cause I couldn't do it by myself. I've tried."

With two grown kids and seven beautiful grandkids, Chrystal is ready to start fresh. Once she finishes her certificate program she plans to go to Beckley, where her sister-in-law lives. While she imagined she'd get a low-paying job as a housekeeper for a hotel, her work with CCWVa staff and volunteers has allowed her to see more compelling possibilities. She could use her certificate to get a job as an assistant manager in a restaurant, gain experience, and then work her way up to manager.

Michelle is a CCWVa Adult Education Instructor who has been working with Chrystal for the past several months. She says her favorite part of her job is encouraging and cheering on learners as they reach for their goals. "I love to help them realize they had it in them all along. That they could always do it, and all they needed was to believe in themselves," said Michelle. CCWVa Adult Education programs are offered free of charge, and

all adults are eligible to participate. Certification programs allow people to explore and develop new skills while also improving their resumes and job prospects.

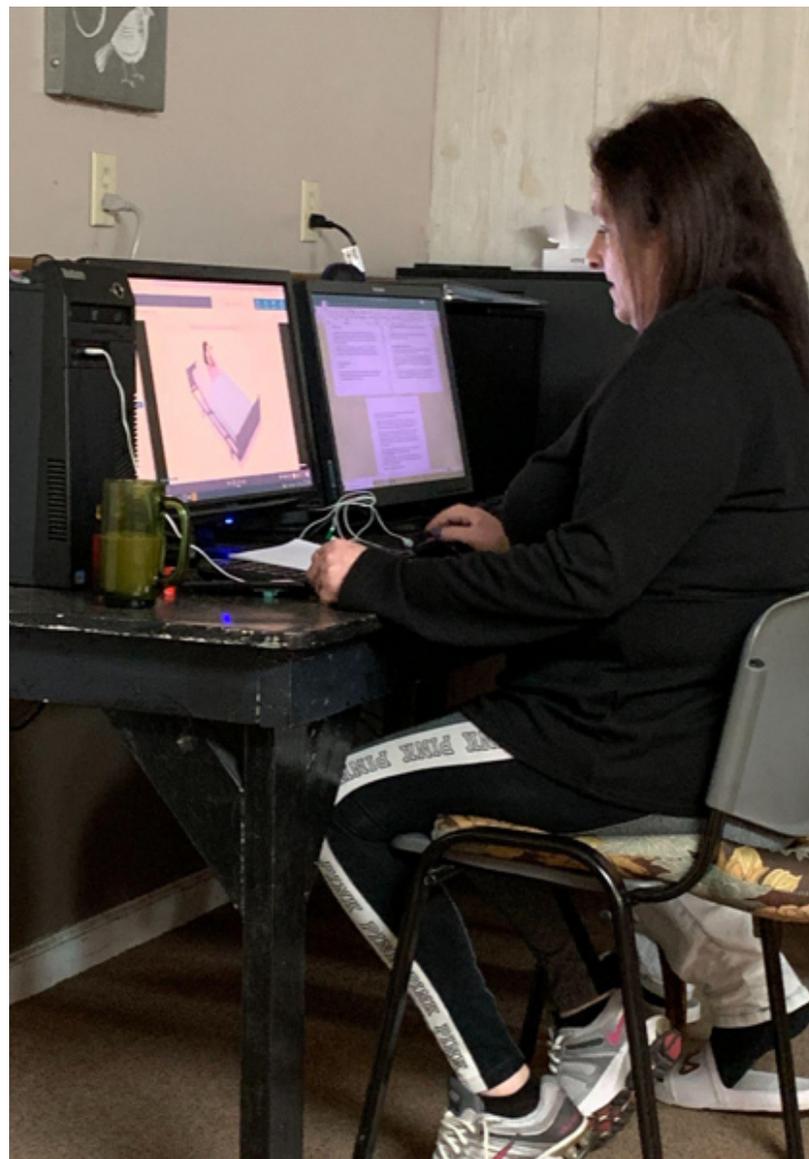
CCWVa has also partnered with the state of West Virginia to offer a financial incentive, called Job Jumpstart, to people who obtain certain certifications before August 2022.

Learners rely on volunteer tutors to help them gain confidence and excel in a variety of fields. Some examples of certificate programs offered are WV Welcome (for hospitality careers), Food Management, Customer Service, and several computer literacy certificates. "We also work with people who are applying for college," says Michelle. "We can help them prepare for the ACT or SAT."

Chrystal is just one person who has found the support she needed to make positive changes in her life. She is looking forward to the future, confident in her ability to thrive on her new path in life.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes, and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



Courtesy Photo

Chrystal is furthering her education through CCWVa's Adult Education program.

Seeking Principal

St. Patrick Church of Weston, West Virginia is seeking a Principal for St. Patrick Catholic School, pre-school through eighth grades.

- The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.
- The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.
- The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF form to Julie Link, jlink@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until June 30, 2022.

Openings for Teaching Positions

Saint Joseph Catholic School in Martinsburg, W.Va., is seeking teachers in the following areas for the 2022-23 school year:

- **Physical education, prekindergarten to eighth grade**
- **Second grade classroom teacher**
- **Middle school math/science**

Candidates must hold or be eligible to hold West Virginia professional teaching certification. A long-term substitute with a bachelor's degree or first-class permit may be considered if there is a lack of fully qualified candidates.

Preferred applicants are practicing Catholics in good standing with Church precepts who will act as examples of and motivators toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. Ideal candidates are expected to be familiar with the official teachings, doctrine and laws of the Catholic Church, and to integrate those concepts in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Papa reza por víctimas en Texas, pide leyes de armas más estrictas

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—Papa Francisco dijo que su corazón estaba roto por la noticia de que al menos 19 niños y dos adultos fueron asesinados a tiros en una escuela primaria de Texas, y dijo que era hora de decir "¡Basta!" y promulgar leyes más estrictas en la venta de armas.

Al final de su audiencia general semanal el 25 de mayo, con miles de personas reunidas en la Plaza de San Pedro, el papa rezó públicamente por las víctimas del tiroteo del día anterior en la Escuela Primaria Robb en Uvalde, Texas.

"Con el corazón destrozado por la masacre en la escuela primaria de Texas, rezo por los niños y adultos asesinados y por sus familias", dijo el papa a la multitud.

"Es hora de decir, '¡Basta!' al tráfico indiscriminado de armas", dijo el Papa. "Trabajemos todos para asegurarnos de que tales tragedias nunca vuelvan a suceder".

Poco antes de la audiencia, el arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio, una arquidiócesis que incluye a Uvalde, tuiteó: "Santo Padre papa Francisco, rece por las almas de nuestros pequeños asesinados hoy y dos maestros. Uvalde está de luto. Las familias están pasando por un momento muy oscuro. Su oración les vendrá



Foto CNS/Marco Bello, Reuters
El arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio consuela a las personas afuera del Centro Cívico SSGT Willie de Leon, donde los estudiantes habían sido transportados desde la Escuela Primaria Robb después de un tiroteo, en Uvalde, Texas, el 24 de mayo de 2022.

bien".

Las autoridades locales dijeron que los niños y adultos fueron ase-

sinados por un estudiante de 18 años de una escuela secundaria cercana. También se reportó su muerte

y al menos tres niños permanecían hospitalizados por las heridas sufridas en el ataque.

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la

Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Sister Mary Denise Diethrich, SC

Sister Mary Denise Diethrich, SC, age 90, died at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, on May 8, 2022.



A native of Altoona, PA, Sister Mary Denise entered the congregation of the Sisters of Charity on September 8, 1949, from Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Altoona. Preceded in death by her parents, Eustace M. and Mary Martina (Cusick) Diethrich, two sisters, Mrs. Lois (Walter) Sanker and Mrs. Ann (Kennet) White, and a maternal aunt, Sister Mary Stephen Cusick, SC. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mary Clendenning, and many nieces and nephews.

She interacted and traveled with many of her nieces and nephews throughout her life, many who in return supported and visited her in her retirement years at Caritas Christi. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hill University and a master's degree in reading and language arts from the University of Pittsburgh. Sister Mary Denise ministered in a variety of educational ministries including teacher, principal, supervisor and religious education consultant.

She taught students of the middle school level in schools of the dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh and the Archdiocese of Washington. As principal of Holy Rosary School in Juniata in the early 1960s, Sister Mary Denise directed the establishment of the first non-graded school in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. She was named principal of the Greensburg Catholic Middle School from 1968 until 1970. After a sabbatical year, 1984 to 1985, at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, she was assigned the principalship at Saint Catherine School in Phoenix and then ministered as assistant

principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Scottsdale, Arizona. From 1990 until 1992, Sister Mary Denise was a pastoral associate at Christ the King Parish in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1992, Silver Burdett Ginn Publishing, Inc. recognized her competence, and enlisted Sister Mary Denise to plan, coordinate and teach at national catechetical workshops. From 1996 until 1999, she ministered as the firm's director of catechetics. Sister Mary Denise was the director of religious education in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston from 1990 until 2001. From 2001 until 2005, she ministered as the faith formation director at LaPurissima Concepcion Parish in Lompoc, California.

In 2005, the Sisters of Charity asked Sister Mary Denise to collaborate with the Seton Hill University Art Program to create the Seton Arts Service Corps, an endeavor to develop a concept of service, in light of the Vincentian-Setonian tradition, and to understand the potential for service to communities through the arts.

An author of several articles for the Catechist magazine and co-author of Study Skills for Elementary Schools, Sister Mary Denise received certificates of recognition for outstanding catechetical presentations in Japan, Korea and Germany. She was also recognized for her outstanding service at a home for abused girls in Phoenix, Arizona. She was a volunteer at Rendu Services and at the Literacy Council of America.

In reflecting on her life as a Sister of Charity, Sister Mary Denise said, "From the day I entered I have loved being a Sister of Charity. I am so grateful for the numerous opportunities I have had to use my formation, my education and my experience to serve others."

Sister Delphine Kennedy, CSJ

Delphine's parents, both originally from Davis County, Kentucky, moved to Akron, Ohio after they married and began their family. Theresa Delphine Kennedy was the third of five children. She grew up in Akron, where her family attended Immaculate Conception Parish. Delphine attended Highland Park Elementary School, then Kenmore High School where she pursued secretarial training, graduating in 1948. After graduation, she worked for several years at Roadway Express and C.P. Hall Chemical Company.



During those years, on Sundays Delphine drove her aunt and uncle to visit her cousin, Ellen, who had joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in Cleveland. It was during those visits to the convent that Delphine came to realize that there was more to life than working and dating, and she made plans to enter religious life herself.

Delphine received the habit and the religious name, Sister Mary Pauline, in 1953. She attended St. John College, earning a BSE in 1961 and an MSE in 1968. From 1955 to 1980, Delphine taught or served as principal at six different schools throughout northeast Ohio. 1950s - St. Rose, Cleveland. 1960s — St. Bridget, Parma Heights; St. Anthony, Parma; St. Vincent de Paul, Elyria, as both teacher and principal. 1970s — St. Wenceslas, Maple Heights; St. Francis de Sales, Akron, principal. 1990s — Immaculate Conception (Cleveland) and Immaculate Conception (Akron).

One summer, Delphine visited Appalachia with her classmate, Sr. Rita Mackert, and fell in love with the simplicity of life and the hardworking people there. The experience planted a seed in her heart, and in 1980, Delphine and her good friend, Sr. Dorothy Turk, decided to go to Appalachia for their ministries. After one year in Beattyville, Kentucky, they moved to Elizabeth, West Virginia, where they ministered as co-directors of St. Elizabeth Church from 1981-91. They offered Bible study, home visitation for the elderly and sick, and worked with teenagers in the area. They were also involved in the building of a new parish church. Delphine quickly learned the importance of listening to people, paying special attention to their needs, and offering help where needed, always respecting their dignity.

In 1991, Sisters Delphine and Dorothy were invited by the Glenmary Home Missioners to Logan, OH in the Hocking Hills. Delphine established and set up a kindergarten at St. John School and became its first kindergarten teacher; she also served as principal. In 1995, both were asked by the Divine Word Missioners of Clay County, West Virginia to minister in the town of Maysel at Risen Lord Church. Delphine and Dorothy were especially grateful to be working together, since this was an isolated and poverty-stricken area.

Sisters Delphine and Dorothy moved to Barberton, OH in 1999 to be closer to family. For 12 years they served the elderly, the sick and the homebound in the St. Augustine and Sacred Heart Church communities. Delphine's last residence was at St. Joseph Center.

Delphine enjoyed hiking, swimming, yard work, cleaning, playing cards and dominos, reading, and learning to crochet. She regularly attended family gatherings and kept in touch with her nieces and nephews. Her travels took her across America and around the world. Delphine was very appreciative of the opportunities she had. Her quiet way, deep faith, and trust in the Lord was her strength. She loved wherever she was missioned and enjoyed the people with whom she worked. Teaching children, reaching out to the poor, and touching people's lives were all a part of Delphine's faithful and loving service.

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School Sister of St. Francis Sister Helen Malcheski (Angelede)

Sister Helen Malcheski (Sister M. Angelede) who lived her religious vocation as a registered nurse, died at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 23, 2022. Sister was 96 years old.

Sister Helen was born on April 7, 1926, in Pulaski, Wisconsin. She was received into the School Sisters of St. Francis on June 13, 1954; made her first profession of vows in 1956; and final (perpetual) vows in 1962.

Sister Helen is survived by three sisters: Doris and Mary Malcheski, both of Pulaski, and Barbara (Gerald)

Hussin of Fox Point, Wisconsin; by nieces, nephews, and special friends; and by the School Sisters of St. Francis community with whom she shared her life for 68 years.

Beginning in 1956, Sister ministered in West Virginia, Mississippi, and Wisconsin for more than six decades.

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Sister Helen ministered as a registered nurse at Mountaineer Family Clinic in Beckley (1974-1976), and at Rhodell Health Center in Rhodell



(1976-1981, 1982-1984, and 1991-1998).

In her retirement, Sister served as a volunteer at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee from 2014 until the time

of her death.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on April 27, 2022, at St. Joseph Chapel in Milwaukee, followed by a private burial service at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Milwaukee.

Sister Helen Marie Schumacher, OSF

Sister Helen Marie Schumacher OSF, (formerly Sister M. Aquinas) born in Buffalo, NY September 13, 1931, died on May 5, 2022 at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital, Lewiston, NY. She was the daughter of the late Gerard and Mary Louise (Seereiter) Schumacher.



Sister Helen Marie entered the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara, NY on October 4, 1950 and professed vows August 18, 1953.

Much of her work included teaching and pastoral ministry. She taught at St. Joachim School (1953-54, 1955-56), St. Ann School (1954-55), and St. Benedict School (1957-58), Buffalo, NY; St. Peter School, Lewiston, NY (1958-61, 1963-64); St. Leo School (1956-57, 1964-68), Pope John XXIII School (1980-81), and St. Catharine School (1986-88), Columbus, OH; St. Paul, Athens, OH (1962-63); St. Mary School, New Monmouth, NJ (1968-77); St. Anthony School, Charleston, WV (1961-62); Francis Center, Niagara Falls, NY (1996-97); and St. Francis International School, Rome, Italy (1981-85). She was also principal at several of these schools.

Sister Helen Marie served as secretary at St. Mary of Sorrows Parish, Buffalo, NY and also for Holy Name Province of the Sisters of St. Francis. She did pastoral care at St. Barbara Parish, Chapmanville, WV (1994-96). Sister Helen Marie worked at the Stella Niagara Health Center (1989-93, 1997-2005).

After retiring in 2005, she served as a hospital-ity minister at the main desk and provided additional assistance at Francis Center, Niagara Falls, NY. She became a permanent resident of the Health Center in January 2017.

Pre-deceased by siblings and spouses: Mary Lou (Alvin) Gerold, Antoinette (John) Herman, Virginia (John) Wendel and Gerard (Mary Ellen) Schumacher. Survived by her sisters: Barbara (Robert) Klocke, Margaret (late J. Terrence) McManus, and brothers: Joseph (Maureen) Schumacher, William (Kathleen) Schumacher, 37 nieces & nephews, 59 great nieces & nephews, 11 great-great nieces & nephews and many cousins as well as her Franciscan Sister.

Mass of Christian Burial was in the Sister's Chapel May 10, 2022.



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Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

May 28: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.

May 29: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg, 2 p.m.

June 4: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5 p.m.

June 25: St. Brendan, Elkins, 5 p.m.



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First Communion

Photo by Wendy Cochran
Ascension Parish in Hurricane celebrated its First Communion Mass on Saturday, May 21. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Eduardo Torres, Reid Baldwin, Belle Cicenias, and Anthony Torres. In the second row, from left, are Jack Neville, Lincoln Jones, and Jace Hernandez. In the third row, from left, are Cheryl Williams, instructor; Father Bill Matheny, pastor; Carolina Leachman, DRE; and Kate Williams, assistant instructor.



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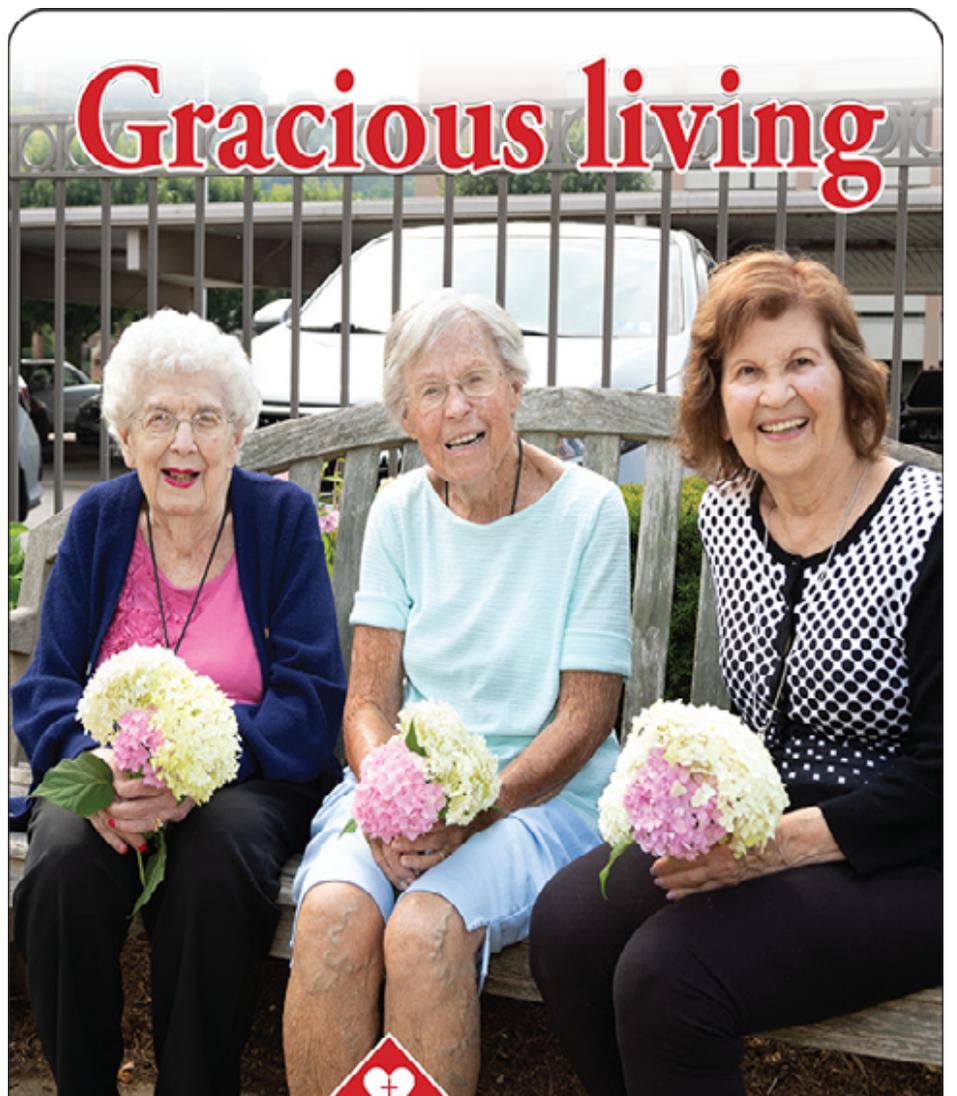
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Presenters Philip and Jaimie Althage are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville, WV—they will celebrate nine years of marriage this June, and they have three children. They moved to Clay County, WV from Texas a couple of years ago, where they take care of Jaimie's grandfather and manage the family farm. They are both certified NFP promoters through the Couple to Couple League, and are passionate about sharing the message of NFP, and God's plan for Christian marriage, with other couples.



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