May 3, 2024 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Vol. 55, No. 17

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Will be Wheeling University's Commencement Speaker

Jennifer Hornyak

WHEELING – An educational professional dedicated to Catholic education in the state of West Virginia will serve as Wheeling University's Commencement speaker.

Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, will address the Class of 2024 during the university's 66th commencement exercises Saturday, May 4. She will also receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

"We are pleased to have Jennifer, an alumna of Wheeling University, serve as our commencement speaker. Her dedication to education and the students in Catholic schools across this state is unmatched. I know that Jennifer will offer our graduates an inspiring message," said Dianna Vargo, Ed.D., chief operations officer at the university.

Hornyak, a graduate of the class of 2000, earned undergraduate degrees in education and psychology while at Wheeling University. Following graduation, she went onto earn a master's degree in education technology and a certificate in school technology coordination at Boise State University. Hornyak also holds a certificate in Catholic school management from Villanova University.

"As a proud graduate of Wheeling University, I am honored to be chosen to speak at this year's commencement. My interest to earn a degree in education

See "Speaker" on Page 2

Courtesy Photo

Pictured, from left, are Msgr. Paul Hudock, Greg and Connie Wilfonger, and Immaculate Conception Parish (Clarksburg) Hispanic community leaders and missionaries Rosalia, Jaquelyn, and Ana.

Missionaries from Missionary Sister Servants of the Word Leave Impact on Clarksburg Parish

CLARKSBURG — Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg said goodbye to Rosalia, Jaquelyn, and Ana—three young adult missionaries from the Missionary Sister Servants of the Word, who left the parish on April 15.

"They have not only made an impact in the Hispanic community, but with all people in our parish," parish officials posted to Immaculate Conception's Facebook page. "Within the Hispanic community, they led bible studies, held couple events, increased Mass attendance, and many other great programming and evangelization. Within the parish, they were quick to give a smile, and always offered to help."

Msgr. Paul Hudock, who oversees the Hispanic Ministry at Immaculate Conception and at St. Mary Parish in Morgantown, said, "Please continue to pray for Rosalia, Jaquelyn and Ana as they discern their vocations of service in the church. May God Bless these women and give them everything that they need as they journey forward."

Msgr. Hudock said there will be a continued relationship with the Missionary Sister Servants of the Word. More missionaries are scheduled to come in the near future.

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Speaker..

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and work in the field was born out of my classroom experiences at the university, and my student work position at the Center for Educational Technologies," Hornyak said.

The majority of Hornyak's career has been spent with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in the Department of Catholic Schools where she has served for nearly 23 years. She was recently appointed to the superintendent of Catholic schools position after serving as the interim superintendent for the past 10 months. Prior to her current role, Hornyak was the associate superintendent and formerly the director of educational technology. Additionally, she has been adjunct instructor in Wheeling's education program for 10 years.

During her time at the diocese, Hornyak has worked with teachers and principals across the state of West Virginia in many areas including educational technology, professional development, analysis of assessment data and school improvement. She has a strong commitment for helping schools to continually improve and be the best places that they can be for students.

Wheeling University's commencement will begin at 10:30 a.m. inside the Alma Grace McDonough Center. Natalie Stoner, an elementary education major from Bellaire, Ohio, will give the valedictory address.

For those who cannot attend the ceremony, commencement will be livestreamed. The link can be found on the University's website the day of the event.

The Catholic Spirit's New Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on 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.

Ascension of the Lord
Feast Day, May 12
The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is May 10

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 is 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

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, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; 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, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** 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, 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.

The Catholic Spirit

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Catholic Charities 2024 Charity in Action Awards to be Bestowed May 6 in Huntington

HUNTINGTON—Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) announced the recipients of its 2024 Charity in Action Award in Huntington: Carol Bailey, Rory Chapman, and Teresa and Jim Jeffrey.

"Our Charity in Action Award honors charitable persons and groups for their devotion to the service of others," stated CCWVa president and chief executive officer Mark Phillips. "Our honorees have shown the power that radical love for our neighbors can have in creating a more just and compassionate society for all."

Honoree Carol Bailey has worked at a number of local non-profit organizations, including Time Out Youth Shelter, Prestera Center, Green Acres Regional Center, Huntington Museum of Art, and United Way of the River Cities.

"I'm humbled and honored to have been selected for this recognition," stated Bailey. "This is an organization that walks the walk, doing an awful lot of good, meaningful work, often 'below the radar' of most folks. I've witnessed firsthand the dedication of their employees to helping meet the varied needs of many in our community."

Bailey has also volunteered in elementary school classrooms and PTAs, led children on tours at the Huntington Museum of Art, and served the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

Honoree Rory Chapman is a pastor, Huntington

Carol Bailey

native, and the director of FaithHealth Appalachia with the Marshall Health Network. Chapman has a passion for providing service to others, promoting the ability of faith communities to help those in need. "To say I'm honored is a grave understatement," stated Chapman.

Honorees Jim and Teresa "Terry" Jeffrey are devoted parents and pillars of their community and are the compassionate co-founders of the Gemini Bed Project, an organization that is dedicated to providing beds to foster and other vulnerable children.

"Every child deserves a bed," stated Teresa and Jim.

"This project is truly driven by God," Jim said. "We are just the vehicle. It's definitely a calling. I'm so glad we listened. We hope others around the state do too."

CCWVa will recognize the honorees at its Charity

Rory Chapman

in Action Awards Luncheon on Monday, May 6, at the St. Mary's Center for Education in Huntington. The doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the program starts at noon. This is a remarkable and memorable event designed to inspire and honor exceptional local heroes who wholeheartedly commit their time, passion, and resources to enhance the lives of the people in Huntington and the neighboring communities.

Courtesy Photo

Students are pictured with beds from the Gemini Bed Project, an organization that is dedicated to providing beds to foster and other vulnerable children. The organization was co-founded by Teresa and Jim Jeffrey.

"Catholic Charities West Virginia is grateful to have so many cherished collaborators and supporters in service with us. Together in spirit and mission of charity, we have changed lives for the better," stated Phillips.

Tickets for the luncheon are $50 per person and can be purchased at www.ccwva.org/event/cia huntington/ or by calling (304) 905-9860.

Funds raised through the event support CCWVa's programs and services in western West Virginia.

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Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

ONE MISSION
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Health Care that Truly Heals Must be Grounded in Truth, Says U.S. Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty Chairman

WASHINGTON — "Health care that truly heals must be grounded in truth," said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, responding to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) issuance of final regulations implementing the nondiscrimination provisions of the Affordable Care Act, known as Section 1557. By including "sexual orientation and gender identity" in the definition of "sex," the final regulations generally require health care workers to perform "gender transition" procedures in the name of nondiscrimination. At the same time, the regulations make modest improvements to the proposed regulations' protections for the exercise of conscience, religious belief, and clinical judgment.

Speaking as chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), he added:

"The human right to health care flows from the sanctity of human life and the dignity that belongs to all human persons, who are made in the image of God. The same core beliefs about human dignity and the wisdom of God's design that motivate Catholics to care for the sick also shape our convictions about care for preborn children and the immutable nature of the human person. These commitments are inseparable.

"We appreciate that the final rule does not attempt to impose a mandate with regard to abortion. These regulations, however, advance an ideological view of sex that, as the Holy See has noted, denies the most beautiful and most powerful difference that exists between living beings: sexual difference. I pray that health care workers will embrace the truth about the human person, a truth reflected in Catholic teaching, and that HHS will not substitute its judgment for their own."

The USSCB submitted comments on the proposed regulations issued by HHS in 2022, and the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty highlighted the regulations as a major threat to religious liberty in its annual report issued in January.

Catholic Answers 'No Less Resolved' to Use AI after 'Father Justin' Brouhaha

By Gina Christian , OSV News

(OSV News) — Executives from the apologetics nonprofit Catholic Answers told OSV News they remain committed to exploring artificial intelligence after the launch of the group's "Father Justin" AI project sparked intense backlash online — and resulted in the character's swift "laicization" to just "Justin."

"We're no less resolved to make good use of this technology to continue our work of apologetics and evangelization," Christopher Check, president of Catholic Answers, told OSV News. "We regard this (incident) as an opportunity to take some feedback and move forward with it."

Check's team debuted a "Father Justin" interactive AI app April 23, aiming "to provide users with faithful and educational answers to questions about Catholicism," according to an announcement that day by the organization.

The grey bearded, bushy-browed Father Justin character — named for St. Justin Martyr, a second-century convert and apologist — was intended to be what Catholic Answers information technology director Chris Costello, quoted in the company's April 23 announcement, had called a tribute to parish priests, and an "authoritative yet approachable" figure on Catholic teaching.

But Father Justin's preference for addressing users as "my child," and his statements indicating he could actually give absolution and preside at the sacrament of matrimony, drew howls of condemnation in Catholic cyberspace.

By approximately 5 p.m. EDT April 24, Father Justin had fallen silent, gazing with a contemplative air toward a point out of the screen frame — only to re-emerge a few hours later in a button-down shirt as what Catholic Answers called "just 'Justin.'"

Check told OSV News that criticism of the app was down to "a combination" of concern over some of the app's responses, and the AI character itself.

"I think there are some people who simply reacted to a cartoon priest," said Check, adding that "it would be evident to anybody who's looking at it that in fact it's not a real priest."

Check said the move to make the app's face simply "Justin" was a concession to those who found the character "a distraction" that hindered "the purpose of the application, which is to provide sound answers about the Catholic faith."

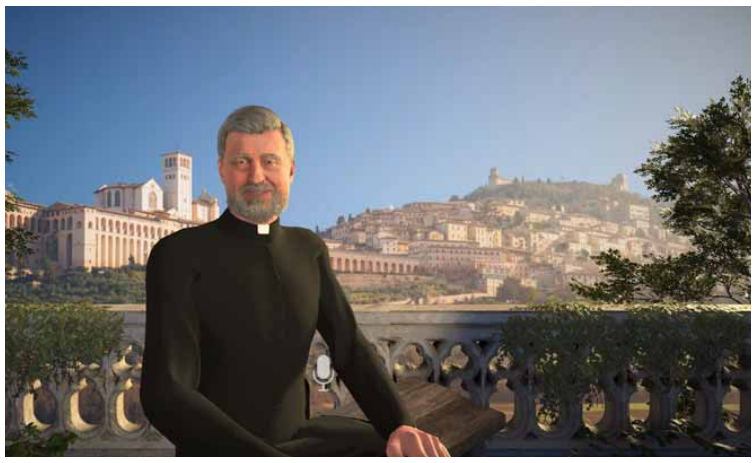
"We're good listeners," Check said. "That's one of the reasons we're good apologists."

Check admitted he and his "entire executive team" had been "a little taken aback by the particularly hostile reaction that we received on social media" regarding the app.

Such outrage "tends to be endemic" to social media platforms, Check added.

"I think that people who otherwise would have given some sort of thoughtful consideration of the merits of AI and answering … questions about the Catholic faith instead jumped onto (a) sort of more viral path," he said. "And to me it's kind of one of those unfortunate indications of the divisions that our church is feeling right now."

Check said that some users (who had to provide email addresses and cell phone numbers to access the app) "were deliberately trying to trick it … which is what people like to do with AI or ChatGPT. We discovered while going through the log that one person who finally got (the app) to err (in its responses) in fact has a substantial background in AI."



OSV News screenshot/Catholic Answers

This is a screenshot of "Father Justin," an AI chatbot simulating a priest in order to answer questions for teaching apostolate Catholic Answers. Catholic Answers executives told OSV News April 24, 2024, they are not discouraged from pursuing AI projects following the troubled April 23 launch of "Father Justin," who was "laicized" hours later to "Justin" after his responses to questions about the faith sparked social media furor.

Costello told OSV News that he and his development team "knew that (the AI app) was going to be controversial.

"We know there's a lot of concern in the Catholic world about AI in general — how it's used, in fact, in not just the Catholic world, but in the world," he said.

Costello said the app had been proposed by an AI consultant who is a Catholic Answers radio listener and fan. He said the project — the first AI undertaking for the company — had

See "Answers" on Page 6

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Answers..

Cont'd from Page 5

undergone "four or five months" of development.

The software's initial character, a Franciscan friar named "Brother Geppetto," was transformed into Father Justin, with the app's original background — the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy's Perugia province — left intact.

Part of the testing included feeding the app inquiries from "actual callers on our radio show, to see if (the app) could answer the questions," said Costello. "And of course the answers were different (from those of the Catholic Answers radio hosts), but still accurate."

Like Check, Costello stressed that the organization's "goal is not to lead someone down the wrong path" with the app.

"It's a start to your journey," he said. "It's to help you hone your questions so that you can really have a discussion with your priest or spiritual advisor, if there's something you don't understand. It's not the end at all; it's the beginning."

Check said he was not concerned the troubled rollout of the app would erode trust in Catholic Answers as an apologetics apostolate.

"There's been some 'pearl-clutching,' (but) ... it's obvious this was at best a misstep or failure to read the room," he said. "But the Catholic Answers brand and our reputation is nearly 40 years old. And it's backed by the talent and the profound knowledge of ... (our apologists) and executive team and staff."

Oblate Father Thomas Dailey, John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, told OSV News that the "Father Justin" launch, though fraught, has not been without merit.

"The response to what happened shows people's interest in both the technology and its application for faith matters," he said. "That Catholic Answers took all of that feedback and benefited from it or acted on it — and their interest in moving forward to help people — is a compliment to them."

"We're guided by our intentions," Check said. "And we know that if we're doing what we're doing out of love for Jesus Christ, which is why we act, (then) God will bless it."

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

Catholic Italy Pilgrimage
October 14 - 25, 2024

Join Father Don Higgs on a pilgrimage to beautiful Italy. A pilgrimage is defined as a journey to a sacred place to deepen our faith through prayer and experience. Pilgimages lead us closer to God. We will visit Florence, Assisi, Pompeii, Sorrento, and Rome. We will pray and celebrate the Eucharist as we visit Basilicas such as St. Francis and St. Peter. There will be ample opportunity to taste many Italian delicacies. Our pilgrimage will be a blend of religious experiences and cultural richness. It will be a time to pray and be immersed in our faith. It will be an opportunity to learn, relax, feast, and shop. It is a chance to be surrounded by the beauty of Italy and all it has to offer.

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May Crowning

Students from St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling hold May Crowning at their school Mass at the parish church May 2. The Mass and May Crowning were led by eighth and second grades. May is the Month of Our Lady.

Courtesy Photos

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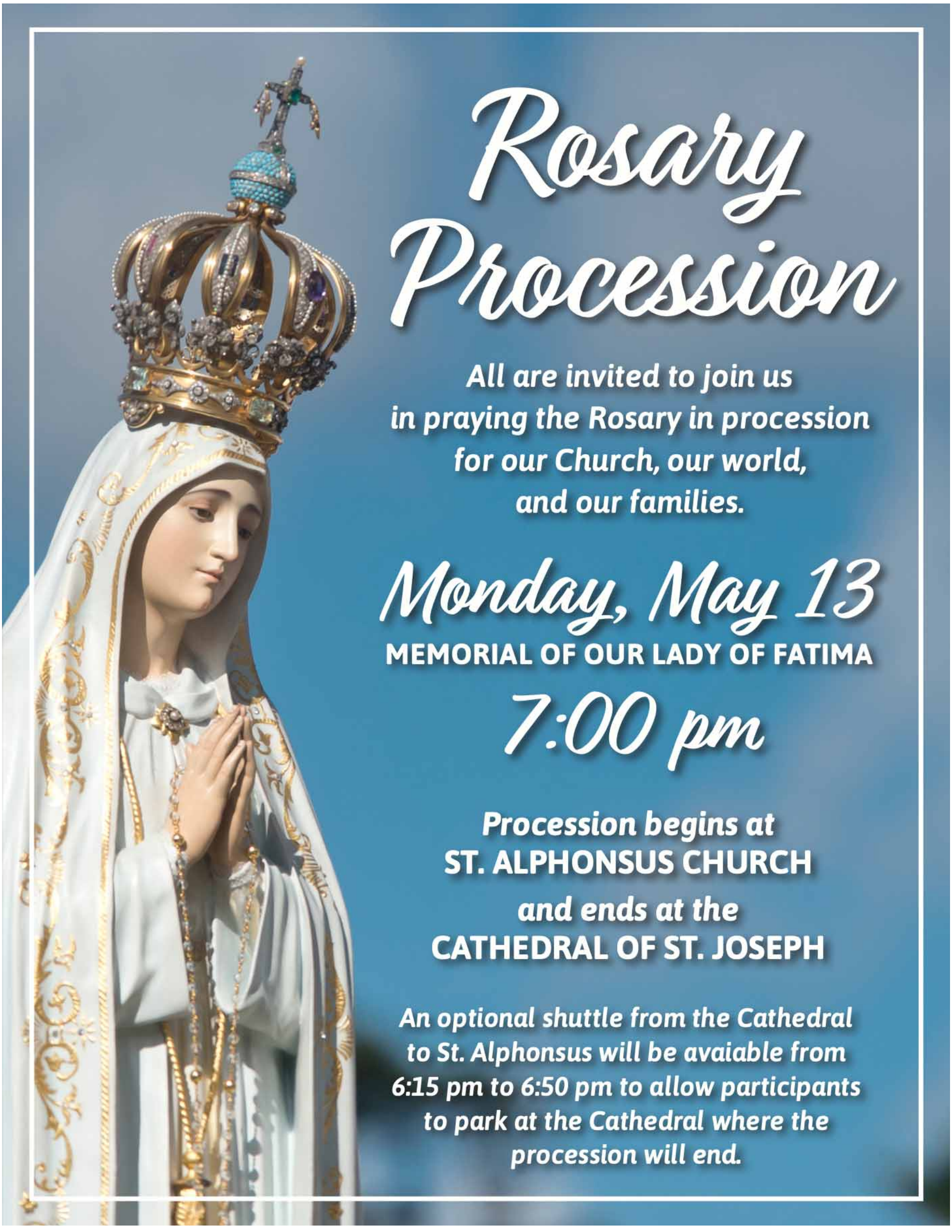
It is important to know the number of Rosaries that will be said over the three days. Please e-mail

Rosaries4theUnborn@yahoo.com with the number of Rosaries you pledge to pray.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Smiles of Service:
A Testament to Corporate Volunteerism

Courtesy Photo

From left: Penny Stumpf, Keirstan Chambers, and Monica Kozik are part of the WesBanco Bank team who volunteer every Monday at Catholic Charities.

Courtesy Photo

From left: Joyce Drake, Andrea Liberatore, Amanda Colkitt, and Tammy Rosenthal pick up hot meals from the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center to deliver to homebound individuals.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of banking life, a group from WesBanco Bank in Wheeling takes time to connect with their community in meaningful ways through volunteerism.

"As the bank continues to grow, our commitment to our communities is stronger than ever," said Tammy Rosenthal, WesBanco Bank assistant vice president and loan servicing manager. "It's absolutely very important to WesBanco to volunteer and give back."

Tammy reached out to Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) to learn more about the agency's meal delivery program, which provides home-delivered hot meals 6 days a week to those who are homebound in Wheeling.

"Through our meal delivery program, we are not only helping to meet a basic nutritional need, we're also enabling our vulnerable neighbors to remain living independently and safely in their own homes," said Tracey Dickerson, CCWVa volunteer manager. "We are committed to serving others and honoring the dignity of every person."

With meal delivery routes divided by geographic areas, the WesBanco team committed to delivering meals on the "Pike route" every Monday. Typically two to four members of the bank team volunteer each week on a rotating schedule, with the deliveries taking around an hour.

As the team navigates local neighborhoods, they encounter individuals who touch their hearts.

"You don't realize how quickly you can build a relationship with somebody you just smile and wave to each week," Tammy noted.

For those who are homebound, these brief connections or conversations may be the only interaction they have with others all day. This social connection helps clients feel less isolated and alone.

Tammy also emphasized the positive impact on her team, both personally and professionally.

"Our team is out of our normal realm of our office environment and talk about our family and our pets, hobbies, etc. We are able to have [a form of] team building that we wouldn't otherwise have," said Tammy. "We have the opportunity to get to know each other on a personal level; it also builds trust and respect."

The WesBanco team's volunteerism shows their commitment to strengthening their communities and lending a helping hand to those in need.

"These meal deliveries are a lifeline for many of those we serve," said Tracey. "We're incredibly grateful for WesBanco Bank and all of our committed volunteers. Together, we're making a positive impact in our community."

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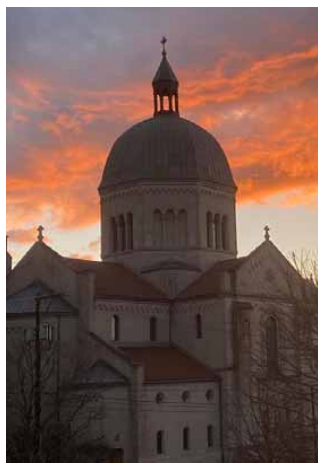
Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as their share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.



Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

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

Wheeling:
Cathedral of St. Joseph
St. Alphonsus

For more information, visit:
www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route

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.

Basilica Co-Cathedral Parishioners to Begin 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory

CHARLESTON — Are you ready to make a deeper commitment to Christ? Join the 33 Day Consecration to Jesus in the Eucharist!

The program will run from May 1 until June 2, using the book "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory," and will consist of daily readings and weekly discussion groups. Weekly discussions started April 28, and will be held each week on Sundays at noon in the Gathering Space, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cordis Center, and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space.

Consecration Day will be on the Feast of Corpus Christi on June 2. Be sure to sign up in the Gathering Space.

Anniversary Baccalaureate Mass Celebrated in Chester

Courtesy Photo

Sacred Heart Church in Chester celebrated its anniversary Baccalaureate Mass for the high school graduates on April 28. Pictured are Cindy Jackson, high school CCD teacher; Hannah Kliner; and Carley Heizler. Hannah and Carley are top honors graduates at Oak Glen High School. Hannah will attend Western Carolina University on a track/cross country scholarship. Carley will attend West Virginia University on a cheerleading scholarship to major in biology.

Jerusalem Carvings Coming to Sacred Heart, Bluefield, May 4 & 5

BLUEFIELD—On May 4 & 5 the group from the Holy Land will display beautiful olive wood carvings, from Bethlehem in the Holy Land.

The Christians of the Holy Land have been suffering and continue living in hard economical situations. Many of them have fled the Holy Land which in turn has decreased their population from 37% to 5%. Our mission is to help support these families by selling their religious carvings, which is a major source to their income to help them work and live in dignity in the Holy Land. Your support through purchasing these items will result in 200 families being helped, also it will support peace in the middle east.

Olivewood carvings area part of a tradition handed down from generations. Please stop at their table and purchase a nice gift from the little town in Bethlehem.

Franciscan University to Host Conference on the Body as a Gift

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—The fourth annual Truth of Love Conference will tackle some of today's most pressing ethical issues with a focus on the eucharistic paradigm of the human body as a gift, not a matter of "choice." Cosponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Veritas Amoris Project, the event will be held at Franciscan University June 21-23.

The conference theme, My Body Given for You (Luke 22:19): The Eucharist and the Logic of the Gift, will address the logic behind the pro-abortion slogan, "My body, my choice." This so-called "right to choose" is also relevant to questions of gender identity and euthanasia. The conference will offer a Catholic perspective that understands the meaning of the human body not as a matter of choice but as a gift. Special emphasis will be given to the body's significance as revealed in the Eucharist, the Body of Christ given for our salvation.

Conference speakers will explore this topic from three perspectives: the body as gift in relation to vocation, how the body as gift transforms our moral life, and how the body as gift is also a social body, embedded in the Church and in society, and therefore in history and tradition.

"We live in a world that has given up on the body, that wants to be saved from the body," said Franciscan's Dr. Jacob Wood, conference organizer, associate professor of theology, and director of the new PhD Program in Sacred Theology. "Only in Christ's body do we find the salvific hope that the world is hungering for: the redemption of the body through the cross, its renewal through the Eucharist, and the restoration of the body in the Resurrection."

"As we prepare for the Eucharistic Congress in July, I'm grateful to our bishops for calling us all to reflect more deeply on the Eucharist as the central mystery of our faith," said Dr. Stephen Hildebrand, Franciscan University vice president for Academic Affairs. "The Truth of Love academic conference honors the Eucharistic Lord as both the center of our intellectual life as well as of our spiritual life—the Eucharist demands our minds as well as our hearts."

The keynote address will be offered by Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus, Ohio. The conference will also feature many distinguished theologians, including Rev. Dr. José Granados, a member of the Veritas Amoris Project, Madrid; Dr. Scott Hahn, professor of theology at Franciscan University; Dr. Stephan Kampowski, professor of philosophical anthropology at the Pontifical John Paul II Theological Institute, Rome; Dr. Katharina Westerhorstmann, professor of theology and medical ethics at Franciscan University of Steubenville's Austrian study abroad program; Dr. Nicholas Healy, associate professor of philosophy and culture at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, Washington, D.C., and many others.

For more information and to register, visit franciscan.edu/truth-of-love-2024.

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

Cum Ipso in monte

Camp Carlo 2024

June 30 - July 6
July 7 - July 13
July 14 - July 20
July 21- July 27

Register online at campcarlowv.org

El miedo es el gran enemigo de la fe, dice el Papa en su audiencia general

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El mayor enemigo de la fe es el miedo, dijo el Papa Francisco en su audiencia general de esta semana. Por eso, dijo, la fe es el primer don "que es preciso acoger y pedir cada día, para que se renueve en nosotros".

"Aparentemente es un don pequeño, pero es el esencial", dijo el 1 de mayo en el Aula Pablo VI.

Continuando con su ciclo de catequesis sobre los vicios y las virtudes, el Papa reflexionó sobre la virtud de la fe, reiterando la diferencia entre las virtudes "cardinales" de la prudencia, la justicia, la fortaleza y la templanza y las virtudes "teologales" o neotestamentarias de la fe, la esperanza y la caridad.

Las tres virtudes teologales, dijo, "sólo podemos vivirlas gracias al don de Dios".

"Sin ellas, podríamos ser prudentes, justos, fuertes y templados, pero no tendríamos ojos que ven incluso en la oscuridad, no tendríamos un corazón que ama incluso cuando no es amado, no tendríamos una esperanza que osa contra toda esperanza", afirmó.

La fe es el acto por el que una persona se compromete libremente con Dios, dijo el Papa.

Foto CNS/Pablo Esparza

El Papa Francisco habla en su audiencia general en la Sala de Audiencias Pablo VI del Vaticano el 1 de mayo de 2024.

El Papa Francisco relató la historia de los discípulos que cruzaban el lago en una barca con Jesús, pero empezaron a asustarse cuando la barca empezó a llenarse de agua en una tormenta. Despertaron a Jesús, que había estado durmiendo, y se enfadaron porque parecía no importarle que estuvieran en peligro.

Jesús les reprende diciendo: "¿Por qué tienen miedo? ¿Todavía no tienen fe? ".

El Papa Francisco dijo: "He aquí, pues, el gran enemigo de la fe: no es la inteligencia, no es la razón, como por desgracia algunos siguen repitiendo obsesivamente". El enemigo es simplemente "el miedo".

"Incluso nosotros, que somos creyentes, a menudo nos damos cuenta de que solo tenemos una pequeña reserva" de fe, dijo.

"Pero es el don más feliz, la única virtud que nos está permitido envidiar", dijo el Papa, "porque quien tiene fe está habitado por una fuerza que no es sólo humana; en efecto, la fe 'suscita' en nosotros la gracia y abre la mente al misterio de Dios".

"La fe es la virtud que hace al cristiano. Porque ser cristiano no es ante todo aceptar una cultura, con los valores que la acompañan, sino que ser cristiano es acoger y custodiar un vínculo" entre Dios y uno mismo, dijo.

Tras su discurso, el Papa señaló que para la Iglesia el 1 de mayo es la fiesta de San José obrero. Es una fiesta importante en muchos países, entre ellos Italia, ya que se celebra el Día del Trabajo o Día Internacional de los Trabajadores.

Ese día da inicio al mes de la Virgen María, dijo. "Por eso, a cada uno de ustedes quisiera volver a proponer a la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret como modelo de comunidad doméstica: una comunidad de vida, de trabajo y de amor".

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de ninos: La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. Tambien alentamos a utilizar www.report bishopabuse.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, comuniquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdiccion correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuniquese con la policia local; los numeros variaran segun su ubicacion. Si cree que alguien esta en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuniquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Proteccion Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la linea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta linea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diocesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha come- tido un delito. La diocesis tambien alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiasticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de ninos por parte del personal de la Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diocesis, comuniquese 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; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. Tambien puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diocesis al 304.230.1504. Tambien puede llamar a la linea directa de abuso sexual de la Diocesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja estan disponibles en linea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diocesis" en la barra de menu, 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, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Victimas de la Diocesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Ademas de los metodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis tambien se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a traves de www.dwc.org, en "Rendicion 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 informacion: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policia Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crimenes contra Ninos: 304-293-6400.

CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. Akila Rodrigo and St. James Church

Pastor

Akila Rodrigo, *St. James Catholic Church*

Second Place:
Phil Wayman,
Clarksburg Baptist Church

Third Place:
Steve DeLay, *Oak Mound Evangelical Church*

Remaining finalists
Jamie Gizzi, CrossHeirs Christian Center
Steve Elderbrock, Bridgeport Presbyterian Church
Robert Shingleton, Jewel City Church

Place of Worship/ Church

St. James Catholic Church

Second Place:
Clarksburg Baptist Church

Third Place:
Bible Church of God

Remaining finalists
Bridgeport Presbyterian Church
Jewel City Church
Higher Rock

Illustration by Amber Chambers and Nicholas Gulisek

Confirmation at St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale

Courtesy Photo

Young parishioners at St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale are pictured following their confirmation with Bishop Mark Brennan April 28.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule – Spring 2024

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, May 5: St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 11: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12: Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 13: St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19: St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 22: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.

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.

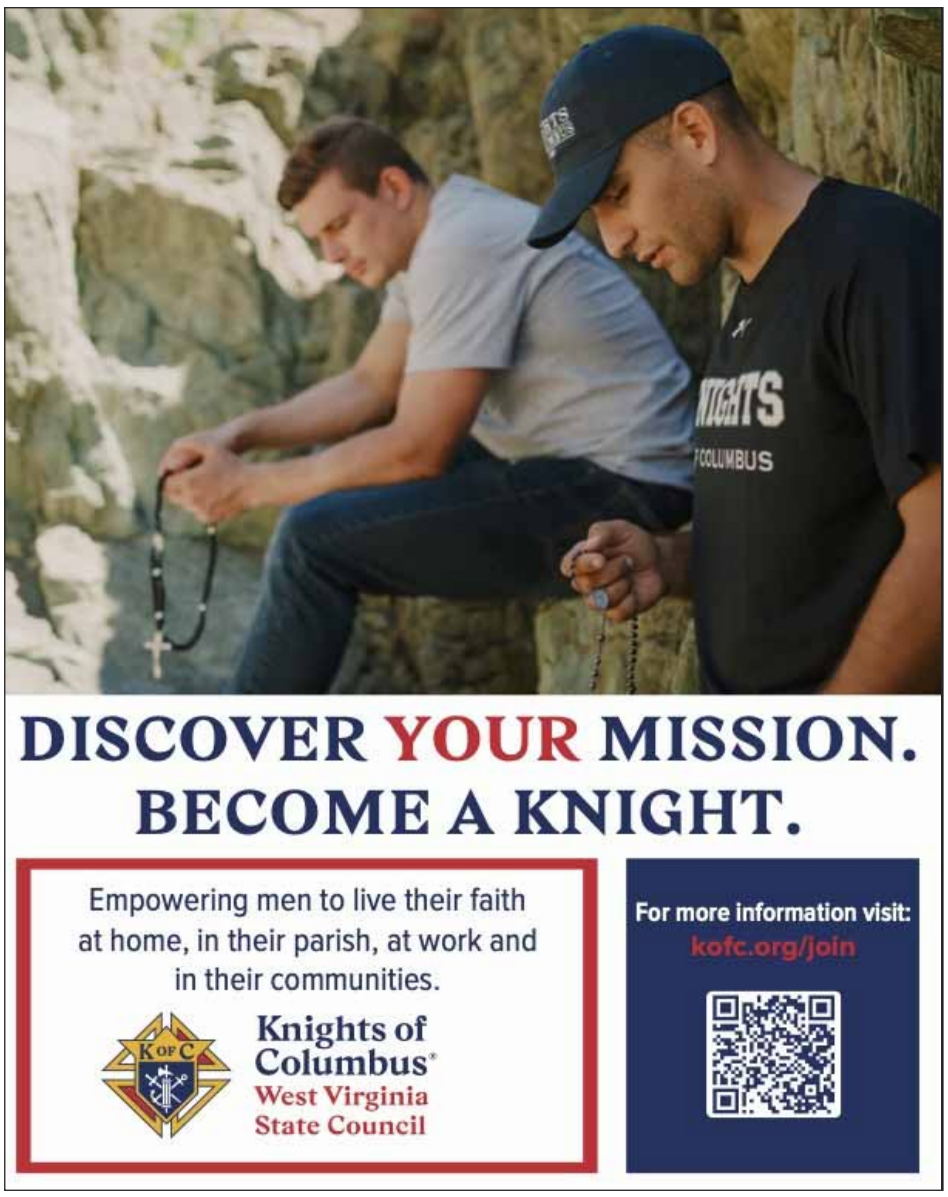
Saturday, June 1: St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.

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.



Ask your doctor to refer you to Good Shepherd for:

GOOD SHEPHERD NURSING HOME
304.242.1093
www.weltyhome.org

Have You Heard?

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW—AND HE IS CALLING **YOU** TO BE A PART OF IT!

Jesus desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world. How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith—the Holy Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation.

Scan the code below to learn more about the exciting journey ahead, and sign up for weekly updates on what's happening in this unprecedented national movement!

eucharisticrevival.org

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM

David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology

Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology

Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

Learn more at: My**WVU**Heart.com
Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVU Heart & Vascular Institute