

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

A Pastoral Letter on Personal Liberty and the Common Good by Bishop Brennan

The Catholic faith is the sanest religion in the world. It holds in a dynamic balance opposite tendencies that, if left unchecked, would lead to the dominance of one tendency and the elimination or crippling of the other, with the result of severe harm to human beings.

A prime example of Catholic sanity is its balance between affirming the right to personal liberty and insisting on the obligation to promote the common good. This balance is possible because Catholic anthropology – the Church’s understanding of human nature – recognizes the dignity of the human person as a creature made in God’s image and likeness and situated firmly within the human community. No dimension of the person’s being is left out.

As an example of how this balance is achieved within the liturgy of the Mass, all Catholics must accept that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. That faith fosters the common good of Catholic believers, for it expresses and builds up their unity of faith in the Lord’s promise to give himself personally to them as food. But the Church also affirms the individual Catholic’s right to freely choose how to receive the Eucharist, either on the tongue or in the hand, in both cases reverently. Every Catholic should respect how others receive the Eucharist. In this way St. Augustine’s formula is fulfilled: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

Another example is from daily life. We enjoy our right to get in our cars and drive where we want. We relish our personal liberty to do so. But we also know we should obey the traffic

See “Letter” on Page 3

See “Letter” on Page 3

Fairmont Catholic Ends School Year with Rosary Prayer Walk



Courtesy photo

Fairmont Catholic School held a Rosary Prayer Walk followed by a blessing of a Pietà May 27 to end the school year. Pictured are eighth-grade boys who graduated the next day. With them (at left) are Diane Burnside, principal of Fairmont Catholic School, and her husband and (at right) Very Rev. Joseph M. Konikattil, V.F., and Sister Reeta Lopis, U.F.S.

Inside:

Shinnston’s Adoration Chapel in Need of Adorers to Expand Weekday Hours, Page 4

Steubenville Conferences Celebrate 50 Years of Encounter and Renewal, Page 9

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

NOW ENROLLING FOR K-6TH GRADE

525 Holley St.
St. Albans, WV 25177
304-727-5690

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO APPLY
WWW.SFSWV.COM
Click here
~Providing Excellence in Education~

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment," then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other concerns such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

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


2025 Print Issues and Dates: Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19



May 30, 2025
Vol. 56, No. 22

Office: 1322 Eoff St.
Mailing: PO Box 230
Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 232-0444

thecatholicspiritwv.org
dwc.org

Publisher: Bishop Mark E. Brennan.....
Executive Editor: Colleen Rowan, Ext. 347.....crowan@dwc.org
Advertising: contact Colleen Rowan
Freelance Writers: Martina Hart, John Sherwood,
Member: Catholic Press Association, West Virginia Press Association, National Press Photographers Association, Inc. 

Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule above). 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.



304-232-0330

"THE PRE-ARRANGEMENT FUNERAL HOME"

Wheeling Chapel
1400 Eoff Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-0330

South Wheeling Chapel
3828 Jacob Street
Wheeling, WV
304-232-5444

Elm Grove Chapel
154 Kruger Street
Elm Grove, WV
304-242-0330

Benwood-McMechen
214 Marshall Street
McMechen, WV
304-232-1710

Moundsville
118 Grant Avenue
Moundsville, WV
304-845-4560

Beck-Altmeier
204 West Main Street
St. Clairsville, OH
740-695-0475



James E. Altmeyer, Jr. President
James E. Altmeyer, Sr. Chairman
Eugene T. Fahey Vice President

www.altmeyer.com



800.504.7054

Wheeling • Morgantown • Charleston
Pittsburgh • Sarasota

PanhandleCR.com

FIRE SMOKE WIND MOLD SEWAGE WATER



"CALL THE RESTORATION COMPANY
THE MOUNTAINEERS CALL"



Letter ...

Cont'd from Page 1

laws, stopping at red lights, observing speed limits and pulling over to allow emergency vehicles to pass. Those laws reflect a concern for the common good. They create order on our streets and prevent accidents. Catholic sanity says: drive your car but obey the traffic laws.

Maintaining the balance between personal liberty and the common good is not easy. This leads some individuals and groups to seek to dissolve the tension between personal freedom and social wellbeing by imposing one or the other on everyone. Totalitarian governments greatly restrict the exercise of personal freedom. Vietnam is a good example. According to friends who have traveled there, the Communist government requires the Church, like other religions, to be registered and avoid criticism of the government. Catholics may worship and teach their faith but are not allowed to operate schools beyond preschool and kindergarten. Local government officials have to approve applicants to the seminary and the ordination of new priests. The Church may engage in some charitable activities, especially health care, but they are always subject to government supervision. Vietnamese Catholics acting alone or together find their personal liberty of action restricted by a government that wants to maintain power and impose its distorted version of social welfare on the people in contrast to the true common good.

It can also come about that personal liberty can be widened to such an extent that the common good is threatened or truly damaged. In response to the lowering of the voting age in 1971 from 21 to 18, many states lowered the drinking age to 18 as well. The result was a dramatic increase in traffic accidents associated with alcohol consumption in the 18 to 21 age group. Seeing that teenage drinking caused many fatalities and injuries on the road, Congress passed the Minimum Drinking Age Act in 1984, withholding some federal highway funds from states that kept the drinking age at 18. By 1988, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had raised the drinking age to 21 and the number of teenage deaths and injuries owing to drunk driving began to fall significantly. If the pendulum swings too far toward personal liberty, the good not only of individuals but of society as a whole can be seriously harmed.

To avoid allowing either personal liberty or the obligation to promote the common good (especially if wrongly conceived) go to extremes, it is important to remember that freedom is not simply *from* but also *for*. We should be free *from* unreasonable restrictions so that

we can use our freedom *for* worthy purposes. That understanding of personal liberty can then contribute to the common good. Because each person is free to choose his or her path in life – what we call a vocation, coming ultimately from God – many people choose to marry and raise families, some in our Church choose to accept a calling to the priesthood or diaconate or consecrated life, while individuals and groups choose to help their neighbor through pantries, pregnancy resource centers, advocacy for justice and a variety of educational and cultural activities that enhance public life. In these ways, the exercise of personal liberty is not only not in conflict with the common good but powerfully promotes it.

Conceiving the common good properly will protect personal liberty, for it recognizes that human beings, while sharing a common nature, are distinct persons with attributes and interests that differ from one another and whose expression should be allowed and encouraged, as long as the exercise of their personal liberty does not injure the common good. This understanding of the common good trusts that, like the bits of glass in a mosaic, the various ways in which human beings pursue their interests and use their talents will result, more often than not, in greater good and beauty than would a monotonous uniformity. Thus, the good order and beauty God put in His creation are made more manifest. When the balance is endangered, people of good will and good sense will work to restore it, because the good of all matters.

I offer these thoughts to you, believing that they reflect the sanity of the Catholic approach to our common life. There are many issues in our society and in our Church – gun possession and use, school vaccination policies, taxation, personal piety and social justice, the old Latin Mass and the Mass in English – where the inevitable tension between personal liberty and the common good can be felt. We must seek the right balance between the two, so that the good that each of them enshrines is preserved, serving both the individual person and society. We trust the Holy Spirit to guide us to strike that balance, for, as Jesus said: *When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth* [John 16:13]. While distinguishing essential things from non-essentials, let us observe St. Augustine's last phrase: "in all things, charity."

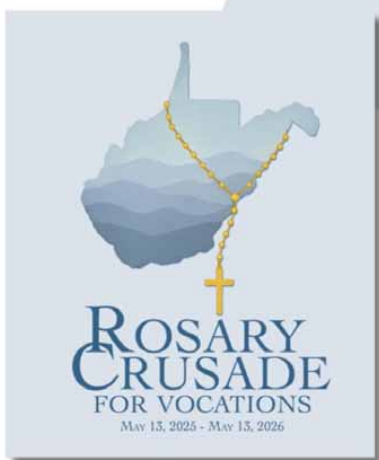
Sincerely in Christ,

Mark E. Brennan

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WV

SCAN ME!



From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV. PRAYER WORKS! Step up for Jesus and His Church! **Pledge. Share. Pray.**



“ Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate Church that lives out the Gospel in word and deed. I humbly invite you



to join me in this mission.
-Bishop Mark Brennan



Shinnston's Adoration Chapel in Need of Adorers to Expand Weekday Hours

By Colleen Rowan

SHINNSTON—St. Ann Parish in Shinnston is hoping to expand the weekday hours of its Blessed Margaret of Castello Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. The parish is asking for parishioners or members of area parishes to dedicate time as adorers as someone must be present with the Most Blessed Sacrament at all times.

Parish officials said that since the covid-19 pandemic, the chapel had to make major changes in its 24 hours a day, seven days a week operation.

"As of now, we are only able to have it open for three out of seven days from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.," they said. "We are sincerely hoping to open it another day during the week!"

Last spring, the parish began asking for people to consider becoming an adorer on Tuesdays.

"We were able to fill many hours, but not all," parish officials said. The hours that still need an adorer for Tuesdays are 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 10 p.m.

"Please consider spending one hour a week in adoration with our Lord," parish officials said. "The chapel is such a peaceful and beautiful place!"

The chapel is located next to St. Ann Church and offers Catholic faithful the opportunity to spend time with Christ. The chapel opened in 1999 by the beloved late pastor of St. Ann's, Father Karl Wohinc, as one of more than 1,000 perpetual Adoration chapels in the U.S. The chapel was dedicated to Blessed Margaret of Castello, patroness of those with disabilities, the unwanted, and the unborn.

"In this world where there are many who are unwanted, especially the unborn, I thought that she would be a good patroness for the chapel," Father Wohinc said in an interview with The



Colleen Rowan photo

The Blessed Margaret of Castello Eucharistic Adoration Chapel in Shinnston is pictured above.

Catholic Spirit in 2003. Father Wohinc served as pastor of St. Ann's from 1984 to 2012. He passed away in 2015. A plaque honoring Father Wohinc for making the chapel possible hangs inside.

The chapel's theme is from the Book of Revelation with two passages displayed on either side of the entrance doors—"Now at last, God has His dwelling among men," Rev. 21:3; and, "The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be there, and His servants shall serve Him faithfully," Rev. 22:3.

Fixtures, such as candles and

lights, inside are in sets of seven—the number of perfection. Outside of the chapel above the doors and on the walk leading to the building, the Eucharist is displayed with four rays of light shining out from the center. There are three stained glass windows in the chapel—the largest was crafted by a man from Clarksburg and the smaller two were donated in memory of a local man's son.

Adorers come from around the area, throughout West Virginia, and other states and are invited to sign a visitor's book.

The chapel thrived with prayer

and adoration 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for many years. However, during the pandemic, the chapel was closed. It eventually opened back up to its current schedule of three days a week on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Those interested and able to take any of the hours on Tuesdays, should contact the parish office at (304) 592-2733.

"We pray that the Adoration chapel will once again flourish as it did for over 20 years before COVID," parish officials said. "Come and adore our Lord."

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

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:

Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
(304) 3233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Walking with
Moms in Need



U.S. Bishops Encourage Lawmakers to Protect Human Life and Dignity and Uphold the Common Good in Reconciliation Legislation

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

— The U.S. House of Representatives May 22 passed a sweeping package for President Donald Trump's agenda, sending the legislation to the Senate for consideration.

Catholic leaders have alternately praised and criticized various provisions in the House's version of that package, which has drawn fire from some critics over its cuts to Medicaid, while drawing praise from others for promises to eliminate funds to health providers who also perform abortions.

The U.S. bishops have urged lawmakers to uphold human life and dignity, and promote the common good in considering the legislation.

Trump pushed Republican leadership to pass what he calls his "one big, beautiful bill" — and as such, later named the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — which would enact key provisions of his legislative agenda on tax and immigration policy.

The House's passage of the multitrillion-dollar tax cut and spending measure in a 215-214 vote, ends a chaotic several weeks for House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., who sought to pass the bill despite objections from various factions of his party, including those who said it added too much to the federal deficit.

The package, which exceeded 1,000 pages, will be taken up by the Senate, where Republicans have suggested they will change some of its provisions, including on cuts to Medicaid.

"This is arguably the most significant piece of Legislation that will ever be signed in the History of our Country!" Trump wrote on X, adding, "Now, it's time for our friends in the United States Senate to get to work, and send this Bill to my desk AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!"

An analysis from the Congressional Budget Office said the tax provisions in the House version would increase the federal deficit by \$3.8 trillion over a decade, while cuts on Medicaid, food stamps and other areas would result in about \$1 trillion in reduced government spending.

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, said the conference "sent a comprehensive letter to Congress commending parts of the budget

proposal that will support human life and dignity, while also strongly encouraging them to reconsider provisions that will harm the poor and disadvantaged, our immigrant brothers and sisters, and our environment."

"To our elected lawmakers, I echo the call of my brother bishops and urge you to remain consistent in protecting human life and dignity and supporting the common good so that families can flourish," he said in a May 21 statement.

"I also underscore the grave concerns expressed by my brother bishops," he continued, "and implore you to address the real and substantial harms that would result from provisions in this bill before it advances further. Raising income taxes on the working poor, cutting nutrition and healthcare programs for those most in need, and eliminating investments in environmental stewardship would place a terrible burden on the least of our brothers and sisters."

Mercy Sister Mary Haddad, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, said in a May 22 statement that the group opposes the House's version of the package.

"H.R. 1 would harm critical health and social safety-net programs that millions of Americans rely on to live with health, dignity, and security," Sister Mary said. "The Catholic Health Association strongly opposes provisions like mandatory Medicaid work reporting requirements, restrictions on state tax authority, and changes to state-directed payment policies — all of which would lead to coverage losses for more than 10 million people who depend on Medicaid for essential care. These harmful proposals threaten the health and

stability of the very communities we are called to serve."

Sister Mary expressed concern about "the bill's failure to extend the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits."

"Without action, five million Americans — including nearly two million living with chronic conditions — could lose their coverage, and millions more would face skyrocketing premiums and unaffordable care," she said, adding that the bill's proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would also "further jeopardize food security for families already struggling to make ends meet, compounding the health and economic burdens on low-income communities."

"We urge the Senate to protect and strengthen the programs that uphold the dignity, health, and well-being of all, especially those most in need," Sister Mary said.

But some pro-life groups celebrated language in the legislation

that would block entities that perform abortions from receiving Medicaid funds. Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said in a May 22 statement, "Today Congress took a big step toward stopping forced taxpayer funding of the Big Abortion industry."

Calling the House passage of the budget reconciliation bill "a crucial win," Dannenfelser argued, "Medicaid will be stronger for those who need it most."

"There is no excuse for forcing taxpayers to prop up a scandal-ridden industry that prioritizes abortions, gender transitions and partisan political activism instead of prenatal care, cancer screening and other legitimate health services that are in continual decline," she said.

Senate Republicans have indicated they would like to send the bill to Trump's desk prior to July 4.

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



Knights of Columbus®

Carroll Council 504
 OF WHEELING, W.VA.

Since 1900, West Virginia's first Knights of Columbus Council — Carroll Council 504 — has been committed to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Guided by these Principles, we will continue to serve the parishioners of St. Michael, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Alphonsus, and the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and the Wheeling community today and tomorrow.

**Foodservice Equipment,
 Supplies, Disposables,
 Janitorial and more**



**1 Fourteenth Street,
 Wheeling, WV 26003
 304-233-2270
 Stop in or call us today!**

**To learn more and to join us,
 click here**

U.S. Bishops Urge Renewed Efforts to End Antisemitism after Israeli Embassy Staffers Murdered

By Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News) — Two U.S. Catholic bishops expressed their “profound grief and outrage” over the May 21 killing of two Israeli Embassy staffers in Washington.

“We stand in prayerful mourning with our Jewish brothers and sisters and denounce this act of violence and antisemitic hatred in the strongest possible terms,” said Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia in a May 23 joint statement.

The bishops — who respectively chair the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development — said their hearts were “burdened by sorrow” over the murders of 26-year-old Sarah Lynn Milgrim and 30-year-old Yaron Lischinsky, who were fatally shot at close range while leaving a young diplomats reception at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington.

The couple was set to become engaged in Jerusalem next week, with Lischinsky purchasing the ring only days ago, according to Yechiel Leiter, Israel’s ambassador to the U.S.

Suspect Elias Rodriguez, a 31-year-old Chicago resident, was filmed chanting, “Free, free Palestine,” following the attack. He was detained and has been charged with both federal and local murder offenses, including the murder of foreign officials and two counts of first-degree murder.

The attack has been widely condemned as an act of antisemitism.

In their statement — which joined similar outcries from Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of Washington, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia — Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak said, “As Catholics, we are called not only to reject such hatred, but to actively foster mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity with the Jewish people.”

They pointed to Catholic teaching on the church’s relationship to the Jewish people.

“With urgency and clarity, we renew the commitment made through the Second Vatican Council’s declaration ‘Nostra Aetate’ to affirm our common patrimony with the Jews and stand against any and all forms of antisemitism,” they said, referring to the landmark conciliar document that is currently marking its 60th anniversary this year.

“Nostra Aetate” (“In Our Time”) is believed by scholars to have been

inspired by a brief but pivotal 1960 encounter between renowned French Jewish historian Jules Isaac and St. John XXIII, during which Isaac presented his research demonstrating a centuries-long “teaching of contempt” toward the Jewish community by Catholic and other Christian theologians.

Regarding the murders of Milgrim and Lischinsky, Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak said, “The suffering generated by this senseless and violent action against the Jewish community wounds us all and compels us toward renewed vigilance and action.”

The bishops also acknowledged “the grave responsibility we all share in the language we use, especially when speaking about the conflict in the Holy Land,” pointing to the Israel-Hamas War, which began after the latter’s Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that killed at least 1,200 and saw some 250 taken hostage. According to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry, at least 53,655 have been killed in Gaza as of May 21.

“Complex political realities can never justify rhetoric that demonizes a people, faith, or community,” said Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak. “Harsh or dehumanizing language, even when unintended, can sow seeds of suspicion and fear, which too easily bear the fruit of violence. In our public discourse, as in our prayers, we must choose the path of truth spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15), never allowing geopolitical tensions to justify antisemitism or any form of hatred.”

In December, the USCCB and the American Jewish Committee released “Translate Hate: The Catholic Edition,” a resource to confront antisemitism by cataloging anti-Jewish slurs, while providing Catholic teaching that counters such hatred.

Bishop Bambera worked closely with Rabbi Noam Marans, the AJC’s director of interreligious affairs, on the 61-page glossary of antisemitic terms and commentary, which built on the AJC ongoing “Translate Hate” initiative, launched in 2019.

“To our Jewish neighbors, partners and friends: We walk with you. We grieve with you. We stand with you,” said Bishop Bambera and Archbishop Gudziak in their statement. “May the God of justice and peace comfort the wounded, strengthen the fearful, and bring healing to all affected by this violence. Let us together be instruments of peace, as we heed the words of the prophet Micah: ‘Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.’”

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

Remember Christ’s Compassion, Show Compassion to Others, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being religious does not automatically mean someone is compassionate, and yet for a Christian compassion is a clear sign of following Christ, Pope Leo XIV said.

“Before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity! Before being believers, we are called to be human,” the pope said May 28 as he held his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

At the end of the audience, Pope Leo again pleaded for peace in Gaza and in Ukraine.

“From the Gaza Strip there rises to heaven ever more intensely the cry of mothers and fathers who, clutching the lifeless bodies of their children, are continually forced to move in search of some food and safer shelter from the shelling,” the pope said. “To the leaders, I renew my appeal: Cease firing; free all the hostages; fully respect humanitarian law.”

And after days of Russia increasing its attacks on Ukraine, killing civilians and destroying infrastructure, the pope assured the Ukrainian people of his “closeness and my prayers for all the victims, especially the children and families.”

“I strongly renew my appeal to stop the war and support every initiative of dialogue and peace,” he said. “I ask everyone to join in prayers for peace in Ukraine and wherever people suffer because of war.”

The pope’s main talk at the audience focused on the Gospel parable of the good Samaritan, a story the pope said offered important lessons for Christians but also was a source of hope.

“The lack of hope, at times, is due to the fact that we fixate on a certain rigid and closed way of seeing things, and the parables help us to look at them from another point of view,” Pope Leo said.

The parable of the good Samaritan is an obvious lesson in being compassionate and recognizing all men and women as neighbors, he said. But it also says something about the compassion of Jesus.

“We can also see ourselves in the man who fell into the hands of robbers, for we have all experienced the difficulties of life and the pain brought about by sin,” he said in his English summary. “In our frailty, we discover that Christ himself is the Good Samaritan who heals our wounds and restores our hope.”

“Let us turn, then, to the Sacred Heart, model of true humanity, and ask him to make our heart ever more like his,” the pope said.

The wounded man on the side of the road “represents each one of us,” he said, and remembering “all the times that Jesus stopped to take care of us will make us more capable of compassion.”

Being compassionate, he said, is not just a feeling; it means taking action.

“If you want to help someone, you cannot think of keeping your distance, you have to get involved, get dirty, perhaps be contaminated,” the pope said, noting that in the parable, the good Samaritan cleans and bandages the man’s wounds and takes him to safety.



Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
6:30 WOWK CBS 13	Huntington-Charleston
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 DC News Now	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

Holy See Calls for Respect for Human Dignity, International Law as Civilian Deaths Soar

By Gina Christian, OSV News

(OSV News) — As civilian casualties from multiple conflicts have soared, the Holy See's diplomat to the United Nations has called for a renewed respect for human dignity and international law, along with restrictions in armaments and a commitment to end the scourge of war.

"It is fundamental that, even in the midst of conflict, the protection of the human person and its inherent God-given dignity remain at the center of all collective efforts, also in order to avoid the scourge of war," said Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, the Holy See's U.N. permanent observer, in a May 22 statement to the U.N. Security Council's open debate on civilian protection amid armed conflict.

The Holy See established diplomatic relations with the U.N. in 1957, representing the Vatican City state as well

as the supreme authority of the Catholic Church, including the pope as bishop of Rome and the head of the college of bishops.

In his address, Archbishop Caccia stressed that during conflict, "The human person must never be treated as expendable, or reduced to mere collateral damage."

In 2024, the U.N. counted more than 36,000 civilian deaths in 14 armed conflicts, warning that the actual total is "likely far higher."

Currently, more than 120 conflicts are taking place throughout the world, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Among the most prominent are Russia's war in Ukraine; the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip; civil wars in Myanmar and Sudan; insurgencies in various African nations, as well as in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and armed gang violence that has destabilized Haiti.

Archbishop Caccia noted

that the Holy See remains "deeply concerned about the increasing number and intensity of armed conflicts across the world, which continue to inflict profound and disproportionate suffering on civilian populations."

He underscored "the urgent need for compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols," referencing the international treaties that seek to limit the barbarity of war by in particular protecting noncombatants, wounded troops and prisoners of war.

The conventions and their additional protocols form the core of international law regulating armed conflicts.

The archbishop pointed to routine attacks on civilians as both "an immense human tragedy" and "a grave affront to the foundations of international security."

"Indeed, the deliberate

targeting of civilians, including women, children, and humanitarian personnel; the destruction of essential infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and places of worship; and the denial of humanitarian access to those in urgent need are of great concern," he said.

Archbishop Caccia also noted "the evolving nature of contemporary warfare" and its role in eroding civilian protections.

He said the Holy See viewed it as essential to end the use of "indiscriminate weapons, landmines and cluster munitions" and halt "the deployment of explosive weapons in populated areas."

"This together with the cessation of arms production and stockpiling constitute concrete and urgent steps towards a better protection of civilians," he said, calling for the implementation of the U.N.'s declaration on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, while com-

mending the U.N.'s Mine Action Service.

Even with restraints on the use of conventional weapons, however, "the increasing use of new and emerging technologies for military purposes is also of deep concern," said Archbishop Caccia. "These developments raise complex legal, ethical, and humanitarian concerns, especially where the use of such technologies could harm civilians."

For that reason, he said, "The Holy See therefore strongly supports the proposal of a legally binding instrument prohibiting lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) by 2026."

"Ensuring that decisions over life and death remain under meaningful human control is not only a matter of legal accountability, but also a moral responsibility," said Archbishop Caccia.

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

Bishops Speak up after Two Priests Killed in Kenya

By Fredrick Nzwili, OSV News

NAIROBI, Kenya (OSV News) — Catholic bishops in Kenya are demanding a full investigation into the suspicious deaths of two priests within days of each other, calling the incidents deeply disturbing.

While expressing condolences to the bishop of Eldoret following the death of Father Alois Cheruiyot Bett and to the bishop of Nyahururu following the death of Father John Maina Ndegwa, Kenyan bishops expressed distress that both deaths appeared veiled with malicious intent and mystery.

"We wish to decry the death of these ministers of God and the sense of insecurity and helplessness created by such incidents against the servants of God," said Archbishop Maurice Muhatia Makumba of Kisumu, president of the Kenyan bishops' conference, in a May 28 statement, which regretted that life in Kenya had become so cheap that murders and deaths were taken lightly and used carelessly for political expediency.

"The work carried out by our Catholic priests goes beyond the service of

religion and evangelization. It reaches out to caring for the marginalized, the forgotten and the sick, to bring them hope that does not disappoint," the statement said.

The bishops' statement came as Catholics in Kenya continued to express shock at the deaths and demand action from the government.

Father Bett, a priest from the St. Matthias Mulumba Tot Parish in the Eldoret Diocese, was gunned down in cold blood on May 22 in Kabartile village in northwestern Kenya. He was returning to the parish headquarters after leading prayers in the Kerio Valley, an area where armed cattle rustlers prowl.

Auxiliary Bishop John Kiplimo Lelei of Eldoret told OSV News in a telephone interview that "It happened when he went out for a small Christian Mass. He was reaching out to the people."

As he condemned the killing, the bishop said the priest was helping the church's efforts in reaching out to the community, in the area that has suffered insecurity in recent times. He had climbed the hill to reach a Small Chris-

tian Community for prayers, but a single shot killed him as he came down after the prayers.

"The killers must have known the priest. A word goes round that they must have seen him climb the hill. As to what (was the) motive, no one seems to know. After the shot, two people were seen moving out of the bush and they were identified," he said.

Bishop Lelei said the death of the priest had saddened and shocked the community.

"It seems this is not banditry and if it's not, it seems they were targeting him, but the motive is not clear," he said.

Father Bett's death came right after the church laid to rest Father Maina, the priest in charge of St. Louis Parish in Igwamiti, located in the Diocese of Nyahururu in central Kenya.

Father Maina died May 15 while being treated for injuries at the St. Joseph's Mission Hospital in Gilgil town.

At the funeral, Bishop Joseph Ndembu Mbatia of Nyahururu urged calm and patience as Kenya's Directorate of Criminal Investigations con-

tinued to unravel the cause of the priest's death.

According to reports, a motorcycle rider had found Father Maina dumped by a roadside in the Kikopey area, along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway with minor injuries on one side of his head. The motorcyclist had rushed him to the hospital, but the priest died while undergoing treatment.

Preliminary findings revealed that the bruises observed on Father Maina's head "were unlikely to be the cause of death," said the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in a May 20 statement.

The Daily Nation newspaper reported that the priest had whispered to medics at the hospital that he was poisoned. Samuel Ndegwa, the priest's father, said his son's last words to the rider who rescued him were, "they have given me poison." He then went silent.

Authorities are investigating links to threats he received after hosting a controversial political figure at a church event.

(Fredrick Nzwili writes for OSV News from Nairobi, Kenya.)



**What is
God
asking of
You?**

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Word

Discernment Retreat

for Women
18-30 years old

August 29th -30th

*Priestfield Pastoral
Center*

*4030 Middleway Pike
Kearneysville WV,*

25430

*Diocese of
Wheeling-Charleston*

To sign up:
WestvirginiaMission@hmsp.org

Steubenville Conferences Celebrate 50 Years of Encounter and Renewal

Franciscan University Hosts Landmark Summer of Conferences and Launches New 'Glory' Women's Conference

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO — For 50 years, Franciscan University's Steubenville Conferences have provided Catholics and sincere seekers a vibrant, Eucharist-centered experience of life in the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

"Heading into our 50th summer, we're overwhelmed by the Lord's generosity and the ways he continues to reach people through our conferences," said Brian Kissinger, executive director of Conferences at Franciscan University. "From the individual encounters and conversion moments that take place during these events to the families, parishes, and apostolates impacted by the men and women who attend, we're in awe of how God is at work rebuilding the Church through the Steubenville Conferences."

Kissinger said that in addition to long-time favorite conferences for adults and teens, this summer's schedule will introduce Glory: Women's Gathering. This unique conference will bring women together June 6-June 8 at Franciscan University to encounter the glory of God and experience a place of belonging, inspiration, and restoration.

Steubenville Conferences have partnered with Abiding Together podcast co-host Heather Khym and Life Restoration Ministries to offer this special confer-

ence to women. Speakers will include Khym; Michelle Benzinger, Abiding Together podcast co-host; Debbie Herbeck, founder and executive director of Pine Hills Girls' Camp; Sarah Kaczmarek, director of Pastoral Ministry at Encounter Ministries; Father Tim Hepburn of St. Michael's Parish in Gainesville, Georgia; and Monica Richards, full-time missionary at Damascus. Worship music will be led by GMA Dove Award nominated artist and songwriter Sarah Kroger Quaglia.

"I'm so excited to host the Glory women's conference at Franciscan this summer and welcome women of all generations to encounter God's presence, experience joy and renewal, and refocus our lives on Jesus," Khym said.

Steubenville Conferences will also host five other adult conferences this summer at Franciscan University, all of which will feature acclaimed Catholic speakers, authors, theologians, podcasters, clergy, musicians, and ministry leaders.

Power and Purpose Conference, June 20-June 22

Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Retreat, June 23-June 27

St. John Bosco Conference, July 14-July 17

Applied Biblical Studies Conference, July 30-August 1

Defending the Faith Conference, August 1-August 3

Featured speakers include Noelle Mering, author of *Awake, Not Woke*; Dr. Scott Hahn, professor of biblical theology at Franciscan University; Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, president of Franciscan University; Dr. Mary Healy, professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit; Deacon Bob Rice, Franciscan University catechetics professor; Karlo Broussard, author and staff apologist for Catholic Answers; Dr. John Bergsma, theology professor at Franciscan University; Father John Riccardo, founder of Acts XXIX; Dr. Shane Owens, assistant professor

of theology at Franciscan University; Kimberly Hahn, author and podcast host; Katie Prejean McGrady, host of The Katie McGrady Show on Sirius XM; and many others.

In addition to all the adult offerings, Steubenville Conferences will sponsor 19 summer conferences for teens in dioceses throughout the United States and Canada. This summer's Youth Conferences will include four events at Franciscan University, a new conference in Joliet, Illinois, featuring Father Mike Schmitz, and the return of Steubenville Youth Conferences to San Diego, California.

"As someone who attended our youth conferences as a teen, brought groups as a youth minister, and served as a Steubenville Youth Conferences host, I've seen the fruit and the evidence of what God can do through these weekends," Kissinger said. "We're privileged to have front row seats to witness young people experiencing conversion through en-

countering Jesus in the context of a joyful community."

For more information on the Steubenville Conferences or to register, visit SteubenvilleConferences.com.

Now is the time to Talk!

Kepner
FUNERAL HOMES
CREMATORY

304.232.5110 | KepnerFuneral.com
James B. Kepner President | Melissa Hill COIC

COLEMAN'S FISH MKT.

Established 1914
Centre Wheeling Market House

304-232-8510

111 Years

Duplaga's TOP NOTCH

LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY LLC

Mowing • Landscaping • Patios • Retaining Walls

Supply Yard

Chris Duplaga, Owner
140 Peninsula Street, Wheeling
www.topnotchlandscape.com

WE DELIVER

office@topnotchlandscape.com (304) 233-0332

We Are Now A Full Service Hardware Store!

Best We Also Specialize n Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Lou W. Nau, Inc.

69 Edgington Lane, Wheeling Phone (304) 242-6311

louwnau.doitbest.com

JOHNSON BOILER WORKS, INC

53 Marshall St.
Benwood, WV 26031
(304) 232-3070
Steam Boiler Repairs

Santo Niño Novena Celebrated at Basilica Co-Cathedral



Martina Hart photo

Bishop Mark Brennan joins clergy and the faithful for the final night and closing Mass of the Santo Niño Novena at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston May 4.



**TOGETHER FOR
WEST VIRGINIA**
Catholic Charities

FROM MAY 20 THROUGH WEST VIRGINIA DAY ON JUNE 20, CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA IS INVITING YOU TO BE PART OF SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL — a month-long celebration of hope, kindness, and the power of community. And it all starts with you.

This is more than a fundraiser — it's a heartfelt movement. A call to every West Virginian who believes in lifting each other up, standing beside those facing tough times, and shaping a future rooted in compassion. Together, we can make a difference.

Scan to
Learn More



Donate4WV.givesmart.com



**TOGETHER FOR
WEST VIRGINIA**
Catholic Charities



Snag your limited-edition Together for West Virginia t-shirt. Every shirt supports life-changing programs across all 55 counties and spreads the message of hope.

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

Saturday, May 31: Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby;
4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 1: St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake; 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 8: Sacred Heart, Bluefield, 4:30 p.m.

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 1, Awards Scholarships



Courtesy photo

WHEELING—The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 1, recently awarded three scholarships to local high school seniors. Tyler Dean, right, (St. Michael Parish, Wheeling), and Rebecca Krofcheck, both students at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, and Trenton Rosenthal (St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling), a senior at Wheeling Park High School, were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships based on their academics, extracurricular involvement, and essays highlighting their faith and Irish ancestry. Dedicated to Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity, the Ancient Order of Hibernians is a fraternal organization of Irish Catholic men. Division 1 is the only remaining division of Hibernians in the Upper Ohio Valley, with over 70 members in parishes in West Virginia and Ohio.



project rachel
Peace starts here

If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God's healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.

For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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

Men today need a band of brothers – other Catholic men to share in that call, who walk together on the journey towards something better.

You are invited
to put your
faith in action

kofc.org/joinus



Knights of
Columbus

The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

Become a Knight.

[Click here](#)

Children Place American Flags on Veterans' Graves for Memorial Day



Courtesy photo
For Memorial Day, children from Ascension Parish in Hurricane placed American flags on veterans' graves at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Scott Depot. Nadia Cicenias is pictured after placing one of the flags.

Quo Vadis

DISCERNMENT Retreat

NEW Welcoming boys grades 6th - 12th!
Now thru high school!

PRAYER KAYAKING CAMP FIRES
HIKING GAMES CHALLENGES

11 am June 30 to 1 pm July 3, 2025

Priest Field Pastoral Center
Kearneysville, WV

CAMP IS STAFFED BY LAITY, PRIESTS, AND SEMINARIANS FROM THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

SEMINARIAN RETREAT LEADERS:
Middle School Breakouts

Peter Russman
St. James, Charles Town
Pontifical College Josephine, Columbus, OH

High School Breakouts

Dominic Re
Ss. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill
Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD

Joe Derico
St. Patrick, Weston
Pope St. John Paul II, Washington, DC

IT'S FREE!
Register now at WVPriests.org

20/20 Vision Series for 2025

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

"THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME" (1975)
"AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE" (1995)
"THE TELLING TAKES US HOME" (2015)

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 27	OUR HOME, OUR HISTORY – Bishop Mark Brennan
February 24	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART I – Tom Breiding
March 31	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART II
April 28	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART III
May 19	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART I – Beth Collins
June 23	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
July 28	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
August 25	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART I – Rodica Stoicoiu
September 22	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART II
October 27	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART III
November 24	AN EVENING OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC – Tom Breiding
December 15	WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? – Bishop Mark Brennan

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.
RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org

St. Joseph RETREAT CENTER

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
Office of Consecrated Life
Sr. Martha Gomez, RGS

Charles Town, WV Retreat

with **Immaculée**

JULY 25-26, 2025

ST. JAMES THE GREATER

49 Crosswinds Dr.
Charles Town, WV 25414

1 Attendee \$57.00

Info: **Angelle** angelle@immaculee.com
Deacon Dave deacondave@stjameswv.org

Recuerden la compasión de Cristo, muestren compasión a los demás, dice el Papa

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Ser religioso no significa automáticamente que alguien sea compasivo, y sin embargo para un cristiano la compasión es un signo claro de seguir a Cristo, dijo el Papa León XIV.

"Antes que una cuestión religiosa, ¡la compasión es una cuestión de humanidad! Antes de ser creyentes, estamos llamados a ser humanos", dijo el Papa el 28 de mayo durante su audiencia general en la Plaza de San Pedro.

Al final de la audiencia, el Papa León abogó de nuevo por la paz en Gaza y en Ucrania.

"Desde la Franja de Gaza se eleva al cielo, cada vez con mayor intensidad, el grito de madres y padres que, abrazados a los cuerpos sin vida de sus hijos, se ven obligados continuamente a desplazarse en busca de algo de comida y un refugio más seguro de los bombardeos", dijo el Papa. "A los dirigentes, renuevo mi llamado: Cesen los disparos; liberen a todos los rehenes; respeten plenamente las leyes humanitarias".

Y tras días en los que Rusia ha incrementado sus ataques contra Ucrania, matando civiles y destruyendo infraestructuras, el papa aseguró al pueblo ucraniano su "cercanía y mis oraciones por todas las víctimas, especialmente los niños y las familias".

"Renuevo con fuerza mi llamamiento para detener la guerra y apoyar toda iniciativa de di-

álogo y de paz", dijo. "Pido a todos que se unan a las oraciones por la paz en Ucrania y dondequiera que la gente sufra a causa de la guerra".

La catequesis principal del Papa en la audiencia se centró en la parábola del buen samaritano, una historia que, según el Papa, ofrece importantes lecciones para los cristianos, pero también es fuente de esperanza.

"La falta de esperanza, a veces, se debe a que nos quedamos atrapados en una cierta forma rígida y cerrada de ver las cosas, y las parábolas nos ayudan a mirarlas desde otro punto de vista", dijo el Papa León.

La parábola del buen samaritano es una lección evidente sobre la compasión y el reconocimiento del prójimo. Pero también dice algo sobre la compasión de Jesús.

"También podemos vernos a nosotros mismos en el hombre que cayó en manos de los ladrones, porque todos hemos experimentado las dificultades de la vida y el dolor provocado por el pecado", dijo en su resumen en inglés. "En nuestra fragilidad, descubrimos que Cristo mismo es el Buen Samaritano que cura nuestras heridas y restaura nuestra esperanza".

"Dirijámonos, pues, al Sagrado Corazón, modelo de verdadera humanidad, y pidámosle que haga nuestro corazón cada vez más semejante al suyo", dijo el Papa.

El hombre herido al borde del camino "nos

representa a cada uno de nosotros", dijo, y recordar "todas las veces que Jesús se detuvo para cuidar de nosotros nos hará más capaces de compasión".

Ser compasivo, dijo, no es sólo un sentimiento; significa pasar a la acción.

La parábola, dijo el Papa León en su resumen en español, está dirigida a un alguien que, a pesar de conocer las Escrituras, considera la salvación como un derecho que le es debido. Esta parábola "le ayuda a cambiar de perspectiva, y a pasar de centrarse en sí mismo a ser capaz de acoger a los otros, sintiéndose llamado a hacerse prójimo de los demás, sin importar quienes sean, y no sólo juzgar cercanas a las personas que lo aprecian".

"La parábola gira en torno al camino que hace cada personaje, al modo de aproximarse a los demás y a cómo se comporta cada uno cuando ve al prójimo en dificultad", continuó el Papa. "El texto nos pide reflexionar sobre nuestra capacidad de detenernos en el camino de la vida, de poner al otro por encima de nuestra prisa, de nuestro proyecto de viaje".

"Si quieres ayudar a alguien, no puedes pensar en mantenerte a distancia, tienes que implicarte, ensuciarte, quizás contaminarte", dijo el Papa, señalando que, en la parábola, el buen samaritano limpia y venda las heridas del hombre y lo lleva a un lugar seguro.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

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

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

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o

304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656.

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381.

Employment Opportunities

Service Specialist Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa)

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices. The Service Specialist is responsible for the coordination of case management and program services at the Regional Offices. This includes all services provided in the region employee is assigned, Northern, Southern, Eastern or Western Regions.

Primary responsibilities of the Service Specialist include working directly with individuals or families to assess their needs and develop and implement a comprehensive service plan based on those needs, developing partnerships to address client and community needs, and developing and supporting workshops and similar programs. The Service Specialist is responsible for documenting all activities in this process and maintaining a case file according to guidelines/models provided. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. However, the Service Specialist must be flexible to work potential evenings and weekends, as scheduled, to ensure maximum access for clients. This position will report to the Regional Director or Coordinator. As an employee of Catholic Charities WV, the Service Specialist will also carry out various program functions at the request of the Regional Director as needed.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Conduct face-to-face interviews with clients to assess needs and eligibility for services; assist clients by exploring all available options, identifying the client's own resources and available community and governmental resources, making appropriate referrals, and assisting in linking client with available resources; serving as facilitator and advocate when necessary; develop comprehensive service plan with client that states goals, identifies needs, and outlines corresponding interventions, responsible agents, and time frames, and document all work done on each case, including all contacts in the case file, according to CCWVa Case Management protocol; provide training and ongoing support to other staff and interns regarding social service provision and values; develop and maintain ongoing working relationships with agency partners, community social service agencies, faith-based organizations, schools, and coalitions to meet the larger needs of the community; create learning opportunities, such as life skills, financial literacy, budgeting, parenting, housing management, asset development and more; participate in community social service/interagency meetings and trainings; participate in resource development; provide reports as required and/or requested; perform other duties as needed, including providing office coverage and/or carrying out functions of regional programs, as directed by the Regional Director represent the mission and work of Catholic Charities West Virginia programs to the community; assist the Neighborhood Center Coordinator in working with parishes to develop and maintain ongoing working relationships and network these parishes with other community-based groups, churches, and coalitions to meet the larger needs of the com-

munity.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise Social Work Interns as appropriate; the Service Specialist may serve as a task supervisor for other staff.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required; Bachelor's in social work degree preferred. A valid social work license or the ability to be licensed in West Virginia is preferred; casework experience working with at-risk populations; excellent computer skills with the ability to track and analyze data; excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to speak in public and represent the organization with a variety of audiences and community sectors; willingness to adapt to change in schedule, including evenings and weekends, if necessary; knowledge of: federal, state and community resources; case management practices; populations served and their culture and needs; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment; must have transportation to travel as needed.

Ability to: Assess client and community needs and develop effective responses; organize, prioritize and utilize effective time management techniques; work independently; respect confidentiality at all times; respect clients' beliefs and choices; provide coaching and positive reinforcement for individuals from a broad range of socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds; navigate federal, state, and community resources; ability to communicate in Spanish is desirable; work in a faith-based setting and be sensitive to Catholic social teachings; make home visits, conduct off-site interviews, and attend meetings as needed.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit. The employee frequently is required to talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, use hands to write, type, etc. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. The employee must possess vision ability to read, write, and operate a motor vehicle.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job; the noise in the work environment is usually moderate; may be exposed to varying weather conditions due to job-related travel.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES: Oversee Hospitality House and provide case management services to clients enrolled in Hospitality House; prepare, organize, and lead RAPP (Relatives As Parents Program) providing assistance to all enrolled clients; assist with Rapid Rehousing as needed.

Click here to apply.

Human Resources Generalist—Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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

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

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

DWC is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Click here to apply.

Cemetery Worker—Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling

The Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission statement.

The Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker performs maintenance tasks, grounds maintenance and other duties to open and close gravesites.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Opens and closes graves, crypts or niches; assists in disinterment and disentombments; performs all general maintenance on grounds such as snow removal, grass cutting, digging, sodding, mulching, leaf collection, marker setting, etc.; operates equipment as needed and assigned.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Other job related as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform the job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skills, and ability required: High School Graduate or GED; valid driver's license; ability to follow directions; must work well with others; knowledge, understanding and use of basic buildings and grounds maintenance tools and equipment.

Preferred experience in use of dump truck, excavators (backhoe and mini),

folk lift and riding mowers.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform this job:

The employee is regularly required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle or feel.

The employee is required to reach with hands and arms; climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl, talk and hear.

The employee must be able to move or lift up to 50 pounds and in excess occasionally.

The employee must use close and distance vision, peripheral and depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described are those an employee encounters while performing this job: employee regularly works outdoors in varying weather conditions. The employee regularly works with and near moving equipment and mechanical parts noise level can be loud. Employee may work irregular schedule and hours.

Click here to apply.

Employment Opportunities

Principal – Fairmont Catholic Grade School

Fairmont Catholic Grade School is seeking a dedicated and dynamic individual for the position of PK-8th Grade Principal. The ideal candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church teachings and serve as a role model and motivator in upholding the Catholic philosophy of the school.

Qualifications: The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts.

The ideal candidate must have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration (preferred), or be in the process of completing the degree requirements; or the candidate should hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

A minimum of three years of successful educational experience is required, with preference given to those with administrative experience.

Application Instructions: Please submit your resume, along with three professional references, in PDF format to Julie Link at jlinc@dwc.org. Resumes will be accepted until June 9, 2025.

Part-Time Teaching Positions at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling

We are currently hiring for the following part-time positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Middle School Math Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Middle School Science Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Music Teacher for PK through 8th Grade
- Art Teacher for PK through 8th Grade
- Technology Teacher for Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- 8th Grade Spanish Teacher

These part-time positions may be combined to create a full-time role, depending on qualifications and availability. Bachelor's Degree / Certification in Education required.

Please contact the school or email jperoni@stvincentschool.org for more information.

4th and 5th Grade Teaching Positions, St. Paul School, Weirton

St. Paul School is accepting applications for a 4th grade teaching position and 5th grade teaching position. We are seeking passionate and committed individuals to join our educational team for the upcoming school year. We are looking for individuals who value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. We are looking for someone who is committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experience for our students. Both the 4th and 5th grades are self-con-

Teaching Positions – St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

Full time Middle School Social Studies Teacher

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across our middle school grade levels (5th-8th).

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in education or related field; valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure; experience working with children in a classroom setting; strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills; willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution.

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

Part-time Elementary and Middle School Music Teacher

We seek a passionate and committed individual who will value the mission of a Catholic education and who can help nurture both the intellectual and spiritual development of our students. Applicants should be committed to creating engaging and supportive learning experiences for our students across the school.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in music education or related field; valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure; experience working with children in a classroom setting; strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills; willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution; fluency in piano preferred but not required; should be willing to discuss extra curricular activities such as middle school choir and participation in a spring musical

Interested individuals can apply via email to: Adrienne Manning at mrsmanning@smpswv.org and/or Sara Herron at mrsherron@smpswv.org

tained classrooms.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in education; valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure; experience working with children in a classroom setting; strong classroom management, communication skills and curriculum development skills; willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution. Apply via email to: jlesho@weirtonstpauls.org. or you can mail your resume to Mr. Jamie Lesho, 140 Walnut Street, Weirton, WV 26062.

Cook— St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

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

Full-Time Elementary School Teacher St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

Saint Joseph School is seeking a classroom teacher who could be assigned to teach students from kindergarten through fifth grade. The teacher promotes academic and social behaviors in children in a developmentally appropriate manner and continues to reinforce such behaviors on a consistent basis. The teacher also fosters independence through the gradual increase of responsibilities by allowing students to develop the skills to perform tasks without assistance.

Saint Joseph School educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity. The ideal candidate would be one who embraces the SJS mission and who is looking for a place in which to be respected and supported.

Reports to: Principal. Job Type: Full-time, Contract. Pay: \$40,000 to 52,000 per year, depending on education and experience.

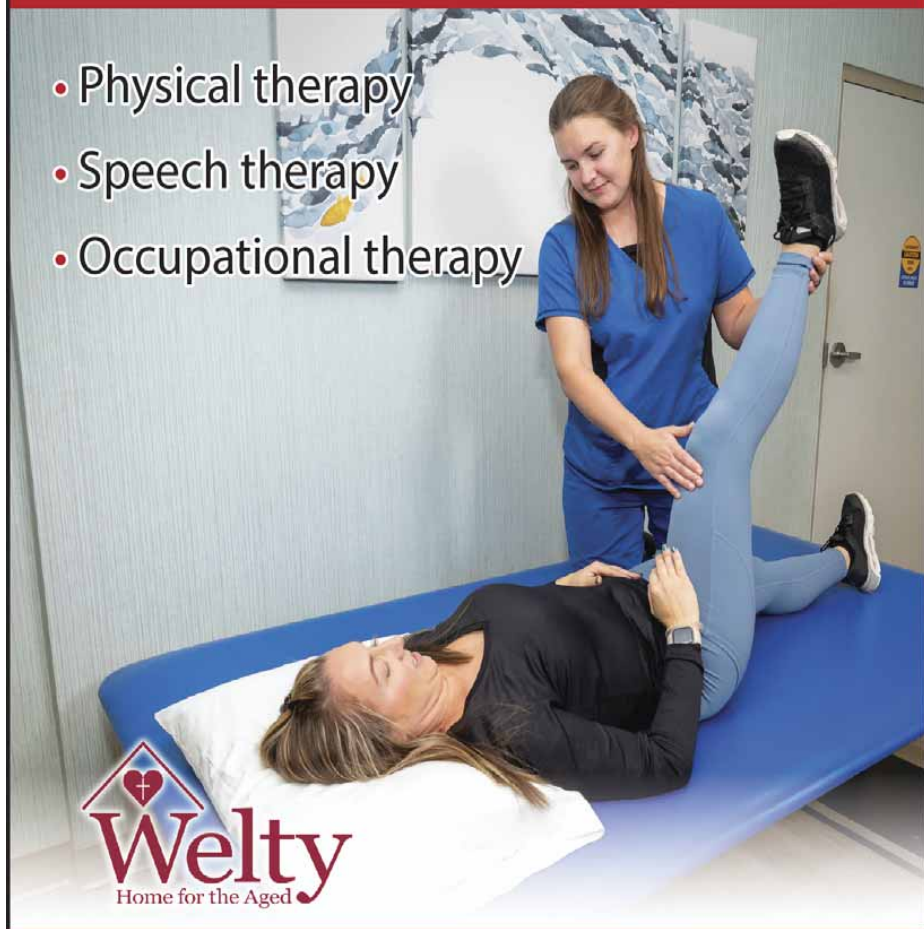
Essential Responsibilities: Establishing a safe and supportive environment that is conducive to learning; designing and implementing authentic and engaging learning experiences using the West Virginia College and Career Readiness standards; adhering to SJS assessment and grading policy and guidelines; collaborating with other teachers to share best practices and provide meaningful feedback regularly; ensuring that students meet educational standards and school performance goals for their grade level; adopting a data-driven attitude toward measuring learner progress; tending to individual student needs; demonstrating an awareness of different student backgrounds and cultures; communicating regularly with parents; providing extra support to students who need it; monitoring student growth to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Qualifications: bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college; holds or eligible for a West Virginia teaching license, with an endorsement in elementary; demonstrated knowledge of elementary content, curriculum and methodology of effective teaching; ability to establish and maintain effective collaborative relationships with students, peers, administrators and parents; demonstrated skill in oral and written communications; excellent human-relations skills; proficiency with basic computer software such as Word and Excel.

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsv.org.

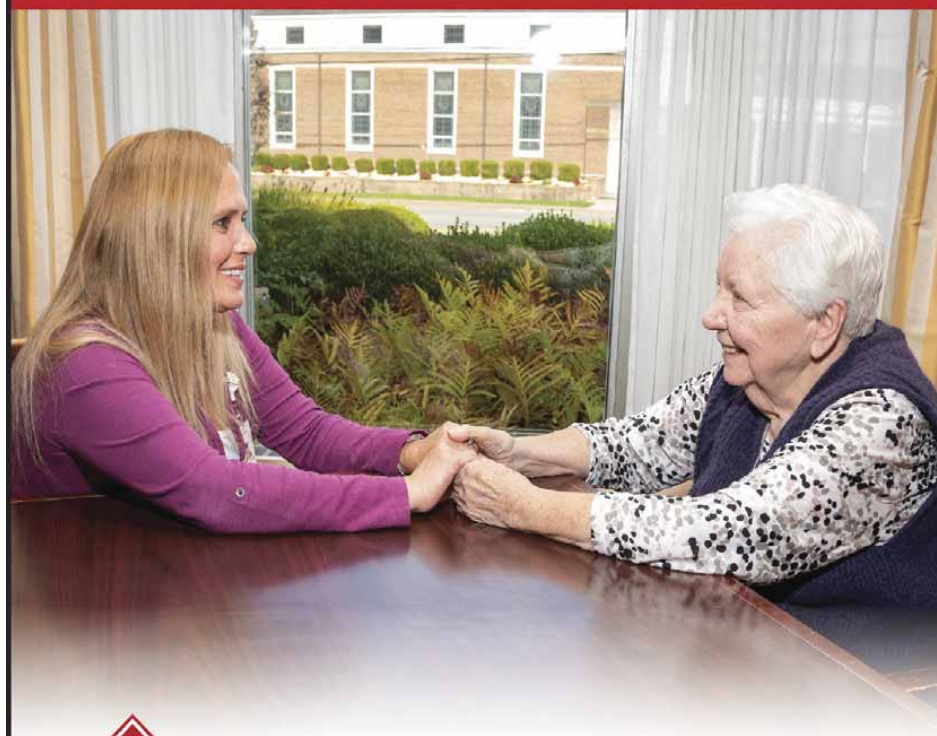
Ask your doctor to refer you to Good Shepherd for:

- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy



GOOD SHEPHERD 304.242.1093
 NURSING HOME www.weltyhome.org

The higher level of care I need... and everyone is so kind.



304-242-5233
www.weltyhome.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: MyWVUHeart.com

Appointments: 304-243-8362

