



# Leaked Draft of Supreme Court Opinion Indicates Overturn of Roe Decision

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — The Supreme Court appears set to overturn its Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion for nearly 50 years, according to a leaked initial draft of a court opinion obtained by Politico and published online the evening of May 2.

Just minutes after the leak was published, reactions were fast and furious on social media, and barricades were erected around the Supreme Court. Many people gathered at the court in protest and some, including students from The Catholic University of America, were there to pray the rosary.

The draft opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito, said Roe “was egregiously wrong from the start” and that “Roe and Casey must be overruled.” Casey v. Planned Parenthood is the 1992 decision that affirmed Roe.

Alito’s opinion said the court’s 1973 Roe decision had exceptionally weak reasoning “and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, Roe and Casey have enflamed debate and deepened division,” he wrote.

**See “Court” on Page 2**



CNS Photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters  
Lights burn inside U.S. Supreme Court offices in Washington May 2 after the leak of a draft majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito preparing for a majority of the court to overturn Roe v. Wade later this year.

## Local Synod Reports Presented; Volunteers to Comprise Diocesan Document

By Joyce Bibey

**WEST VIRGINIA** — Parish reports from listening sessions held throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the Holy Father’s Synod on Synodality are in the hands of the volunteer writers, who will summarize and present the voice of God’s people in a document to be sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops by June 30.

Bishop Mark Brennan opened the synodal process with a Mass from the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Oct. 17, joining with Pope Francis in asking the faithful to call upon the Holy Spirit to enlighten them as they discern, listen, and discuss how the Church can grow more fruitful in unity.

“I am grateful to our parish coordinators and participants for their commitment to this process, as I am cer-

tain the input will help us be a better Church, more faithful to God, more fruitful to good works, and more committed to share our faith,” Bishop Brennan said as the local reports were given to the review and writing team on May 2.

As a model of transparency, the members of the review and writing team are not employees of the chancery, but members of the faithful

in the diocese. They include Sister Carmella Campione, of the Congregation of St. Joseph; Jacob Manning, parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Joseph; and Dr. Tom and Kim Michaud, parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

“I look forward to receiving the report from the four laity, who volunteered to thoroughly review all of the

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## Court...

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He also said abortion policies should be determined on the state level. Politico's report says Alito's opinion is supported by Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett and that Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan were working on dissents. It was not clear how Chief Justice John Roberts planned to vote.

The 98-page draft, which includes a 31-page appendix of historical state abortion laws, is an opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* — a case about Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy with the potential to also overturn *Roe*.

The fact that the opinion was leaked also caused significant reaction, because this is unprecedented in the court's recent history, especially with such a big case.

A May 3 statement by the Supreme Court verified that the draft opinion reported on "is authentic" but that it "does not represent a decision by the Court or the final position of any member on the issues in the case."

Roberts, in his own statement, emphasized the significance of the leaked document, which he said was a "singular and egregious breach of that trust that is an affront to the Court and the community of public servants who work here."

He also said that if this action was "intended to undermine the integrity of our operations, it will not succeed. The work of the Court will not be affected in any way." He said he has directed the Marshal of the Court to launch an investigation into the source of the leak.

Politico acknowledged that "deliberations on controversial cases have in the past been fluid. Justices can and sometimes do change their votes as draft opinions circulate and major decisions can be subject to multiple drafts and vote-trading, sometimes until just days before a decision is unveiled."

"The court's holding will not be final until it is published, likely in the next two months," it added.

But that does not stop the firestorm of speculation and discussion.

A tweet from *scotusblog*, which reports on the Supreme Court, said: "It's impossible to overstate the earthquake this will cause inside the Court, in terms of the destruction of trust among the Justices and staff. This leak is the gravest, most unforgivable sin."

Pro-life groups praised the court's potential decision but some also questioned the motivation behind the leak and wondered if the court was being manipulated by this action.

A May 2 tweet by Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life

Education and Defense Fund, said her organization would "not be providing comment on an official decision of #scotus possible leak until a decision is officially announced."

"We also believe that given the leak the court should issue a ruling as soon as possible. This leak was meant to corrupt the process. It is heartbreaking that some abortion advocates will stoop to any level to intimidate the court no matter what the consequences," she added.

"This leak is an act of desperation from rabid abortion supporters," said Kristan Hawkins, president, Students for Life, in an email to Catholic News Service. She noted that although she didn't know if rumors about ending *Roe* were accurate she stressed that "ending *Roe* is the right decision."

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, also expressed some skepticism but also praise for the potential decision. "If the draft opinion made public tonight is the final opinion of the court, we wholeheartedly applaud the decision," she said in a statement adding: "If *Roe* is indeed overturned, our job will be to build consensus for the strongest protections possible for unborn children and women in every legislature."

Those on the other side of the issue were similarly taken aback by the leak but also by the potential impact of the decision if it ultimately echoes the draft opinion.

American Civil Liberties Union tweeted: "If the Supreme Court does indeed issue a majority opinion

along the lines of the leaked draft authored by Justice Alito, the shift in the tectonic plates of abortion rights will be as significant as any opinion the Court has ever issued."

And Planned Parenthood said in a May 2 tweet: "Let's be clear: This is a draft opinion. It's outrageous, it's unprecedented, but it is not final."

During oral arguments in this case last December, a majority of the justices indicate that they would uphold Mississippi's abortion ban after 15 weeks of pregnancy, which was struck down by a federal District Court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

A 15-week ban is not a "dramatic departure from viability," Roberts said.

The point of viability — when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own — was key to the discussion because the Supreme Court has consistently ruled that states cannot restrict abortion before 24 weeks or when a fetus is said to be able to survive on its own.

In the draft opinion, Alito said *Roe's* viability distinction "makes no sense."

If this draft is adopted by the court, it means a ruling in favor of the Mississippi abortion ban. If it goes further to overturn *Roe*, there would be stricter limits to abortion in parts of the U.S., particularly the South and Midwest, with several states set to immediately impose broad abortion bans.

(Contributing to this report was Kurt Jensen.)

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

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

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

**To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability," then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

### Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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# Diocese Unveils Plans for First Year of Eucharistic Revival

By Colleen Rowan

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on June 19 will mark the opening of the U.S. bishops' three-year Eucharistic Revival aimed at increasing awareness of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The first year is a diocesan celebration, a chance to come together as the church in West Virginia and to share the love of the Eucharist, said the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Worship and Sacraments Director Bernadette Kime.

"This is the year that we are really going to work together as a diocese to ignite the fire of the love of the Eucharist," she said. It is also a time to bring people back to the church, to bring people back to the sacrament, she said. Plans for the feast of Corpus Christi include showing the Catholic faithful's devotion to the Eucharist in every corner of the state.

"The goal is to begin the year with Corpus Christi processions and, because this is the diocesan year, we are looking at the vicariates to organize something where the parishes collaborate," said Kime, who was appointed the point person for the Eucharistic Revival for the diocese.

The hope, Kime said, is to organize two Eucharistic processions in each of the diocese's six vicariates of Beckley, Clarksburg, Charleston, Parkersburg, Weston, and Wheeling. One of the processions should be held in a large city in the vicariate and another procession in maybe one of its rural areas, Kime said.

For the Wheeling Vicariate, the faithful are invited to participate in a Eucharistic procession through the City of Wheeling led by Bishop Mark Brennan on the feast of Corpus Christi. Following his celebration of Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, the bishop will lead the congregation in a Eucharistic procession from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Parish in Wheeling. The time of the Mass will be announced.

Plans are also moving forward in the Martinsburg Vicariate. Very Rev. Timothy J. Grassi, V.F., pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, said Mass at St. James is at 11 a.m. on the feast of Corpus Christi.

"We will then team up with the Canons of the New Jerusalem by beginning a procession from St. James to the priory," Father Grassi told *The Catholic Spirit*. "When we get to the priory, we will have benediction." There will probably be refreshments to follow, he said.

Plans in other vicariates have not been announced.

Because of the geographical challenges of the diocese, Kime said the best way to connect the diocese is through the vicariates. Parishes, she said, are encouraged to work together.

The diocesan year of the Eucharistic Revival will culminate on the feast of Corpus Christi 2023 with regional gatherings around the state, "to show our connectedness as a diocese," Kime said.

Each year of the revival will begin and end on the feast of Corpus Christi. The focus will be on the parish level next year with processions



Colleen Rowan Photo

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

and gatherings. A National Eucharistic Congress is planned for the third year and is slated to be held in Indiana with Catholics from across the U.S.

After that, Kime said a fourth phase will focus on ongoing evangelization, with the hope "that every Catholic will be on fire with the Eucharist and be ready to share that with their community."

The Eucharistic Revival is part of the U.S. bishops' response to reports of a high percentage of Catholics not believing in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

In an interview with *The Catholic Spirit* last summer, Bishop Brennan spoke of findings of a 2019 Pew Research Center survey which reported that "just one-third of U.S. Catholics agree with their church that Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ."

"It shows the corrosive influence of secularism, materialism, and the lack of sound catechesis about what the Eucharist is, the role it plays in our lives, and why it would not have that role if it really was not Christ giving himself to us in the Eucharist," the bishop said.

The lack of faith in the real presence brought a great deal of concern to him and his fellow U.S. bishops.

It is devastating for the faith of the Catholic people when a large number of practicing Catholics do not believe, Bishop Brennan said in the interview. Part of the problem is that many of the faithful simply do not know of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, he said. There is also the strong secular, materialistic tendency in modern culture "to reduce everything to the horizontal level," the bishop said. "We really have to overcome that mindset."

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# Bishop Brennan Releases Statement on Conversion Therapy Dispute in Wheeling

Bishop Mark Brennan has released a statement on a conversion therapy dispute in Wheeling. In a letter to Wheeling City Council April 19, Bishop Brennan expressed his concern for parental rights in light of an ordinance that was under consideration by the council at that time that would amend the city's code to ban conversion therapy. In his letter to members of Wheeling City Council, Bishop Brennan stated that he and the Church are not in favor of conversion therapy but pointed out that language of the amendment "would infringe on parents' rights to teach and guide their children." The bishop's letter was read to council members by Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the diocese, at the April 19 Wheeling City Council meeting, which the bishop was unable to attend.

On May 3, Wheeling City Council adopted the changes to the Human Rights Commission charter to ban conversion therapy in the City of Wheeling after reconsidering the ordinance's language and focusing it more on health care professionals.

The following is a statement from the bishop on the dispute: "What I found problems with was an overly broad interpretation of what would constitute conversion therapy in the original draft of the ordinance.

"As I stated in my letter of April 19, 2022, to the City Council, the Catholic Church does not endorse conversion therapy. The Church accepts the individual person's judgment about his or her sexual orientation and does not ask him or her to change it, while urging the person to observe the norms of sexual behavior that the Church has always taught.

"We Catholics believe that homosexual persons 'must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2358). Conversion therapy forced upon a young person would constitute unjust discrimination.

"The main problem with the original proposed ban was its unlimited scope. Read at face value, the ordinance would infringe on parents' rights to teach and guide their children. My Church has long taught that parents, not the government, are the primary educators of their children in all things, including sexuality.

"According to the original language of the ordinance, no one can try to change a young person's sexual behavior. So, a mother who discovered her daughter engaging in some form of sexual activity with another girl would be barred by the ordinance from telling them to stop. A father, whose ten-year-old boy had a crush on a physically developed, athletic older boy and was told by peers that this meant he was gay, would be prohibited from urging his son not to conclude so quickly that he was gay but to let himself grow over time. The ordinance, as drawn, would only allow affirming the child in a gay orientation without regard for the usual patterns of child and adolescent development.

"I stated to the City Council that I found the ordinance deeply flawed for the above reason and others. I thank the Council for reconsidering the ordinance's language and for focusing it more properly on health care professionals. A ban on the practice of conversion therapy by professional counselors, physicians and psychiatrists is more appropriate and is acceptable to me and many parents. I applaud the Council for listening to our voices."



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 230  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

May 2, 2022

Dear Brothers in Christ,

You may or may not have heard of the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic men's organization in the world. Let me tell you why I became a Knight and why I encourage you to consider becoming one.

The Knights of Columbus are not just another "club." They are Catholic men committed to living out their faith in practice. They engage in numerous good works as the fruit of their faith, works such as support for seminarians, prolife activities, help to Catholic schools, and aid to the handicapped.

My father joined Msgr. Lackey Council at St. Joseph's, Martinsburg, WV, in the 1980's and later helped found Our Lady of Guadalupe Council at St. John Neumann Church, Gaithersburg, MD, in the 1990's. When he needed treatments for cancer, my brother and I brought him to the hospital, but on some days neither of us was free to go. Who brought him? His brother Knights. I realized that their commitment to fraternity, unity and charity was not mere words; they lived it.

I became a Knight in Washington, DC, and convinced some men of my parish to join, too, as a way to develop their spirituality and Catholic identity. Once transferred to Gaithersburg, MD, I oversaw the formation of a new Council in my parish, St. Martin of Tours, and happily served as its chaplain.

We men need to band together and work with one another to serve God and our neighbor.

President John Kennedy reminded us: "On earth God's work must truly be our own." The Knights of Columbus are an excellent way to be formed as brothers in Christ and to do God's work on earth.

Knights must be practicing Catholics at least eighteen years of age. I urge you to consider becoming a Knight of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus have made it easy to join by going on-line at KOFC.org and click on JOIN US, you can also contact your local parish council, or contact any of the 3 individuals listed below for more information.

Frank Koenig, State Deputy, 717-405-7374; frank@wv.net  
Steven Collins, Membership Chair, 304-910-9345; stevencollinspths@gmail.com  
Darrell Hively, On-line Membership Chair, 681-587-1707; dhively@wvstateu.edu

May the Lord bless you as you live your faith!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

## West Virginia Knights of Columbus Continue Support for Catholic Schools



Colleen Rowan Photo

From left, West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Treasurer Brian Gordon and State Deputy Frank Koeing present a check for \$11,000 in support of Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to Bishop Mark Brennan and Mary Ann Deschaine, superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese.

## Synod...

### Cont'd from Page 1

collected documents and from them create a synthesis reflecting the local level contributions expressed by the faithful across the diocese," he said, adding it is important to continue our prayers in this synodal process. "Let us continue to let the Holy Spirit guide us as we journey together."

In our diocese reports were presented from 87 out of 92 parishes. The summation team will present a draft report not more than 10 pages to all parish coordinators at an event slated for June 3 in Clarksburg. At that time the coordinators will have an opportunity to provide input and suggest changes for the final report that will be presented to the USCCB and the faithful in the

diocese on June 30. The bishops' conference will compile all input and feedback to formulate syntheses that reflect the hopeful vision of the faithful. The worldwide conferences will submit their summaries by Aug. 15, 2022. The continental phase will take place from September 2022 to March 2023. All of this information from around the world that began at the ground level in our parishes will ultimately be used by the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October of 2023. This Vatican council of bishops, selected from around the world, will counsel and consult the Pontiff on how the People of God with the Holy Spirit as their guide discerned the Church should journey together to carry out her mission and continue the work of Jesus Christ.

## Revival...

### Cont'd from Page 3

This is what led the U.S. bishops, he said, to plan for the Eucharistic Revival.

Recently, Kime participated in a webinar by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the revival in which Father Dustin Dought, associate director of Divine Worship for the USCCB, said procession is an extension of Mass. "We are to carry Christ into our world and into our communities," Kime said, summarizing Father Dought's message. "He said that procession is a big part of our faith. We are pilgrims on a journey. We process into Mass and we process out of Mass, and we are extending that into the community with the presence of the Eucharist witnessing that we are on mission."

Father Dought, Kime said, sees this as evangelization, "that we are continuing that carrying of the mission of Jesus to the community—a witness to the community of the body of Christ." Catholics know that this is Christ among us, she said, "and we are called to be out in the world sharing Christ with one another."

In honor of Father  
McGivney's Beatification.....

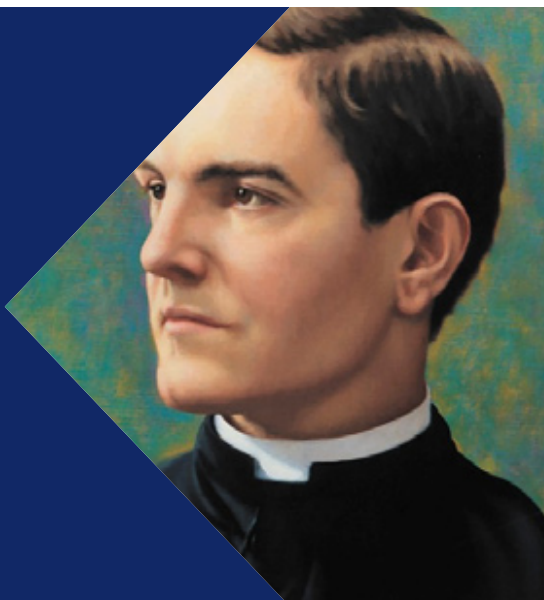
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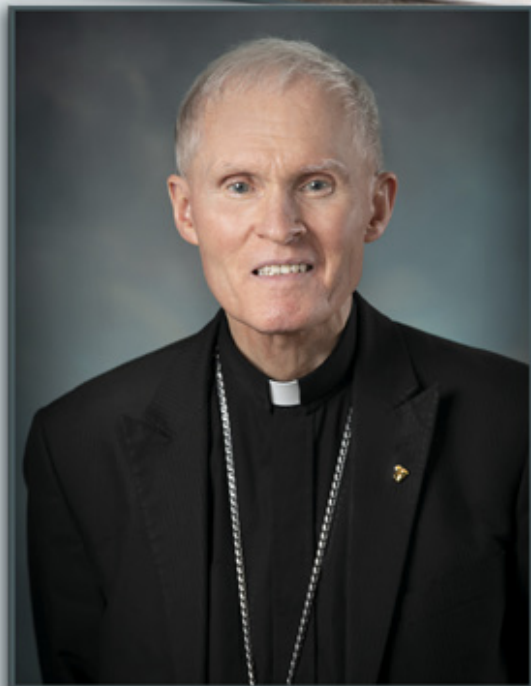
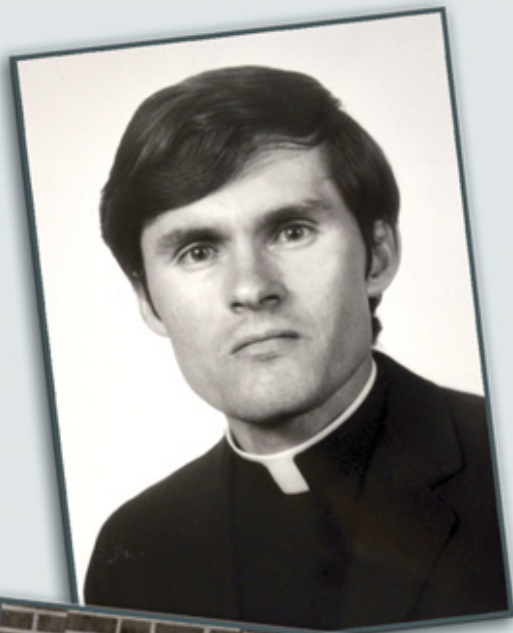




# *Happy 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*of your ordination to the priesthood!*

## *Bishop Mark E. Brennan*



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*We give thanks to God  
always for all of you,  
remembering you in our  
prayers, unceasingly,  
calling to mind your  
work of faith and labor  
of love and endurance  
in hope of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, before our  
God and Father.*

*Thessalonians 1:2-3*

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*From the faithful of the  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

# More Than \$437,000 Raised for West Virginia's Catholic Schools

By Joyce Bibey

Thank you to each of our One Mission One Day to Make a Difference donors! We applaud our school advancement directors and principals for their fun and creative online fundraising antics on May 3 that generated a lot of buzz and more than \$400,000 by the end of the day.

"One Mission One Day to Make a Difference 2022 wasn't only about raising money, it was also about showcasing the greatness in our 24 impressive schools," said Assistant Director of Stewardship and Development Heidi Sforza.

All 24 schools participated, and more than 1,440 people donated to the school of their choice during the giving window. Each school announced before the event how the money would help them—for some it was tuition assistance and teacher bonuses; for others it was science labs, facilities, and program enhancements.

"To watch the leaderboard and see so many social media posts from students, faculty, alumni and friends sharing what they love about their school, and read about why it was so important for them to give was extremely heartwarming and reassuring," Sforza said.

The online giving day was created by our individual school ad-

vancement directors and principals with the help of diocesan stewardship, communications, technology, and finance teams.

The idea was initially organized by the Northern Panhandle Catholic schools in 2019, after a regional community event—the Ohio Valley Amazing Raise/Giving Tuesday—event was canceled. Those eight schools raised more than \$54,000 in one day.

Students, principals, pastors, and alumni had fun rolling out videos on their social media, many of which were then shared on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Facebook and Twitter platforms.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School in Wheeling raised the most money in the 24-hour event with more than \$74,000, followed by Corpus Christi School in Wheeling with \$56,654 and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington with \$56,536.

St. Paul Parish School in Weirton had the most donors (296) for the third year in a row. They will receive an additional \$500 from the West Virginia Catholic Foundation as well as St. Vincent's for raising the most money.

Since launching the statewide giving day three years ago, we've raised more than \$1.2 million for Catholic schools across the state.

## WV Catholic Schools Remind PK4 and Transfer Families the Window for WV Hope Scholarship Closes May 16

By Joyce Bibey

**WEST VIRGINIA**—It is a big step to see your child transition from preschool to kindergarten. It is also a big jump to transfer your child from a public school to a Catholic school.

Thanks to the West Virginia Hope Scholarship (WVHS) run by the WV Treasure Riley Moore's Office the cost involved for West Virginia's public school alternative programs is being eased for these families. Interested families are encouraged to apply by the May 16 deadline.

While the WVHS is not run, managed, or determined by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston or the Department of Catholic Schools in the diocese, Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., has issued an important reminder the WVHS application window closes May 16 for the coming

school year. Each of the 24 Catholic schools across West Virginia are accepting WVHS from families that have successfully applied and are enrolled in their school for 2022-2023.

"Christ-centered Catholic schools are not for everyone, but those families who have hesitated to send their children to our schools because of the financial commitment now have an opportunity to join our faith-based school communities," Deschaine said. "We are unapologetically Catholic. God is in our schools. We are not just schools that teach religion, we integrate Gospel values across our curriculum. Yes, we develop students academically, but also guide them morally, civically, and emotionally to prepare each one to be the best version of themselves."

See "Hope" on Page 10

## Summer School Teaching Position Opening

Oakview Juvenile Residential Center, a community corrections facility located in St. Clairsville, Ohio has a summer school teaching position that starts May 31 and runs through the second week of August. Student population is eight. Oakview is seeking a teacher that is qualified and proficient in math. The majority of students are in need of basic math and algebra. The hours of this teaching position at Oakview will be Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. There is some flexibility regarding scheduling if needed. The teacher will be hired through the East Central Ohio Educational Center. The teacher will be paid \$25 per hour. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree; must be 21 or older.

Interested candidates may contact John M. Rowan, executive director of Oakview, at (740) 695-3500. For more information on our facility, please see our website [www.oakviewrc.org](http://www.oakviewrc.org).



**OAKVIEW**  
JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL CENTER  
St. Clairsville, Ohio

## Youth Leader Position Opening

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

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



**OAKVIEW**  
JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL CENTER  
St. Clairsville, Ohio



# Speakers Announced for Diocese's Celebration of World Meeting of Families

By Colleen Rowan

West Virginia Catholics are gearing up for the World Meeting of Families, which will offer gatherings and celebrations around the state June 22-26. In anticipation of the event, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization and Catechesis has announced the lineup of featured speakers.

Each of the 10 speakers will present talks on different days discussing "the intersection of our Catholic faith and issues pertaining to marriage and family life: parenting, sexuality, divorce, and health," said Daniel Maul, director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, in announcing plans for the event earlier this year.

Maul is one of the featured speakers tapped to share insight on and to foster discussion on these topics. Joining him as featured speakers will be: Joyce Bibey, manager of Social Media in the diocese's Office of Communications and Marketing, and writer for the diocesan FaithInWV e-bulletin, #FaithInWV feature stories, and the FaithInWV.org website; Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the diocese; Deacon Walter Calabrese, renowned author from the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C.; Nick Chancey campus minister and director of the Marshall Catholic Newman Center at Marshall University in Huntington; Colleen Criste, director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry at St. John University Parish in Morgantown on the campus of West Virginia University; Seth Johnson of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio; Tyler and Sydney Kilbane—he is a licensed therapist who established Known By Name Counseling Serv-

ices and she is a licensed mental health therapist who works with Pastoral Solutions Institute, Catholic Counselors; and Micah Schlittenhardt, a student of theology, philosophy, and Catholic studies at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D., where she is a member of the University Ministry Team.

Turn to Pages 8 and 9 of this issue for more about the speakers and what they will be sharing in their talks.

Masses and a variety of events are planned for the Meeting of Families in West Virginia which will be held at parishes in Charleston, Inwood, Morgantown, and Wheeling.

Maul announced plans for the diocesan celebration earlier this year saying that Pope Francis called for meetings of families across the world, in all dioceses, with days of celebration from June 22-26.

The World Meeting of Families begins in Charleston at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart with Bishop Mark Brennan presiding at Mass at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22. Speakers and a reception will follow. On Thursday, June 23, the faithful will gather at St. Leo Parish in Inwood. Father Alfred Obiudu, pastor of St. Leo's will preside at a 6 p.m. Mass, and speakers and a reception will again follow.

The celebration will continue Friday, June 24, at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston with Msgr. Samuel Sacus presiding at Mass at 6 p.m., with speakers and a reception to follow. Msgr. Sacus is priest in residence at the basilica co-cathedral.

On Saturday, June 25, a special outdoor festival will be held at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown. There will also be Mass, confessions, adora-

tion, music, speakers, activities for kids, and food.

The diocese's celebration will culminate on Sunday, June 26, in Wheeling with Bishop Brennan presiding at Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 3 p.m. Speakers and a reception will follow.

For more information about

the diocese's celebration of the World Meeting of Families and to register, contact Jeanne McKeets at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, at (304) 233-0880, ext. 374, or by sending e-mail to [jmckeets@dwc.org](mailto:jmckeets@dwc.org); or visit [dwc.org/world-meeting-of-families](http://dwc.org/world-meeting-of-families). See the ad below to scan the QR code.

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# Speakers for World Meeting of Families

*in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston June 22-26*

## Joyce Bibey



Joyce Bibey is the Manager of Social Media in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Communications and Marketing. She is also the writer for the diocesan FaithInWV e-bulletin, #FaithInWV feature stories, and the FaithInWV.org website.

You can also find her byline in *The Catholic Spirit*.

Joyce will speak about being a Catholic wife and mother, specifically how it's okay to be imperfect in an imperfect world, when you keep Christ as your balance.

She will share her experience of going through Catholic school (1-12), teaching CCD, leading a Catholic moms group in her parish, working as a parish office manager, sending her own kids to Catholic schools, and not having that ah-ha "I truly am in love with Jesus" moment until she was 40 - and that's ok pep talk.

Joyce and her husband Lance will celebrate their 29th wedding anniversary during the World Meeting of Families Week. They reside in Ohio County and are parents of Boyd and Lane Bibey.

## Tim Bishop

Tim Bishop is the director of Marketing and Communications for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. He will be speaking about a number of topics in relation to marriage and family life including fostering the spark of faith while growing up in a divorced household.

## Deacon Walter Calabrese

Deacon Walter Calabrese introduces himself on his webpage, saying: "I absolutely enjoy speaking about the Catholic faith and the love I have for Jesus! I want to build my connection with more faithful Catholics."

He was born and raised in Michigan. In 1987, he joined the United States Marine Corps and spent 20 years on active duty. He retired in 2007 as a gunnery sergeant. During his time in the Corps and while stationed in Okinawa, Japan, he met his bride, Amy. They married on April 11, 1992, and were blessed with two daughters, Lori (Thomas) and Lisa (Kevin). Both are married and have children. Upon retirement from the Marine Corps, Deacon Calabrese began working for a local community college as a camp chair. He spent 13 years with the college and decided to leave full-time work to pursue writing and speaking extensively. He was ordained to the diaconate on June 26, 2010. He was in the second class for the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C. Upon ordination he was assigned to Annunciation Parish in Havelock, N.C.

Deacon Calabrese authored "The Apostles and Me!" He also authored booklets titled "Confirmed and Ready!" and "Living a Catholic and Moral Life." He has a passion for spreading the great love of Christ and the Catholic faith. He earned his bachelor's degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and hold a master's degree in pastoral theology from St. Joseph's College, Standish, Maine.

For more information about Deacon Calabrese, visit [www.deaconwallycalabrese.com](http://www.deaconwallycalabrese.com).



## Nick Chancey



Nick Chancey is the campus minister and director of the Marshall Catholic Newman Center at Marshall University in Huntington. Nick became Catholic through the RCIA program at the Marshall Newman Center and served as a student leader there. After graduating with his B.A. in History in 2015, Nick went on to serve as a Missionary-Intern for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's youth office. Upon finishing his ministry internship, Nick went on to serve as the Campus Minister for the University of Charleston and West Virginia State University. After three years of building the Catholic campus community in Charleston, Nick came back to his alma mater in 2019 as the Newman Center's new director. When Nick isn't ministering to students, he's busy studying for his online master's degree in Catechesis through Catholic University of America. He also very much enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter.

His talk will be "Dedication and Devotion: What it means to put God first in your marriage and in your family." This talk will focus on our understanding of living vocationally, first as followers of Jesus Christ and second as married people who are called live in a covenant between God and our spouse.

## Colleen Criste



Colleen Criste is director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry at St. John University Parish in Morgantown on the campus of West Virginia University. The title of her talk is "Life is Messy," and she will expound upon the fact that no two marriages look alike, and no marriage or family is perfect, but God can work with what we have and bless the messes.

Criste offers the following: "In June 2019, my husband Dan and I and our eight beautiful children moved from Bedford, Va., to Morgantown. After a year of waiting on the Lord to reveal His plan, I was offered the job of director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry at St. John University Parish on the campus of West Virginia University in July of 2020 during the height of the pandemic. Talk about a challenge! I had never worked with college students before, but I was willing to give it my all!

"I grew up in a large Catholic family as number eight of 10 children. My father was a deacon, my brother is a priest. We descend from a long line of bishops, priests, nuns and religious, so I guess you could say I grew up in the Church.

"Despite all that, I rejected my faith from middle school through college in an effort to 'find myself.' I returned after what can only be described as a profound and transformative moment. At my lowest point, I got down on my knees and cried out, 'God, if You are real, please help me! If You change my life, I promise I will serve You every day for the rest of my life!' From that moment on, I devoted myself to my family, to my faith, and to the Church, serving on the Bishop's Evangelization Committee for the Diocese of Richmond, parish council, organizing retreats, events and pilgrimages, and being the leader of a very active prayer and healing ministry for nearly seven years. I also serve as a council member for Pentecost Today

USA, working to bring the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the whole world. I enjoy being invited to speak and share my testimony to encourage others as much as possible in their faith journey.

"My vocation as a wife and mother is what I cherish most, but my role as campus minister and spiritual mother is a very close second. The students I get to work with and minister to every day are very near and dear to my heart. I care for each one as if they were my own. I pray for them every day and feel very invested in their lives and futures.

"Above all, I am grateful to God for His abundant mercy; a mercy that has no limits. His merciful love saw potential in me that I could not see in myself.

"In the words of St. Augustine: 'In my deepest wound I saw Your Glory, and it dazzled me.'"

## Seth Johnson



"Reversing the Crisis in the Church Through the Family" is the title of Seth Johnson's talk. After receiving his bachelor of arts in theology with a minor in Ancient Greek, Seth went on to receive his master's in theology at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, in 2021.

During his time at Franciscan University, Seth led the door-to-door evangelization ministry for three years, leading fellow students in sharing the Gospel with the surrounding Steubenville community, as well as offering prayer and building relationships.

Seth also had the opportunity of serving as a research assistant to Dr. Scott Hahn for three years as well, where he answered the numerous inquiries of others regarding Catholic faith and practice. During the last year of his master's, Seth served as a high school theology teacher at Catholic Central High School in Steubenville, where he taught Catholic Social Teaching and Apologetics.

Seth is currently employed at Franciscan University and is working on a master's degree in Old Testament through McMaster Divinity College. Following this, Seth has his sights set on Ph.D. work in Biblical Theology, after which he hopes to find employment as a professor of Sacred Scripture at a Catholic university. In his capacity as a teacher, Seth's dream is to equip numerous students to not only know the faith deeply, but to live it passionately, and spread it abroad.

Seth enjoys spending time with his wife Maggie, and his daughter Anna.

**List of speakers continues on Page 9**





## Tyler & Sydney Kilbane



Tyler Kilbane is a licensed therapist, who enjoys helping people through the healing process, especially those who face addiction, trauma, and relationship struggles. His primary philosophy of healing involves helping individuals repair their relationships with their own stories. Past experiences, hurts, and mistakes can often leave us in a place where we start to resent our own stories, he said. Reconciling people to themselves is what Tyler enjoys most about his work.

Personally, he is still a fresh convert to Catholicism, entering full communion with the Church in 2020, though he was raised in a Christian home. He has since been married to his wife Sydney and together they have a little girl, Odessa, who is now 5 months old. He has worked in multiple professional settings, including community mental health, outpatient, residential treatment, and he is now operating his own private practice called Known By Name Counseling Services. His inspiration for his business name comes from his emphasis on repairing identity, reconciliation to the self, and the acknowledgement that our faith shows us, time and time again, that we are Known By Name to Our Heavenly Father. By seeing people as individuals, rather than diagnoses, statistics, or labels; Tyler hopes to participate in the active process of healing and helping people understand their true identity.

Sydney Kilbane is a licensed mental health therapist who works with Pastoral Solutions Institute —

Catholic Counselors. She has experience working with children and families, couples, and those struggling with traumatic backgrounds. Sydney's personal philosophy to healing stems from St. Irenaeus of Loyola who said, "The glory of God is man fully alive." Sydney believes that when individuals have been able to identify and remove barriers in their lives that limit their ability to be fully themselves (such as anxiety, depression, self confidence issues, negative self talk, etc.) one can be "fully alive," and thus give glory to God.

Sydney and Tyler will be sharing their thoughts on "Routine vs. Relationship: The Sin of Complacency." Their respective experience and in-depth knowledge of mental health, relationships, and faith will be explored in a way that expresses their personal view of how to move past monotony in your relationships between spouses, family, and God. The sin of complacency occurs when we stop learning about the other, get caught in patterns, and close ourselves off to influence from others, and even God's work in our lives. In their work and in their vocation, Sydney and Tyler hope to live and demonstrate fruitful lives, built on relationship, not routine.

## Daniel Maul

Marriage and Mental Health: Daniel Maul will share his and his wife's personal story of battling depression and anxiety, in the context of a Catholic marriage. He will discuss the natures of acceptance and forgiveness within a lifelong committed relationship. He will argue that with patience, repentance, forgiveness, and love, a marriage can survive through mental illness and even thrive despite severe personal challenges. It is a story of hope and perseverance resulting in joy and peace.

Maul is the director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, a position he has held since January of 2020. Dan-



iel has worked as a parish youth minister, a Catholic high school theology teacher, a college religious studies professor, and a parish director of Religious Education. He holds a B.A. in Religious Studies and Philosophy from Saint Norbert College and an M.A. in Theology from Catholic Theological Union. He did doctoral studies at Loyola University of Chicago.

He and his wife, Amanda, and their two children, Daniela and Abram, live in the Warwood neighborhood of Wheeling and are originally from northwest Indiana.

## Micah Schlittenhardt

Micah Schlittenhardt is a student of Theology, Philosophy, and Catholic Studies at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, where she is a member of the University Ministry Team. Since her theological conversion to Catholicism at age 17, Micah has spoken at a variety of events about her conversion, femininity in the modern world, and conviction in objective truth.



Prior to becoming Catholic, Micah began a service project which gained national attention, allowing her to travel North Dakota speaking about servant leadership, giving keynotes and presentations to nearly 10,000 students before graduating high school. She now spends her time discussing new evangelization, enjoying Mass and other ministry events at UMary, and having "dates with Aquinas."

"Made for Meaning: Building a Family Culture That Begins with Sunday" is the title of her talk.

This is "a convert's perspective on how beginning Sundays of worship and rest gives meaning to life in the world of work," she said of her talk. "Using three key principles, we'll explore what keeping the Sabbath has meant in history, what it does for our families, and what a day of rest really means."

# Daily Celebrations for World Meeting of Families

**Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022**

**Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**  
1114 Virginia Street East  
Charleston, WV 25301

**6:00pm - Mass**  
Bishop Brennan presiding  
Music by Mark Haas

**Speakers and Reception to Follow**

Speakers:  
Tim Bishop  
Nick Chancey  
Colleen Criste

**Thursday, June 23rd, 2022**

**St. Leo Catholic Church**  
2109 Sulphur Springs Rd  
P.O. Box 93  
Inwood, WV 25428

**6:00pm - Mass**  
Fr. Alfred Obiudu presiding  
Music by Ross Semler

**Speakers and Reception to Follow**

Speakers:  
Joyce Bibey  
Tim Bishop  
Nick Chancey  
Tyler and Sydney Kilbane

**Friday, June 24th, 2022**

**St. John XXIII Pastoral Center**  
100 Hodges Rd.  
Charleston, WV 25314

**6:00pm - Mass**  
Monsignor Samuel Sacus  
Music by Mark Haas

**Speakers and Reception to Follow**

Speakers:  
Tim Bishop  
Colleen Criste  
Daniel Maul

**Saturday, June 25th, 2022**

**St. Francis De Sales School**  
1 Guthrie Ln.  
Morgantown, WV 26508

All Day Festival with Food, Kids Activities, Confession, and Adoration/Benediction

**8:00pm - Mass**  
Msgr. Cincinnati presiding  
Music by Ross Semler

Speakers:  
Tim Bishop  
Deacon Walter Calabrese  
Colleen Criste  
Seth Johnson  
Micah Schlittenhardt

**Sunday, June 26th, 2022**

**Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
13th and Eoff Streets  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**3:00pm - Mass**  
Bishop Brennan presiding  
Music by Matthew Berher

**Speakers and Reception to Follow**

Speakers:  
Joyce Bibey  
Nick Chancey  
Daniel Maul





# Like Mary, Take Risks to Build Better World, Pope Tells Young People

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

Pope Francis encouraged young men and women to look to Mary as a model of courage in listening and fulfilling God's will.

"She was courageous and determined to say 'yes' to the Lord. You young people, who want to build something new, a better world, follow her example, take risks," the pope said.

In a video message released by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network May 3, the pope offered his prayer intention for the month of May, which he dedicated to young people. At the start of each month, the network posts a short video of the pope offering his specific prayer intention.

In his video message, the pope said Mary

was the model "with whom young people can identify with" because of her "courage, the way she knew how to listen and her dedication to service."

He also reminded young people that in order to follow Mary, they must discern what "Jesus wants from you, not what you might think you can do."

For this reason, when discerning God's will in their lives, young men and women can find help in listening "to the words of their grandparents," the pope said.

"In those words of grandparents, you will find a wisdom that will take you beyond the issues of the moment. They will provide an overview of your concerns," he said.

Concluding his prayer intention, Pope Francis called on Christians to pray "so that all young people, called to live life to the fullest, may discover in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage of faith, and dedication to service."

May is the Month of Our Lady.

The statue of Mary, Mother of God, stands in the courtyard of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. May is the Month of Our Lady.

Colleen Rowan Photo

## Hope...

Cont'd from Page 6

Principals in the diocesan schools have shared the WVHS information and deadline with their current PK4 parents and directed families, who have inquired about transferring their children to their area Catholic school, to the WVHS website, Deschaine said.

Those eligible for the WVHS program include all children entering kindergarten in the fall and any students currently in grades K-11 attending public school.

Those awarded the WVHS will be given about \$4,300 per child, which it to be used towards tuition, fees, and other approved expenses for non-public schools and home schools in the state.

Hope is a state funded education savings account

(ESA) program. The ESA uses a portion of their state education funding to help West Virginians "tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them," according to hopescholarshipwv.com.

According to Moore's office, under the current school aid formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,298.60 for the 2022-2023 school year to use toward private school, alternative instruction programs, or home school. According to the US Department of Education, West Virginia public schools' average cost per pupil is \$11,757 (last updated Aug. 1, 2021).

The state stipulates that money in the Hope Scholarship education savings account will be administered and through a third party and released by the parent/guardian only for

state approved expenses. Beyond tuition, the funds awarded can be spent on special services, transportation, extracurriculars, tutoring, materials, supplies, textbooks, transportation, etc.

The application process for the WVHS is a multi-step process, so interested families need to start their application as soon as possible.

Additional notes from Moore's office for the WVHS:

- Parents/guardians must complete a letter of intent to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program. Families are responsible for sending it to the county superintendent in your county of residence. A sample is posted on the program's website.

- Applicants/Parents must also create an account through the Education Market Assistant (EMA)

portal lined on the state site.

- Parents will also need your child's WVEIS ID#. This is assigned by your County Board of Education. (If you do not have a WVEIS ID# for your incoming kindergarten student, please contact your county board of education.)

West Virginia's program is not the only one in the country, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee already have ESA programs set up. Indiana and New Hampshire are also rolling out similar programs for residents of their states. For more information and to apply for the scholarship go to: hopescholarshipwv.com.

Families who miss the state deadline of May 16 will only be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Hope Scholarship

Board, according to the website.

Note the original deadline was May 15, but the treasurer's office announced Thursday, the deadline will now be May 16. He noted the application period for the Hope Scholarship will run from March 1 to May 15 in future years. However, if May 15 falls on a weekend the program's legislative rules allow for the deadline to extend to the following Monday.

According to the scholarship's website, WVHS will be available to current non-public school families (private, Catholic, and home schools) in 2026 if the total amount of WVHS recipients in 2024 is less than 5-percent of the state's K-12 enrollment.

To learn more about the Catholic Schools of West Virginia go to: wvcatholic schools.org.

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# Ecumenical Prayer Service for Survivors of Abuse Set for May 10

**WHEELING**—The community is invited to participate in an Ecumenical Prayer Service for Survivors of Abuse — a time to reflect, listen, and unite as we call upon God’s presence, guidance, mercy, and peace. The service is set to begin at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the Wheeling Park Amphitheater, next to the White Palace.

Faith leaders and survivor advocates will pray for survivors, for healing, and for forgiveness. These representatives will stand side by side, on behalf of eight various churches and temples, and four organizations, as one strong community of caring people — a source of compassion and hope. They come together to not only acknowledge, but to work as one through

prayer and actions to help bring an end to the intense pain of sexual abuse, and to recognize the dignity of every human being.

Those in attendance will also have the opportunity to learn more about local organizations dedicated to assisting survivors of various forms of abuse and how they as community members can better advocate for survivors.

Local clergy participating include Bishop Mark Brennan, of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Rev. Darrell Cummings, of Bethlehem Apostolic Temple; Rev. Erica Harley, of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church; Rev. Ken Hardway, of First Christian Church; Pastor Marshall Davis, of Macedonia Baptist Church; Rabbi

Joshua Lief, of Temple Shalom; Rev. Jacob (Jake) Steele, of Christ United Methodist Church; and Father Joshua Saxe, of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church.

Survivor advocates include Laurie Jones, Executive Director of YWCA Wheeling; Ashley Carpenter, Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center; Chris Frizzell, Victim Witness Coordinator for the US Attorney’s Office- Northern District of W.Va.; and Adam Marquart, Founder of the Confraternity of St. Nicholas, a group dedicated to pray and advocate for the protection of children.

The service is expected to last about an hour. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held on the Wheeling Park Ice Rink.

# First Saturday Devotions, Daily Mass Begin May 7 at Historic Greenbrier County Church

**WILLIAMSBURG**—The Catholic Church of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg in Greenbrier County will be the site of the First Saturday devotions and daily Mass beginning May 7 and held monthly thru the first Saturday in October. The devotions begin at 10:30 a.m. with the daily Mass at 11 a.m. and a cov-

ered-dish luncheon following on the grounds.

Built in 1902, the 120-year-old church building is the oldest Catholic church building in Greenbrier County and was the third Catholic Church built to serve the Williamsburg Catholic congregation made up primarily of the Irish and German popula-

tion of northern Greenbrier County.

Prior to establishing a church building in the early 1880s, the Irish and German congregation from the Williamsburg area would meet at the Corkrean’s Store in Williamsburg at midnight on Saturday and walk the 18 miles into Lewisburg for the early Sunday Mass in the

former Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lewisburg. The first two Catholic churches in the Williamsburg-Butler Mountain area were destroyed by fire.

The First Saturdays devotions and Masses in 2022 will honor the memory of the late Dr. Larry Musselman and his widow, Frankie

Paulin Musselman.

Directions to the church are as follows: From Frankford, take the Williamsburg Road approximately 4 ½ miles to the Catholic Church Road and the historic church and cemetery are on the Catholic Church Road in the first quarter of a mile north on Catholic Church Road.

# World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 8

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 8, also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.”

The purpose of the day is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout

the church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life.

While appreciating all vocations, the church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its

forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord’s call to the priest-

hood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

This year marks the 59th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

(This story is from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website usccb.org.)

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# Explore the Catholic Theological Tradition with Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Enrollment is underway in Catholic Distance University's (CDU) summer term, and classes begin May 23. Working adults especially appreciate CDU's eight-week-long online courses, affordable tuition, and faithfully Catholic focus.

CDU allows students to begin taking courses before they are admitted to a program, and students who have not taken undergraduate coursework in theology but do have an undergraduate degree are able to earn a master's degree or certificate in

theology. They begin by taking THEO 503 The Catholic Theological Tradition with popular Catholic speaker and bestselling author Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio. The course provides beginners with a solid introduction to the history of Christian theology as faith seeking understanding.

D'Ambrosio leads students through a survey of Christian theology as it developed historically from the end of New Testament times to the Second Vatican Council. Several key issues de-

bated in each epoch are explored, along with some of history's key theologians and their various ways of thinking about God.

The course helps students to develop a chronological framework that gives order and coherence to all of the theological knowledge they acquire in the future. It also tackles tough questions, such as how can we say that the faith of the Catholic Church today is the same as the faith of the New Testament Church if

certain Catholic practices and beliefs are not explicitly found in the Bible?

Join D'Ambrosio as he reflects on critical moments in the history of theology, such as the period of the early Church Fathers, the Protestant and Catholic Reformation, and the theological revival leading up to the Second Vatican Council.

To apply and enroll in the summer term, visit [cdu.edu](http://cdu.edu) or reach out to admissions director Todd Nolan at [admissions@cdu.edu](mailto:admissions@cdu.edu).

## Celebrate 'Earth, Our Home,' at the St. Joseph Retreat Center

**WHEELING**—Officials of the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling are inviting all to join them in celebrating "Earth, Our Home," on May 15 from 1-4 p.m.

"Spend the afternoon celebrating Our Earth, Our Home, at the historic grounds of Mount St. Joseph," organizers said of the gathering. "Tour the St. Joseph Retreat Center, formerly the Holloway House, and learn more about the home's rich history."

There will be live entertainment, interactive exhibits with baby goats and a guard donkey. Featured will be a monarch butterfly photo display by nature photographer Daniel Caron. There will also be an interactive art installation by the West Virginia House of Hagar Catholic Worker called "Metamorphosis: Deconstruction is Not Destruction" Reflection, Reckoning and Kinships through the Life of the Monarch Butterfly.

Trash Talkers, a group that works to clean up homeless encampments in the area, will also be present. Trash talkers cleans up neighborhoods and promotes recycling with a pur-


pose, as stated in promotional materials for the event, "Don't just talk about it—be about it!"

There will be fun for the entire family, and music by local musicians, organizers said. "Tour the beautiful grounds of Mount St. Joseph and let the kids play at the Fun-Raiser Urban Mobile Playground," organizers said. "Earth day is every day at Mount St. Joseph!"

The St. Joseph Retreat Center is located at 137 Mount St. Joseph Road in Wheeling. For more information, call (304) 232-8160, ext. 112, or e-mail [atroiani@csjoseph.org](mailto:atroiani@csjoseph.org)




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# Una carta del obispo Brennan

mayo 2 de 2022

Estimados hermanos en Cristo:

Es posible que hayan oído hablar de los Caballeros de Colón, la organización fraternal más grande del mundo. Permítanme contarles por qué yo me hice Caballero y por qué les invito a considerar pertenecer a los Caballeros.

Los Caballeros no son un 'club.' Son hombres católicos que se comprometen a vivir y practicar su fe. Se involucran en numerosas buenas obras como fruto de su fe: por ejemplo, su apoyo a los seminaristas, sus actividades provida, su ayuda a nuestras escuelas católicas y su apoyo a personas y grupos sirviendo a los desvalidos.

Mi padre se unió al Consejo Mons. Lackey en la Parroquia San José en Martinsburg, WV, en los años '80. Luego fue fundador del Consejo Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Parroquia San Juan Neumann en Gaithersburg, Maryland en los años '90. Cuando se enfermó de cáncer necesitó ir a recibir tratamientos, mi hermano y yo lo llevábamos al hospital, pero algunos días, ni mi hermano ni yo estábamos libres para ir con él. ¿Quién lo llevó? Sus hermanos Caballeros. Me di cuenta de que su compromiso con la fraternidad, la unidad y la caridad no eran meras palabras: lo vivían.

Entré a los Caballeros en Washington, DC, y persuadí a algunos hombres de mi Parroquia a entrar conmigo para desarrollar su espiritualidad y su identidad católica. Cuando fui trasladado a Gaithersburg, Maryland, tuve el gusto de ver formado el

primer consejo latino de los Caballeros de Colón en aquel estado en 2006, el Consejo Juan Diego en la Parroquia San Martín de Tours. Yo era su capellán.

Nosotros los varones católicos tenemos que unirnos y trabajar juntos en el servicio de Dios y de nuestros vecinos. El presidente John Kennedy, también Caballero, nos recordó: "En la tierra, la obra de Dios debe ser nuestra." Los Caballeros de Colón les ofrece un modo excelente para ser formados como hermanos en Cristo y para realizar la obra de Dios en la tierra.

Los Caballeros deben ser católicos que practican su fe y tener al menos 18 años de edad. Puede hacer su solicitud en línea al: KOFC.org, presionando JOIN US, o comunicarse con uno de los tres Caballeros aquí mencionados:

Frank Koenig, State Deputy, 717-405-7374; frank@wv.net  
 Steven Collins, Membership Chair, 304-910-9345; stevencollinspths@gmail.com  
 Darrell Hively, On-line Membership Chair, 681-587-1707; dhively@wvstateu.edu

¡El Señor los bendiga mientras van viviendo su fe!

Fraternalmente en Cristo,



Mons. Mark E. Brennan  
 Obispo de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston

## Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Confirmation Schedule

*Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant*

- May 7: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- May 9: St. Michael, Wheeling, 5:30 p.m.
- May 12: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 6:30 p.m.
- May 18: St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton, 6:30 p.m.
- May 19: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 6 p.m.
- May 20: St. Leo, Inwood, 6:30 p.m.
- May 21: St. James, Charles Town, 10 a.m.
- May 22: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 3 p.m.
- May 24: St. Anthony, Follansbee, 6 p.m.
- May 28: Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, 4:30 p.m.
- May 29: St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg, 2 p.m.
- June 4: St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, 5 p.m.
- June 25: St. Brendan, Elkins, 5 p.m.



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### 13 Days Istanbul-Greece-Crete Nov 7-19, 2022

\$4999. Includes 2 nights-Istan-

bul, 1 night each in Kavala, Thessaloniki, Kalambaka & Delphi, 2 nights in Crete & 4-nights in Athens. With Fr. Eric Shafer from Colonial Beach, VA

### 11 Days Catholic Ireland. Sep 12-22, 2022

\$3950. Includes 1 night Limerick, 2 nights Kilkenny, 3 nights each in Galway and Dublin. With Fr Art Bufogle from Mannington, WV.

For brochures or more information, contact John Tagnesi at 1-888-544-4461 or jtag1964@verizon.net

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11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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**July 3rd – July 9th**, Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.

**July 10th – July 16th**, Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.

**July 17th – July 23rd**, A “catch all week” from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

**July 24th – July 30th**, “A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation” free program for 7-12 year olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Charities.

Contact Assistant Director, Sadie Shields, for more information: [sshields@dwc.org](mailto:sshields@dwc.org) or 1 (304) 476-9015




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