

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

‘Let Us Grow in Faith Together,’ Bishop Designate Says to West Virginia Catholics

By Colleen Rowan

As bishop designate of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, his message to West Virginia Catholics is this: “Let us grow in faith together.” Putting that faith into practice, rooted in hope, and walking together “to serve the Lord, and serve the poor and everyone who needs our hands,” he said.

Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala shared this message with *The Catholic Spirit* following the May 1 press conference at the chancery in Wheeling where it was announced that Pope Leo XIV appointed him Wheeling-Charleston’s 10th bishop. Bishop Menjivar, 56, was born in Chalatenango, El Salvador, and migrated to the United States in 1990. He is the first Salvadoran bishop in the country and, for the last three years, has served as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington.

But Bishop Menjivar is no stranger to West Virginia. Early in his priesthood, he helped with Spanish Masses at St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg. Then, during Covid, he engaged in his favorite sport of hiking in George Washington & Jefferson National Forests. Loving the area so much, he bought a cabin in



Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala speaks at the May 1 press conference at the chancery in Wheeling where it was announced that Pope Leo XIV appointed him the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s 10th bishop.

Colleen Rowan Photo

Hardy County’s Lost River. And the people of this community who welcomed him are a great example of the ministry that Bishop Menjivar wants to prioritize in his episcopacy here.

“There is this old man in the holler where I have the cabin who says ‘You know, if your neighbor doesn’t help you, why do you have a neighbor?’” Bishop Menjivar said, stressing that we all are neighbors. “And we are here to help one another and love as Jesus taught us,” he said.

Though there are only less than 20 cabins in Lost River, Bishop Menjivar said it is a diverse community with residents being the descendants of Hungarian and Italian immigrants — the backbone of labor for mining in the state, he said.

“The people of the holler welcomed me and I feel very much part of that community,” he said.

A great concern of Bishop Menjivar is poverty.

“That’s going to be a big priority for me—to serve the poor. Whether they are Catholic or not Catholic,” he said. “Because there are people facing challenges.”

One of the challenges in West Virginia he recognizes is access to water. In his experience, he has seen that **See “Bishop” on Page 3**

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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.reportbishop-abuse.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://dhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx> West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

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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."

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2026

There are 10 print editions in 2026. 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.

2026 Print Dates:

- The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, July 7
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14
- Triumph of the Cross, September 11
- Month of the Rosary, October 9
- Advent, November 20
- Christmas, December 18



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Bishop Menjivar's Mass of Installation will be at 2 p.m. on July 2 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling

Bishop ...

Cont'd from Page 1

many people do not have wells or their wells are polluted.

Food insecurity is another concern the bishop has. "So many people, the elderly live far away from markets and so they don't have access to fresh food, vegetables," he said, adding that these challenges can be met by working with elected officials as well as business and faith leaders in communities. "I think this is work that we can do together to look after our people," he said.

Bishop Menjivar has already spoken up for West Virginians in other areas of need. After going to Mass at Epiphany of the Lord Church in Moorefield in the past and seeing the growing Hispanic community there, he let Bishop Mark Brennan know of the need for Spanish Masses. They are now celebrated there regularly.

Bishop Menjivar will succeed Bishop Brennan, 79, who will remain as apostolic administrator of the diocese through July 1.

In his conversation with *The Catholic Spirit*, Bishop Menjivar said that he hopes to build upon all of the great accomplishments that Bishop Brennan has had in his seven-year episcopacy in the Mountain State.

"He has done an amazing job," Bishop Menjivar said. "The fact that Catholic schools are growing here, that more people are coming into the Catholic Church, that there are many vocations to the priesthood and also to the permanent diaconate is a sign of the good job that he has done. ... I want to learn from what he has done so well here and continue that."

Bishop Brennan, who helped bring Bishop Menjivar into the priesthood when he served as vocations director in the Archdiocese of Washington and then served with him as a brother priest there, intro-

Clockwise from right: Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala are pictured at the May 1 press conference announcing Bishop Menjivar as bishop designate of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Bishop Menjivar greets the faithful after the May 1 noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling; and Bishop Menjivar concelebrates the Mass with Bishop Brennan and priests.

Colleen Rowan photos



duced him at the press conference.

"I'm very happy that the Holy Father has chosen someone with the integrity, the intelligence, the zeal, and the love of God's people that I know Bishop Menjivar possesses," Bishop Brennan said.

Bishop Menjivar began his remarks by giving thanks to Almighty God, "for the many ways he has revealed his love and mercy in my life, in ways beyond imagining." He also thanked Pope Leo and Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, "for their trust and confidence in calling me to shepherd this beautiful Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston."

Bishop Menjivar thanked Bishop Brennan for opening the door when he arrived in Wheeling "and you have done this not only last night but ... you opened the door at the Archdiocese of Washington while you were the vocations director. You welcomed me

into the Priest Formation Program. Little did we know what the Lord had in store for both of us. So, thank you for being part of this journey from the very beginning and I hope you will continue mentoring me as I learn and adjust to this new mission."

Bishop Menjivar said he is grateful to all who have welcomed him with great affection and hopes that the Lord wills many years of work together.

"I received the news of my appointment as the 10th bishop of this diocese with great joy and humility," he said. "... I come to you first and foremost as your brother in faith. I hope that you will allow this stranger to walk with you on the journey of faith and, together, share in our joys and hopes, in our griefs and anxieties. May we discover our common humanity and our shared dignity as children of God.

"Then, I come to you as your

bishop, that is as your servant. Deep in my heart I feel that the Lord is sending me here to love you and to serve you. This is the only agenda that I bring — to love you and to serve you the best that I can, to grow in faith and in fidelity to Christ together, and then to witness to the love of Christ here, in the heart of Appalachia, in this land of striking beauty, rich in diversity and in natural resources."

At the same time, he said, it is a place where many people continue to endure hardship, marginalization, and inequality but moving to a better and brighter future through the faith, resilience, and creativity of the people.

"Let me tell you," he said, "I will be deeply proud and honored if, with time, you accept me as a fellow West Virginian."

Bishop Menjivar wants to begin his ministry in the diocese by getting to know the people. And the

See "Bishop" on Page 4



THE TRANSITION EXPLAINED

THE RESIGNATION, APPOINTMENT, AND INSTALLATION

By Joyce Bibey, FaithInWV

Editor's note: Understanding the Church's process for a bishop transition may be a little confusing. So, to help our readers understand, this article is offered as an aid. Contributing to this article: Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L. Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Wellsburg. (Photo illustration by Joyce Bibey)

According to Church law, bishops are asked to submit their resignation to the Holy Father when they reach the age of 75. The Pope then decides when to accept the resignation.

That is what has happened here. Bishop Mark Brennan submitted his resignation after reaching the age of 75, and the Holy Father has now accepted it. This is not because something is wrong or unusual. It is simply the normal practice of the Church.

For the past several years, Bishop Brennan has continued to serve the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston faithfully in our parishes, schools, ministries, and communities. We are grateful for his leadership and his presence among us.

What happens behind the scenes?

Choosing a new bishop is a careful and prayerful process. The Apostolic Nuncio, who represents the Pope in the United States, gathers information and consults with bishops, priests, religious, and lay faithful. This information is then sent to Rome, where the Holy Father makes the final decision.

In our case, the Holy Father has appointed Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala as the next bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

What is happening right now?

With the acceptance of Bishop Brennan's resignation as diocesan bishop, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston became vacant. At the same time, the Holy Father appointed Bishop Brennan as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese.

This means that, although he has resigned as diocesan bishop, he continues to lead the diocese temporarily until the new bishop officially takes office.

As Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Brennan continues

to govern the diocese in the name of the Holy See and helps ensure stability and continuity in the life of the Church during this transition period.

When does the new bishop take over?

Bishop Menjivar is already a bishop, but he does not officially begin leading the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston until his installation Mass on July 2nd.

At that Mass, he formally takes possession of the diocese and begins his ministry as the diocesan bishop.

At that point, Bishop Brennan's role as Apostolic Administrator concludes, and he then assumes the title Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.

What does "Bishop Emeritus" mean?

The title "Bishop Emeritus" is given to a retired bishop who has completed his service as diocesan bishop.

Although retired from governing the diocese, a bishop emeritus remains a bishop and may continue assisting the Church through confirmations, Masses, ordinations, preaching, and other sacramental ministries as requested.

What about Bishop Brennan?

After the installation of Bishop Menjivar, Bishop Brennan will continue serving the Church as Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.

We remain deeply grateful for his years of service, his leadership, and his continued presence among the faithful of our diocese.

In short:

- Bishop Brennan submitted his resignation after reaching age 75, as required by Church law
- Pope Leo accepted the resignation 4 years later
- Bishop Brennan is currently serving as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
- Bishop Menjivar has been appointed as the next bishop
- Bishop Menjivar officially becomes diocesan bishop at his installation Mass on July 2nd
- At that time, Bishop Brennan becomes Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.

Bishop ...

Cont'd from Page 3

best way to do that, he said, is by listening.

"I want to listen to the priests and the religious men and women who will be my closest collaborators in ministry," he said. "I want to listen to the faithful because as members of the Body of Christ, you have a voice in the church."

Listening as well, he said, to leaders of diocesan offices, "we are partners in mission"; to young people because "you are not only the future of the church, you are the present of the church"; and above all to the poor, those on the margins of the church and society, to workers, to immigrants, "Because as Matthew 25 says, the way we treat the least is the way we treat Jesus."

He also wants to reach out beyond the church to the wider community, to public officials as well as faith and business leaders. "I believe that together we can make a difference here in Almost Heaven, West Virginia," he said.

"I have much to learn, but my heart is ready and wide open," he continued, adding that he hopes to spend much of his time out among the people visiting communities and families.

Bishop Menjivar then offered a few words in Spanish to the Hispanic community of West Virginia.

The press conference was led by Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and attended by heads of diocesan institutions and diocesan employees. Following the press conference, Bishop Menjivar joined Bishop Brennan in the celebration of the noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph and greeted area faithful at the end of the celebration.

Ordinations to the Diaconate and Priesthood Set for May 30 at the Cathedral

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING — A memorable event for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will take place on Saturday, May 30, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

“We are blessed to have both Michael Aiello be ordained to the diaconate and Rev. Mr. Clifton Mastran be ordained to the priesthood at the same Mass,” said Father John Soplinski, director of Vocations for the diocese. “It is the fruit of the fervent prayers of the faithful and the grace of God that two men have committed their lives to serve Jesus Christ and His people here in West Virginia. It is an encouragement to all our parishioners that their prayers for priests are certainly being answered — and a reminder that those prayers must continue for both men as they now begin the work to which Jesus Christ has called them.”

All are invited to attend the Mass which will be celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan at 10 a.m. that day.

Since his ordination to the diaconate by Bishop Brennan just days before Christmas, Deacon Mastran has been serving at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg, and he is grateful for the time to serve the people there as a deacon.

“I have enjoyed proclaiming the Gospel and preaching, and it is great to be able to bless people and some objects, and of course it is wonderful to be able to expose the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration!” Deacon Mastran said. “It is always a joy and gift to be able to serve the Lord and the people in any capacity, but I certainly look forward to serving in the fullness of Holy Orders in the Priesthood as a happy, humble, and holy priest!”



Deacon Clifton Mastran



Michael Aiello

He said he is grateful for this gift from our Lord to love and serve Him in his Holy Priesthood.

“The priesthood is not for the feint of heart, and I am so grateful for the grace and strength the Lord has given me to persevere and endure through all the trials and tribulations,” he said, “and I am so glad the fruits of His labor will soon come to fruition, to be carried on into the future with one more laborer in the fields shepherding souls!”

During the ordination, Deacon Mastran will be vested with the stole and chasuble by Father Andy Gonzalo of the Archdiocese of Washington, Msgr. William Fay of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, and Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya.

Before entering seminary, Deacon Mastran had an 18-year professional career as a federal civilian employee within the U.S. Department of Defense. He also has a Bachelor of Science in computer science with minors in business administration and classical studies from the University of Florida.

Deacon Mastran has shown great
See “Ordinations” on Page 6

Diocese Announces Opening of New Diaconate Formation Program

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA — The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is opening a new Diaconate Formation Program for Catholic men to serve in West Virginia as permanent deacons.

Unlike transitional deacons going on to the priesthood, permanent deacons may be married. They are ordained to a ministry of service, assisting the bishop and his priests in many areas, especially in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity.

The diocese currently has 12 men in formation who are anticipating ordination in just a few years.

Applications for the new class will be accepted from June 1 to Dec. 30, 2026. Classes will start in September 2027 with an expected ordination date of 2032.

The diocese’s Diaconate Formation Program is led by Deacon John Yaquinta, who serves as coordinator.

“I feel it is important for our diocese to continue to offer formation classes for the permanent diaconate,” he said. “It is a five-year program, so having a new class ordained every five years ensures diaconal ministry is offered throughout the diocese. Please encourage qualified

men from your parish to apply!”

The program continues to be administered at locations in West Virginia through St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana.

Deacon Yaquinta said the first year of the program is aspirancy, which is where the men learn about discernment and if they are being called or not being called. The aspirancy year will be held at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown with Deacon Tony O’Leary, who is in charge of coordinating this group of men through formation.

The first two years of the program will be a period of aspirancy. Next is a three-year period of formation, at a college-graduate level curriculum. The faculty will be provided through St. Meinrad’s as well as local clergy and lay personnel.

The second year of aspirancy and all three years of formation classes will take place at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston and Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville one weekend a month. The academic year begins in September and ends in June.

Once ordained, deacons receive their assignments in the diocese. They serve their assigned parishes
See “Program” on Page 6

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Happy 50th Anniversary of Priesthood, Bishop Brennan

Bishop Mark Brennan is celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood today, May 15. He is pictured above during the celebration of Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. *Colleen Rowan photo*

Program...

Cont'd from Page 5

assisting at liturgical functions, preaching, officiating at baptisms and marriages outside of Mass, assisting and officiating at funeral rites, adult education, youth ministry, and prison ministry, among other projects.

Deacons must be faithful Catholics; married in the church (if married) or willing to remain celibate if not married; of good character; enjoy good mental, emotional, and physical health; be financially stable; be recommended by their pastors; and supported in their vocation by their wives and their parish or other church community. They should already be active in the church, committed to the church's doctrine on social justice and have good

"people skills." Most deacons work at secular jobs and must be willing to be open to an assignment outside of their parish.

An applicant should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university as diaconate studies will be conducted at a graduate level. Exceptions to this academic requirement can be made if the candidate can demonstrate the ability to do graduate-level work. An applicant who became Catholic later in life is welcome to apply, provided he has been a Catholic for at least five years.

An applicant must also have a letter of recommendation from his pastor. Applications may be obtained by contacting Tina High in the Office of the Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at (888) 434-6237 or for the

Wheeling area at (304) 233-0880, ext. 271. Applications, information brochure, aspirant schedule, and proposed schedule for the following four years are

on the diocese's website at <https://dwc.org/directory-listing/permanent-diaconate-formation-office-of/2275/>.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Of-

fice of the Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Ordinations...

Cont'd from Page 5

perseverance in his vocational journey, coming to the diocese from the Archdiocese of Washington, Father Soplinski said.

"His love of Christ, the church, and the people have shown forth time and again in the various assignments he has accepted," he said. "His zeal for bringing the faith to all he encounters is an inspiration."

In addition to assignments throughout Washington, Maryland, and beyond, Deacon Mastran has served at many parishes in West Virginia, including St. James the Greater in Charles Town, Sacred Heart of Mary in Weirton, St. Francis Xavier in Parkersburg, Ss. Peter and Paul Parish and School in Oak Hill, St. Joseph the Worker Parish and School in Weirton, and Parkersburg Catholic Schools.

Father Soplinski has known Michael Aiello since the fall of 2018 in their first year together in the seminary and now he looks forward to his ordination to the diaconate.

"We are fortunate as a diocese that his vocation led him back to West Virginia and are looking for-

ward to his service to the people as a deacon, and God-willing a priest," Father Soplinski said. "Michael is a prayerful man, and I am blessed to call him my friend."

Aiello is originally from Charleston and his home parish is the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. He has an associate's degree in culinary arts from the Culinary Institute of America and currently attends Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

"I am very excited for the upcoming ordination!" he shared. "It feels like a long journey toward a distant destination is finally nearing an end, and I am eagerly looking forward to the privilege of serving the faithful of West Virginia as a deacon. I am here because of so many prayers along the way — I ask that those prayers don't stop after ordination!"

Aiello has enjoyed serving in summer assignments around the diocese at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley, St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg, and St. John University Parish in Morgantown.

Vesting him with the stole and dalmatic during the ordination will be his uncle, who is his godfather, and Deacon Michael Kawash.

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Diocesan Archives Go Digital

WHEELING—The Office of Archives & Records is the official repository for both historical and current records relating to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, including millions of pages of records, thousands of photographs, and hundreds of sacramental registers from around the state. In this 175th anniversary year, archives staff have been working to digitize historical photographs and textual records, making our holdings available to a wider audience.

For those individuals who visit the archives research room (by appointment only), the archives has recently digitized 2,000 sacramental registers dating back to the 1820s, allowing the Faithful to connect with their Catholic lineage passed from one generation to the next. Beyond genealogy, these records are useful to researchers studying demographic and ethnographic trends, community development, and social history across the Mountain State.

Additionally, more than 4,000 issues of West Virginia Catholic newspapers dating back to 1895 have been scanned, including The Church Calendar of West Virginia and The West Virginia Register, precursors to today's The Catholic Spirit. These papers report on the growth of Catholicism in West Virginia, highlighting church dedications, parish and school events, and the many contributions of clergy, religious, and laity.

For those researching at home, archives staff have also been scanning hundreds of photographs and documents into a web-based Omeka archive. An open-source web publishing platform, Omeka allows users to access digital collections and curated exhibits. While the Omeka archive continues to grow on a weekly basis, visitors may currently find exhibits on the Cathedral of St. Joseph and Mount Calvary Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Archives & Records, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Above is one of a series of photos showing the blessing of the cornerstone at the second Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg, ca. 1917. This series and more are viewable at <http://archives.dwc.org> and <http://www.dwc.org>.

in Wheeling, with work ongoing on a future digital exhibit on our first diocesan bishop, Most Rev. Richard V. Whelan, including photographs, correspondence, and pastoral letters.

With this platform, users will find rare historical interior and exterior photographs of di-

ocesan parishes; lay groups and religious communities; and even individuals, like Marie Pinto, a graduate of Wheeling Hospital School of Nursing who rose to the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy Nurse Corps. Pinto's materials were donated to the archives in early 2025 and include photographs of her stations around the world, as well as her WWII uniform from the Wheeling Hospital U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. Another collection was recently added from Leo Kohlbecker, a Knight of St. Gregory and fourth degree Knight of Columbus from Charleston. Kohlbecker was a close friend of diocesan Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell and captured an impressive series of photographs and observations from McDonnell's 1961 funeral.

"These materials weren't donated to the archives for them to sit on a shelf and gather dust," notes diocesan archivist Jon-Erik Gilot, "but rather for them to be used and appreciated. The goal is to increase exposure for our collections and expand researcher interactions."

The diocesan archives averages around 300 research requests each year from people here in West Virginia and around the world. Gilot believes that "in scanning more of our records, we're able to more quickly respond to research requests, while also cutting down the number of times we need to handle fragile records or photographs."

Visitors can access the Omeka collections and exhibits at <http://archives.dwc.org>, or via the 175th anniversary website at <http://www.dwc.org>. Gilot urges visitors to bookmark the page and visit occasionally as the collection grows. "We're scanning and adding dozens of new photographs and documents each week!"

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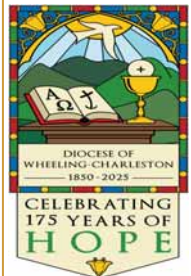
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Pope Remembers Attempt on St. John Paul, Calls Mary the Church's 'Perfect Model'

By Josephine Peterson

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the anniversary of the attempted assassination of St. John Paul II and the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Leo XIV said Mary is the “perfect model” of what the Church is called to be and urged Catholics to imitate her “humility, active faith and obedience.”

During his May 13 general audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope dedicated his catechesis to Mary, reflecting on her role as “model,” “mother” and “pre-eminent member” of the Church through the teaching of the Second Vatican Council's dogmatic constitution “Lumen Gentium.”

The date marked 45 years since St. John Paul was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square during a general audience in 1981. The Polish pope was struck twice while passing through the square in his open popemobile. He was rushed to the hospital, where it was discovered that no vital organ was pierced. He later credited his survival to the protection of the Virgin Mary and

maintained a lifelong devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

The shooter, Mehmet Ali Agca, was apprehended immediately and later visited by the pope who forgave him and called for his pardon. After serving 20 years in an Italian prison, he was deported to his country of Turkey in 2000.

The pope was shot May 13, 1981, the anniversary of the first of the Fatima apparitions, and the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Three children were tending sheep May 13, 1917, when they had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917. The children said Mary asked them to promote devotion to her Immaculate Heart and to pray the rosary daily to bring peace to the world.

In greeting the Portuguese speakers, Pope Leo said that the Church turns its gaze to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima today, where Mary delivered a message of peace.

“In that place, so dear to Christianity, numerous pilgrims from the five continents gather today: their presence is a sign of the

need for consolation, unity, and hope of the people of our time,” he said in Italian.

Pope Leo said Mary is the model of what the “Church is meant to be,” because her “unconditional ‘yes’ shows us how to be members of the Church.”

“Let us be challenged by Mary's example of humility, active faith and obedience,” he said to English speakers following his address. “Let us generously respond in love, magnifying God in our hearts, and receiving strength from the sacraments.”

He called Mary an “icon of the Mystery,” saying that in her, God's plan of salvation is revealed through both divine grace and her free acceptance of God's will.

Continuing his catechetical series on the Second Vatican Council, the pope quoted “Lumen Gentium,” saying the council's teaching on Mary helps the faithful “love the Church and to serve within her the fulfilment of the Kingdom of God.”

The Church contemplates the mystery of Mary,

Honoring Our Lady



Courtesy photo

Gianna Copolo places a crown of flowers on a statue of Our Lady during the May Crowning at Sacred Heart Church in Bluefield May 3. She is the daughter of Aaron and Ashley Copolo and granddaughter of Jimmy and Patricia Copolo.

not only because of her faith, her charity and the fact that she is the mother of Jesus, but also because, above all, she fulfilled all that she was called to be through the Lord.

Pope Leo called on the faithful to ask for Mary to help through her intercession, saying that everyone can learn from her example of humble and active faith, ending his address by say-

ing, “Let us ask the Virgin to obtain this gift for us: that love for the Holy Mother Church may grow in all of us.”



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Catholic School Students Honored in Clarksburg

By Pam Queen

CLARKSBURG—Bishop Mark Brennan, Catholic school officials, and family members recently celebrated young leaders, recognizing them with the Aquinas and St. Sebastian awards.

Students attending Catholic elementary and high schools in the central region of the state were honored May 9 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Clarksburg. This was the third such celebration, as Catholic school students from the southern region were honored in Charleston and from the northern region in Wheeling.

“This is a great day for Catholic education in our diocese,” said Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. “It’s a day we celebrate and recognize our students.”

Saying they are great examples of young people embracing and living the Catholic faith, Hornyak said the honored students represent all that is good in the Catholic schools.

There are 25 Catholic schools in West Virginia – 18 elementary schools and seven high schools. Seven of those schools are in the central region: St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown, St. Patrick School in Weston, Fairmont Catholic Grade School, St. Mary Central Grade School in Clarksburg, Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School, Parkersburg Catholic High School, and Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg.

Students were nominated by their teachers to receive the Aquinas Award or the St. Sebastian Award, based on certain criteria. Hornyak explained those receiving the Aquinas Award best embody the qualities of Catholic school education: excellence in learning, faithful discipleship, leadership and service to the school, parish and community. It is named for St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of Catholic schools and students.

Those recognized May 9 with this award were Lillian Magruder, eighth grade, St. Francis de Sales; Joseph Pickens, eighth grade, St. Patrick; Audrey Satterfield, eighth grade, Fairmont Catholic; Vincent Scalise, sixth grade, St. Mary’s; Macie Ann Smith,



From back left are: Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of the diocese’s Catholic Schools; Luke Anderson; Megan Roedersheimer; Bishop Mark Brennan; Lillian Magruder; Brady Jordan; Joseph Pickens; and Grant Huffman. From front left are: Macie Ann Smith, Vincent Scalise, Jack Stalnaker, Lexi Shaffer, and Audrey Satterfield.

fifth grade, Parkersburg Catholic Elementary; Grant Huffman, senior, Parkersburg Catholic High School; and Brady Jordan, senior, Notre Dame.

The St. Sebastian Award recognizes high-achieving student athletes who maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA and show a high degree of respect for their school, classmates, teammates, opponents, parishes and communities.

Four were recognized May 9: Lexi Shaffer and Jack Stalnaker, both seniors at Notre Dame; and Luke Anderson and Megan Roedersheimer, both seniors at Parkersburg Catholic High School.

Each honoree received a medal with his or her name engraved on the back.

Bishop Brennan spoke to the group and offered advice.

“It is better to aim high even if you fall somewhat short than to aim low and make it,” he said. “Who would want to be mediocre? You’ve obviously aimed high.”

Bishop Brennan said Catholic

education strives to develop the whole person, noting each individual has many dimensions – that of family member, friend, young person of faith. He encouraged the award winners to develop their talents, worship God, and enjoy life.

“Strive to be the best person you

can be,” he said.

The three receptions were sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, with Carmen Romano of Clarksburg representing the organization at the May 9 event. The Knights of Columbus has a history of sponsoring such events since 1995.

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Pam Queen photo

West Virginia's Sacred Heart Churches to Mark Upcoming Consecration of the U.S. with Prayerful Gatherings

By Colleen Rowan

As Catholics across the nation anticipate the consecration of the United States to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus next month, churches in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston named for the Sacred Heart are announcing prayerful opportunities they will be hosting here at home. In addition, these next few weeks present an opportunity for the faithful to visit these churches which are beautiful reflections of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The consecration by the U.S. bishops will take place on June 11 at their annual assembly in Orlando, Fla., with the hope that all will “recognize the kingship of Christ, perfecting the temporal order with the spirit of the Gospel.”

The next day, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, all parishes in the diocese will have Masses and additional events. Here is a look at the special offerings at or in association with West Virginia's 10 Sacred Heart churches.

This is a very special time for the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, said Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector. “Our parish has a great devotion to the Sacred Heart,” he said.

The parish will begin the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at noon on June 3. The devotion will be celebrated for nine consecutive days with times for each day to be announced on the parish website at <https://sacredheartcocathedral.com>. The novena will be livestreamed each day on the website as well as the parish's Facebook page so it can be accessed by anyone at any time. The parish is also planning a one-day reflection on “Dilexit Nos,” Pope Francis' fourth encyclical on “the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ.” The date and time will be announced on the parish's website.

The basilica co-cathedral is also engaging the students next door at Sacred Heart Grade School and Charleston Catholic High School who will receive the U.S. Bishops' Sacred Heart of Jesus prayer cards and pray the prayer in school.

The solemnity on June 12 will begin with a noon Mass followed by adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and benediction and an evening Mass at 6 p.m. in which the congregation will pray the Prayer of Consecration. The day ends with a parish dinner after Mass.

Sacred Heart Chapel in Pickens has Mass on the first and third Sunday of each month. Of

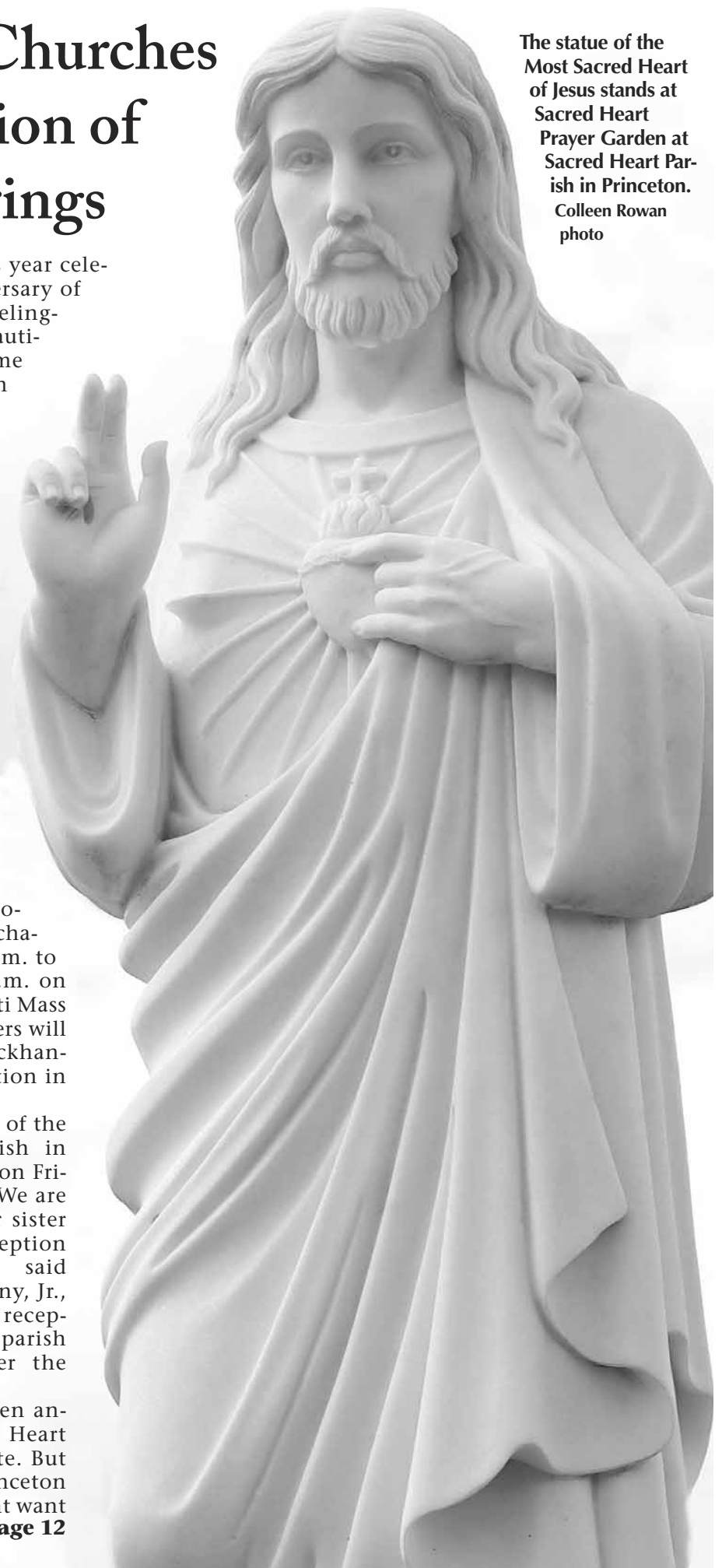
particular interest in this year celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, this small, beautiful church was the home parish of Archbishop John J. Swint, the fourth bishop of the diocese. The chapel is part of the cluster with Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon. Check with Holy Rosary for Mass times (304-472-3414). Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, pastor of the parish, said the Sacred Heart Chapel community and all are invited to Mass for the consecration of the U.S. to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at Holy Rosary Church tentatively set for 7 p.m. on June 12.

Additionally, Holy Rosary Church will have Eucharistic Adoration from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Mass at 7 p.m. on June 5. The Corpus Christi Mass with procession and prayers will be held in the city of Buckhannon followed by a reception in the parish hall on June 7.

In the northern region of the state, Sacred Heart Parish in Chester is having a Mass on Friday, June 12, at 6 p.m. “We are inviting members of our sister parish Immaculate Conception in New Cumberland,” said Father William K. Matheny, Jr., pastor of the parishes. A reception will be held in the parish center immediately after the Mass.

Plans have not yet been announced at other Sacred Heart churches around the state. But those who live in the Princeton area or visiting there might want **See “Sacred Heart” on Page 12**

The statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus stands at Sacred Heart Prayer Garden at Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton. Colleen Rowan photo



‘Our One Shared Mission’

Catholic Leadership Institute Envisioning Team Members Share Their Story

At Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, this journey began last summer with the formation of an envisioning team to lead the effort. The timing proved challenging, coinciding with priest transfers and leadership transitions. Yet rather than hindering the process, this moment became one of grace—a time of discernment, examination, and renewed purpose.

“As we began, we quickly realized this was not something to rush,” said Gina Boggess, Director of Pastoral Ministries and Chair of the Sacred Heart CLI Envisioning Team. “At first glance, it may seem easy to articulate a mission or vision, but to do so authentically requires prayer, reflection, and a deep grounding in our Catholic faith. We wanted something that truly reflected the Great Commission and spoke to all people in our parish about our one shared mission.”

The team wrestled with fundamental questions: Who are we as Christian Catholics? What is our purpose? Have our efforts borne fruit? Are we intentional in what we do, or simply reactive? Do we truly know our path forward as a parish? These questions led to honest conversations and a renewed commitment to purposeful ministry.

The first phase turned outward, focusing on inclusive, direct engagement with the parish community. A parish-wide survey invited members to share their understanding of Sacred Heart’s mission, vision, purpose, and values. The responses formed the foundation for crafting statements that truly reflected the voice of the people.

During the second phase, we returned to the voice of the people once again. First, we examined the CLI survey data and identified key areas for growth. Based on this analysis, we identified three priorities and corresponding goals and assigned subcommittees to focus on each area.

Meeting monthly for eight months, the team carefully worked through each element—one statement at a time—ensuring that every word was shaped by prayer, discussion, and consensus. While time-consuming, the process has already borne fruit in unity, clarity, and renewed energy. We have presented the Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Values to our Pastoral Council for consent to move forward. Our next steps include developing a more detailed plan for our priorities and goals, which we believe will take time; enlisting our Priest, more volunteers, and ministries in the conversation; and finally presenting it to the parish. We do not want this to be just an exercise where we check it off our list. We want it to be a spiritual movement that inspires people as we move forward, one family, one parish, one mission.

Laura Wyatt, Faith Formation Coordinator and Chair of Evangelization Team — “What an exciting new chapter for Sacred Heart Princeton, the parish has announced the launch of an evangelization ministry, aligning with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) initiative and Bishop Brennan’s evangelization plan. The ministry, named ‘One More Sheep,’ is still in its early stages and is dedicated to sharing the Catholic faith and extending a warm welcome to newcomers in the community.”

“We are incredibly excited to get this started,” said ministry organizers. “With each new member, conversation, and invitation, our sense of community grows stronger. We are eager to see how the Holy Spirit guides us in this important mission.”

The ministry seeks to create an environment where both lifelong parishioners and newcomers feel welcome. Organizers invite anyone who feels called to help share the message of faith to join. Through prayerful discernment and open hearts, the team trusts they will discover the ministry’s unique di-

rection and purpose. The organizers believe that every interaction, no matter how small, can make a meaningful difference. By focusing on one person at a time, they hope to build a vibrant, faith-filled community. We hope to inspire interest and remind everyone that, often without realizing it, we are all evangelizing in our own ways.

Lynn Pendleton, a member of the envisioning team, reflected, “We came together as Catholics from our various faith journeys with the purpose to cultivate a thriving faith community, facilitate spiritual growth, and deepen

relationships through a shared mission and values that speak directly to the needs of our parish.”

Debbie LaMothe, Chair of the Pastoral Council, shared a similar experience: “Being part of the CLI envisioning team enlightened me to the needs of our parish. Through the survey, we established goals focused on spiritual growth and evangelization. We prayed over these goals so they would truly reflect the priorities expressed by our parishioners.”

Susie Pace, Sacristan, described both the challenge and the grace of

See “Mission” on Page 12

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Sacred Heart...

Cont'd from Page 10

to make a visit to the Sacred Heart Prayer Garden across the street from Sacred Heart Church. This peaceful and prayerful place features many statues—the Infant Jesus of Prague, the Blessed Mother Mary, and the Guardian Angel—with a magnificent statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at the center.

Among the inscriptions on a plaque at the entrance of the garden is the

prayer: "Sacred Heart of Jesus, burning with love of us, inflame our hearts with love of Thee."

Other Sacred Heart churches are located in Bluefield, Huntington, Powhatan, Rainelle, Salem, and Williamson.

The U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for the 250th anniversary of the nation. Resources for parishes are available on the USCCB's website at <https://www.usccb.org/consecration-united-states-sacred-heart-jesus>.

Mission...

Cont'd from Page 11

the process: "It was a privilege for me to work alongside my team in such a meaningful project. At first, when we read through the packet, it took time to grasp its magnitude. It seemed a little overwhelming, but as we took our first step, we gained momentum. Once we broke it down into smaller, more achievable parts, we could take our time and be more intentional in our process. I must say, there were times things just came together beautifully—you could feel the Holy Spirit directing us. It was powerful!"

For Carol Cofer, Nurse and Team Member, the process offered an opportunity for meaningful reflection. "Every so often, you have to step back and evaluate the health of your parish. Where our parish has been, where we are now, and

where we plan to go. This was a fruitful exercise in taking the pulse of our parish—and I am happy to say we are alive and well!"

Shelby Neri, a member of the Finance Council, highlighted the comprehensive nature of the initiative: "This was a very meaningful experience. A parish comprises administrative, ministerial, spiritual, and communal aspects, and it is rare to assess all of them together. This holistic approach will be incredibly helpful as we articulate a clear mission, vision, purpose, and values for Sacred Heart."

Father Joseph Augustine, J.C.L., pastor of Sacred Heart and Sacred Parish in Bluefield said: "Evangelization is at the very heart of our Christian calling. Jesus did not ask us to keep the Gospel to ourselves, but to go out and share the Good News with others. Each of us, by our baptism, is

sent to proclaim Christ—not only through our words, but through our lives, our kindness, and our witness.

"In our parish, we are blessed to see how these efforts are bearing fruit. Through small acts of welcome, service, social outreach, and the various ministries like our faith formation, young adults ministry and the walking with purpose groups we are reaching people who feel distant, forgotten, or searching.

"I know personally how lives are being touched, hearts are being renewed, and faith is being rekindled in many of those that are reached. Evangelization is not about numbers, but about transformation—one person, one encounter at a time.

"It's not just the responsibility of the clergy, but a collective effort of everyone in the church. I'm very

grateful to see many of our people step up and take this sacred responsibility wholeheartedly. Grace is at work."

This initiative is more than just a process—it is an invitation. An invitation to pause, to listen, and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide the life of our parishes in new and meaningful ways.

We encourage all parishes engaged in this process to remain patient and grounded. This is not a sprint, but a marathon of discernment and renewal. It is far better to move with clarity, prayerful reflection, and shared understanding than to rush out plans simply for the sake of having something in place.

What we are building must be authentic. It must carry meaning. It should grow out of real prayer, real listening, and real life in the parish community—not simply out of an urgency to bring it to completion.

Perhaps the most important question to hold in mind during every planning conversation is this: if Jesus were sitting in your meeting, listening quietly and attentively, where would you sense Him gently directing you?

What has unfolded at Sacred Heart is a reminder that when we take the time to pray, reflect, and truly listen to one another, God

meets us there. He gently leads us forward with renewed clarity, deeper unity, and a shared sense of purpose.

This journey is not about having all the answers, but about walking together in faith—trusting that even small steps can lead to great transformation. As we continue to embrace this call, may we do so with open hearts, ready to share our faith in simple, everyday ways, and confident that the Lord is at work among us.

In the end, this is what evangelization looks like—people accompanying one another, growing together, and joyfully living out the mission of Christ in the places we call home.

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Princeton Parish Honors Mothers in Fun and Memorable Way

At Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton, women were invited to wear hats to Mass on Mother's Day. It was as fun way to honor mothers and the history of women wearing head coverings in the Catholic Church. There were prizes for most traditional, most classic, most unique, prettiest, and best all around hats. Women of the parish are pictured at right following Mass that day wearing their hats. *Courtesy photo*



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El Papa acepta la renuncia del obispo de West Virginia y nombra al obispo Menjívar-Ayala, obispo auxiliar de Washington, como su sucesor

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — El Papa León XIV ha aceptado la renuncia del obispo Mark E. Brennan de Wheeling-Charleston y ha nombrado como su sucesor al obispo auxiliar Evelio Menjívar-Ayala de Washington.

La renuncia y el nombramiento fueron anunciados en Washington el 1 de mayo por el cardenal Christophe Pierre, nuncio apostólico en Estados Unidos.

La Misa de instalación se celebrará el 2 de julio de 2026, a las 2:00 p.m., en la Catedral de San José en Wheeling.

En una rueda de prensa celebrada por la mañana, el obispo Brennan expresó su gratitud por haber podido servir como "pastor principal" de la diócesis durante casi siete años, y dio la bienvenida a su sucesor y décimo obispo "para servir al pueblo de cara al futuro en este maravilloso estado".

Dijo que su sucesor posee "integridad, inteligencia y celo por el pueblo de Dios".

El obispo Brennan, de 79 años, también señaló cuánto tiempo lleva conociendo al obispo Menjívar-Ayala, ya que su relación se remonta a antes incluso de que este fuera ordenado sacerdote, cuando el entonces padre Brennan era di-



Foto OSV News/cortesía de la Arquidiócesis de Washington
El obispo Evelio Menjívar-Ayala, de Washington, aparece en una fotografía sin fecha.

rector de vocaciones sacerdotales en la Arquidiócesis de Washington, cargo que ocupó durante 10 años. Oriundo de El Salvador, el nuevo obispo de West Virginia emigró a Estados Unidos en 1990 y fue ordenado sacerdote para la Arquidiócesis de Washington el 29 de mayo de 2004. Fue ordenado obispo auxiliar de Washington por el cardenal Wilton D. Gregory, entonces arzobispo de Washington, en la catedral de San Mateo Apóstol en febrero de 2023, convirtiéndose en el primer obispo salvadoreño del país. "Doy gracias a Dios por las muchas formas en que ha rev-

elado su amor y misericordia en mi vida", dijo el obispo Menjívar-Ayala, de 55 años, en la rueda de prensa. Agradeció al "primer papa estadounidense" y al nuncio, el cardenal Pierre, "por su confianza en mí, por llamarme a pastorear esta hermosa diócesis".

Agradeció al obispo Brennan por acogerlo en la formación sacerdotal hace muchos años. "Poco podíamos imaginar lo que el Señor tenía reservado para nosotros. Gracias por formar parte de (mi) camino, y espero que siga usted guiándome mientras me adapto a esta nueva misión".

Dijo que aceptaba su nuevo nombramiento "con gran alegría y humildad".

"Me presento ante ustedes, ante todo, como un hermano en la fe", dijo el obispo Menjívar-Ayala. "Espero que permitan que este forastero les acompañe en el camino de la fe".

"Que podamos descubrir nuestra humanidad y dignidad compartidas como hijos de Dios. Llego a ustedes como su obispo, su servidor, para amarles y servirles. Este es el único propósito que traigo, amarles y servirles lo mejor que pueda en la fe y en la fidelidad a Cristo", añadió.

Describió West Virginia como una tierra de impresio-

ante belleza, rica en diversidad y en recursos naturales y, al mismo tiempo, dijo, muchos de sus habitantes "siguen soportando penurias, marginación y desigualdad". Elogió a los habitantes de West Virginia por su fe y su resiliencia.

Dijo que se sentiría profundamente orgulloso si, con el tiempo, "me aceptaran como un compañero de West Virginia".

Pero West Virginia "no es una tierra extraña para mí", afirmó. Cuando fue ordenado sacerdote, colaboró en la Misa en español de la parroquia de San José en Martinsburg. Durante la pandemia de COVID, recordó, solía buscar lugares para hacer senderismo —"mi deporte favorito"— y empezó a practicar senderismo y a acampar en los bosques nacionales George Washington y Jefferson, que abarcan 1.8 millones de acres a lo largo de la frontera entre Virginia y West Virginia.

Más tarde compró una pequeña cabaña donde ha pasado sus días libres y se ha sentido muy bien acogido por "la gente del valle". "Me siento muy integrado en esa comunidad", que, a pesar de su reducido tamaño, es muy diversa, según explicó, con estadounidenses de origen húngaro e italiano, entre otros, que han

constituido "la columna vertebral de la mano de obra minera del estado".

El obispo Menjívar-Ayala dijo a los católicos de la diócesis que quiere comenzar su ministerio "conociéndolos a ustedes", y que "la mejor manera de hacerlo es escuchando atentamente" a los sacerdotes y diáconos, a los religiosos y religiosas, a los líderes de las oficinas diocesanas y del laicado.

"Somos socios en la misión", dijo, y añadió que también quiere escuchar a los jóvenes —"no solo son el futuro de la Iglesia, ustedes son el presente de la Iglesia"— y a los pobres, los trabajadores y los inmigrantes. También se dirigirá más allá de la Iglesia a la comunidad en general, escuchando a los funcionarios públicos, a otros líderes religiosos y a los líderes empresariales.

"Creo que juntos podemos marcar la diferencia aquí, en el 'casi paraíso' de West Virginia", añadió, citando una popular canción de John Denver. "Mi oficina estará siempre abierta, si yo estoy allí. Espero pasar mi tiempo entre la gente, acompañándolos en su vida cotidiana, en lugar de permanecer detrás del escritorio o en el santuario".

Concluyó su discurso con unas palabras en su español natal.

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 eclesiásticas 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. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

Confirmation Schedule


Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Saturday, May 16: St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 17: St. Jude, Glen Dale, 9 a.m.
- Friday, May 22: Epiphany of the Lord, Moorefield, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23: St. Leo, Inwood, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 24: St. Bernadette, Hedgesville, 11 a.m.
- Sunday, May 24: St. Joseph, Martinsburg, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 6: Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 14: St. Matthew / Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant, 11:15 a.m.
- Saturday, June 20: St. Sebastian, Kingwood, 6 p.m.




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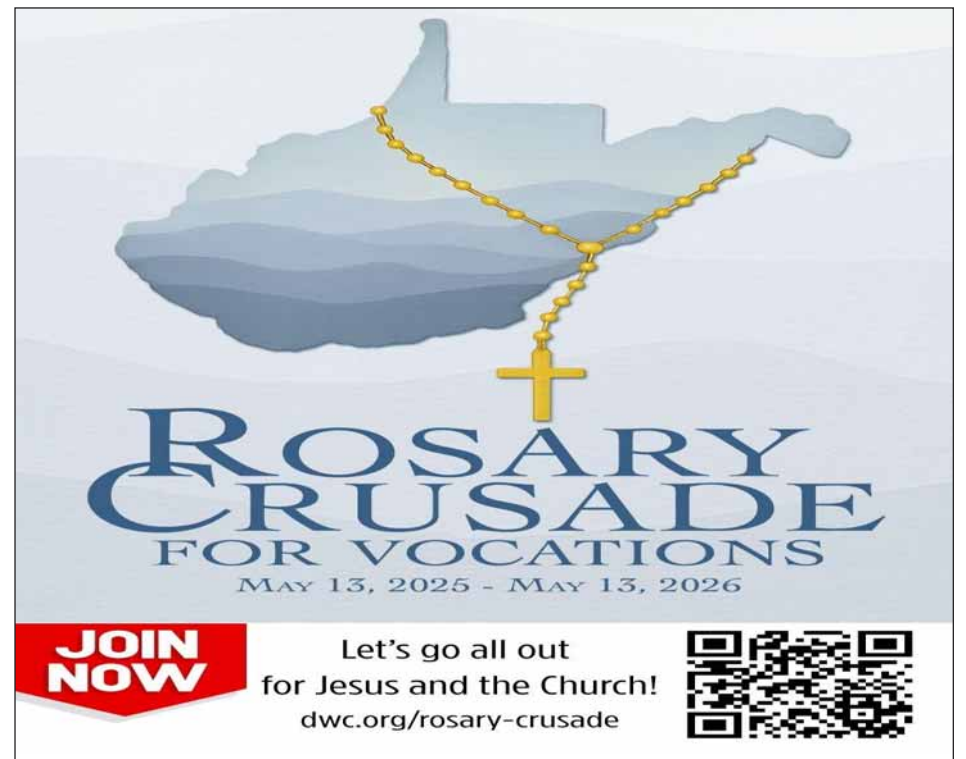
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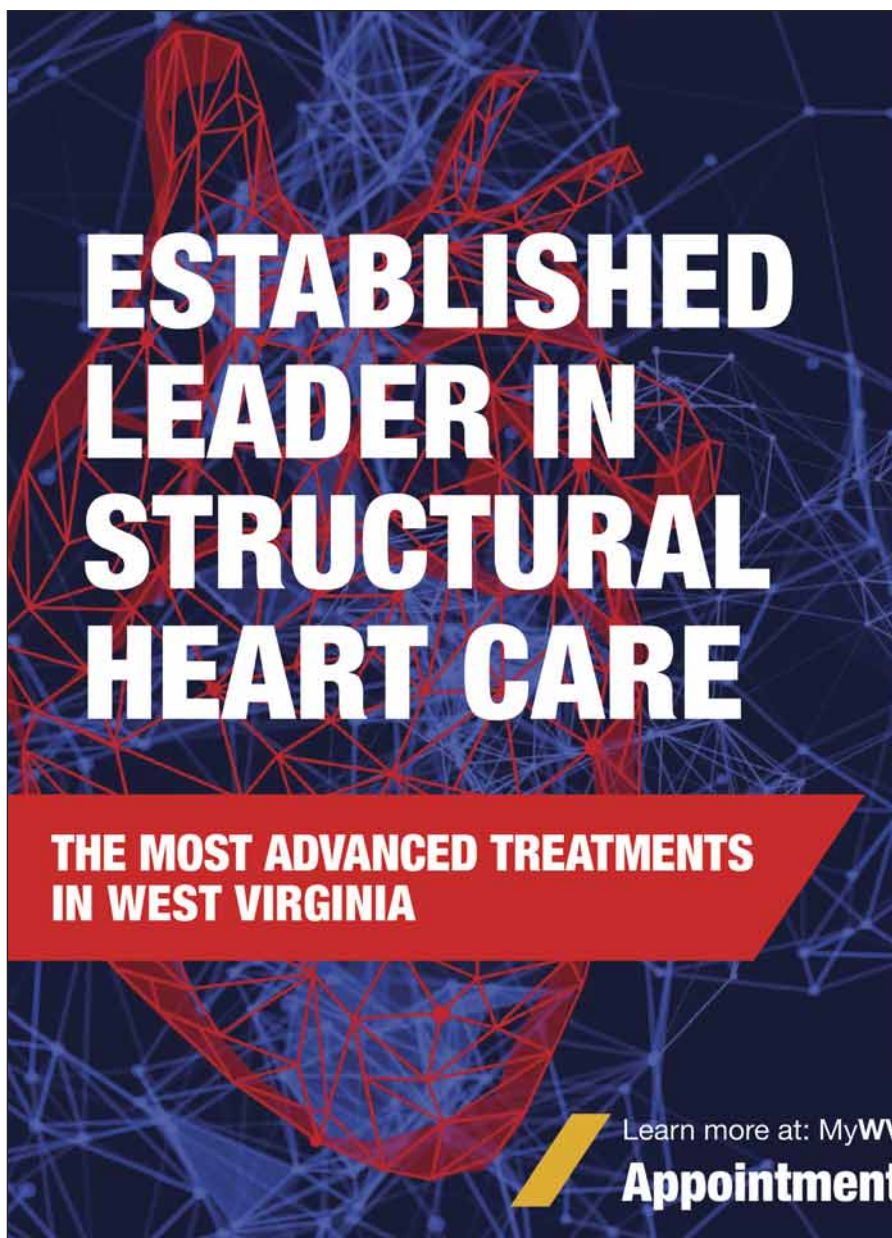
Sunday Mornings

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)
 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
 Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube



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