



‘This Land is Home to Me’ Pastoral Letter Marks 50th Anniversary



Colleen Rowan Photo

Following Mass at the Chapel of Mary and Joseph at Wheeling University celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Appalachian Pastoral Letter: “This Land is Home to Me” Jan. 31 are, from left: Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Superintendent of Catholic Schools Jennifer Hornyak; Chad Carter, chancellor of the diocese; Bishop Mark Brennan; Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh; Dr. Dianna Vargo, president of Wheeling University; and Father David Griffin, OSB, chaplain and director of WU Campus Ministry.

By Colleen Rowan

WHEELING — Gathering to remember, recognize, and rekindle, Catholics of the Mountain State and beyond marked the 50th anniversary of the Appalachian Pastoral Letter: “This Land is Home to Me” Jan. 31. They were joined by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh gathering at

Wheeling University, where the bishops of Appalachia promulgated the letter in 1975.

At the Mass he celebrated for the anniversary at the Chapel of Mary and Joseph on campus, Bishop Brennan said the document calls for special attention to the poor and to those who struggle just to get by.

“Jesus inspires that kind of

commitment, special attention to the little people,” the bishop said. “We are to invite the poor and the afflicted to the banquet of our lives. We must figure out how to do that better. ... We don’t have to wonder where our next meal is coming from or where we’re going to spend the night.”

St. Paul reminds us to figure

See “Letter” on Page 4

Catholic Sharing Appeal Raises More Than \$4 Million

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—“It is a true joy to work alongside each of our parishes on the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA),” said Heidi Sforza, director of Annual Giving for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. “Witnessing the generosity and faith of our communities as they come together to support vital ministries, schools, and outreach efforts is both inspiring and humbling.”

That generosity has raised more than \$4 million for the 2024 CSA, surpassing the \$1.9 million goal.

Sforza added that she is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with pastors and parishioners in strengthening the diocese’s shared mission of faith and service.

“The Catholic Sharing Appeal **See “Appeal” on Page 8**

Last Chance to Take Your Parish’s DMI Survey

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—The deadline extension for the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey is helping all West Virginia Catholics to share their voice in creating a three-year evangelization plan for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The DMI takes just 10 to 15 minutes to complete and is now available through Feb. 11. The diocese’s website provides a listing of each parish with a link to each one’s survey. Your parish’s survey can be found on the diocese’s website at <https://dwc.org/2024-dmi-survey-links/>. Click here.

See “DMI” on Page 2

Inside: Madonna and St. Joseph’s Students are Back in Their Classrooms Despite Weirton’s Water Crisis, Page 3



Diocesan Official Appointments

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

Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L., J.V., is appointed to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective December 31, 2024. This is in addition to his current assignments as judicial vicar of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg.

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.E., is reappointed vicar forane of the Charleston Vicariate for a period of three years, effective February 18, 2025. This is in addition to his current assignments as rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston and associate episcopal vicar for clergy.

Very Rev. Carlos Melocoton, V.E., is appointed vicar forane of the Wheeling Vicariate for a period of three years, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

Father Nye "Joseph" Wiley is appointed to a three-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council, effective December 31, 2024. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling.

Father Anthony Thurston is retiring from his role as parochial

vicar of St. Joseph the Worker Parish and Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Weirton, effective March 1, 2025.

In consultation with Very Rev. Shajan Pazhayil, RCJ, major superior of the Rogationists Fathers, St. Thomas Quasi Province, India, **Father Doney Chacko, RCJ**, is appointed administrator of St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale, St. John Parish in Benwood, and St. James Parish in McMechen, effective immediately. His place of residence will remain at the parish rectory in McMechen.

Deacon David A. Torlone is appointed temporary administrator of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current responsibilities as permanent deacon at St. Leo Parish in Inwood.

Mr. Ian Flores is reappointed as a member of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Finance Council for a term of five years, effective July 1, 2025; and as chair of the Investment Committee for a term of three years, to expire on June 30, 2028.

Mrs. Mary Pockl is reappointed a member of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Finance Council for a term of five years, effective July 1, 2025; and as chair of the Audit, Budget and Compensation Committee for a term of three years, to expire on June 30, 2028.

DMI...

Cont'd from Page 1

Father Paul Wharton, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston, said the information collected through the survey is important because it will show what people find helpful or think should be improved upon.

"Particularly when it comes to evangelization," he said, noting that about 70 percent of West Virginians are unchurched.

"So, evangelization is something that ought to be one of our highest priorities," he said.

Father Wharton also wrote to his parishioners many times in the parish bulletin regarding the positives of the survey. In his Jan. 17 letter, he wrote: "Blessed Sacrament Parish and the entire Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is beginning an evangelization process. We want — we need — to reach out to lapsed Catholics as well as the many unchurched people here in West Virginia. The Disciple Maker Index is a survey to help us develop a plan. In addition, it will be valuable for the staff and pastoral council in seeking to know our needs and possibilities going forward."

In an earlier letter, he wrote of the survey's aim: invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship; enable parish staff and leadership to make data-driven decisions; and help parishioners grow in their faith.

During announcements at each Mass, Father Wharton encouraged parishioners to participate. Those who took the survey were asked to raise their hands.

"I think people looked around and said, well if these people have done it maybe I should too," he said.

In a story in the Jan. 31 digital issue of The Catholic Spirit, Sara Struemke spoke of how easy it was to take the survey.

"It was very simple," she said. "I did it from my iPhone."

Sara and her husband Billy Struemke are the DMI parish point persons at their Parish of St. Bernadette's in Hedgesville.

Diocesan officials are hoping that parishioners around the diocese who have not yet had a chance to take the survey will be able to do so with the extended deadline of Feb. 11.

Again, your parish's survey can be found at <https://dwc.org/2024-dmi-survey-links/>. Click here.

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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Madonna and St. Joseph's Students are Back in Their Classrooms Despite Weirton's Water Crisis



Courtesy photo

Students at St. Joseph the Worker Grade School in Weirton enjoy being back at school Feb. 3.

By Colleen Rowan

WEIRTON — As the City of Weirton continues to struggle with a water crisis that has led to school closures, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has helped its Catholic school students return to their classrooms.

Students at Madonna High School and St. Joseph the Worker Grade School returned to their schools on Monday, Feb. 3, after only six days of in-school instruction in January. Some of the closures during that time were caused by weather, but the water crisis was the biggest factor.

The Wheeling Intelligencer reported that an eruption of around 100 water line breaks dating back to mid-December caused the crisis. Then, near the end of last month, there was more bad news.

"We found out on Jan. 27 that Weirton would

probably not be able to fix the problem affecting our area until Feb. 11," said Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese. She immediately contacted the diocese's Buildings and Properties Director John Reardon, who came up with the solution of having trucks deliver portable water tanks to the schools. Once the tanks were in place, a valve was added to the pipe supplying water to the schools. Hornyak expressed her thanks to Reardon and to Bishop Mark Brennan and the diocese for helping to fund the solution as this was an emergency situation.

"There is a great need to get the students back in the building," Hornyak said in the days prior to the students' return to the schools. "While remote learning can be helpful for short periods of time, we

know that in-person learning is best. The best case scenario is for students to be in their physical classrooms with their teachers to learn new content and continue to master skills. We're anxious to get the students back in the building, and thanks to the diocese we will be able to do that sooner."

Both Madonna and St. Joseph the Worker facilitated remote learning for their students throughout January and Hornyak commended the teachers and administration for their efforts.

Recheal Fuscardo, principal of St. Joseph the Worker, was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude on the morning of her students' return to school.

"We are so excited to see our SJWS students ... for in-person learning," she posted on Facebook early Feb. 3. "We are all hooked up, filled up, and ready to go with potable water. A huge thank you to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Mark Brennan, Superintendent Jenn Hornyak, and Director of Build-



Courtesy photo

A portable water tank is shown outside of St. Joseph the Worker Grade School in Weirton. The tank allowed students to return for in-person learning Feb. 3 after the city's water crisis led to school closures last month.

ings and Properties John Reardon for making it possible."

Fuscardo also thanked Portable Water Systems, LLC, for the tanker and hook up, Deans Water Service for the potable water, and H.E. Neumann for tying into the water line.

"We truly are all in this together!" she said.

Her gratitude was echoed by Madonna High School Principal Jason Heckathorn, who said: "Our teachers did a great job with remote learning

and then on Jan. 29, 30, and 31 we started having Google Meets with all the classes so that the teachers could see the students face to face for scheduled instructional time. Monday, Feb. 3, we are back in person at our normal time. It is great to have the students and teachers back in the building. I would like to thank Bishop Brennan, John Reardon and Jenn Hornyak for helping the school and getting the kids back into the classroom."



Courtesy photo

Happy to be back in school, students at Madonna High School in Weirton enjoy lunch Feb. 3.



Courtesy photo

A portable water tank arrives at Madonna High School in Weirton Jan. 31. The tank allowed students to return for in-person learning Feb. 3 after the city's water crisis led to school closures last month.



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Pictured is Father Rich McCouch, SJ, former director of the Appalachian Institute, speaking at Wheeling University's Troy Theater during the Jan. 31 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Appalachian Pastoral Letter: "This Land is Home to Me."

Colleen Rowan photo

Letter...

Cont'd from Page 1

out how best to respond to those around us who do have such worries. "Those who need our help in some way, need our solidarity with them," the bishop said.

The faithful, especially in the Appalachian region, must work for justice with confidence in the Lord, the bishop said.

"St. Paul reminds us, 'We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28). But we are called to work for justice and human liberation here, where we live, in Appalachia," the bishop said. "May God give us all the grace and strength to engage in

that struggle."

The celebration kicked off earlier that afternoon with an opening prayer service and presentations in Troy Theater.

Welcoming all were Chad Carter, chancellor of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and Dr. Dianna Vargo, president of Wheeling University. Presentations were given by Tom Breiding, director of the Appalachian Institute; Father Rich McCouch, SJ, former director of the Appalachian Institute; and Dave Harl of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

In his remarks, Bishop Zubik said that in marking an anniversary, remember what happened in the past, celebrate in the present,

See "Letter" on Page 5



Joyce Bibey photo

At the event, from left, are Sister Marita Sithole, SJI; Sister Agatha Munyanyi, SJI; and Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



Colleen Rowan photo

Shirley Carter, interim director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, speaks at Troy Theater. Looking on is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu.



Joyce Bibey photo

The Hand Bell Choir from St. Michael Parish in Wheeling performs at Troy Theater for the celebration.



Joyce Bibey photo

The faithful arrive at Troy Theater for the celebration.

Letter...

Cont'd from Page 4 and get fired up for the future.

"When we take a look at that pastoral, we know that it invited us, challenged us to do two things," Bishop Zubik said. "First of all to identify with the poor in Appalachia, who were placed on the margins of society by us. And the second thing ... is that it called for us to advocate for justice."

Speaking about opportunities for further discussion and to learn more about the letter this year, were Shirley Carter, interim director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; and Dr. Rodica Stoiciu, Ph.D., an academic, pastoral minister, and author.

"We put together a course on this pastoral letter that will be taught internationally, but we want to integrate it into West Virginia and throughout the Appalachian dioceses because these are the people that know this. They understand poverty, the suffering, and the powerlessness," Stoiciu said.

The course is available through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). For more information, e-mail Carter at scarter@dwc.org or Stoiciu at rodicastoiciuphd@gmail.com.

The next to speak was Anna Marie Troiani, executive director of the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling, who invited all to join in the 20/20 Vision (Zoom) Series, taking a closer look at "This Land is Home to Me" and the follow up letters: "At Home in the Web of Life" from 1995 and "The



Colleen Rowan Photo
 Bishop Mark Brennan (center) celebrates Mass at the Chapel of Mary and Joseph at Wheeling University for the 50th Anniversary of the Appalachian Pastoral Letter: "This Land is Home to Me" Jan. 31. Concelebrating is Bishop David Zubik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh (right) and priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (back row).



Colleen Rowan Photo
 The faithful offer the sign of peace at Mass.



Colleen Rowan Photo
 Bishop Brennan greets the faithful after Mass.

Telling Takes Us Home" from 2015. "It's important that we look at these documents as

a living witness and how they are applicable to us today," Troiani said. For a full list of sessions

and speakers for the 20/20 Vision (Zoom) Series and how to register, see the ad on Page 6 of this issue.

For more information about the series, send e-mail to Troiani at atroiani@csjoseph.org.

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"THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME" (1975)

"AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE" (1995)

"THE TELLING TAKES US HOME" (2015)

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

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

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

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RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org



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Pope Will Prepare Papal Document to Help Church Promote Children's Rights

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Wrapping up a Vatican summit on the rights of children, Pope Francis announced he was going to publish a papal document dedicated to children.

He called the Feb. 3 summit venue in the frescoed

halls of the Apostolic Palace, a kind of "open observatory" in which speakers explored "the reality of childhood throughout the world, a childhood that is unfortunately often hurt, exploited, denied."

Some 50 experts and leaders from around the world, who shared their ex-

perience and compassion, he said, also "elaborated proposals for the protection of children's rights, considering them not as numbers, but as faces."

The pope said he planned to prepare a papal document "to give continuity to this commitment and promote it throughout

the church."

Those in attendance applauded the pope and his brief closing remarks and gave him a standing ovation. The one-day world leaders' summit titled, "Love them and protect them," discussed several topics of concern including a child's right

to food, health care, education, a family, free time and the right to live free from violence and exploitation. It was organized by the recently created Pontifical Committee for the World Day of Children, headed by Franciscan Father Enzo Fortunato.

Nothing is Worth Sacrificing the Life of a Child, Pope Tells World Leaders

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It is unacceptable that a child's right to life and a dignified childhood should be sacrificed to "the idols" of power, profit, ideology and nationalistic self-interest, Pope Francis told a group of world experts and leaders.

"A childhood denied is a silent scream condemning the wrongness of the economic system, the criminal nature of wars, the lack of adequate medical care and schooling," he said in his address opening a Feb. 3 summit at the Vatican on children's rights.

"We are here today to say that we do not want this to become the new normal," he said, and "we are all here together, to put children, their rights, their dreams and their demand for a future at the center of our concern."

About 50 guests from all over the world, including former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, attended the one-day world leaders' summit titled, "Love them and protect them." The invitees included Nobel Prize winners, government ministers and heads of state, leaders of international and non-profit organizations, top Vatican officials and other experts.

Talks were divided into topics of concern including a child's right to food, health care, education, a family, free time, and the right to live free from violence and exploitation.

The pope opened the summit by urging everyone to listen to children — their hopes, dreams and fears — and "to build a better world for children, and consequently for everyone!"

"I am confident that, by pooling your experience and expertise, you can open new avenues to assist and protect the children whose rights are daily trampled upon and ig-

nored," he said.

"Listening to those children who today live in violence, exploitation or injustice serves to strengthen our 'no' to war, to the throwaway culture of waste and profit, in which everything is bought and sold without respect or care for life, especially when that life is small and defenseless," the pope said.

"In the name of this throwaway mentality, in which the human being becomes all-powerful, unborn life is sacrificed through the murderous practice of abortion," he said. "Abortion suppresses the life of children and cuts off the source of hope for the whole of society."

The pope highlighted the plight of children living in "limbo" because they were not registered at birth and of "undocumented" children at the border of the United States, "those first victims of that exodus of despair and hope made by the thousands of people coming from the south toward the United States of America."

"What we have tragically seen almost every day in recent times, namely children dying beneath bombs, sacrificed to the idols of power, ideology and nationalistic interests, is unacceptable," he said. "In truth, nothing is worth the life of a child. To kill children is to deny the future."

Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Vatican foreign minister, followed up on the pope's condemnation of abortion in his talk.

"All children, even before birth, have the right to life and should be protected from discrimination on the grounds of sex or health," he said. "The choices that societies make regarding the protection of the child in its mother's womb have an impact on the way we see children, indicating the space and importance we are prepared to give

them."

He also said, "Every child should have the right to a family, the right to be raised by a father and a mother," as "it is within the family that the rights and the well-being of children are best protected and promoted."

Parents also have the right to "educate their offspring according to their own religious beliefs," the archbishop added.

Pope Francis attended the early morning panels and was scheduled to return for the closing session. He was present for the speech of Jordan's Queen Rania, who told the gathering that "the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history."

"In theory, the consensus is clear: Every right for every child. Yet so many children around the world are excluded from this promise, particularly in war zones," she said. "Worse yet, people have grown desensitized to their pain."

The media blur horrific scenes of war "for our protection," she said, adding that it is absurd that a

child's "lived reality is deemed too graphic for even adults to watch."

Some children are even denied the promise and protections of childhood, she said, when "they are demonized, aged up, portrayed as threats or simply dismissed as human shields."

"From Palestine to Sudan, Yemen to Myanmar and beyond, this un-childing creates chasms in our compassion. It stifles urgency in favor of complacency. It allows politicians to sidestep blame," she said.

Today, Queen Rania said, there is "a status quo that deems some children's suffering acceptable based on their name, faith or the land of their birth, where every child's fate depends on where they fall on some artificial line between 'our' children and 'theirs.'"

"Without equal application, global commitments ring hollow. Because if a right can be willfully denied, then it is not a right at all. It is a privilege for the lucky few," she said. "Every child has an equal claim to our protection and care. No exceptions, no exclusions, no preconditions."

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2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal Parish/Mission Goal Report

Parish/Mission	Parish Goal	Total Raised	Percent of Goal
All Saints Parish, Bridgeport	\$43,940.00	\$24,360.00	55%
Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, Fort Ashby	\$10,090.00	\$14,680.00	145%
Ascension Parish, Hurricane	\$23,805.00	\$21,125.00	89%
Assumption Parish, Keyser	\$17,615.00	\$19,872.16	113%
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston	\$65,180.00	\$65,180.00	100%
Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston	\$42,440.00	\$13,000.00	31%
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling	\$15,125.00	\$51,087.00	338%
Christ Our Hope Mission, Harrisville	\$1,670.00	\$2,180.00	131%
Christ the King Parish, Dunbar	\$6,670.00	\$4,415.00	66%
Corpus Christi Parish, Wheeling	\$25,620.00	\$20,790.29	81%
Epiphany of the Lord Parish, Moorefield	\$5,395.00	\$4,460.00	83%
Good Shepherd Parish, Glenville	\$1,770.00	\$3,730.00	211%
Holy Family Parish, Richwood	\$3,180.00	\$3,820.00	120%
Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer	\$5,060.00	\$3,670.00	73%
Holy Rosary Mission, Sistersville	\$5,120.00	\$3,550.00	69%
Holy Rosary Parish, Buckhannon	\$12,900.00	\$15,985.00	124%
Holy Spirit Parish, Monongah	\$10,815.00	\$11,748.75	109%
Holy Trinity Parish, Nitro	\$7,715.00	\$8,440.00	109%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg	\$73,715.00	\$342,703.55	465%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont	\$21,555.00	\$62,276.03	289%
Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery	\$3,965.00	\$1,650.00	42%
Immaculate Conception Parish, New Cumberland	\$8,020.00	\$14,352.00	179%
Mater Dolorosa Parish, Paden City	\$5,770.00	\$1,915.00	33%
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Huntington	\$35,975.00	\$12,978.59	36%
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Romney	\$8,400.00	\$10,741.96	128%
Our Lady of Mercy Mission, Parsons	\$5,450.00	\$1,949.99	36%
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Wheeling	\$23,930.00	\$9,000.00	38%
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Stonewood	\$33,570.00	\$17,363.10	52%
Our Lady of the Hills Parish, Elkview	\$5,800.00	\$8,970.00	155%
Risen Lord Mission, Clay	\$1,515.00	\$2,950.00	195%
Sacred Heart Mission, Point Pleasant	\$3,330.00	\$50.00	2%
Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan	\$2,430.00	\$500.00	21%
Sacred Heart Mission, Rainelle	\$2,350.00	\$475.00	20%
Sacred Heart Mission, Salem	\$2,530.00	\$590.00	23%
Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton	\$14,915.00	\$4,232.00	28%
Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield	\$24,620.00	\$48,636.00	198%
Sacred Heart Parish, Chester	\$14,655.00	\$56,423.00	385%
Sacred Heart Parish, Huntington	\$10,485.00	\$10,850.00	103%
Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton	\$18,020.00	\$18,965.00	105%
Sacred Heart Parish, Williamson	\$6,550.00	\$4,830.00	74%
St. Agnes Parish, Charleston	\$15,150.00	\$4,290.00	28%
St. Agnes Parish, Shepherdstown	\$48,485.00	\$12,440.00	26%
St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling	\$10,075.00	\$10,335.00	103%
St. Ann Parish, Shinnston	\$13,550.00	\$11,355.00	84%
St. Anne Parish, Webster Springs	\$2,225.00	\$2,950.00	133%
St. Anthony Parish, Charleston	\$9,915.00	\$12,530.00	126%
St. Anthony Parish, Fairmont	\$17,150.00	\$17,370.00	101%
St. Anthony Parish, Follansbee	\$21,920.00	\$13,905.00	63%
St. Anthony Parish, Ridgely	\$4,060.00	\$2,825.00	70%
St. Anthony's Shrine Mission, Boomer	\$5,240.00	\$0.00	0%
St. Augustine Parish, Grafton	\$7,400.00	\$8,651.00	117%
St. Barbara Mission, Chapmanville	\$1,275.00	\$0.00	0%
St. Bernadette Mission, Hedgesville	\$20,995.00	\$30,145.00	144%
St. Boniface Parish, Camden	\$5,280.00	\$10,971.62	208%
St. Brendan Parish, Elkins	\$17,875.00	\$2,305.00	13%

Report continues on Page 9

Appeal ...

Cont'd from Page 1

is making a lasting impact on the lives of youth and young adults across our state," she said. "Through generous donor support, CSA funding provides vital tuition assistance, ensuring that more families have access to quality Catholic education. It also strengthens school-based health programs, supports campus ministry initiatives, and enriches faith formation experiences like Camp Carlo. Investing in our young church today means building a stronger, faith-filled future for generations to come."

In addition, parishes that surpass 50 percent of their goal receive money back to support local needs and initiatives. St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in

See "Appeal" on Page 9

Top 10 Parishes/Missions That Raised the Most Funds

- 1) St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town
- 2) Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg
- 3) St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont
- 4) St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
- 5) Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Oak Hill
- 6) St. Michael Parish, Wheeling
- 7) St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg
- 8) St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling
- 9) St. Michael Parish, Vienna
- 10) St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg

Top 10 Parishes/Missions to Surpass Goal by Percentage

- 1) St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town
- 2) St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont
- 3) Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Oak Hill
- 4) St. Monica Mission, Lubeck
- 5) St. Elizabeth Mission, Elizabeth
- 6) St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg
- 7) Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg
- 8) St. Peter Claver Parish, Huntington
- 9) Sacred Heart Parish, Chester
- 10) Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Parish/Mission	Parish Goal	Total Raised	Percent of Goal
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ronceverte	\$6,655.00	\$1,120.00	17%
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, White Sulphur Springs	\$8,710.00	\$2,600.00	30%
St. Edward the Confessor Mission, Terra Alta	\$2,820.00	\$2,246.00	80%
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Franklin	\$2,490.00	\$2,400.00	96%
St. Elizabeth Mission, Elizabeth	\$2,440.00	\$12,070.00	495%
St. Elizabeth Parish, Philippi	\$4,090.00	\$975.00	24%
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Beckley	\$41,170.00	\$36,819.52	89%
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown	\$77,160.00	\$259,600.67	336%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Logan	\$6,320.00	\$5,454.00	86%
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Albans	\$21,140.00	\$10,840.66	51%
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Moundsville	\$20,340.00	\$17,963.00	88%
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg	\$25,625.00	\$122,716.75	479%
St. James Parish, McMechen	\$4,170.00	\$2,020.00	48%
St. James the Apostle Parish, Clarksburg	\$11,250.00	\$2,420.00	22%
St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town	\$73,600.00	\$1,231,236.00	1,673%
St. John Neumann Parish, Marlinton	\$3,750.00	\$6,960.00	186%
St. John Parish, Benwood	\$4,830.00	\$8,670.00	180%
St. John Parish, St. Marys	\$7,270.00	\$11,056.00	152%
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Summersville	\$15,000.00	\$16,615.00	111%
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Wellsburg	\$15,970.00	\$9,095.00	57%
St. John University Parish, Morgantown	\$39,970.00	\$8,830.00	22%
St. Joseph Mission, Proctor	\$4,960.00	\$5,435.00	110%
St. Joseph Parish, Huntington	\$64,855.00	\$62,908.80	97%
St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg	\$53,790.00	\$66,725.00	124%
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Weirton	\$47,060.00	\$21,089.00	45%
St. Jude Parish, Glen Dale	\$9,275.00	\$14,245.00	154%
St. Leo Parish, Inwood	\$26,500.00	\$40,392.10	152%
St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Cheat Lake	\$24,580.00	\$24,905.00	101%
St. Margaret Mary Parish, Parkersburg	\$46,350.00	\$24,915.00	54%
St. Mark the Evangelist Mission, Bartow	\$1,530.00	\$1,220.00	80%
St. Mary Parish, Petersburg	\$4,655.00	\$5,295.00	114%
St. Mary Parish, Star City	\$44,470.00	\$20,845.00	47%
St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Madison	\$2,250.00	\$4,612.95	205%
St. Matthew Parish, Ravenswood	\$10,720.00	\$5,694.00	53%
St. Michael Parish, Vienna	\$28,520.00	\$69,487.78	244%
St. Michael Parish, Wheeling	\$63,480.00	\$132,192.13	208%
St. Monica Mission, Lubeck	\$2,725.00	\$13,562.25	498%
St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft	\$3,315.00	\$8,525.00	257%
St. Patrick Parish, Coalton	\$4,630.00	\$1,950.00	42%
St. Patrick Parish, Hinton	\$5,790.00	\$5,506.00	95%
St. Patrick Parish, Mannington	\$7,560.00	\$8,980.00	119%
St. Patrick Parish, Weston	\$22,465.00	\$27,537.87	123%
St. Paul Parish, Weirton	\$27,670.00	\$6,726.00	24%
St. Peter Claver Parish, Huntington	\$5,520.00	\$25,593.00	464%
St. Peter Parish, Farmington	\$6,195.00	\$3,470.00	56%
St. Peter Parish, Welch	\$1,940.00	\$1,975.00	102%
St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Fairmont	\$24,320.00	\$311,100.93	1,279%
St. Sebastian Parish, Kingwood	\$10,150.00	\$7,290.00	72%
St. Stephen Parish, Ona	\$7,710.00	\$643.00	8%
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Thomas	\$14,375.00	\$11,895.00	83%
St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway	\$4,920.00	\$5,585.00	114%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkeley Springs	\$11,335.00	\$6,431.50	57%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, New Martinsville	\$18,530.00	\$6,905.00	37%
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling	\$39,040.00	\$88,809.00	227%
St. Zita Mission, Masontown	\$5,480.00	\$6,530.00	119%
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Oak Hil	\$16,335.00	\$15,5028.54	949%

Appeal ...

Cont'd from Page 8

Fairmont, which placed second in the top 10 parishes/missions to surpass goal by percentage and third in the top 10 that raised the most funds, plans to use its return to eliminate debt and build a strong financial foundation.

"I am deeply grateful to my incredible parishioners who have supported the Catholic Sharing Appeal with open hearts," said Very Rev. Joseph Konikattil, V.F., pastor. "What's even more amazing is that donations have come not only from parishioners but also from non-parishioners and even members of other denominations. ... I cannot thank them enough for their commitment, much like the

widow's mite in the Bible."

The two top 10 lists of the appeal can be found on the top right of this page.

As last year's appeal comes to a close, Sforza is now looking ahead to the 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal which, she said, will be especially meaningful as the diocese celebrates its 175th anniversary in the Year of Hope.

"This milestone is a testament to the enduring faith and generosity of our Catholic community," she said. "Through the CSA, we have a unique opportunity to honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a hopeful future—supporting our parishes, schools, and outreach ministries as we continue Christ's mission across our diocese."

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Holy Rosary's Bell is Ringing Once More Thanks to Generous Member of Neighboring Parish

By Colleen Rowan

After a decade of silence, the bell at Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon is ringing once more, thanks to a generous member of a neighboring parish.

"Steve Corley from St. Patrick's Parish, Weston, is a blessing to us," said Father Edward Tetteh, SVD, pastor of Holy Rosary. "He is our bell tower technician and consultant. He did it for us free of charge. There's no way the parish could have afforded to repair it."

Corley's team worked for more than a year to complete the project and the parishioners of Holy Rosary are so grateful to them for their time and generosity. Now, the parish is able to ring the bell for the Angelus, for Mass, for funerals, and more.

"It brings back our Catholic tradition memories," Father Tetteh said.



Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon

Courtesy photo

Charleston Vicariate Lenten Mission will Feature Catholic Speaker, Musician, Author, and Comedian Chris Padgett

HURRICANE—Ascension Parish in Hurricane and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Office of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship will be hosting "For the Love of God," a Lenten Mission for the Charleston Vicariate with acclaimed Catholic speaker, musician, author, and comedian Chris Padgett.



Chris Padgett

For four evenings, beginning March 9 and concluding March 12, Catholics of all ages are welcome to attend the event which will be held at the church, located at 905 Hickory Mill Road. Event organizers invite the faithful to bring their family and friends.

On March 9-11, the evenings will begin at 6 p.m. with refreshments with the presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. The final night will be a Lenten Penance

Service at 6:30 p.m.

"Gather with to listen, learn, pray, and reflect during this special Lenten retreat," organizers of the Lenten Mission said. "Chris will blend storytelling, music, and comedy into a truly unique experience to help deepen our connection with family and community, and strengthen our relationship with God."

A free will offering will be taken.

The following is a list with the schedule and themes for the week: Sunday, March 9 - Called to Be Love; Monday, March 10 - What Keeps Us from Love; Tuesday, March 11 - Sharing the Love, ending with Adoration Wednesday, March 12 - Lenten Penance Service.

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Eucharistic Revival Event Shares Ways to ‘Walk with’ Persons Hurt by the Church

By Kimberley Heatherington, OSV News

(OSV News) — They are the walking wounded — those who have in some way been hurt by the church’s members through different forms of physical and emotional trauma, and continue to live with their injuries.

For some, it has driven — and kept — them away from parish life; others are still among us, but suffer with a sense of alienation and isolation.

How to accompany these brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ was the focus of “Walk with Someone Who Has Been Hurt by the Church,” a Jan. 21 webinar presented during the third and final year of the National Eucharistic Revival and its Walk With One initiative.

Previous components of the revival included the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage May to July 2024, and a 60,000-plus attendee National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-24, 2024.

Walk With One embraces the idea that everyone can — indeed, must — evangelize, and aims to equip them for sharing the Good News of Jesus’ love and compassion. As the NEC summarizes that mission, “The Lord is asking each of us to step out of our comfort zone and evangelize one-on-one.”

That aim is especially urgent for those who have been harmed, said the webinar contributors. They included Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, board chair of the National Eucharistic Congress organization; Gina Barthel, a victim and survivor of abuse; and Sara Larson, executive director of Awake, a nonprofit community of abuse survivors, concerned Catholics and allies responding to sexual abuse in the church.

“It’s important, actually, just to admit that people have been hurt in the church,” began Bishop Cozzens. “Sometimes we’re afraid to admit that. And it’s important to admit that

the pain is real that people experience, and it can make it really hard for someone to come back to the church if they’ve been hurt — especially if they’ve been seriously hurt.”

With that first admission, Bishop Cozzens explained, comes another.

“It also would be important to admit that sometimes as a church, as members of the church — whether we’re leaders in the church or members of the church in general — we haven’t always faced this issue. We haven’t always acknowledged the depth of the evil that’s happened,” he said. “We haven’t always valued people’s pain, and we haven’t always dealt with victims of abuse or hurt in the right way. And those of us who want to help, we have to be aware of these things — because we want to be able to do better in helping people return to the church.”

“Every wound we have is important to Jesus,” Bishop Cozzens said. “He cares about it, and he wants to bring his healing to it.”

For those wondering how or where to start, he had specific advice.

“If we want to accompany someone who’s been hurt — if we want to walk with them — we have to begin where they are. This is how you walk with anyone,” he explained. “You have to go to where they are, and you have to begin by seeking to understand their experience.”

“One of the most important things,” he stressed, “can just be listening and even acknowledging, ‘Wow, that must have been painful’ or ‘Wow, that must have been hurtful.’ Just to be able to sympathize — or even empathize — is really key.”

Such an approach is, said Bishop Cozzens, rooted in the Gospels.

“One of the things you see, actually — when you meditate on the Gospels — is the way Jesus deals with people who have been hurt,” he said. “And what you see is that Jesus is not

afraid to enter right into the wound — and he always does it with great reverence for the person ... not forcing ... but he invites them to open that wound, and to hear about it, and to meet them there.”

Ultimately, said Bishop Cozzens, “It’s also important to remember that healing is possible. This is part of the great message we can bring. I think of this great Jubilee Year of Hope that we’re in — the Jubilee Year is about healing, and especially about bringing hope.”

Bishop Cozzens portrayed abuse survivors as a spiritual asset.

“Those who’ve been hurt by a member of the church, when they return to the church, they can strengthen the church — because they can help us to prevent that from happening again,” he said. “And it can help to create in the church an environment that is actually more helpful and healing after that.”

Barthel — sexually abused as a child — was later sexually abused by the very priest from whom she sought healing while she was a novice in religious life.

“My soul was in a lot of chaos,” said Barthel. “He raped my soul.”

The spiritual destruction she experienced at the hands of her clerical tormenter — whom she now refers to as “Mr. M” — was devastating.

“Everything that I knew to be good and holy and pure and true was gone. It was destroyed — and for the first time in my life, I didn’t just think that God didn’t love me,” Barthel said. “I actually thought he hated me.”

“But the worst part of it all,” she added, “was that for the first time in my life, I couldn’t go to Jesus. I felt lost and alone and I didn’t think I could trust anyone. So for six very long, painful years, I wasn’t able to step foot into a Catholic church. And whenever I saw a priest or that Roman collar — all I could think of was Mr. M, and his lies and abuse —

and it filled me with both terror and rage.”

Her idealism also fled.

“The rose-colored glasses with which I viewed the Catholic Church were completely shattered,” admitted Barthel. “Because when I tried to come back to the church, I often was not received well.”

She eventually returned in 2013, after crying out to Jesus Christ and experiencing an assurance of healing she finds difficult to verbalize.

“The fact that I’m still Catholic after all this is a testimony to God’s grace and love,” Barthel said. “Jesus continues to pursue my heart with so much intensity, and that’s why I’m Catholic today.”

Barthel’s experience is not atypical, explained Awake’s Sara Larson.

But Larson’s own walk with survivors has revealed four critical approaches of which to be mindful: The humility to know what you don’t know and to offer compassion more than advice; deep reverence for each person’s story of harm; a basic understanding of trauma and its impact; and that laypeople have an essential role in offering accompaniment and support.

“The unfortunate reality,” Larson shared, “is that many people who have been hurt by church leaders are afraid to share these stories with others — especially committed Catholics. Sadly, they are often used to being ignored, blamed; their experiences disbelieved or minimized.”

Statistics, Larson shared, indicate approximately 70% of adults in the U.S. have experienced at least

one traumatic event in their lifetime, while around one in four women and one in six men have experienced sexual violence of some kind.


That means people can bring trauma to the church, even if they haven’t experienced it there.

It’s critical to remember, emphasized Larson, “These are people, not projects — and the way that I treat them should reflect the reverence they deserve as children of God.”

Those who would accompany survivors of trauma have a critical role, emphasized Larson.

“We can be the bridge of trust for those who understandably do not trust church leaders,” she said. “We can walk alongside people who are hurting, listen to their stories, acknowledge their pain — and manifest the love of God through our gentle, consistent, compassionate presence.”

(Kimberley Heatherington writes for OSV News from Virginia.)



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Vatican Office Clarifies Rules for Transferred Holy Days of Obligation

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When a holy day of obligation falls on a Sunday and so is transferred to another day, the Catholic faithful are encouraged to attend Mass, but they are not obliged to do so, the Vatican said.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Dec. 8 fell on the Second Sunday of Advent in 2024 and so, in most dioceses around the world, the feast was transferred to Monday, Dec. 9.

Some bishops in the United States insisted the faithful still had a moral obligation to attend Mass on the feast day while others issued a formal dispensation from the obligation.

The Dicastery for Legislative Texts, in a September letter to Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, had said, “the feast must be observed as a day of obligation on the day to which it is transferred.”

But in a formal note dated Jan. 23, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacra-

ments said it had consulted with the legislative texts office and determined that “in the event of the occasional transfer of a holy day of obligation, the obligation to attend Mass is not transferred.”

Every Sunday is a holy day of obligation because it is a commemoration of the death and resurrection of the Lord. The additional holy days when Catholics have a moral obligation to attend Mass are: Christmas; the feast of Mary, Mother of God; Epiphany; the Ascension; the feast of the Body

and Blood of Christ; the Assumption; the feast of St. Joseph; the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul; and the feast of All Saints.

Because the church’s liturgical calendar includes fixed feasts, like the Dec. 8 celebration of the Immaculate Conception, and “moveable feasts” like Pentecost, Easter or even the Sundays of Advent or Lent, occasionally two feasts will fall on the same day, the dicastery said.

In that case, the one that holds “the highest rank according to the Table of Li-

turgical Days is observed,” and the other feast is transferred to the closest available day, the note said. In December, the Second Sunday of Advent had a higher rank than the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The issue is not addressed in the Code of Canon Law, the dicastery said, so the church follows “a well-established practice according to which, in the event of the transfer of a holy day of obligation, the obligation to attend Mass is not transferred.”

Archbishop Pérez Calls for Prayer after Medical Jet Crash in Philadelphia

By Gina Christian, OSV News
PHILADELPHIA (OSV News)

— Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia is calling for prayer, saying his “heart sank” after learning of a fatal air crash in that city Jan. 31, just two days after a midair collision between a commercial jet and an Army helicopter near a Washington airport killed 67.

“This shocking tragedy comes with great loss, pain, and anxiety for the families of the crew and passengers as well as neighborhood residents and business owners whose evening was shattered with sudden violence,” said Archbishop Pérez in a statement. “We pray fervently that God will bring comfort and healing in this time of anguish.”

The archbishop issued his statement a few hours after a medical flight departed Northeast Philadelphia Airport Jan. 31 at approx-

imately 6 p.m. Minutes after take-off, the Learjet 55 plunged into a major intersection in the city’s northeast section.

The jet struck near a 12-lane section of Roosevelt Boulevard (a portion of U.S. Route 1), a sprawling shopping mall, and a densely populated residential area. The fiery crash, which was captured on a number of security cameras and personal devices, sparked fires at a number of structures on the ground and left a wide debris field.

So far, officials have confirmed at least seven have died as a result of the crash.

Six of those killed were aboard the jet, which was operated by Jet Rescue Air Ambulance. According to a spokesperson for the company, a female pediatric patient had traveled to Philadelphia for medical care and was returning to Mexico

with her mother. Also on the Mexican-registered plane were a pilot, copilot, flight physician and paramedic.

Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said in a statement that all six were Mexican nationals. Shriner’s Children’s Hospital said in a statement that it was “heartbroken” to confirm the patient had received care at their facility.

Philadelphia officials confirmed that a seventh person, in a car on the ground, was killed as well. Investigators, including officials from the National Transportation Safety Board, remain on the scene.

At least 19 people suffered injuries from the crash. As of Feb. 1, three remained hospitalized.

President Donald Trump posted on his Truth Social account that “more innocent souls” had been lost.

“Our people are totally engaged.

First Responders are already being given credit for doing a great job,” he wrote, adding, “More to follow. God bless you all.”

Archbishop Pérez in his statement asked people to “unite in prayer and do what we can in the days ahead to share the compassionate love of Christ with those suffering as a result of tonight’s crash.”

He prayed particularly for the emergency personnel responding to the tragic scene.

“May our Blessed Mother wrap her protective mantle around the first responders working tirelessly to assist the injured, extinguish fires, and safeguard the community,” he said. “Our emergency personnel put themselves at great risk to serve us each day and they deserve our unending thanks.”

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



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El Vaticano aclara las reglas para los días de precepto transferidos

Por Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Cuando un día de precepto cae en domingo y se traslada a otro día, se anima a los fieles católicos a asistir a Misa, pero no están obligados a hacerlo, según ha informado el Vaticano este enero.

Esta nota del Vaticano responde a una interrogante que surgió el año pasado, a raíz de que la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción de María del 8 de diciembre cayó en el segundo domingo de Adviento de 2024, por lo que, en la mayoría de las diócesis del mundo, la fiesta se trasladó al lunes 9 de diciembre. Algunos obispos de Estados Unidos insistieron en que los fieles seguían teniendo la obligación

moral de asistir a Misa el día de la fiesta, mientras que otros obispos emitieron una dispensa formal de dicha obligación.

El Dicasterio para los Textos Legislativos, en una carta con fecha de septiembre al obispo Thomas J. Paprocki de Springfield, Illinois, había dicho que "la fiesta debe observarse como día de precepto en el día al que se transfiere".

Pero en una nota formal fechada el 23 de enero y publicada en varios idiomas, el Dicasterio para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos dijo que había consultado con la oficina de textos legislativos y determinó que "en caso de un traslado ocasional de un día festivo de

precepto, la obligación del precepto festivo no se traslada al día ad quem".

Cada domingo es un día santo de precepto porque es una conmemoración de la muerte y resurrección del Señor. Los días santos adicionales en los que los católicos tienen la obligación moral de asistir a Misa son: Navidad; la fiesta de María, Madre de Dios; Epifanía; la Ascensión; la fiesta del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo; la Asunción; la fiesta de San José; la fiesta de San Pedro y San Pablo; y la fiesta de Todos los Santos. Dado que el calendario litúrgico de la Iglesia incluye fiestas fijas, como la celebración de la Inmaculada Concepción el 8 de diciembre, y días festivos "móviles", como Pentecostés, Pascua o in-

cluso los domingos de Adviento o Cuaresma, en ocasiones dos fiestas coinciden en el mismo día, explica el dicasterio.

En ese caso, se observa la que ocupe "lugar preferente en la tabla de los días litúrgicos", y la otra fiesta se traslada al día disponible más cercano, dice la nota. En diciembre, el segundo domingo de Adviento tenía mayor rango que la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción.

La cuestión no se aborda en el Código de Derecho Canónico, dijo el dicasterio, por lo que la Iglesia sigue "consolidada praxis" según la cual, en caso de traslado de un día festivo de precepto, no se traslada la obligación de asistir a Misa.

El arzobispo Pérez hace un llamado a la oración tras el accidente de un jet médico en Filadelfia

Por Gina Christian, OSV News

FILADELFIA (OSV News) — El arzobispo de Filadelfia, monseñor Nelson J. Pérez, ha hecho un llamado a la oración al enterarse de un accidente aéreo mortal en esa ciudad el 31 de enero, sólo dos días después de que una colisión en pleno vuelo entre un avión comercial y un helicóptero del Ejército cerca de un aeropuerto de Washington cobrara la vida de 67 personas.

"Esta terrible tragedia viene acompañada de una gran pérdida, dolor y ansiedad para las familias de la tripulación y los pasajeros, así como para los residentes del vecindario y los propietarios de negocios cuya noche se vio destrozada por la violencia repentina", dijo el arzobispo Pérez en un comunicado. "Rezamos

fervientemente para que Dios traiga consuelo y sanación en estos momentos de angustia".

El arzobispo emitió su declaración pocas horas después de que un vuelo médico partiera del aeropuerto Northeast Philadelphia el viernes aproximadamente a las 6 p.m. Minutos después del despegue, el Learjet 55 se precipitó contra una intersección importante en la sección noreste de la ciudad.

El avión chocó cerca de un tramo de 12 carriles del bulevar Roosevelt (parte de la carretera nacional 1), un gran centro comercial y una zona residencial densamente poblada. El aparatoso accidente, que fue captado por varias cámaras de seguridad y dispositivos personales, provocó incendios en varias estructuras en tierra y dejó un amplio

campo de escombros.

Hasta el momento, las autoridades han confirmado que al menos siete personas han muerto como consecuencia del accidente.

Seis de los fallecidos iban a bordo del avión, operado por Jet Rescue Air Ambulance. Según un portavoz de la empresa, una paciente pediátrica había viajado a Filadelfia para recibir atención médica y regresaba a México con su madre. En el avión, de matrícula mexicana, viajaban también un piloto, un copiloto, un médico de vuelo y un paramédico.

La presidenta de México, Claudia Sheinbaum, dijo en un comunicado que los seis eran ciudadanos mexicanos. El Hospital Infantil Shriner dijo en un comunicado que estaba "desconsolado" al confirmar que el paciente había

recibido atención en sus instalaciones.

Las autoridades de Filadelfia confirmaron que una séptima persona, que se encontraba en un automóvil en tierra, también murió. Los investigadores, incluidos los de la Junta Nacional de Seguridad en el Transporte, permanecían en el lugar de los hechos.

Al menos 19 personas resultaron heridas en el accidente. Hasta el 1 de febrero, tres seguían hospitalizadas.

El presidente Donald Trump publicó en su cuenta de Truth Social que se habían perdido "más almas inocentes".

"Nuestra gente está totalmente comprometida. Los socorristas ya están recibiendo crédito por hacer un gran trabajo", escribió, y agregó: "Más

por venir. Que Dios los bendiga a todos".

En su declaración, el arzobispo Pérez pidió a la gente que "se una en oración y haga lo que pueda en los próximos días para compartir el amor compasivo de Cristo con los que sufren como consecuencia del accidente de esta noche".

Rezó especialmente por el personal de emergencia que acudió al trágico lugar.

"Que nuestra Santísima Madre envuelva con su manto protector a los socorristas que trabajan incansablemente para asistir a los heridos, extinguir los incendios y salvaguardar la comunidad", dijo. "Nuestro personal de emergencias se arriesga mucho para servirnos cada día y merecen nuestro agradecimiento infinito".

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades 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 Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504.

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

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

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

Employment Opportunities

Principal, Parkersburg Catholic High School

Parkersburg Catholic High School, located in Parkersburg, West Virginia is seeking a 6-12th Grade Principal.

We are searching for a dynamic, mission-driven, forward thinking high school principal for Parkersburg Catholic High School.

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

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

The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments to Father Rice: jrince@dwc.org

Mt. Calvary Cemetery Worker, Wheeling

Mt. Calvary is seeking a cemetery worker. This is a full time position. The cemetery worker is responsible for opening and closing grave, crypts or niches.

Performs all general maintenance on grounds, snow removal, grass cutting, digging, sodding, mulching, leaf collection etc.

Operate equipment as needs and assigned.

Must have a valid driver's license, experience with using a dump truck, excavators such as backhoe and mini, fork lift and riding mower.

Please send resume to Deacon Doug Breiding, dbreiding@dwc.org.

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8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
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The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue. Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need. When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up. We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

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