‘Honor Veterans Every Day, Not Just on a Holiday,’ Advocate Says on Visit to Diocese’s Cemetery

By Colleen Rowan

“Honor veterans every day, not just on a holiday,” this is the message of 17-year-old Preston Sharp of Redding, Calif. He is an advocate for veterans and the founder of Veterans Flags and Flowers, an organization whose mission is to make sure every deceased veteran is remembered and appreciated. Preston does this by traveling throughout the U.S. visiting cemeteries, speaking at services for veterans, and placing an American Flag and a flower on each veteran’s grave.

On Nov. 7, he visited the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling for a service to honor veterans laid to rest there and to place flags and flowers. “Thank you so much for coming out today for veterans,” he said at the service. “I really appreciate it.”

The service began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Participating was the American Legion Post #3 of Moundsville, Veterans Honor Guard. Also attending were members of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) posts from Wheeling and the surrounding area and as far away as Minerva, Ohio. During the service, the American Legion Post #3 of Moundsville, Veterans Honor Guard, folds the American Flag during the Flags and Flowers service for veterans Nov. 7.

Colleen Rowan Photo

At the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling, 17-year-old Preston Sharp, founder of Veterans Flags and Flowers (right), looks on as the American Legion Post #3 of Moundsville, Veterans Honor Guard, folds the American Flag during the Flags and Flowers service for veterans Nov. 7.
U.S. Bishops Launch New Approach to Teaching the Faith

By Carol Zimmermann, Catho- lic News Service...

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic church leaders are taking a new approach to passing on the faith, saying they recognize a press- sure need to do this in a way that adapts to the modern world.

This new outreach, called the Ins- titute on the Catechism, is not a place but instead a new springboard for faith teaching on the part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catho- lic Church.

It will involve catechetical pub- lications working directly with the USCCB subcommittee on new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools and aiming to reach a more di- verse audience. It will also provide re- sources to dioceses and yearly, in- person training conferences and re- treats for diocesan catechetical leaders. As Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chair- man of the bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism, sees it: Catholic parishes need to re-create a “Catholic- istic culture that recognizes we’re in the 21st century.”

Re-creating what he describes as a “radically different model” for teaching the faith is something he has been working on with this sub- committee for the past several years.

Diocesan Official Appointments:

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appoint- ment:

Very Rev. Joseph M. Koni-

cattil, Assoc. V.E., is reappointed designated pastor of Fairmont Catholic Grade School for a term of three years, effective immediately. This is in addition to his current as- signments as pastor of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish in Fairmont, associate vicar forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate, and designated pastor of Notre Dame High School in Clarks- burg and St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg.

Deacon Pierce Murphy is ap- pointed permanent deacon at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective immedi- ately.

Mr. Chad Carter is re- appointed director of the Mission Office and director of the Propaga- tion of the Faith for a period of three years, effective on November 22, 2022. This is in addition to his cur- rent appointment as chancellor of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charle- stos.
Veterans...
Cont’d from Page 1

Preston spoke of how his efforts began seven years ago when he was just a 10-year-old boy visiting his grandfather’s grave on Veterans Day.

“I started honoring veterans on Veterans Day of 2015 when I went out to my grandfather’s grave site to place a flag,” Preston shared. “I was walking around the cemetery, and I realized that none of the veterans at that cemetery were being honored with the flag,” he said.

Preston shared his frustration “that our veterans weren’t being honored, especially on Veterans Day,” with his mother April, who told him, “If you’re going to complain about something then you’ve got to do something about it.”

That he did. Preston started Go Fund Me and Facebook pages to raise money for the purchase of flags and flowers for veterans’ graves at his grandfather’s cemetery. Seven years later, he is leading a national effort to honor veterans across the U.S. Since his effort began, he has placed more than 310,000 American Flags and flowers on veterans’ grave sites.

West Virginia, he said at the Mt. Calvary service, is the 47th state he has visited to honor veterans.

“My goal right now is to honor veterans in all 50 states,” Preston said following the ceremony. “We flew to South Carolina to honor veterans, and then we flew to Michigan to honor veterans and now we’re driving from Michigan.” He and his mother honored veterans in Ohio the day before and the next day in Pennsylvania. The following day would take them to New Jersey.

“Our 50th state that we’re going to be honoring veterans at is Delaware,” he said.

After the ceremony at Mt. Calvary, everyone present walked through the cemetery placing the Stars and Stripes and red carnations on every veteran’s grave.

“Whenever you place the flag and red carnation, say the veteran’s name out loud and then, ‘Thank you for your service.’ You do that because a veteran’s name not said out loud is that veteran forgotten,” Preston said to everyone at the end of the service.

Mt. Calvary Cemetery donated the 500 American flags, while Preston provided the carnations.

Among those present at the service that day was Deacon Doug Breiding, director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and director of Mt. Calvary Cemetery. “I was glad we were called to host such an honorable event,” he said.

The cemetery was established by the diocese in 1872 and is the final resting place of many veterans of Wheeling and beyond.

American Flags and red carnations decorate veterans’ graves at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling Nov. 7. They were placed by those who attended the Flags and Flowers service at the cemetery that day.

Placing flags and flowers that day was Vernon Anderson of the National Council of Administration of the VFW, West Virginia representative from Wheeling.

“You can’t see the inscription,” Anderson said of the veteran’s tombstone before him. The stone was so old it was no longer readable. “Thank you for your service,” Anderson said as he saluted this hero after placing Old Glory and a red carnation beside the stone.

See “Veterans” on Page 4
Veterans...
Cont’d from Page 3
Anderson, traveled from Moundsville, where he is a member of Simpson Methodist Church.

Placing flags and carnations farther up the cemetery road was Vietnam Veteran Bob Joseph of the Warwood suburb of Wheeling.

“It means the world to me,” he said of honoring his fellow veterans in this way. “They’ve given their lives and given their families and everything up to go and serve the country and we really appreciate their service.”

He hoped more efforts like this would be done for veterans who have died and that more veterans would become involved in the American Legion, VFW, and the Marine Corps League.

Bob is a member of Wheeling’s American Legion Post 1 of Wheeling as well as the VFW. He is a member of Warwood Methodist Church and his wife Brenda is a member of neighboring Corpus Christi Parish.

Following their work at Mt. Calvary, Preston and April were on the road to Pennsylvania to honor veterans. Preston does not just honor fallen veterans, the Flags and Flowers website (prestonsharp.net) states. “He goes to the local veterans home and listens to their stories. Takes veterans out to lunch or dinner. Preston even told his mom that his Christmas wish was not to get the laptop that he had been asking for but to adopt a veteran’s dog so that the veteran could still see the dog whenever he wanted. The veteran had to live in a veterans home with no dogs allowed,” the site states.

Today (Nov. 11) is Veterans Day. The parishes and Catholic schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be honoring veterans of their communities with Masses, lunches, care packages, cards, and so much more to say: “Thank you for your service.”

For more information about Flags and Flowers or to make a donation, visit prestonsharp.net or e-mail veteransflagsflowers@gmail.com.
By Colleen Rowan

CLARKSBURG—Very Rev. Casey Mahone, V.F., is offering an adult education class on dealing with contemporary changes and challenges in the world and church today.

With the title “Dorothy you’re not in Kansas anymore!” the class will be held on Mondays at 6 p.m. from Nov. 14 through Dec. 5 at Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Clarksburg (150 S. Maple Ave.).

The class will deal with what the church teaches about contemporary moral issues such as LGBTQ, divorce and remarriage, cohabitation, artificial birth control, and same-sex marriage, promotional materials state.

The series will answer the question: “How do we understand and answer the call to share the good news of the gospel in our world today as faithful Catholics and Christians?” promotional materials state.

Father Mahone, who is pastor of Immaculate Conception and vicar forane of the Clarksburg Vicariate, said he wanted to offer the class because for quite some time his parishioners and others have expressed their dismay at what they see happening in the world around them.

“There are many changes in our culture over the past 50 years and more in particular that have left people feeling like they are in a world they are not familiar with,” Father Mahone said. “Some become angry because the church is moving too slow. Some become angry because the church is moving too fast. Many do not have any idea where the church is at all or are either unaware of things that Pope Francis or others have taught to help us deal with changes especially in the world of sexual morality.”

The class, Father Mahone said, will touch upon some basics of Catholic moral theology. These are not new ideas, he pointed out, but are things people just may not be aware of. Everyone can benefit from the class, he said.

People have also expressed their desire to be evangelists, Father Mahone said, but often lack the tools necessary to do so, especially when they are confronted with some of the hot-button issues of the modern day.

“My hope for the class is to both listen to what people are encountering ... and to leave them a little better prepared to answer questions that people may have about the Catholic faith.”

—Very Rev. Casey Mahone, V.F.

“Dorothy You’re Not in Kansas Anymore!”

Mondays 6 PM Nov. 14 - Dec. 5

Immaculate Conception Parish Center
150 S. Maple Ave. Clarksburg

An Adult Education Class with Fr. Casey B. Mahone dealing with contemporary changes and challenges in the world and Church today.

Many recognize how different the world is today from the world they grew up in.

What is the Spirit and the Church saying about contemporary moral issues?

(“LGBTQ,” Divorce & Remarriage, Cohabitation, Artificial Birth Control, “Same-sex Marriage”)

How do we understand and answer the call to share the Good News of the Gospel in our world today as faithful Catholics and Christians?

In order to provide sufficient handout material please register by calling Immaculate Conception Catholic Church office or by email.

Phone: 304-622-8243
Website: icclarksburg.com
Email: icchurchclarksburg@gmail.com
November

Black Catholic History Month

Honoring Gifts of Culture & Faith

By Joyce Bibey

November is Black Catholic History Month. Take time this month and do more to honor our Black Catholic history. Currently in the Catholic Church, we have six men and women of African American descent on the road to sainthood. Their path in life brought many strains, struggles, and unjust treatment. The fact is they were treated less than human by society and experienced institutional racism. While we can’t change our history, through awareness and education, we can learn from their lives and become a better people – a better Church.

- Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853) – taught us the importance of sharing our love of God through our words and actions. Venerable Pierre was born a slave to the Berard family in Haiti around 1766. The family moved to New York with Pierre when he was about 21. After they arrived, Mr. Berard died. Pierre learned how to be a hairdresser, a luxury service at that time for wealthy women. His earnings supported Mrs. Berard. It wasn’t until she died about 16 years later that he became a free man. He was proud of his Catholic faith, sharing with all of his customers the beauty of Christ and the Church. His life was a life of charity – helping the sick, caring for the abandoned, and raising money for Mother (later saint) Elizabeth Seton’s orphanage. He and his wife Juliette helped open the first Catholic school in New York for black children, and a religious order of nuns for black women. Pierre also made it a priority to give to the appeal that built the first Cathedral in New York, the original St. Patrick’s Cathedral. He was given a seat of honor at the dedication Mass, which was unheard of because of the color of his skin. He was originally buried in the cathedral cemetery, but in 1990 his remains were moved inside the cathedral among the cardinals and archbishops. Read more about him at archny.org

- Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (birth is estimated circa 1784- died Feb. 3, 1882) – founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. It is believed she was born into an affluent Catholic family in Cuba. By 1813 she had relocated to Baltimore (a slave state before the Emancipation Proclamation). She used her own money and home to educate black children many of Caribbean descent. Fifteen years later the Church approached her to start a formal Catholic school for girls of color. She said she would, but also wanted to begin a religious order that would be the first congregation of women of African heritage. A year later she and three other black women professed vows as members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. After the Civil War she opened an orphanage for black destitute children. Read about her life at: https://www.motherlange.org

- Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862) – founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, a religious community of African American women. The congregation is still strong today continuing to serve youth, elderly, and the poor and needy. This blessed woman is described as a humble and devout who “devoted herself untiringly for many years, without reserve, to the religious instruction of the people of New Orleans, principally slaves...” In her honor, let us humble ourselves, quiet our world, and focus on the prayer she said, “I believe in God, I hope in God. I love. See “History” on Page 7.
History...
Cont’d from Page 6

I want to live and die for God.”

Read more about her at: https://www.sistersoftheholyfamily.com/henriette-delille

• Julia Greeley (born sometime between 1833-1848 and died 1918) – honored as a great disciple of the Sacred Heart by the Jesuit fathers of their parish in Colorado. She was called Denver’s Angel of Charity and a guardian of firefighters. Servant of God Julia Greeley was born in Missouri into slavery, but once freed she traveled to Denver Colorado, where she spent the rest of her life showing mercy, love, and charity to others. Read about her inspiring life at: https://julia greeley.org/

• Sr. Thea Bowman (1937-1990) – was the daughter of a Mississippi doctor and a teacher, a granddaughter of slaves. This dynamic lady was proclaimed a “holy woman” in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. Two years ago, her cause for sainthood was approved by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and on June 1, 2018, she was declared a Servant of God.

She was eager to learn from other cultures, but also wanted to share the abundance of her African American culture and spirituality. She was the first non-white member of her congregation (the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration) in an all-white city in Wisconsin. Her friends, both religious and lay, said she had the uncanny gift and energy that brought people together. She was a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer sharing the joy of the Gospel. Despite her debilitating battle with breast cancer, she did not let it stop her from speaking to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989. She explained what it meant to be African American and Catholic. She enlightened the bishops on African American history and spirituality. She urged them to continue to evangelize the African American community, to promote inclusivity and full participation of African Americans within Church leadership, and to understand the necessity and value of Catholic schools in the African American community. She seemingly touched the hearts of the bishops as evidenced by their thunderous applause and tears flowing from their eyes, after she brought them together all arm-in-arm to sing “We Shall Overcome.” Read more at: https://www.sistertheabowman.com

• Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) – was the first Roman Catholic priest in the US. A former slave, Fr. Tolton was ordained in Rome and served as pastor of St. Boniface in Quincy, Illinois. He was known as “Good Father Gus,” who had eloquent sermons and a beautiful singing voice. His story, which is beautifully inspiring because of his genuine love of God and God’s people, but is also a poignantly reminder of the accepted discrimination and a racist taunting that occurred in society and even in the brotherhood of the priesthood and the Church hierarchy. His story is so impressive and illustrates his strong will, courage, and determination to let nothing stop him from serving the Lord. Take time to learn more about him at: https://tolton.archchicago.org.

Dear Jesus, as we observe Black Catholic History Month, we call upon your saving grace to help ensure that the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters of color is honored, celebrated, and respected in our parishes, communities, schools, and homes.

Help us to not only open our eyes and our hearts as we not only speak unity, but also think and act like you. Amen.
HOLY RELICS TOUR
of Bl. Carlo Acutis & St. Manuel Garcia
Nov. 12–27

Nov. 12:
Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton
3:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Public Veneration

Nov. 13
8:00 AM to 12:30 PM – Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton – Public Veneration
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM – Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Wheeling – Public Veneration
6:00 PM – Taizé Candlelight Service/Relics Display
Diocesan Chancery Building Atrium

Nov. 14
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Public Veneration
6:00 PM – Mass with Relics present

Nov. 15
Saint Joseph, Huntington
10:30AM-12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with the relics present
12:00 PM – Mass with the relics present
12:30-5:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration with Veneration of Relics
3:00 PM – Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and an hour of Sacred Music
Exposition and Adoration from 6pm until 8pm
concluding with Benediction
Reconciliation will be available

Nov. 16
Saint Francis de Sales, Beckley
1:00-6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration with Veneration
5:00-6:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
6:00 PM Benediction
6:30 PM Mass with Relics present

Nov. 17
St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg
11AM-12:30PM – Public Veneration
Saint Francis Xavier, Parkersburg
4–6 PM – Public Veneration

Nov. 18
Saint Patrick School and Parish, Weston (times TBD)

Nov. 19
3–4:30 PM – Immaculate Conception – Clarksburg
(Mass at 4:30PM)

Nov. 20
8:30am to 2:00 PM St. John University Parish, Morgantown (Relics present at all the Masses.
Public veneration in between Masses)

Nov. 21
8:30AM Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

Nov. 22
8:30AM Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown
Nov. 26
Saint Joseph, Martinsburg
8:00 AM to 8:00 PM – Public Veneration
5:00 PM – Relics present at the Mass
7:00 PM – Relics present at the Spanish Mass.

Nov. 27
Saint James, Charles Town
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Relics present at all Masses. Public
veneration in between Masses)

Updates and more info:
https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/
Abundant Hope in the House of Joseph

Seminarians Prepare for Priesthood at the Pontifical College Josephinum

The new formation year of the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary in Columbus, Ohio, gives every indication of hope for the future of the Church. Fall brought the joyous arrival of 20 new seminarians, an overall enrollment increase, and two new sending dioceses. The seminary now serves 15 (arch)dioceses and religious orders: Birmingham, Cincinnati, Columbus, Fathers of Mercy, Gaylord, Jefferson City, Joliet, Kiyinda Mityana (Uganda), Lugazi (Uganda), Oakland, Ogdensburg, Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Santa Fe, Steubenville, and Wheeling-Charleston.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has two seminarians in formation at the Josephinum: Donvito Cortese and Timothy Kawash. Donvito is a first-year College seminarian; Timothy is in his first year of Pre-Theology, a program designed for men who need additional pre-requisites in order to begin the graduate Theology study required for ordination.

“This year we’ve been blessed with one of the largest entering classes in many years,” said Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President. “But it’s not just about numbers, it’s also about the quality of the men. The Josephinum has a very rigorous acceptance process; we don’t accept everyone who applies. These seminarians would not be here if they weren’t good men. They really are exceptional and we are very blessed to have them.”

The formation of the Josephinum’s 60 seminarians is guided by ten full-time resident priest formators who themselves reflect the national character of the seminary, coming from the (arch)dioceses of Kansas City, Metuchen, Savannah, Chicago, Columbus, and Plymouth (England), as well as Institute of the Incarnate Word, the Dominican Order, and the Fathers of Mercy. Many full and part-time lay professors make possible an academic excellence for which the Josephinum has long been known. “We have some of the finest professors in the country,” said Father Beseau. “This is seen not only in the classroom but also in the love and dedication they offer to the seminarians.”

Priestly formation consists of four dimensions – human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral – the integration of which is reflected in seminary life. The Liturgy of the Hours, Mass, Holy Hours, academic classes, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, off-campus pastoral formation assignments, formation conferences, one-on-one meetings with advisors and spiritual directors, and many recreational activities are all part of the seminary experience.

Seminary administrators are preparing to guide the institution into the future as it adopts a new comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan.

See “Hope” on Page 10
Cont’d from Page 9

Currently under final review by the Board of Trustees. Planning acknowledges the rising cost of seminary formation, reflected in the Josephinum’s highest-ever annual fundraising goal of more than $1.8 million. “Funds are needed primarily for seminarian scholarships, to give seminarians the opportunity to discern and be formed,” said Father Beseau, “so that, if called to the priesthood, they are ready to respond as holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests.” Appeal gifts also will fund program adjustments required of all seminaries by the new edition of the USCCB’s Program of Priestly Formation.

Independent of any one diocese or religious community, the Josephinum has a 134-year history of being sustained by the generosity of benefactors. “The historic support of the Josephinum is remarkable,” said Father Beseau. “Helping to form future priests is an incredibly unique and deeply rewarding experience. It is a privilege to have so many people share in this journey.”

To learn more about the Josephinum’s mission, upcoming events, or to make a gift to support the seminarians, please visit www.pcj.edu.

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Walking with Moms in Need is anation-wide, pastoral effort led by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to encourage increased outreach to pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

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

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USCCB Elections, ‘Faithful Citizenship’ Discussion, Prayer are on Agenda

By Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will find the bishops voting on a new president and vice president and how to proceed in disseminating their quadrennial document on Catholic participation in public life.

The agenda for the Nov. 14-17 gathering also incorporates more time for prayer and reflection with opportunities for wider engagement and interaction with each other to build fraternity. Public sessions are scheduled for the afternoon of Nov. 15 and all day Nov. 16.

USCCB leaders will be elected from a slate of 10 candidates nominated by their fellow bishops.

In addition, the bishops will vote on chairmen-elect for six standing USCCB committees.

The candidates for president and vice president are, in alphabetical order:
— Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia.
— Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut.
— Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City.
— Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco.
— Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle.
— Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas.
— Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio.
— Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore.
— Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

The president and vice president are elected to three-year terms, which begin at the conclusion of this year’s general assembly. At that time, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit will complete their terms as president and vice president, respectively.

Chairmen-elect will be chosen for the committees on Canonical Affairs, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Evangelization and Catechesis, International Justice and Peace, the Protection of Children and Young People and Religious Liberty.

The six bishops elected will serve for one year as chairmen-elect of their respective committee before beginning a three-year term as chairman at the conclusion of the bishops’ 2023 fall general assembly.

Also on tap is a discussion on “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” the bishops’ document developed as a guide to help Catholics form their consciences in voting and other areas of public life. The bishops will decide what steps to take regarding whether to begin a routine update or significantly revise the document.

The document was last updated in 2019 and remained unchanged except for the addition of an introductory letter addressing issues of importance to the Catholic Church It was supplemented by four videos in both English and Spanish focusing on Catholic teaching on poverty, immigration, abortion and the care of creation.

The outcome of the discussion will guide USCCB staff members as they prepare any changes in the document and develop related materials over the next year. The bishops will vote on the final document during their 2023 fall general assembly with dissemination of it in advance of the 2024 election.

Archbishop Lori, who chairs the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, will provide an overview of how the church can respond following the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 24 ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization that overturned...
Providing Safety and Comfort for Veterans in Their Homes

Senior citizens have unique challenges to overcome and wonderful gifts to give! Many people hope to live at home independently for as long as possible, and simply need a helping hand to do so safely. That’s where our Catholic Charities HomeCare program comes in.

John, one of our clients, served as Navy Corpsman in the early 1950s at the end of World War II. Now at 91 years old, John lives with his daughter, Karen.

While Karen works full-time, John has the help of Catholic Charities’ HomeCare services for his daily living routine.

John’s in-home care provider, Nancy, visits him every weekday morning to help him get out of bed, get dressed and eat breakfast. Throughout the morning she helps with other necessary tasks such as bathing, meal preparation, light housework, transportation, and more.

Most importantly, Nancy provides companionship for John during an isolating time of his life. John and Nancy have forged quite a bond; John jokes that Nancy takes on the role of daughter while Karen is at work.

Our Catholic Charities team is honored to support John in his desire to age in place, in the comfort of his own home. And we’re honored to support Karen in enabling her father to live safely and comfortably at home while she is away.

We thank John and other veterans for their service. And we are honored to be here for all elderly and disabled West Virginians! If you know someone who could benefit from HomeCare services, please give us a call at 1-800-959-5038 or 304-526-3600.

Karen is at work.

Catholic Charities in-home caregivers help with the tasks of daily living, including light housework.

— A report from the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church on the “Journeying Together” gathering held this past July in Chicago.
— A review of the church’s response to the war in Ukraine.
— A report from Bishop Burbidge on the work of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability.
— Presentations from the leaders of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

### Agenda...

**Cont’d from Page 11**

Roe v. Wade, returning the issue of abortion to the states. His presentation follows an Oct. 26 letter that Archbishop Lori and three other USCCB cardinals sent to all members of Congress calling for “radical solidarity” with mothers and babies—both born and unborn—and advancing an ambitious legislative and policy agenda that prioritizes the well-being of families.

Archbishop Leonardi, the bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship, will present for approval revisions in rituals, statments sent to the Vatican’s Congregation for the Congregation for the Development of Religious Life and the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

Archbishop Evans returned from the Liturgical Conference of the Latin Church, or ICEL, to bring others closer to Christ.

### Senior Moment

— Information on the Synod of Bishops on synodality as the global process initiated by Pope Francis enters the continental phase.

— A report from the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church on the “Journeying Together” gathering held this past July in Chicago.


— A review of the church’s response to the war in Ukraine.

— A report from Bishop Burbidge on the work of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability.


— Presentations from the leaders of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.
Steubenville Bishop Says Proposed Merger Needs More Diocesan Discussion

By Catholic News Service

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — A proposed merger between the Diocese of Steubenville and the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, will undergo further discussions on the diocesan level after a survey of parishioners showed “disappointment and even fear” over the proposal, said Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton.

He made the comments in a Nov. 7 letter to the priests of his diocese.

It was scheduled to be discussed and voted on by the U.S. bishops during their Nov. 14-17 general assembly in Baltimore, but Bishop Monforton said in his letter that he has asked the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to remove this from the agenda.

The decision to erect, merge or suppress dioceses belongs to the pope, but Ohio's Catholic bishops conduct a survey of parishioners and provide further evidence of a diocesan need for a merger, he explained. “Since 1990, Mother of Hope Presentation Deanery has lost 34% of its Sunday Mass attendance,” he explained. “That is a 45% decline,” he wrote. “Even comparing figures from 2010-19, we realize there has been a 20% decline in those last nine years. It is not that helpful to employ numbers from 2020 and 2021 due the effects of the pandemic on church attendance.”

The proposal was announced Oct. 10 and since then, “many have voiced their counsel, including disappointment and even fear,” Bishop Monforton said in his letter. “The results from the recent survey (of parishioners) provide further evidence of a division in the future vision for the church’s service in the Ohio Valley.”

“Further discussion regarding the Diocese of Steubenville’s future will be conducted at the diocesan level,” he said.

Bishop Monforton told The Steubenville Register, the diocesan newspaper, that Ohio’s Catholic bishops met and voted unanimously sometime in September 2021 to merge the two dioceses.

In a front-page article in the Oct. 14 issue of the paper, the bishop wrote about “the state of the diocese,” highlighting some of the reasons for a merger proposal.

“It is with sadness of heart that I share with you the continued decline in the Ohio Valley population and how it adversely affects our future sustainability,” he wrote. “Furthermore, we are all too aware how the population is aging as well, to our ministerial detriment.”

He shared some statistics:


— If all priests in their 60s would stay in active ministry 10 years from now, half of our active priests will be 70 or older, he may ask: Is this not the case for many dioceses?” the bishop said.

— We are more vulnerable due to the fact we are small in number, in priests and in Catholics.

In his column in the Oct. 28 issue of the Register, Bishop Monforton said: “We need to be clear that the Catholic Church will remain in the Ohio Valley and throughout the 13 counties that comprise the Diocese of Steubenville.”

“Our Catholic schools remain open, our Catholic churches remain open and all developmental initiatives for our Catholic institutions will continue,” he continued.

“While the Catholic Church remains in our pastoral footprint, it is the governance of the entire diocese that will be modified through additional assistance, thereby strengthening our ministerial outreach,” he said.

Bishop Monforton added: “Our mission statement says it all when it comes to our Christian calling: ‘We seek to glorify and proclaim God through our discipleship, and in community, with loving service and immense hope found only in Jesus Christ.’”

Pumpkin Characters

Jen Carter’s second graders at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling were excited to share their autumn book report projects! Each student picked a book to read and wrote about the role of the main character in the story. Then they created that character’s head out of a pumpkin. From left: David Coughlan, Zack McCabe, Felicity Blatt, Koda Nizami, and Myla Lawrence show their creations.
Ukrainian Archbishop Tells Pope Russia Wants to Destroy, not Negotiate

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has continued to call on Russian and Ukrainian leaders to negotiate an end to the war, but the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church told him Russia wants only the destruction of Ukraine.

Ukrainian Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych met Pope Francis Nov. 7 at the Vatican, the first time the two have met in person since Russia started the war in late February, although they have spoken on the phone many times.

Archbishop Shevchuk gave the pope “a fragment of a Russian wall that destroyed, in the facade of the Ukrainian Catholic church building in the town of Irpin, near Kyiv, in March,” the archbishop’s office said. “It is a very symbolic gift, not only because Irpin was one of the first ‘martyr towns’ affected by the Russian aggression against Ukraine, but also because similar pieces of landmines are extracted from the bodies of Ukrainian soldiers, civilians and children, a visible sign of the destruction and death that war brings every day.”

Returning to the Vatican from Bahrain Nov. 6, Pope Francis had told reporters traveling with him that the Vatican is “constantly attentive” to what is happening in Ukraine and that the Secretariat of State continues to do what is possible and has worked behind the scenes to help arrange prisoner exchanges.

The pope told reporters he thinks the cruelty of the attacks on Ukraine and its civilians is the work of mercenaries, not Russians, who are “a great people” and have a strong “humanism.”

Meeting Archbishop Shevchuk the next day, Pope Francis reiterated the Holy See’s commitment to end the fighting and find a way to obtain “a just peace,” the archbishop’s office said.

“The war in Ukraine is a colonial war, and the peace proposals coming from Russia are colonial appeasement proposals,” the archbishop told the pope, according to his office. “These proposals involve the denial of the existence of the Ukrainian people, their history, culture and even the church. It is the denial of the very right to the existence of the Ukrainian state, recognized by the international community with its sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

Still, the archbishop thanked the pope for all his prayers and efforts “to stop the war and mediate peace, free hostages and prisoners and organize the universal solidarity of the Catholic Church on behalf of the suffering Ukrainian people,” the statement said.

Pope: Chauvinism Kills Human Progress; Fight for Equal Rights Must Go on

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

ABROAD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM BAHRAIN (CNS) — A society that does not give women the same rights and opportunities as men will become impoverished, Pope Francis said at the end of a four-day visit to Bahrain.

“Women are a gift,” he said. After God made man, he didn’t create “a lapdog for him to play with. No, he created two who are equal, a man and a woman.”

“All the rights of women stem from this equality,” he said, and a society that is not able to make room for women “does not move forward.”

The pope was speaking Nov. 6 to reporters in response to their questions after visiting the Muslim-majority nation of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf.

The aim of the trip, he said, was to experience moments of encounter and dialogue, with Muslims, Christians and Catholics. The majority of all residents are foreigners from many different countries, cultures and religions.

As a result of these moments of encounter and talks, he said, he learned something new, that this small nation boasts “a culture open to everyone” with “room for everyone,” including women, who, for example, all have the right to work.

The pope was then asked about the protests in Iran, which were sparked by young women and men fighting for more freedoms and reforms in the Shiite-led country, and whether he supported their efforts of defending fundamental human rights.

He said, “The fight for rights for women is an ongoing battle because, in some places, women have achieved rights equal to men” and, elsewhere, they lag behind.

It was also not that long ago, he added, that women had to fight for the right to vote, in his home country of Argentina, and women in the United States also had to battle for their right to vote.

“But why, I ask, do women have to fight like this to keep her rights?” he said.

Another violation that must be stopped, he said, is female genital mutilation. “How is it that in the world today we cannot stop” this practice? “It is a crime, a criminal act.”

The pope asked, “Are women objects to use and throwaway? This is terrible, right? Or are they a protected species?”

Instead it is a question of equality, which still has not been universally achieved, he said. Unfortunately, in some places, women are still considered and treated as “second-class” citizens or worse, and “we have to keep fighting this.”

Women are not inferior, “they are complementary,” he said, and this also means women should be bringing their own unique gifts and talent and must not try to “be like men.”

“A society that erases women from public life is a society that becomes impoverished,” he said.

“Equal rights, yes, also equal opportunities, equality in moving forward,” he said.

There is still a long way to go, he said, because there is so much chauvinism, which “kills humanity.”

The pope was asked whether the church was considering a change in the way it handles known perpetrators of abuse and those found guilty of its cover-up, specifically by making public those who have been sanctioned by the church when found guilty.

The pope did not address the question of providing greater transparency, but he said, “We are working in every way we can.”

“But we well know that there are people in the church who do not see things clearly, who do not agree,” so it is “a process” that requires courage, he added.

The desire of the church is to clarify everything. For example, he received in the last few months two complaints of abuse that were covered up and the church did not handle it properly, so immediately I said to look into it again” and it will be re-investigated. So there will be a revisiting of judgments that were not handled well, he said.
By Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — From an altar set on a platform just above the waters that straddle the U.S. and Mexico, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, celebrated a Mass Nov. 5 to remember migrants who’ve died trying to cross the waters below or along the border in 2022.

In particular, he remembered a 5-year-old named Margaret Sofia, who died a few days before in the Rio Grande.

“She came from an impoverished town in southeast Guatemala,” the bishop said in his homily, recounting the news about her drowning. “The 5-year-old dreamed of working one day in Kansas, where she had relatives. She wanted to make enough money, along with her mother, to help her disabled 9-year-old brother.”

Trying to reach that dream, she began crossing the river, guided by her mother’s hand Aug. 24. In a matter of moments, she had grabbed a hold of the child.

First responders recovered her little body from the river.

“Normally, the Rio Grande, Rio Bravo (as it’s known on the Mexico side) doesn’t have enough water to be of threat to anyone,” the bishop said. “But you remember the strong storms we had at the end of August.”

Local Spanish-language media in El Paso reported that she was the fourth child to die in the river in a span of 24 hours in late August at the popular passage for border crossers.

“The weekend Mass, just a few days after All Souls’ Day, marked the 25th time that the border cities of El Paso, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, have gathered to pray for those who have died trying to reach the U.S.

To date this year, Bishop Seitz said, border authorities have reported 853 migrant deaths on the U.S. border side alone. It’s a number that doesn’t include those who have died in the Darién Gap, a thick jungle that connects South and Central America where many migrants travel through trying to avoid authorities.

The statistics also don’t show the many who died at the hands of authorities.

Trying to reach that dream, she began crossing the river, guided by her mother’s hand Aug. 24. In a matter of moments, she had grabbed a hold of the child.

First responders recovered her little body from the river.

“The Lord’s acts of mercy are not done to put an end to so much tragedy, so much loss, so much pain,” he said in his homily, “I think the answer is, in a certain sense, under our noses. It’s here at this border.

“We ask ourselves, what can be done to put an end to so much suffering? It’s here at this border.

“The borderlands are a place of encounter between two great nations, great communities on both sides, he said.

“In spite of what seeks to divide us, we continue to be a binational, interconnected and dynamic, proud community,” he said, according to the text of his homily. “We’re not a place of confrontation but rather a place of encounter. We belong to one another. Our economies depend on one another.

“We are people of faith, we work, study, we live as families with members on both sides of the border.”

He said he wished that some could see the people who flock to the U.S. border, not as potential enemies but as “brothers and sisters they haven’t met.”

“If we could welcome people who need to cross our ports of entry in an orderly manner and allow in those who need to find safety and those who need work the opportunity to do so, then we could put a stop to those few who should not be allowed to cross,” he said. “There has been much suffering in this place but it’s also a place of great hope.”

He ended by referencing the first reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:22-24):

“The Lord’s acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent,” he said, “it is good to hope (and work) ... for the Lord’s deliverance.”
November 29, 2022

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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 alemen- tamos a utilizar www.reportbishopabuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier abuso 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 variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar con- fidencialmente de cualquier incidente de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anónimamente 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 come- tido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas 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. 0800: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelenks, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de


Para informar a la Autoridad Judicial: en caso de que se sospeche que la conducta sigue, contacte a la policía. Si se sospecha que el abuso sexual se ha producido en un entorno escolar o institucional, contacte a la policía en el estado respectivo.

Para informar a las autoridades educativas: en caso de que se sospeche que el abuso sexual se ha producido en un entorno educativo, contacte a las autoridades educativas pertinentes, incluyendo la policía, el Departamento de Educación o similar en el estado respectivo.

Para informar a los medios: la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene un plan de comunicación para informar a los medios de comunicación sobre casos sospechosos de abuso sexual en el entorno educativo. La información se puede comunicar a través de un representante de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston o a un periodista designado por la Diócesis.

Para informar a la comunidad: la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene un plan de comunicación para informar a la comunidad sobre casos sospechosos de abuso sexual en el entorno educativo. La información se puede comunicar a través de un representante de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston o a un periodista designado por la Diócesis.

Para informar a otras organizaciones: la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene un plan de comunicación para informar a otras organizaciones sobre casos sospechosos de abuso sexual en el entorno educativo. La información se puede comunicar a través de un representante de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston o a un periodista designado por la Diócesis.

Para informar a la comunidad en general: la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene un plan de comunicación para informar a la comunidad en general sobre casos sospechosos de abuso sexual en el entorno educativo. La información se puede comunicar a través de un representante de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston o a un periodista designado por la Diócesis.

Para informar a la comunidad en general: la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston tiene un plan de comunicación para informar a la comunidad en general sobre casos sospechosos de abuso sexual en el entorno educativo. La información se puede comunicar a través de un representante de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston o a un periodista designado por la Diócesis.
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MORGANTOWN — The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) has announced that the WVU Health System has received CHIME’s Level 10 Achievement — the highest level of achievement — for both the acute and ambulatory surveys of the Health System’s hospitals, clinics, and physicians. Other Level 10 health systems include the Mayo Clinic, Cedars Sinai, and NYU.

CHIME’s Digital Health Most Wired Survey recognizes healthcare organizations that have gone above and beyond to exemplify best practices through their adoption, implementation, and use of information technology.

“This recognition validates our strategy of building a highly integrated, patient-centric network of care linked by a common electronic medical record (EMR),” Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and CEO of the WVU Health System, said. “We’ve implemented a common, enterprise wide EMR for two reasons: to ensure that our patients, no matter where they are seen in our network, have peace of mind that their care teams can communicate seamlessly; and to safeguard the continuity of our patients’ care when they are transferred from our community hospitals to our academic medical center for more advanced, specialty and sub-specialty care. A common EMR creates a safer, more efficient, and less expensive environment for our patients.”

Among the more than 38,000 organizations surveyed by CHIME, WVU Medicine ranked above peers in categories like analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure, and patient engagement. The survey assessed the adoption, integration, and impact of technologies in healthcare organizations at all stages of development, from early development to industry leading.

“We are proud to honor your team’s exceptional dedication to excellence in digital health,” Russell P. Branzell, CHIME president and CEO, said. WVU Medicine’s “pioneering performance in the industry inspires other organizations by example. Patients in communities around the world receive better care when you drive change through digital transformation, as you have proven through your success in this rigorous program.”

The Digital Health Most Wired survey and recognition program serves as a comprehensive “Digital Health Check-up” for healthcare organizations across the world. As success in digital health increasingly determines the quality of patient care, the scope of the CHIME Digital Health Most Wired survey reflects the progress of leading healthcare providers as they reinvent healthcare for a new century.

“I am extremely pleased that we have achieved CHIME’s Most Wired Level 10 for both acute and ambulatory,” Jim Venturella, chief information officer for the WVU Health System, said. “This is an amazing accomplishment by itself and even more impressive considering the other major IT projects occurring at WVU Medicine. Our IT team continues to deliver.

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incredible value for our organization, and it is nice to receive this important validation and recognition of their accomplishments.”

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) is an executive organization dedicated to serving chief information officers (CIOs), chief medical information officers (CMIOs), chief nursing information officers (CNOs), chief innovation officers (CIOs), chief digital officers (CDOs), and other senior healthcare IT leaders.

With more than 5,000 members in 58 countries plus two U.S. territories and over 190 healthcare IT business partners and professional services firms, CHIME and its three associations provide a highly interactive, trusted environment enabling senior professional and industry leaders to collaborate, exchange best practices, address professional development needs, and advocate the effective use of information management to improve the health and care in the communities they serve. For more information, please visit Chime Central.org.