

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

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



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 Moundville, Veterans Honor Guard, folds the American flag during the Flags and Flowers service for veterans Nov. 7.

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 ap-

preciate it.”

The service began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Participating was the American Legion Post #3 of Moundville, 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,

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U.S. Bishops Launch New Approach to Teaching the Faith

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

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

This new outreach, called the Institute on the Catechism, is not a place but instead a new springboard for faith formation developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Catechism.

It will involve catechetical publishers working directly with the USCCB subcommittee on new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools and aiming to reach a more diverse church. It will also provide resources to dioceses and yearly, in-person training conferences and retreats for diocesan catechetical leaders. As Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on the Catechism, sees it: Catholic parishes need to re-create a "Catholic culture that recognizes we're in the 21st century. We can't go back to 1950; it's gone."

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

Diocesan Official Appointments:

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

Very Rev. Joseph M. Konikattil, 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 assignments 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 Clarksburg and St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg.

Deacon Pierce Murphy is appointed permanent deacon at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown and to liturgical ministry at the same parish, effective immediately.

Mr. Chad Carter is reappointed director of the Mission Office and director of the Propagation of the Faith for a period of 3 years, effective on November 22, 2022. This is in addition to his current appointment as chancellor of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

The bishop announced the proposal to create the institute at the bishops' spring meeting last June. It will officially launch Nov. 10-12 just ahead of the bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore. This new approach, starting on the 30th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, draws inspiration from Pope Francis' 2021 document "Antiquum Ministerium" ("Ancient Ministry") that described catechesis as an official church ministry. It also builds on the Vatican's Directory for Catechesis, issued in 2020, that gives guidelines for catechists and pastors particularly in the role of evangelization.

The most frequently used description for the Institute on the Catechism is evangelizing catechesis. In explaining this to Catholic News Service Oct. 19, Bishop Caggiano said this new method will emphasize truth, beauty and goodness and it "recognizes that the passing on of the faith is no longer in a Catholic culture but in a secular and hostile culture toward Christian faith." He said the institute's mandate is to "create multiple opportunities where a young person can encounter Christ in an ongoing way" and have the "leadership of the church and their parents accompany them."

In other words, it's not just religious education through textbook learning or even service projects but a more concentrated effort to engage young people with the church and provide role models for them with diocesan and parish resources to facilitate this. One of the hopes is that these youths will in turn reinvigorate the church.

In a previous interview with CNS about this project, catechetical consultants said the institute has the potential to change the fundamental relationship between publishers and bishops into something that's less reactive to a finished product and more collaborative.

Mike Raffio, vice president director of sales for Pflaum Publishing Group and the president of the Association of Catholic Publishers, said leading people to a meaningful encounter with Christ through catechesis and an understanding of their role in the mission of the church is something many catechetical materials attempt. "But we must admit our own limitations," he added.

"Any person's faith development is a lifelong journey. That journey, even for young people, includes so many more variables than catechetical texts can be expected to provide," he said.

Similarly, Sabrina Magnuson, a catechetical consultant for Loyola Press, said the institute's aim of forming leaders who will in turn inspire and form parents, teachers and catechists in their home diocese is a daunting prospect.

"At the end of the day, the textbook is a resource, a tool," she said. "Encounter is so much more than that."

Bishop Caggiano said about 17 bishops plan to attend the institute's launch, committing to using this new model in their dioceses, and he hopes more dioceses will join next year.

In the meantime, he said, participating dioceses will get the support they need to get this work started. It will also be a learning experience for all participating dioceses and a time to come to a deeper understanding of what parishes really need to make this work.

"It has to be the work of the Holy Spirit," he added, and he also said it will need financial support that he hopes to get from those who want to be partners in this effort.

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

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

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

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

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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



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Colleen Rowan Photo

The American Legion Post #3 of Moundville, Veterans Honor Guard, fires three volleys of shots in honor of deceased veterans at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling during the Flags and Flowers service Nov. 7.

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.



Colleen Rowan Photo

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 be-

fore 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



Colleen Rowan Photo

Members of the American Legion Post #3 of Moundville, Veterans Honor Guard, fold the American Flag at the Flags and Flowers service at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling Nov. 7.

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, luncheons, 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.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Vernon Anderson of the National Council of Administration of the VFW, West Virginia representative from Wheeling, salutes a veteran at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling during the Flags and Flowers service for veterans Nov. 7.

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Ashley Driscoll
Cello

Robin Bohn
Piano

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CHURCH
CLARKSBURG, WV

Adult Education Class Aims to Help Catholics Navigate Contemporary Changes and Challenges

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.

“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.

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—especially when it is known that they are practicing Catholics—questions and challenges they encounter, and to leave them a little better prepared to answer questions that people may have about the Cath-

olic faith,” Father Mahone said.

Father Mahone pointed to the words of Venerable Servant of God (Archbishop) Fulton J. Sheen, who said: “There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be.”

“We need to correct their misconceptions,” Father Mahone said.

He went on to say, “Some of this I’ve been teaching at Notre Dame High School (Clarksburg) and I find the students very receptive to it.”

Father Mahone will be teaching and taking part in the discussions, some of which will be around tables, and some may be open to the whole group. “But I have to be somewhat responsible for moving the class along, so we

don’t get stuck on any one topic,” he said. “We will see if people are really interested in learning more about how to be faithful to church teaching and also live out that faith by enfolded themselves in the Divine Mercy and love.”

Father Mahone said he recently heard Bishop Mark Brennan say, “The Catholic Church is the most ‘inclusive’ thing around!”

“I think he’s absolutely right,” Father Mahone said. “You have to be a sinner to get in (by baptism) and as far as I know everybody qualifies!”

The class is open to all, but it is important for those interested to register so that enough materials will be prepared and made available. Register by calling Immaculate Conception Parish Office at (304) 622-8243 or by e-mail to icchurchclarksburg@gmail.com. More information can be found at icclarksburg.com.

“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



Pierre Toussaint

Mother Mary Lange

Mother Henriette
Delille

Julia Greeley

Sr. Thea Bowman

Fr. Augustus
Tolton

Photo Illustration by Joyce Bibey

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.sistersoftheholymfamily.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://juliagreeley.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 signing voice. His story, which is beautifully inspiring because of his genuine love of God and God's people, but is also a poignant 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.



LEWIS GLASSER

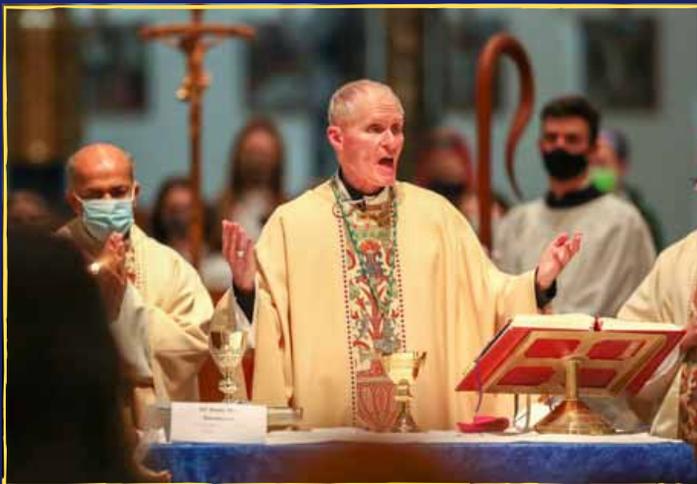
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In this season of gratitude we pause to say

THANK YOU

to all those who support parishes, ministries, and outreach efforts across the Diocese through their gifts to the *Catholic Sharing Appeal*.



Join Bishop Mark Brennan for the

MASS OF GRATITUDE

Monday, November 21st at 12:05p.m.
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, WV

livestream available at dwc.org/CSA



THE HIGHLANDS EVENT CENTER AND THE OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION
PROUDLY PRESENT THE

1st Annual Nail City Chefs

The Highlands Event Center

Saturday
NOVEMBER
19
5:30 PM

Well-known local area food personalities, Chef Rocco Basil of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Chef Adam Luiso of Chef-N-Company, will compete for the title Best Chef in the Valley live on stage. For this exciting night, the chefs will prepare dishes with 3 mystery ingredients to be judged by a panel of local celebrities while a pre-prepared delicious dinner will be served to all guests. Guests will also have a chance to win some great prizes in a silent auction.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: WHR.HOME.QTEGO.NET/
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 304-233-2992 OR 304-233-1135

To benefit Wheeling Health Right and Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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 Mass.
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**



Photo Courtesy of the Pontifical College Josephinum
Seminarians Donvito Cortese and Timothy Kawash of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (from left) stand with Very Rev. Steven P. Beseau, rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, Ohio.

Hope...

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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Tertiary Meeting

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:

- Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.
- 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 to 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

See “Agenda” on Page 12

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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.

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To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.



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

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 committee chairmen sent to all members of Congress calling for "radical solidarity" with mothers and babies — born and unborn — and advancing an ambitious legislative and policy agenda that prioritizes the well-being of families.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of Hartford, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, will present for approval revisions in rites related to the anointing of the sick and lay ministry for the sick as well as liturgical texts for two recently instituted feast days.

Votes will be taken on a revision of the U.S. English-language edition of "The Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care" and a new U.S. Spanish language edition of the same text.

The revision follows work undertaken by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, or ICEL, to bring the prayers closer to the original Latin text promulgated in 1972, said Father Andrew Menke, executive director of the bishops' Secretariat on Divine Worship.

Votes also will be taken on English- and Spanish-language editions of "Lay Ministry to the Sick," a proposed collection of excerpts from various liturgical books. The texts include the prayers and rites

that can be used by lay ecclesial ministers in their ministry to the sick. The material was drawn from multiple sources traditionally used in such ministry.

The last vote will come on liturgical texts for two optional memorials inscribed by Pope Francis in January 2019. The texts are included in an ICEL document known as a "gray book" issued in May 2021. The memorial for St. Paul VI is observed May 29, while the memorial for Our Lady of Loreto is observed Dec. 10.

Approval of all texts requires a two-thirds vote of the Latin-rite bishops. "The Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care" also requires "recognitio" from the Vatican.

Updates on the canonization causes of three American women will be presented during the assembly. The bishops will vote whether to advance the causes of Cora Evans, Michelle Duppong and Mother Margaret Mary Healy Murphy.

Evans, a wife, a mother, and possible mystic, was baptized Catholic in Utah in 1935 after becoming disillusioned with the Mormon faith. Born in 1904, she moved to California with her family in 1941. She died at age 74 in Boulder Creek, California, March 30, 1957.

Promoters of her sainthood cause in the Diocese of Monterey, California, have said she reported multiple visions of Jesus and the saints and received a mission from Jesus to promote the "mystical humanity of Christ," the idea that Christ is always with people

and people should behave always as Christ would.

The Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota, in June opened an investigation into "the holiness of life and love of God" of Duppong, who died of cancer Dec. 25, 2015. She was 31.

When she died, Duppong was the director of adult faith formation for the diocese. Before that, she was a missionary for six years with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, or FOCUS. In her position, the diocese said, she used "her missionary zeal to bring others closer to Christ."

Mother Murphy in 1893 founded the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, the first order of women religious in the state of Texas. The congregation was started after Mother Murphy, a native of Ireland, spent years helping the poor and serving African Americans and Mexican Americans as a laywoman. She died in 1907 at age 74.

With 2022 being the 20th anniversary of the bishops' adoption of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the bishops also plan to spend time in prayer and reflection on their

response to clergy sexual abuse during the general assembly.

The document established minimum standards for each diocese to follow as they reviewed abuse allegations.

The agenda for the assembly also includes:

— Review and approval of the USCCB budget for 2023.

— A report on progress on implementing the document "The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church," activities under the nationwide eucharistic revival initiative, and the planned 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

— An update 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.

— Information on the Fourth African National Eucharistic Congress July 21-23, 2023, in Washington.

— 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.

— A preview on preparations for World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal Aug. 1-6, 2023.

— Presentations from the leaders of Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

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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 this always is done in consultation with the bishops’ conference.

The proposed merger of the two Ohio dioceses has been prompted by factors such as aging priests and fewer priests to serve the diocese, a significant decline in baptisms and first

Communion in the past 10 years, as well as the diocese seeing a decreasing number of Catholics, who themselves are aging, and a general population that is shrinking.

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:

— In 1990, approximately 24,730 people attended Sunday Mass in the diocese. In 2019, 13,700 attended Mass.

“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 diocese is made up of four deaneries, or regions.

“None of them has increased in number since 1990 or 2010,” he explained. “Since 1990, Mother of Hope Deanery has lost 34% of its Mass attendance, Presentation Deanery has lost

40%, Visitation has lost 38% and Nativity has lost 52%.”

— The diocese has fewer than 30,000 Catholics while the next smallest diocese in Ohio is Youngstown with 146,000 Catholics. Cleveland is Ohio’s largest Catholic diocese — with 633,000 Catholics.

— The Steubenville Diocese has six active priests who are 70 or older; 12 are in their 60s; five are in their 50s (six if Bishop Monforton is included); four in their 40s, seven in their 30s and two in their 20s.

“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. One 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 a 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

Courtesy Photo

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.



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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 mine that destroyed 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 chil-

dren, 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 also told reporters he thinks the cruelty of the attacks on Ukraine and its civilians is the work of mer-

cenaries, 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

ABOARD 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 ex-

ample, 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 demanding 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 consid-

ered 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, I 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.

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At Border Mass above the Rio Grande, Migrants Who Died are Remembered

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 Margareth Sofía, 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, the rip current 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 those who have died at the hands of organized crime in Mexico and Central America, he said.

"As we gather, we're conscious that there are many who have not arrived safe and sound to this temporary worldly destination," Bishop Seitz said. "It's possible that their stories are never told until we meet them in the kingdom of God. Each one of these deaths is a lost loved one, but one never forgotten, hurt



Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, center, and other Catholic clergy from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and El Paso take part in a binational Mass Nov. 5 in memory of migrants who died during their journey to the U.S. near the border between Mexico and the United States.

CNS Photo/Gabriel Barraza, Reuters

that will never end, a story that deserves to be told."

Bishop Seitz, who is set to become the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' migration committee in mid-November, was joined by Bishops José Guadalupe Torres Campos of Ciudad Juárez and Peter Baldacchino of Las Cruces. They concelebrated the Mass.

The border Mass attempts to physically take place in the U.S. and Mexico. Sometimes an altar has been set up, half in one country and half on the other, connected though the border fence, with priests sometimes offering Communion through the small openings of the wall to Mass-goers on the other side.

"A border is a human creation but ... there is a higher authority that also calls us brothers and sisters, children of God," Bishop Seitz told local ABC affiliate KVIA-TV in a Nov. 5 interview. "Yes, we need borders, but even more important is that we remember that we are of the same human family, that we treat each other that way."

Along with remembering those who have died, Bishop Seitz told the news station, those gathered also pray that "we as nations might come

to a just and orderly process by which people who need to cross, can cross and (ask for) asylum," and those who need to work "can come and work and then this way avoid so much of the pain that takes place when people have to flee from their homes."

He has criticized Title 42 of the Public Health Safety Act, which keeps asylum-seekers out at the border, citing health concerns because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Recently, he visited a group of Venezuelans on the Mexico side of the border who had been denied entry because of the health rule and are now living in tent camps near the Rio Grande.

"We ask ourselves, what can be 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."

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."



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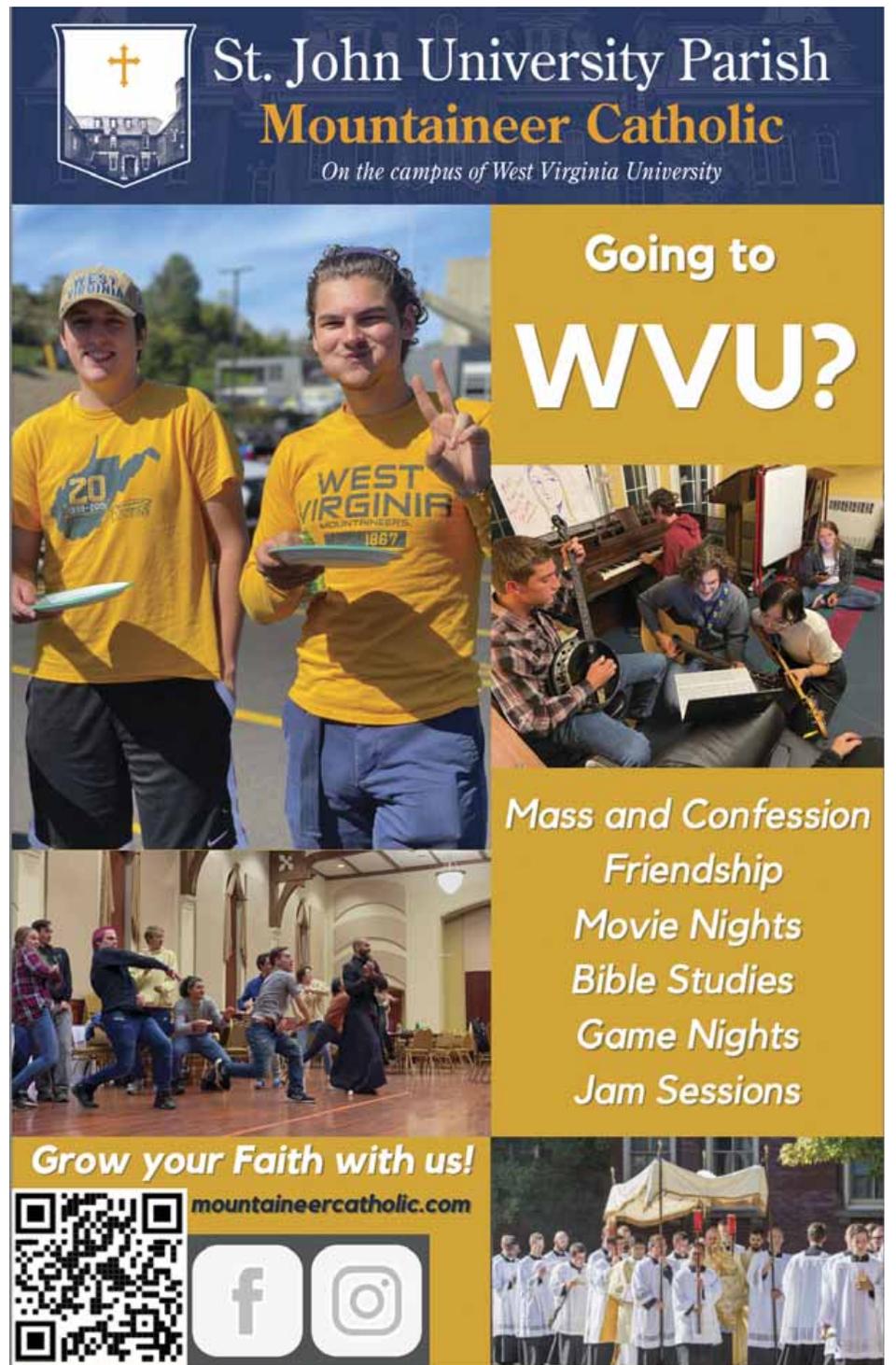
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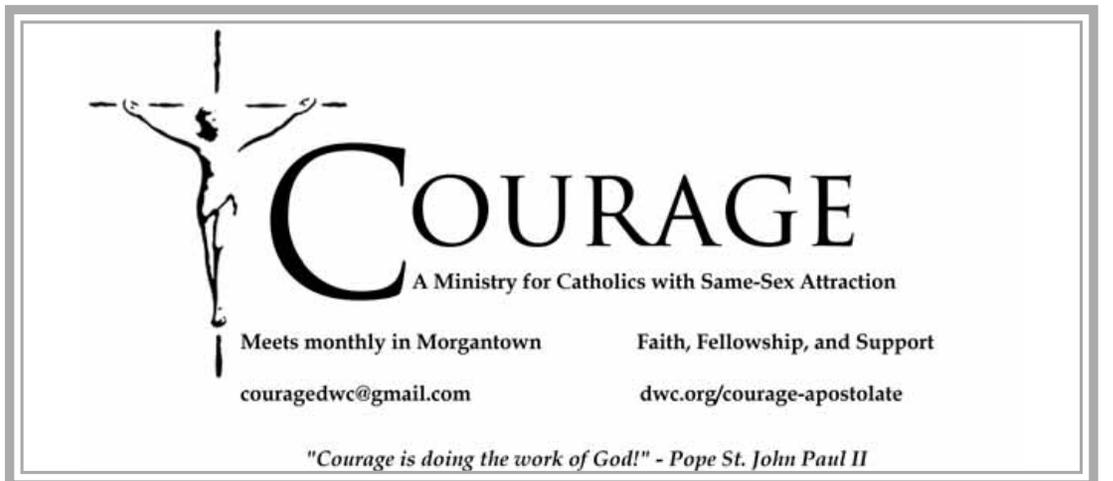
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Obispo recuerda vidas de migrantes en Misa sobre las aguas de Rio Bravo

Por Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Desde un altar colocado en una plataforma justo sobre las aguas del Río Bravo, el cual divide EE. UU. y México, el obispo Mark J. Seitz de El Paso, Texas, celebró una misa el 5 de noviembre para recordar a los migrantes que murieron, llevados por la corriente, tratando de cruzar el río o a lo largo de la frontera en 2022.

En particular, recordó a una niña de 5 años llamada Margareth Sofía, quien murió unos días antes en el río.

"Ella venía de un pueblo pobre del sureste de Guatemala", dijo el obispo en su homilía, recordando las noticias de su muerte. "La niña de 5 años soñaba con trabajar algún día en Kansas, donde tenía parientes. Quería ganar suficiente dinero, junto con su madre, para ayudar a su hermano discapacitado de 9 años".

Tratando de alcanzar ese sueño, comenzó a cruzar el río, guiada por la mano de su madre el 24 de agosto. En cuestión de momentos, la corriente se la llevó.

Autoridades recuperaron su pequeño cuerpo del río.

"Normalmente el Río Grande/Río Bravo, no tiene suficiente agua para ser una amenaza para nadie", dijo el obispo. "Pero recuerdas las fuertes tormentas que tuvimos a fines de agosto".

Los medios locales en español en El Paso informaron que Margareth Sofia fue la cuarta menor de edad en morir en el río en un lapso de 24 horas a fines de agosto en el paso popular para los que cruzan la frontera.

La misa del fin de semana, solo unos días después del Día de los Muertos, marcó la 25ª vez que las ciudades

fronterizas de El Paso, Las Cruces, Nuevo México y Ciudad Juárez, México, se han reunido para orar por los que han muerto tratando de llegar a los Estados Unidos.

Hasta la fecha, este año, dijo Monseñor Seitz, las autoridades fronterizas han informado de 853 muertes de migrantes solo en el lado fronterizo de los Estados Unidos. Es un número que no incluye a los que han muerto en el Tapón del Darién, una espesa jungla que conecta América del Sur y Central por donde viajan muchos migrantes tratando de evitar a las autoridades.

Las estadísticas tampoco muestran quiénes han muerto a manos del crimen organizado en México y Centroamérica, dijo.

"Hoy, al reunirnos, somos conscientes de que hay muchos que no han llegado sanos y salvos a este destino terrenal temporal", dijo Monseñor Seitz. "Es posible que sus historias nunca se cuenten hasta que los encontremos en el reino de Dios... Cada una de estas muertes marca a un ser querido perdido, pero nunca olvidado, un dolor que nunca terminará, una historia que merece ser contada".

Monseñor Seitz, quien se convertirá en el presidente del comité de migración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos a mediados de noviembre, se unió a los obispos José Guadalupe Torres Campos de Ciudad Juárez, México y Peter Badacchino de Las Cruces. Concelebraron la Misa.

La misa fronteriza intenta llevarse a cabo físicamente en los EE. UU. y México. A veces se ha instalado un altar con la mitad en un país y la mitad en el otro, conectando a través del muro fronterizo, con sacerdotes que a veces ofreciendo Comunión a través

de las pequeñas aperturas en el muro a los feligreses en el otro lado.

"Una frontera es una creación humana pero... hay una autoridad superior que también nos llama hermanos y hermanas, hijos de Dios", dijo Monseñor Seitz a la televisión local de ABC KVIA-TV en una entrevista el 5 de noviembre. "Sí, necesitamos fronteras, pero aún más importante es que recordemos que somos de la misma familia humana, que nos tratemos de esa manera".

Además de recordar a los que han muerto, le dijo Monseñor Seitz a la estación de noticias, los reunidos también rezan para que "nosotros, como naciones, podamos llegar a un proceso justo y ordenado mediante el cual las personas que necesitan cruzar puedan cruzar y (pedir) asilo" y los que necesitan trabajar "pueden venir a trabajar y así evitar tanto el dolor que se produce cuando la gente huye de sus casas".

El obispo ha criticado el Título 42 de la Ley de Seguridad de la Salud Pública, que mantiene a los solicitantes de asilo fuera de la frontera, citando preocupaciones de salud debido a la pandemia de coronavirus.

Recientemente, visitó a un grupo de venezolanos en el lado mexicano de la frontera a quienes se les había negado la entrada debido a la regla de salud y ahora viven en campamentos cerca del Río Grande.

"Nos preguntamos qué se puede hacer para poner fin a tanta tragedia, tanta pérdida, tanto dolor", dijo en su homilía. "Creo que la respuesta está, en cierto sentido, justo delante de nuestras narices".

Las zonas fronterizas son un lugar de encuentro entre dos grandes naciones, grandes comunidades de

ambos lados, dijo.

"A pesar de todo lo que ha buscado dividirnos, seguimos siendo una comunidad binacional interconectada, dinámica y orgullosa", dijo, según el texto de su homilía. "No somos un lugar de confrontación, sino un lugar de encuentro. ¡Nos pertenecemos el uno al otro! Nuestras economías dependen una de otra. Somos personas de fe, trabajamos, estudiamos, vivimos como familias con miembros en ambos lados de la frontera".

Continuó compartiendo todo lo que las comunidades tienen en común.

"Somos gente de fe, trabajamos, estudiamos, vivimos como familias con miembros de ambos lados de la frontera", dijo.

Dijo que deseaba que algunos pudieran ver a las personas que acuden en masa a la frontera de los EE. UU., no como enemigos potenciales, sino como "hermanos y hermanas que no han conocido".

"Si pudiéramos recibir a las personas que necesitan cruzar en nuestros puertos de entrada de manera ordenada y permitir que las personas que solo necesitan encontrar seguridad y las que necesitan trabajar tengan la oportunidad de hacerlo, entonces podríamos concentrarnos en detener a esos pocos a los que no se les debería permitir cruzar", dijo. "Ha habido mucho sufrimiento aquí en este lugar, pero este es también un lugar de gran esperanza".

Terminó haciendo referencia a la primera lectura del Libro de las Lamentaciones (3:22-24):

"Los favores del Señor no se agotan, sus misericordias no se gastan... Es bueno esperar [y trabajar]... por la ayuda salvadora del Señor", dijo.

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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.

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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 Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, 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.

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WVU Medicine Receives Highest Achievement on Most Wired Acute and Ambulatory Surveys

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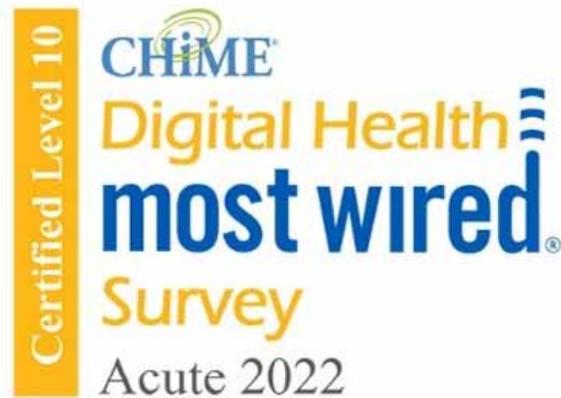
MORGANTOWN — The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) has announced that the WVU Health System has received CHIME’s Level 10 Achievement – the highest level of achievement – for both the acute and ambulatory surveys of the Health System’s hospitals, clinics, and physicians. 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.”

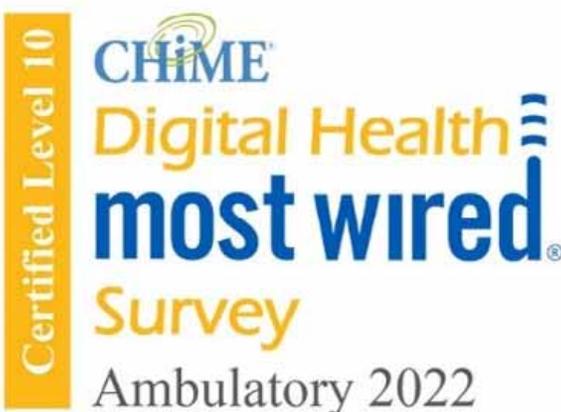
Among the more than 38,000 organizations surveyed by CHIME, WVU Medicine ranked above peers in categories like analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure, and patient engagement. The survey assessed the adoption, integration, and impact of technologies in healthcare organizations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

LVL 10 ACUTE



Level 10 Acute	State/Country
Cedars-Sinai	CA
Geisinger Health	PA
Jackson Health System	FL
Jefferson Health	PA
Lehigh Valley Health Network	PA
Mayo Clinic Hospital -- All sites	MN
NYU Langone Health	NY
Parkview Health	IN
Spectrum Health	MI
UC Davis Health	CA
UHealth	CO
UPMC	PA
UNIVERSITY HEALTH	TX
University of Utah Health	UT
West Virginia University Health System	WV

LVL 10 AMBULATORY



Level 10 Ambulatory	State/Country
Geisinger Health	PA
Jackson Health System	FL
Jefferson Health	PA
Lehigh Valley Health Network	PA
Mayo Clinic Hospital -- All sites	MN
NYU Langone Health	NY
Parkview Health	IN
Spectrum Health	MI
UC Davis Health	CA
UHealth	CO
UPMC	PA
UNIVERSITY HEALTH	TX
University of Utah Health	UT
West Virginia University Health System	WV

Graphic Courtesy of WVU Medicine

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 **See “WVU” on Page 20**

WVU...

Cont'd from Page 19
 incredible value for our organization, and it is nice to receive this important validation and recognition of their accomplishments.”

The College of Healthcare Infor-

mation Management Executives (CHIME) is an executive organization dedicated to serving chief information officers (CIOs), chief medical information officers (CMIOs), chief nursing information officers (CNIOs), 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 in-

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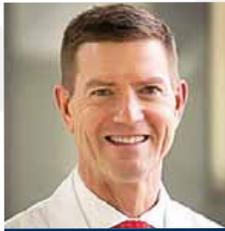
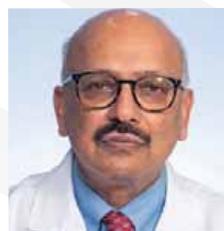
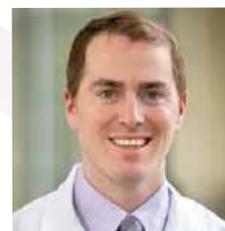


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