

## More Than 4,200 Allegations of Clergy Abuse Reported, Annual **Audit Shows**

**By Catholic News Service** 

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — More than 4,200 allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy and others were reported during the year ending June 30, 2020, a slight decline from the previous auditing period, according to a report on diocesan and eparchial compliance with the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

Released late Nov. 9, the 18th annual report from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection stated that 3,924 child sexual abuse survivors filed 4,228 allegations.

In the 2019 report, covering the 2018-2019 audit period, 4,220 adults filed 4,434 allegations.

The charter was adopted in 2002 by the U.S. bishops following widespread reports of clergy abuse and has been revised several times since to adapt to changing situations surrounding the question of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

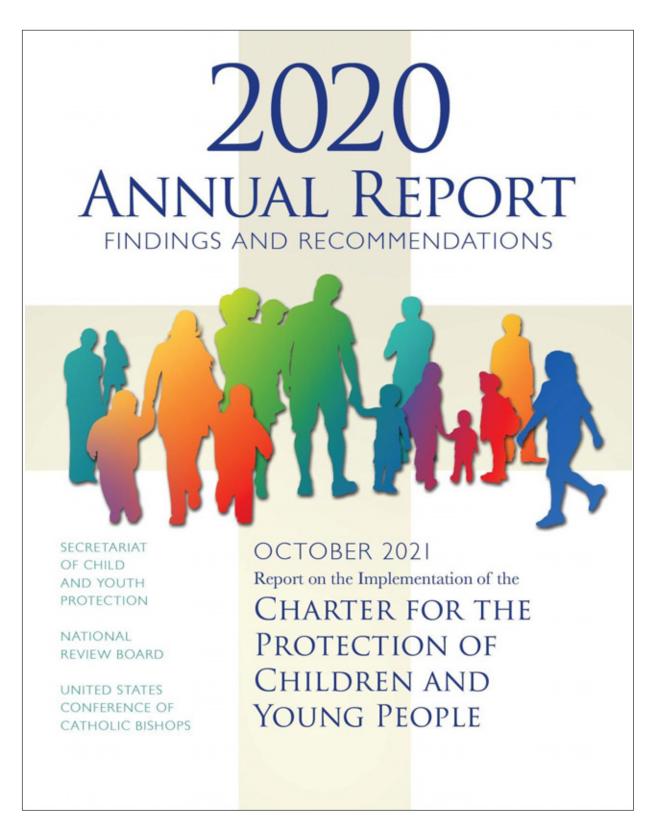
Conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners of Rochester, New York, the new report covers the year from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

While the number of allegations remained high during the audit period, the report said only 22 allegations involve current cases of abuse.

The report said the number of allegations remained high in part because of changes in statutes of limitations on reporting abuse in several states. "It should be noted that the vast majority of these reports were historical in nature," the report

The report attributed about 66% of allegations to lawsuits, compensation programs established by dioceses and other entities and bankruptcies. In addition, 1% of allegations emerged after a review

See "Audit" on Page 2



CNS Photo/courtesy USCCB

This is the cover of the October 2021 report on the implementation of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," released Nov. 9 by the USCCB, the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board.

Inside: Deacon Breiding Discusses 'Four Last Things & More' in Wheeling, Page 4

**Charleston Knights of Columbus Conduct Food** Packing Event with Cross Catholic Outreach, Page 6

#### Audit...

#### Cont'd from Page 1

of clergy personnel files, according to the report.

Of the 22 allegations for the current year, six were found to be substantiated. The report said they originated from five dioceses.

Of the remaining reported allegations, seven continued to be investigated, two were unsubstantiated, three were determined to be "unable to be proven," and four were classified as "other."

The report said nine of the allegations involved the use of child pornography. Seven of those cases remained under investigation, one was substantiated and one was referred to a provincial or a religious order.

The allegations involved 2,458 priests, 31 deacons and 282 unknown clerics, statistics in the report show.

The report indicated that 195 of 197 dioceses and eparchies participated in the audit. Auditors conducted 61 onsite visits with 10 in person before the pandemic erupted in early 2020. The other 51 were conducted online. Data also was collected from 135 other dioceses and eparchies.

The Syro-Malankara Eparchy of St. Mary Queen of Peace of the United States and Canada and the Chaldean Catholic Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle of San Diego did not participate in the audit.

Of the 61 entities undergoing onsite audits, two dioceses and two eparchies were determined to be in noncompliance.

The dioceses of Fort Worth, Texas, and Helena, Montana, noncompliant were with charter's requirement for not having their respective Diocesan Review Board meet during the audit period. Subsequent to the audit, the boards in each diocese were convened, making them compliant with the charter, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago and the Syriac Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance, which covers the United States and is based New Jersey, were found noncompliant with charter provisions that require background screening and training of adults working with minors.

The report also acknowledged the continuing work of church entities to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults. The USCCB said that expenditures on protective services rose

15% in 2020 with more than 2.5 million background checks of adults and training in safety measures for 3.1 million children.

Suzanne Healy, who chairs the National Review Board, said that as the charter enters its third decade of implementation it becomes important to continue evaluating incidents of abuse as well as understand trends of abuse and why they change.

In a letter to Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, that accompanied the report, Healy said a board committee is examining the safe environment education programs for adults and children in dioceses throughout the country.

"The research is an attempt to determine which elements or combination of elements of these training programs is most effective in mitigating the occurrence of child abuse and ensuring that any suspicion of abuse is reported to authorities," Healy

She also said the board recommended two procedures be added to the audit process and welcomed their edition for the 2020-2021 audit cycle. The first is "a three-year look-back window, which will eliminate any gaps that existed regarding the reporting of case resolution," Healy said.

The second relates to onsite visits by StoneBridge that finds auditors meeting with all or most diocesan review board members rather than one or two individuals.

"The ministries of safe environments and victim assistance are here to stay. The protocols and procedures for letters of suitability, background checks, and safe environment training are the norm," said Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

"By the grace of God, the church is working toward being accessible, accountable, and safe. We continue to rely on the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Our Mother to guide our efforts as we promise to protect and pledge to heal," he wrote in a letter addressed to Archbishop Gomez and Healy that was included in the report.

In his preface to the report, Archbishop Gomez said: "As we know, one allegation of abuse is too many. But my brother bishops and I remain firmly committed to maintain our vigilance in protecting children and vulnerable adults and providing See "Audit" on Page 3

#### To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

**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 im-mediate 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

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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#### Audit...

Cont'd from Page 2

compassion and outreach to victim-survivors of abuse."

Speaking for himself and the

body of bishops, the archbishop expressed their "sorrow and apologies to every person who has suffered at the hands of someone in the church."

"While we cannot give you back

what has been taken from you," Archbishop Gomez said, "we do commit ourselves to doing everything in our power to help you to heal and to fight the scourge of abuse in the church and in the wider society."

The full annual report on compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops can be found online at https://bit.ly/3CYMQdX.

# Summary of the 2020 Annual Report







**OUTREACH** rendered to victim survivors and families, such as counseling, spiritual direction, or other services.

Newly identified victim survivors and families

**1,886** Continued support for individuals identified in previous years



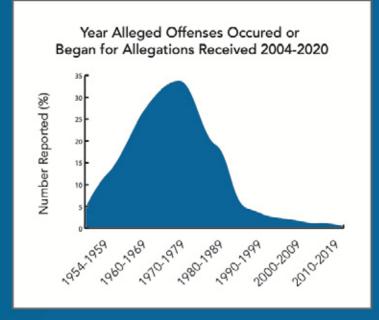
#### **PROTECTION**

Training Children 3,100,151
Training Adults 2,538,413
Background Checks 2,557,934



#### **ALLEGATIONS**

Current minors 22
Historical reports 4228
Total allegations 4250





COSTS

\$44,416,089 Safeguarding and Protection (12% increase over 2019)
\$311,980,666 Settlements, legal fees, outreach services, other expenses

\$356,396,755 Total

Full report can be found here: www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/audits

To report child abuse, contact civil authorities. To report abuse involving a member of the clergy, also contact your local victim assistance coordinator: www.usccb.org/committees/protection-children-young-people/how-report-abuse

# Deacon Breiding Discusses 'Four Last Things & More' in Wheeling

#### By Colleen Rowan

hange is inevitable, Deacon Doug Breiding said in his presentation "Four Last Things & More" Nov. 3 in Wheeling. "You've grown older since you sat down tonight," he said to attendees. Not by much, he noted, "but it's something for you to think about."

Getting people to think that about that was his goal for the evening.

Aptly held at the beginning of November, the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, the day after the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day), Deacon Breiding's talk focused upon death, judgement, heaven, and hell.

"No one wants to talk about it, but everyone needs to be prepared," said Deacon Breiding, who is the director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

In his talk, which gathered area faithful at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Deacon Breiding gave an overview of the Catholic Church's teaching on death, judgement, heaven, and hell as well as on purgatory.

He began by recalling an assignment he had as a student at Wheeling University in the 1980s for his adult psychology class. His instructor, Jesuit Father Joseph Hayden, asked the class to write their obituaries. But Deacon Breiding could not get past writing his name.

"It was very profound for me," he said, "because I said to myself, 'What is a good age to die?'" He asked the attendees to think about and reflect upon that question for the evening. He recalled another time that Father Hayden said, "At the moment of birth we are already moving toward death."

In thinking about change and death, Deacon Breiding asked attendees: "When you think of your own life, what has changed? How did you get here to where you are in life?"

It is fitting to talk about life before getting into talking about death, he said. As Catholic Christians, he said, we all pray, "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth..."; and we know that we are all created by God.

"The birth of a child, even today, is nothing less than a miracle," Deacon Breiding said. "It is beautiful and life is precious. And for all of us, we only have so much time," from the beginning to the end, whenever the end is. "And we believe that through baptism and being in this community we are responding to God's love," he said.



Colleen Rowan Photo

Deacon Doug Breiding speaks during his presentation "Four Last Things & More" at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Nov. 3.

As we get older we contemplate our worthiness in receiving the Eucharist, Deacon Breiding said. He recalled the words of his first-grade teacher, a sister: "If we think about our sins long enough we can pretty much excuse anything and not have to be held accountable." But everyone must take responsibility for their actions, Deacon Breiding stressed. He encouraged all to "think of the beauty we have in our church with the sacraments, and in this case the sacrament of penance."

Deacon Breiding said he remembers the long lines of people waiting to go to confession with three or four priest hearing confessions

back in the 1970s. In the modern day, he said, people have lost sight about sin and its effects. People need to think about mortal and venial sins.

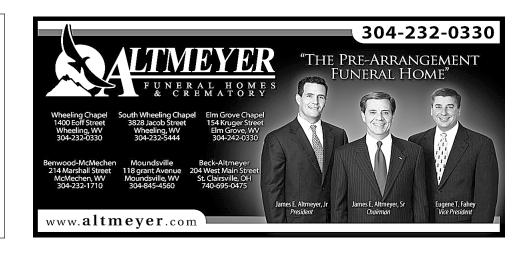
"We don't know when we're going to die," Deacon Breiding said, it is coming for everyone. This is not something that should make people depressed, he said, but it is something they must be prepared for.

Deacon Breiding encouraged attendees to read the book, "The Four Last Things: A Catechetical Guide to Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell" by Father Wade L.J., Menezes, CPM, as well as the book "Purgatory: A Mystery of Love," by Father Donncha O'hAodha.

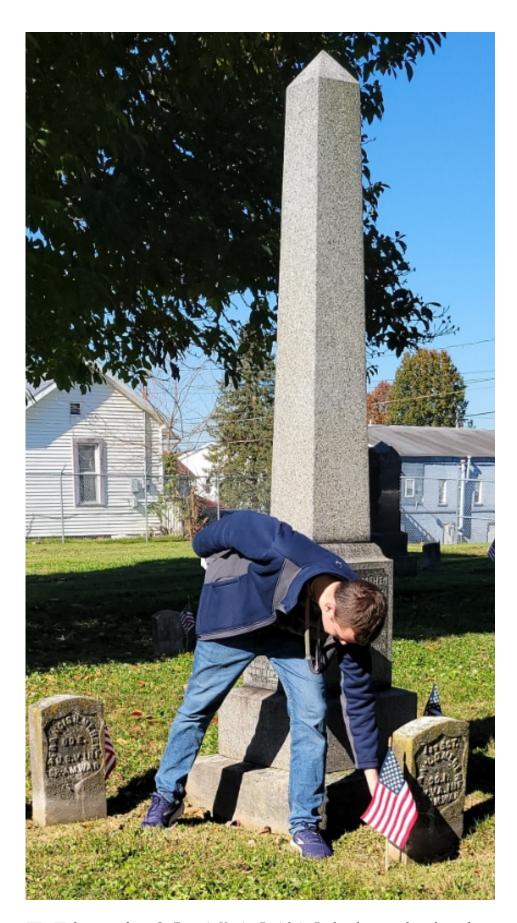


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### Honoring Veterans in Their Final Rest



Volunteers from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg and students from Parkersburg Catholic High School placed flags on the graves of all veterans buried at the old St. Francis Xavier Cemetery Nov. 7. The historic cemetery, located at 14th and Dillaway Streets in Parkersburg, was founded in 1872 and contains the graves of thirty-five Civil War veterans as well as veterans of other American conflicts. Above, a PCHS student places one of the flags. **Courtesy Photo** 

### Clarksburg Knights Will Honor Veterans in Holy Cross Cemetery

**CLARKSBURG**—To honor all veterans laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Clarksburg, the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Peace Council #1184 Clarksburg, is sponsoring the "Wreaths Across America Project."

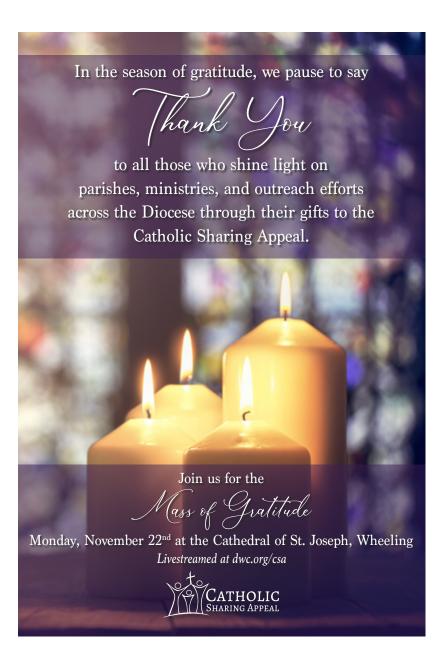
Sponsoring a handmade, fresh wreath is \$15. They will be placed on "National Wreaths Across America Day," Saturday, Dec. 18. To sponsor a veteran's wreath or to volunteer, go to www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/WV0103, or contact Anthony C. Ovies at (304) 622-3833.

### John Angotti to Hold Advent Concert in Clarksburg

**CLARKSBURG**—John Angotti will perform an Advent concert at Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg on the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 7.

"Please plan to make this event part of your Advent journey by bringing your family and friends to share a special night of prayer and music," parish officials said.

The ICC Children's Choir will perform with Angotti at the concert.



## Charleston Knights of Columbus Conduct Food Packing Event with Cross Catholic Outreach



**Courtesy Photo** 

Volunteers are pictured at the Knights of Columbus Council #1260's food packing event for Cross Catholic Outreach in Charleston.

#### **By Martina Hart CHARLESTON**—On

Saturday, October 16, 2021 (World Food Day) the Knights of Columbus Council #12630 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston hosted a food packing event in collaboration with Cross Catholic Outreach.

The 210 volunteers ranging from ages under 8 to over 80 included Knights of Columbus from various councils throughout the state, parishioners of the basilica, Ascension Parish in Hurricane and other area parishes, students of Charleston Catholic High School, Boy Scouts Troop 2, and many others. Working together in two shifts, all clad in yellow Tshirts, hair nets and face masks, they were able to package 100,490 nutritious meals for impoverished children and families. Tables, equipment and supplies had been set up in the Sacred Heart Pavilion on Leon Sullivan Way.

After brief instructions provided by Cross Catholic team members, volunteers spread out to the different work stations where each group soon figured out some routine of measuring and weighing, pouring, sealing, labeling, and boxing the food packages. Boxes containing 54 meals each were then stacked onto pallets and plastic wrapped to prepare

for their journey. The meals consist of either rice and beans or macaroni and cheese, each fortified with vitamins and other nutrients.

The rice and beans meals, which made up 90% of the packages, are being shipped to Guatemala where they will be distributed by local Catholic organizations networking with Cross Catholic. The 10% mac and cheese meals will benefit families in West Virginia.

"It was an amazing example of the local Catholic community working together to put their faith into action," said Terry Waters, Manager of Special Initiatives at Cross Catholic Outreach. "Each day we lose 15,000 children worldwide to starvation. The food that was packed ... on Saturday will likely mean the difference between life and death for so many of those who will receive it."

Jack Walsh of the Charleston Council coordinated the event together with his wife Annabelle. Similar food packing events had been held in Kingwood, Morgantown and Wheeling, he explained. The event envisioned for the fall of 2020 in Beckley had to be canceled due to the COVID pandemic. In May of this year, Walsh and Dick Fauss, Grand Knight of the #12630 Council, committed to host the food packing in Charleston this fall.

"It was going to be new and different and hard," Walsh said of the daunting task to not only organize the event but also to commit to packaging 100,000 meals which also meant raising \$30,000 in funds.

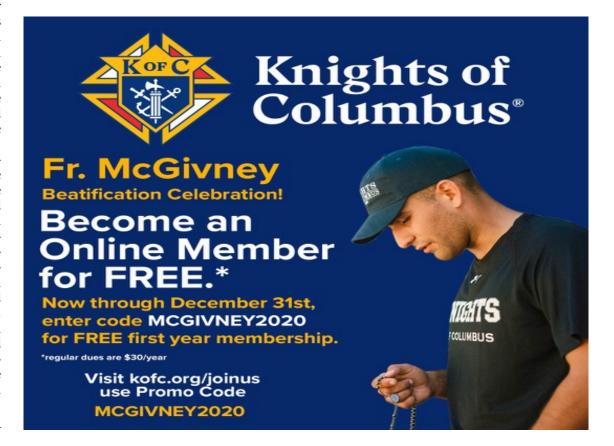
Donations from councils throughout the state, various parishes and individual donors helped to finance the operation. "It's such a heartwarming event," Walsh said. "Everything came together, and it was nice to see a lot of families. It was a really nice day for the community, like 200 of the best people to-

gether doing the right thing, and Cross Catholic has the program figured out."

He received a lot of positive feedback from volunteers who enjoyed working together for a good cause, oftentimes with people they had not met before. The event was held in memory of Knight George B. Merolle, Jr., who passed away just a year ago on 10/10/2020 and who over many years had cooked countless council family dinners as well as food for fundraising events.

"He was a special knight to our council because he set an example about caring for families," said Fauss. "We really held him in high regards for that. There was not a meal he did not prepare that the leftovers did not go to help someone. So, we dedicated this food packing event to him."

Waters added that Cross Catholic Outreach has been working nationwide with the Knight of Columbus this year in an effort to pack 1 million meals. "The West Virginia Knights certainly helped towards achieving that goal through their efforts," he said.



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## Catholic University Allows Student Group's Planned Parenthood Fundraiser

By Pablo Kay, Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez said Nov. 5 he was "deeply disappointed" by Loyola Marymount University's decision to allow a student group's fundraiser for Planned Parenthood to go forward later the same day despite thousands of protests against the event.

LMU Women in Politics, a registered student organization, sponsored the fundraiser for the nation's largest abortion provider on what is the campus of the largest Catholic university in Southern California.

The archbishop said in a statement that he had been in discussions with university officials emphasizing that "respect for the sanctity and dignity of all human life is central to Catholic identity and must be a core com-

mitment in Catholic higher education."

Archbishop Gomez's statement came after more than a week of controversy over the event that included Loyola Marymount alumni garnering nearly 20,000 signatures in online petitions calling for it to be canceled.

University officials expressed regret for "the concerns this situation has caused our community members and Catholic partners," but decided on the afternoon of the fundraiser to allow it to continue.

In a statement issued Nov. 5, the university tried to distance itself from the fundraiser for an organization that received more than \$618 million in taxpayer monies and performed more than 350,000 abortions last year.

"The event being held this evening by Women in Politics, an inde-

pendent student organization, is neither sponsored nor endorsed by LMU," the statement said. "The university does not support, nor does it fundraise, for Planned Parenthood."

Critics decried the university's decision and noted that nowhere in its statement did it express commitment to the Catholic Church's teachings on human life. Instead, the university expressed commitment to "its Catholic, Jesuit and Marymount values."

In a letter sent to Loyola Marymount's president, Timothy Law Snyder, the afternoon of Nov. 5, the university alumna who started the online petition questioned the logic of "explanations from university officials" that the decision to allow the event "shall not be construed as approval" of Planned Parenthood.

"We hope even now that you

will make the right choice rather than the politically expedient choice," wrote alumna Samantha Stephenson, a mother of three and Catholic blogger who credits her time at the Jesuit university with leading her to join the Catholic Church.

In his statement, issued after Loyola Marymount's statement, Archbishop Gomez stressed that abortion is both a moral wrong and a social injustice.

"From the first century, the Catholic Church has taught that abortion is a moral evil that involves the killing of the unborn child," he said. "In our day, abortion often victimizes women in poor and minority communities and is used to eliminate children with disabilities."

(Kay is editor-in-chief of Angelus, the online news site of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.)

## Pope's World Day of the Poor Includes Listening, Helping

**By Catholic News Service** 

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Pope Francis plans to prepare for his celebration of the World Day of the Poor by meeting with and listening to some 500 poor people making a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy, Nov. 12.

Two days later, on the World Day of the Poor, the pope will celebrate a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with about 2,000 poor people and those who assist them, the Vatican said. Everyone will be offered a hot meal after Mass.

The Assisi pilgrims, assisted by a French and several Italian Catholic charitable organizations, will go home from Assisi with new backpacks

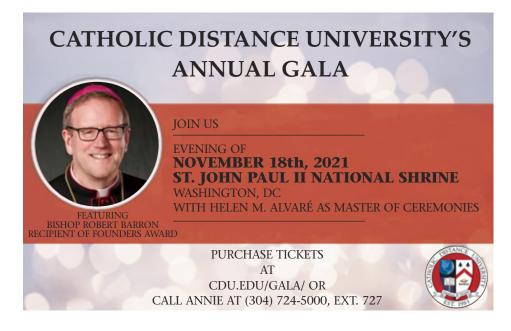
containing winter sweaters, scarves, hats and jackets as well as fabric anti COVID-19 masks.

The Vatican said Nov. 8 the gifts will be packaged by the +Three project, "which promotes products made in respect of environmental and economic sustainability within an ethical and socially useful supply chain."

The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which promotes and organizes the World Day of the Poor, said Pope Francis will pay particular attention this year to 40 groups homes that care for children or children and their mothers, delivering a two-month supply of personal care products and food, especially baby

food. With donations from a grocery store chain and a pasta manufacturer, it said, the group homes and local parishes and charities will share five tons of pasta, one ton of rice, two tons of tomato puree, 1,000 liters of oil and 3,000 liters of milk.

The Vatican also has prepared 5,000 kits filled with common over-the-counter medications for distribution to the poor through Rome parishes, the council said. And an Italian financial services company has made a donation that will allow the office of the papal almoner to help 500 families pay their gas and utility bills, the council said.





# Trust Christ's Presence, Learn to Invoke the Holy Spirit, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — In times of trouble, Christians must be like the disciples in the boat on the stormy sea, calling out to Jesus and waking him up, Pope Francis said.

"We must rouse Christ in our hearts, and only then will we be able to contemplate things with his eyes, for he sees beyond the storm," the pope said Nov. 10 at his weekly general audience.

With an exhortation to trust Christ's presence and to learn how to invoke the aid of the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis said he was concluding his series of audience talks about St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. The concluding talk was the 15th in a series that began in late June.

The Letter to the Galatians, he said, should generate enthusiasm in Christians for following "the way of freedom, to 'walk according to the Spirit.'"

Christian freedom has nothing to do with "debauchery" or a sense of being completely self-sufficient and not needing God's help, he said. Instead, St. Paul taught that freedom exists under "love's shadow" and is exercised in acts of charity and service.

Christian freedom is not freedom from the law, the pope said, but rather is the fulfillment of it.

But, he said, "the temptation always is to turn back. One definition of Christians in the Scriptures

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1 Fourteenth Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 304-233-2270 Stop in or call us today! is that we Christians are not people who go backward, who turn back. It's a good definition. The temptation is to turn back to feel more secure, to turn to the law alone, disregarding the new life in the Spirit."

"This is what Paul teaches us: The true law finds its fullness in the life of the Spirit that Jesus gave us, and this life in the Spirit can be lived only in freedom, Christian freedom," Pope Francis said.

In addition to calling on Jesus when in the midst of a storm, the pope encouraged Christians to invoke the aid of the Holy Spirit regularly.

"Someone may say, 'Father, how do you invoke the Holy Spirit, because I know how to pray to the Father, with the Our Father; I know how to pray to Our Lady with the Hail Mary; I know how to pray to Jesus with the Prayer to the Holy Wounds, but what about the Spirit? What is the prayer of the Holy Spirit?"

"Prayer to the Holy Spirit is spontaneous; it must come from your heart. In moments of difficulty you must ask, 'Holy Spirit,



CNS Photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets a woman during his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Nov. 10.

come," he said. "You must say it in your own language, in your own words. 'Come, because I am in difficulty; come because I am in darkness, in the dark; come because I do not know what to do; come be-

cause I am about to fall."

"This prayer will help us walk in the Spirit, in freedom and in joy," the pope said, "because when the Holy Spirit comes, there is joy, true joy."

## The Great Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated in Martinsburg

St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg invites everyone to their Virgen de Guadalupe Grand Fiesta on Desembre 12th 2021.

On Desembre 12th, we will gather in "Lackey Hall" at the St. Joseph Church at 5:00 AM to sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin, followed by the 6:00 a.m. Mass in her honor.

After Mass we will go in procession to St. Joseph School and will continue to celebrate at the school cafeteria with Mexican dishes, Mexican dances and much more.

For more information or to make a donation, please call (304)267-7307 or (304)267-4898.

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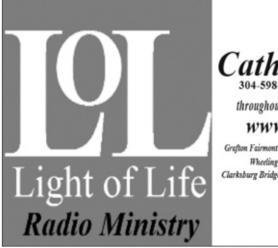
For more information, contact Daniel Maul, director of Evangelization & Catechesis for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, by e-mail to dmaul@dwc.org or Michelle McDonald, Conference Coordinator by calling (832) 7790-1070 or by e-mail to michelle@forlifeandfamily.org.

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## Safety and Comfort for Our Elderly Neighbors

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 the HomeCare program comes in.

"John" is one of our clients. He served as an Army Corporal in the early 1950s at the end of WWII and during the Korean War. Now at 91 years old, John lives with his daughter, "Karen."

The pandemic has been hard on the father-daughter duo. At one point in 2020, Karen contracted COVID and had to quarantine. She could not help John perform his daily living routine. They called Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) for assistance.

CCWVa HomeCare program staff never stopped providing quality services throughout the pandemic. We are committed to providing uninterrupted care while following safety protocols to keep the clients, family, and staff healthy and safe.

While CCWVa in-home caregivers perform necessary tasks like cooking, bathing, light housework, and transportation, their service amounts to much more. We offer companionship during an extremely isolating time of life.

John and his in-home caregiver have forged quite a bond in the year they've been working together. And, from Karen's perspective, she is able to continue working without worrying about her dad being alone and unsafe. We are honored to support John in his desire to age in place, in the comfort of his own home

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 (304) 905-9868. Our HomeCare program accepts Medicaid and VA Waivers, and we offer an affordable private pay option.

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.

## Wheeling University Service Project Benefits Catholic Charities and Local Residents

WHEELING—Wheeling University first-year students assembled more than 900 food packets for Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWV) – a project that will benefit local residents this winter.

Through the partnership with Catholic Charities Northern Region, about 160 First Year Seminar (FYS) students assisted the agency in preparing the 'snow meals' for those who receive home delivered meals from Catholic Charities. Assisting the students were Wheeling University staff and upper-class volunteers.

"Our mission at Wheeling University is to equip our graduates with the critical, creative and empathetic tools they need to pursue rewarding careers and enrich their local communities. To do that, students need to have experiences like assisting Catholic Charities' efforts to help our community members to feed their families. I am grateful the Wheeling University family could assist Catholic Charities and the Wheeling residents who depend on this meal program," said Ginny R. Favede, president of Wheeling University.

The Northern Region of Catholic Charities provides meals to about 185 people Monday through Saturday each week. However, with inclement weather approaching, the agency sometimes cannot deliver meals due to unsafe conditions. On those occasions, each individual receives, in advance, five snow meals, which include nonperishable food items. The meals bridge the gap until deliveries can resume. As part of their FYS experience, the Wheeling students packed the snow meals for Catholic Charities.

On site for the meal assembly was Wheeling Alumna Latrisha Whitelatch '02, who is the assistant coordinator of the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling.

"Usually, our volunteers help us pack the meals at the center. This is the first time we have been able to partner with the University in this way and it is a tremendous blessing. We have the meals prepared ahead of time, and with the students help, we did it in a fraction of the time," she explained.

Twenty tables were set up inside the University's Troy Theater and students wore masks and gloves and were spaced out to adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols. At each table, students trained each other, gathered and placed a can of soup, a fruit cup, applesauce, ramen and dried fruit into bag. Once all the meal bags were finished, the Wheeling students helped Whitelatch load all of the meals into a van, which were taken back to Catholic Charities where they will be distributed to their clients.

"Projects such as this addresses our obligation as a Catholic institution to engage with our community in service learning activities. Granting the restrictions of COVID-19, our outreach through the Appalachian Institute is often curtailed by where we can go, what we can do and who we can invite to participate safely," said Father Richard McCouch, S.J., director of Wheeling's Appalachian Institute. "Through this project, we had an opportunity to address a community in need, and to instruct our FYS students about food security in our region."

Wheeling University freshman Joseph Iye undertaking service project "make me more whole (as a person). There are a lot of people out there that are struggling. For all of us to come together as a group to help them, lets them know there are people in the community ready to help





Courtesy Photo Wheeling University first-year students assemble food packets.

them. This small project has helped me see what a big impact we can make in lives of others "

Northern Regional Director for CCWV Mark Phillips, said, "It was a real blessing to Catholic Charities WV to have so many hands to help

pack snow meals for the people whom we serve. As the weather turns toward winter, it can be difficult for people to meet their food needs — especially the homebound. We thank Father McCouch and the FYS students for helping us to serve this critical need."



## St. Paul Students Pray for Deceased Loved Ones on Solemnity of All Souls









**Courtesy Photos** 

During their school Mass at St. Paul Church in Weirton for the Solemnity of All Souls on Nov. 2, each student from St. Paul School prayed for someone they lost. Each of them came forward and added to the incense as they prayed. The Mass was celebrated by Father Babu Joseph Elamturuthil, pastor of the parish and school. Students are pictured above during the Mass.

#### Confirmation Schedule

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Saturday, November 20, 2021: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5:00 p.m.

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Children Celebrate Solemnity of All Saints in Monongah

Students from Holy Spirit Parish in Monongah portray saints on the Solemnity of All Saints. Courtesy Photo



### Talk on St. Joseph

GUEST SPEAKER - DR. MARK MIRAVALLE

Friday, December 10th
St. Joseph the Worker Charch
229 California Avenue
Weirton, WV 26062
Rosary at 7 PM
Talk from 7:30-8:15
15 minutes of Q&A afterwards

111

HELP US WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER DR. MARK MIRAVALLE WHO WILL BE GIVING A TALK ABOUT ST. JOSEPH AT ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH IN WEIRTON, WV. A WORLD-RENOWNED MARIOLOGIST, DR. MIRAVALLE WILL HELP US DISCOVER THAT WE NOT ONLY HAVE A SPIRITUAL MOTHER IN THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, BUT THAT WE HAVE A TREASURE

IN OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER, ST. JOSEPH!

For more information, contact the St. Joseph the Worker Rectory: 304-723-2054 - joetheworkerdre@gmail.com

## Papa: Confíe en la presencia de Cristo, aprenda a invocar al Espíritu Santo

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — Cuando hay problemas, los cristianos deben ser como los discípulos en el barco en el mar tempestuoso, y deben llamar a Jesús y despertarlo, dijo el papa Francisco.

"Debemos despertar a Cristo en nuestros corazones, y solo entonces podremos contemplar las cosas con sus ojos, porque él ve más allá de la tormenta", dijo el papa el 10 de noviembre en su audiencia general semanal.

Con una exhortación a confiar en la presencia de Cristo y aprender a invocar la ayuda del Espíritu Santo, el papa Francisco dijo que estaba concluyendo su serie de charlas durante su audiencia sobre la Carta de San Pablo a los Gálatas. La charla final fue la decimoquinta de una serie que comenzó a fines de junio.

La Carta a los Gálatas, dijo, debe generar entusiasmo en los cristianos por seguir "el camino de la libertad, para 'andar según el Espíritu'".

La libertad cristiana no tiene nada que ver con el "libertinaje" o la sensación de ser completamente autosuficiente y no necesitar la ayuda de Dios, dijo. En cambio, san Pablo enseñó que la libertad existe bajo "la sombra del amor" y se ejerce en actos de caridad y servicio.

La libertad cristiana no es la libertad de la ley, dijo el papa, sino su cumplimiento.

Pero, dijo, "la tentación es siempre la de volver atrás. Una definición de los cristianos, que está en la Escritura, dice que nosotros cristianos no somos gente que va hacia atrás, que vuelve atrás. Una bonita definición. Y la tentación es esta de ir atrás para estar más seguros; volver solamente a la Ley, descuidando la vida nueva del Espíritu".

"Esto es lo que Pablo nos enseña: la verdadera ley tiene su plenitud en esta vida del Espíritu que Jesús nos ha dado. Y esta vida del Espíritu puede ser vivida solamente en la libertad, la libertad cristiana", dijo el papa Francisco.

Además de invocar a Jesús en medio de una tormenta, el papa animó a los cristianos a invocar la ayuda del Espíritu Santo con regularidad.

"Alguien puede decir: 'Padre, ¿cómo invocas al Espíritu Santo? Porque yo sé rezar al Padre, con el Padre Nuestro; sé rezar a la Virgen con el Ave María; sé rezar a la Virgen. Jesús con la Oración a las Santas Llagas, pero ¿qué pasa con el Espíritu? ¿Qué es la oración del Espíritu Santo? '"

"La oración al Espíritu Santo es

espontánea; debe venir de tu corazón. En momentos de dificultad debes pedir: 'Espíritu Santo, ven'", dijo. "Debes decirlo en tu propio idioma, con tus propias palabras. 'Ven porque estoy en dificultades; ven porque estoy en la oscuridad, en la oscuridad; ven porque no sé qué hacer; ven porque estoy a punto de caer.'"

"Esta oración nos ayudará a caminar en el Espíritu, en libertad y en gozo", dijo el papa, "porque cuando viene el Espíritu Santo, hay gozo, gozo verdadero".

### Gran Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

se Celebrará en Martinsburg

La parroquia de San José en Martinsburg invita a todos a su Gran Fiesta a la Virgen de Guadalupe el 12 de Diciembre del 2021.

El 12 de Diciembre nos reuniremos en "Lackey Hall" de la Iglesia de San José a cantarle "Las Mañanitas a la Virgen, comenzando a las 5:00 de la mañana seguido a las 6:00 con la Misa en su honor.

Después de la Misa nos trasladamos en procesión hacia la Escuela San José y se seguirá celebrando en el salón de la cafeteria con platos mexicanos, bailes y mucho más.

Para obtener mayor información o donativos, llame al (304) 267-7307 or (304)267-4898.



**Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de ninos:** La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. Tambien alentamos a utilizar www.report bishopabuse.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, comuniquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdiccion correspondiente y visite www.reportbishopabuse.org.

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuniquese con la policia local; los numeros variaran segun su ubicacion. Si cree que alguien esta en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuniquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Proteccion Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la linea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352. 6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta linea directa si lo prefiere.

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

cina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diocesis al 304.230.1504. Tambien puede llamar a la linea directa de abuso sexual de la Diocesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja estan disponibles en linea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diocesis" en la barra de menu, 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, Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Victimas de la Diocesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Ademas de los metodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis tambien 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, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela catolica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a traves de www.dwc.org, en "Rendicion 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 informacion: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp. Policia Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crimenes contra Ninos: 304-293-6400.

### **Employment Opportunities**

#### **Executive Director of Department of Social Ministry**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking to hire an Executive Director of the Department of Social Ministry.

The Executive Director is responsible for serving as a catalyst and ongoing resource to the Bishop, diocesan staff, pastors and parishes in developing and maintaining effort which link direct service, advocacy, action and empowerment toward concerns of local and global justice, respect for all human life and environmental concerns.

This person also provides leadership, vision and advocacy for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for Prison, Hispanic ministries and other immigrant groups.

 $Qualification\ requirements\ include\ a\ Bachelor's\ degree\ (Master's\ preferred),$ 

2-5 years experience in parish Social Ministry, extensive knowledge of Catholic Social Teachings, working knowledge of the operation of the Catholic Church, self-motivated, ability to work in a team environment.

Please submit resume, references and cover letter to:

**Human Resources Office** 

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

1311 Byron Street

PO Box 230

Wheeling, WV 26003

mwalsh@dwc.org

Position will stay open until filled.

#### Case Manager, Catholic Charities W.Va.

The Case Manager is responsible for assisting and supporting the Regional Director in multiple programs. This employee will also direct case management duties, essential in carrying out the mission and vision of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

This is a full-time position. Essential Job Duties: Conduct face-to-face interviews with clients; assist clients in implementation of long-range plans; Maintain the operation of region's Emergency Assistance Program; develop comprehensive service plan with client; possess excellent writing skills; assist the Regional Director in working with regional Catholic parishes.

Qualifications: Bachelor in Social Work or related field; working knowledge of an ability to articulate Catholic Social Teaching; experience in working with parish social concerns committees; casework experience working with at-risk populations; excellent computer skills with ability to track and analyse data. Must have transportation to travel.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references to: bhagy@ccwva.org

Application materials can also be delivered to:

Bill Hagy, Regional Director, Western Region, 1024 Quarrier Street Charleston, WV 25301

## Maintenance/Janitorial Worker at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Wheeling

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is a vibrant Catholic congregation in Wheeling, WV. Our staff works as a team to create a great working environment as we serve the needs of our parish and school communities. We have multiple buildings that require daily maintenance and repair.

Maintenance Worker Responsibilities: Conducting routine inspections of premises and equipment; performing preventative maintenance; handling basic repairs and maintenance; overseeing contractors when professional repairs are necessary; diagnosing mechanical issues and correcting them; repairing machines, equipment, or structures as necessary; lawn care; snow removal; cleaning the church and grounds; cemetery management; collaborates with St. Vincent School Maintenance / Janitorial Worker; and preparing the church for Mass, weddings, and funerals.

Maintenance Worker Requirements: Proven maintenance experience; high school diploma or general education degree (GED); related degree from a technical college (preferred); must have a vehicle with capability of towing 1000 lbs.; must pass a background check and complete Safe Environment training. Hours of work: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; occasional night and weekend hours required.

Compensation based on experience. Employee benefits offered through the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston. If interested, send resume to St. Vincent de Paul Church c/o Susie Koval 2244 Marshall Ave., Wheeling WV 26003 or to skoval@saintvincentparish.org

