

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## McCarrick Report Summary Cites Lack of Serious Investigations of Rumors

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Although dogged for years by rumors of sexual impropriety, Theodore E. McCarrick was able to rise up the Catholic hierarchical structure based on personal contacts, protestations of his innocence and a lack of church officials reporting and investigating accusations, according to the Vatican sum-

mary of its report on the matter.

In choosing then-Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark in 2000 to be archbishop of Washington and later a cardinal, St. John Paul II likely overlooked rumors and allegations about McCarrick's sexual misconduct because of a long relationship with him, McCarrick's own strong denial and the pope's experience with communist authorities in Poland making accusations

to discredit the church, the summary said.

But, in fact, rumors of McCarrick's conduct, especially knowledge that he had young adult men and seminarians sleep in the same bed with him when he was bishop of Metuchen, New Jersey, led the Vatican to decide it would be "imprudent" to promote him when looking for candidates to become archbishop of Chicago in 1997, New York in

1999-2000 and, initially, of Washington in July 2000, the report said.

One hour before the release Nov. 10 of the "Report on the Holy See's Institutional Knowledge and Decision-Making Related to Former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick," journalists were given the document's 14-page introduction, which described the two-year investigation that led to the **See "Report" on Page 2**

## St. Mary Central Students Honor, Pray for Veterans

By **Colleen Rowan**

"It is an important day to show appreciation for the members of our military both past and present," Principal Nicole Folio said to the St. Mary Central School community in Clarksburg. Students and teachers were gathered outside of the school for a Veterans Day Prayer Service to honor the brave men and women of their community who have served their country.

For the ceremony, sixth-graders unraveled and held a huge American flag, while younger students proudly waived little American flags. The children and teachers wore masks and were social distancing during the service.

The school held its Veterans Day Prayer Service on Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day. Folio began the service by telling the children that this was the feast of St. Martin of Tours, patron saint of soldiers. "He served in the Italian army, and later declared himself a soldier of Christ," she said.

There are many ways to **See "Veterans" on Page 6**



St. Mary Central School in Clarksburg hold its Veterans Day Prayer Service.

Courtesy Photo

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report's compilation and gave an "executive summary" of its findings.

In June 2018, the Vatican suspended McCarrick from ministry after an investigation by the Archdiocese of New York found credible a charge that he sexually abused a teenager. McCarrick resigned from the College of Cardinals in July, and in February 2019, after a canonical process found McCarrick guilty of "solicitation in the sacrament of confession and sins against the Sixth Commandment with minors and with adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power," Pope Francis dismissed him from the priesthood.

In August 2018, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, former nuncio to the

United States, called on Pope Francis to resign after claiming that he had informed Pope Francis of McCarrick's abuse in 2013 and that top Vatican officials knew of McCarrick's abusive behavior for years.

That claim led Pope Francis to initiate an investigation into how McCarrick was able to continue to rise through church ranks despite the repeated rumors, anonymous letters, allegations and even settlements with alleged victims. The report summary said, "No records support Vigano's account" of his meeting with Pope Francis "and evidence as to what he said is sharply disputed."

Until the allegations about child sexual abuse were made to the Archdiocese of New York in 2017, "Francis had heard only that there had been allega-

tions and rumors related to immoral conduct with adults occurring prior to McCarrick's appointment to Washington," it said.

"Believing that the allegations had already been reviewed and rejected by Pope John Paul II, and well aware that McCarrick was active during the papacy of Benedict XVI, Pope Francis did not see the need to alter the approach that had been adopted in prior years," the summary said.

The introduction to the report said it is based on documents found at the Vatican and the apostolic nunciature in the United States as well as interviews — "ranging in length from one to 30 hours" — with more than 90 witnesses in the United States, Italy and elsewhere. They included survivors, cardinals, bishops and former seminarians.

In a statement issued with the report, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the contributions of survivors were "fundamental." The introduction of the report cautions survivors of abuse that certain sections "could prove traumatizing" and warns that some portions of the document are "inappropriate for minors."

He also said that over the course of the two years it took to complete the investigation and compile the report, "we have taken significant steps forward to ensure greater attention to the protection of minors and more effective interventions to avoid" repeating errors of the past.

Among those steps, he highlighted "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the Light of the World"), Pope Francis' 2019 document on promoting bishops' accountability and setting out procedures for handling accusations of abuse against bishops.

According to the summary, St. John Paul's decisions to name McCarrick bishop of Metuchen in 1981 and archbishop of Newark in 1986 were based on "his background, skills and achievements. During the appointment process, McCarrick was widely lauded as a

pastoral, intelligent and zealous bishop."

The summary also said that, at the time, "no credible information emerged suggesting that he had engaged in any misconduct."

But in October 1999 Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York wrote to Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, then nuncio in the United States, summarizing allegations about McCarrick, then-archbishop of Newark. The letter was given to St. John Paul, who asked Archbishop Montalvo to investigate.

The nuncio did so by writing to four New Jersey bishops, the summary said without naming the bishops. The bishops, named in the full report, were Bishops James T. McHugh of Camden, 1989-1998; Vincent D. Breen of Metuchen, 1997-2000; Edward T. Hughes of Metuchen, 1987-1997; and John M. Smith of Trenton, 1997-2010.

"What is now known, through investigation undertaken for preparation of the report, is that three of the four American bishops provided inaccurate and incomplete information to the Holy See regarding McCarrick's sexual conduct with young adults," the summary said.

In response to Cardinal O'Connor's accusations, the report said, McCarrick wrote to now-Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, St. John Paul's secretary, claiming: "In the 70 years of my life, I have never had sexual relations with any person, male or female, young or old, cleric or lay, nor have I ever abused another person or treated them with disrespect."

"McCarrick's denial was believed," the summary said, adding that because of "the limited nature of the Holy See's own prior investigation, the Holy See had never received a complaint directly from a victim, whether adult or minor, about McCarrick's conduct."

"Though there is no direct evidence," the summary added, "it appears likely from the information obtained that John Paul II's past

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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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# At Audience, Pope Renews Commitment to Fight Abuse



CNS Photo/Vatican Media  
Pope Francis leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Nov. 11.

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — After the Vatican released its extensive report on Theodore E. McCarrick, Pope Francis renewed the Catholic Church's pledge to uproot the scourge of sexual abuse.

Before concluding his weekly general audience Nov. 11, the pope made his first public statement on the release of the report regarding the "painful case" of the former cardinal.

"I renew my closeness to all victims of every form of abuse and the church's commitment to eradicate this evil," he said.

After reading his brief comment on the report, the pope bowed his head and closed his eyes in silent prayer.

The 460-page report, which was published by the Vatican Nov. 10, chronicled McCarrick's rise through the church's hierarchal ranks despite decades of accusations of sexual abuse and abuse of power.

Before his comment on the report, the pope continued his series of audience talks on prayer, reflecting on the importance of perseverance.

He began by saying he was told by someone that he "speaks too much about prayer" and that it was unnecessary.

However, he said, "it is necessary, because if we do not pray, we will not have the strength to go forward in life. Prayer is like the oxygen of life; prayer draws upon us the Holy Spirit who always carries us forward. That is why I speak so much about prayer."

Jesus taught people to engage in "constant dialogue" with God not only with the example of his own prayer, but also with parables that highlighted the importance of perseverance in prayer.

Reflecting on Jesus' parable of the tenacious person who knocks unceasingly at his friend's door asking for bread, the pope said that unlike the friend who relents after constant insistence, God "is more patient with us and the person who knocks with faith and perseverance on the door of his heart will not be disappointed."

"Our Father knows well what we need; insistence is necessary not to inform him or to convince him, but it is necessary to nurture the desire and expectation in us," the pope said.

Jesus' parable of the widow who persistently sought and eventually obtained justice from an unscrupulous judge, he continued, serves as a reminder that faith "is not a momentary choice but a courageous disposition to call on God, even to 'argue' with him, without resigning oneself to evil and injustice."

Finally, the parable of the Pharisee who boasted his merits during prayer while the publican feels unworthy to enter the temple reveals that "there is no true prayer without humility," he said.

Pope Francis said the Gospel encourages Christians to pray always, "even when everything seems in vain, when God appears to be deaf and mute and it seems we are wasting time."

"There are many days of our life when faith seems to be an illusion, a sterile exertion," the pope said. "But the practice of prayer means accepting even this exertion. Many saints experienced the night of faith and God's silence, and they were persevering."

True Christians, the pope added, do not fear anything but instead "entrust themselves to the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us a gift and who prays with us."

# USCCB President Apologizes to Clergy Abuse Victims as Report is Released

**WASHINGTON (CNS)**—Calling a Vatican report on its investigation into its knowledge of sexual improprieties of Theodore McCarrick while a clergyman, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles said the findings mark "another tragic chapter in the church's long struggle to confront the crimes of sexual abuse by clergy."

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also said in a Nov. 10 statement as the report was being released at the Vatican that the findings were being reviewed by U.S. church leaders, and he expressed gratitude for Pope Francis' effort to address clergy sexual abuse.

"We are studying these findings," he said, "and we are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for his pastoral concern for the family of God in the United States and his leadership in calling the church to greater accountability and transparency in addressing issue of abuse and the handling of abuse claims at every level."

The report summarizes the actions of church officials, including earlier popes, that led McCarrick to rise

through the church hierarchical structure to become a cardinal despite years of rumors of sexual impropriety.

McCarrick used personal contacts, protestations of his innocence and a lack of church officials reporting and investigating accusations against him to advance in the hierarchy, according to the Vatican summary of its report on the matter.

In his statement, released in Washington, Archbishop Gomez offered "profound sorrow and deepest apologies" to "McCarrick's victims and their families and to every victim-survivor of sexual abuse by the clergy."

He also urged all people who may have been abused by a priest, bishop or someone in the church to report their allegation to law enforcement and to church authorities.

"This report underscores the need for us to repent and grow in our commitment to serve the people of God," Archbishop Gomez said. "Let us all continue to pray and strive for the conversion of our hearts, and that we might follow Jesus Christ with integrity and humility."

nal Giovanni Battista Re, then-prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, told McCarrick "he should maintain a lower profile and minimize travel for the good of the church."

"While Cardinal Re's approach was approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the indications did not carry the pope's explicit imprimatur, were not based on a factual finding that McCarrick had actually committed misconduct and did not include a prohibition on public ministry," the summary said.

Archbishop Vigano, while working in the Vatican Secretariat of State, wrote memos in 2006 and 2008 "bringing questions related to McCarrick to the attention of superiors," the summary said. The memos referred to allegations and rumors about McCarrick's "misconduct during the 1980s and raised concerns that a scandal could result given that the information had already circulated widely."

The archbishop, the report said, noted that "the allegations remained unproven," but he suggested opening a canonical process to investigate.

Archbishop Vigano, who was appointed nuncio to the United States in 2011, was "instructed" in 2012 to conduct an inquiry into allegations by a priest who claimed he was sexually assaulted by McCarrick, the summary said.

Archbishop Vigano, it continued, "did not take these steps and therefore never placed himself in the position to ascertain the credibility" of the priest's claims.

## Report ...

Cont'd from Page 2

experience in Poland regarding the use of spurious allegations against bishops to degrade the standing of the church played a role in his willingness to believe McCarrick's denials."

In addition, McCarrick had a relationship with the Polish pope going back to his days as the cardinal of Krakow. The summary said, "McCarrick's direct relationship with John Paul II also likely had an impact on the pope's decision-making."

St. John Paul II "personally made the decision" to name him archbishop of Washington and a cardinal, it said.

The report also concluded that now-retired Pope Benedict XVI did not initiate a formal canonical process against McCarrick or even impose sanctions on him because "there were no credible allegations of child abuse; McCarrick swore on his 'oath as a bishop' that the allegations were false; the allegations of misconduct with adults related to events in the 1980s; and there was no indication of any recent misconduct."

However, after initially asking McCarrick to stay on in Washington for two years past his 75th birthday in 2005, the summary said, new details related to a priest's allegations about McCarrick's sexual misconduct emerged and Pope Benedict asked him to step down in 2006.

At the time, the summary said, Cardi-

# Pope Francis Calls Biden to Congratulate Him on Winning Presidential Election

By **Catholic News Service**

**WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS)** — Pope Francis called President-elect Joe Biden early Nov. 12 to congratulate him on winning the U.S. presidential election.

"The president-elect thanked His Holiness for extending blessings and congratulations and noted his appreciation for His Holiness's leadership in promoting peace, reconciliation and the common bonds of humanity around the world," said a readout on the call released by Biden's transition team in Wilmington. It also was all over Twitter.

Biden, it said, "expressed his desire to work together on the basis of a shared belief in the dignity and equality of all humankind on issues such as caring for the marginalized and the poor, addressing the crisis of climate change, and welcoming and integrating immigrants and refugees into our communities."

Biden will be the nation's second Catholic president, after John F. Kennedy, who was elected to the na-

tion's highest office 60 years ago, on Nov. 8, 1960.

On Nov. 7, the media declared Biden the winner of the Nov. 3 election, but President Donald Trump has not conceded, and he and his campaign have filed several lawsuits in key battleground states, like Pennsylvania, disputing the election outcome, claiming voter fraud and irregularities in ballot counting.

While votes are still being counted, Biden has garnered 290 electoral votes while Trump has 217 electoral votes. It takes 270 votes to win the presidency.

In the meantime, Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris are working with their transition team.

Biden first met Pope Francis in 2013 as vice president, serving with President Barack Obama. In 2015, Biden and Obama welcomed Pope Francis to Washington, where he addressed a joint meeting of Congress Sept. 24 of that year.

Then-Vice President Biden also met Pope Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, including a meeting

in the pope's Vatican office June 3, 2011.

While he was on the campaign trail for the 2020 presidential race, Biden invoked Pope Francis and quoted his encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship," released Oct. 4 by the Vatican.

"Political life," the pope wrote, "no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people's lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and countercharges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation."

Pope Francis urged Christians and all people of goodwill to recognize the equal dignity of all people and to work together to build a world where people love and care for one another as brothers and sisters.

Building that world, he said in the encyclical, requires "encounter

and dialogue," processes that allow people to speak from their experience and culture, to listen to one another, learn from one another and find ways to work together for the common good.

In a campaign speech in Warm Springs, Georgia, Oct. 27, Biden talked about the need to heal the nation as the country faces the pandemic and an economic crisis.

"Pope Francis warns us against this phony populism that appeals to the basest and most selfish instinct. He goes on to say politics is more noble than posturing, marketing and media spin. These sow nothing but division, conflict and bleak cynicism," Biden said in his remarks.

"He said for those who seek to lead, we do well to ask ourselves why am I doing this? Why? What is my real aim? Pope Francis asked questions that anyone who seeks to lead this great nation should be able to answer. And my answer is this: I run to unite this nation and to heal this nation," he said.

## World Day of Poor Initiatives Adapt to Pandemic, Vatican Official Says

By **Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Even during a global pandemic, the World Day of the Poor will be an important opportunity for parishes to highlight the importance of charity and spiritual comfort for those in need, said a Vatican official.

Although restrictions meant to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus have meant some initiatives had to be canceled or modified, the Nov. 15 day re-

mains an occasion for dioceses around the world to "keep alive a sense of attention and fraternity toward the most marginalized and disadvantaged," said Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which coordinates the World Day of the Poor activities.

At a Vatican news conference Nov. 12, the archbishop detailed what the Vatican and the Diocese of Rome had planned.

Pope Francis was to celebrate Mass

in St. Peter's Basilica Nov. 15 in the presence of 100 people, who will represent those around the world who face poverty as well as volunteers and benefactors who assist them, he said. The Mass will be livestreamed at [vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va).

Instead of the mobile health clinic, which is usually set up in St. Peter's Square for the week, and lunch for 1,500 people with the pope, he said the papal almoner's office has been operating a smaller clinic under the colonnade in the square offering free COVID-19 swab tests for people who need them in order to stay at a homeless shelter or to return home abroad. For the past two weeks, they have conducted about 50 tests a day, he said.

Mobile units also will be parked in different locations on the outskirts of Rome offering free HIV and hepatitis-C tests, he added.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, 2.5 tons of pasta will be given to local soup kitchens and charities, and 5,000 care packages will be distributed to families in need in Rome. Each box will contain quality brand-name staple foods, face masks and a prayer card from the pope.

About 350,000 face masks will be

given to 15,000 students in the city to alleviate costs for families in need and to invite students "not to underestimate the risks of the pandemic, especially with behaviors that could be harmful once they return from school to their families with the presence of elderly people," the archbishop said.

Priests and chaplains can download a pastoral guide in five languages from the council's website, [www.pcpne.va](http://www.pcpne.va), to help make sure the day is not just dedicated to charitable activities, but is supported by prayer, eucharistic adoration and other spiritual endeavors "that can never be lacking in order for our witness to be complete and effective," he said.

The pope's message for the day was made public in June and the day's theme is "Stretch forth your hand to the poor."

Concrete signs and gestures are necessary every day, especially at a time when so many people find themselves in difficulty because of the pandemic, the archbishop said.

"Now is a good time to recover the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world," the pope said in his message.



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with Fr. Chapin

**Sunday Mornings:**  
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6:30 WOWK CBS 13 Charleston, Huntington  
8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley, Bluefield, Lewisburg  
8:30 WTOV METV Wheeling, Steubenville  
9:30 WVFX FOX 10 Clarksburg, Fairmont, Morgantown  
10:00 DirecTV 367 World Harvest Television

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# Pro-Lifers Fear 'Hard-Core, Pro-Abortion Forces' in a Biden Administration

By Tom Tracy, Catholic News Service

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS)** — If President Donald Trump's legal efforts to challenge his 2020 reelection results prove unsuccessful and Joe Biden becomes the 46th president of the United States, pro-life advocates are finding no silver linings.

"Biden will be directed by hard-core, pro-abortion forces," said Mark Harrington, executive director of the Ohio-based Created Equal, a nonsectarian pro-life organization.

He spoke with Catholic News Service a week after the 2020 presidential election between incumbent Republican Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

Although Trump has not yet conceded the race and is filing legal action over potential voter fraud, multiple media outlets have projected Biden to be the winner.

While votes are still being counted, Biden has garnered 290 electoral votes while Trump has 217 electoral votes.

Harrington said he anticipates that under Biden and his vice president, Kamala Harris, the Department of Justice would screen all pending state legislation to make sure it conforms to Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision legalizing abortion on demand nationwide.

The Biden team also has vowed to repeal the long-standing Hyde Amendment, which outlaws federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered, he said.

They also "are going to attempt to codify Roe into federal statute in the event that Roe is overturned," Harrington said.

"Biden has already said he will sign an executive order restoring funding for Planned Parenthood," he added, noting that Biden, if he wins the presidency, will likely consider New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a "pro-abortion" Democrat, for the position of secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition, there is speculation of another possible Supreme Court seat becoming vacant in the next year — presumably leaving open a seat on the

court for a Biden administration to fill. At 82, Justice Stephen Breyer is the oldest member of the court.

"We need to remain vigilant and not get discouraged," Harrington said of pro-life battles. "We fought through the eight years of the Obama regime and we'll fight through the Biden-Harris years."

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, and other senior GOP lawmakers are backing Trump's refusal to concede the election. They include Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who reportedly has congratulated Biden on an "apparent victory" but added that Trump should be afforded the chance to challenge the results.

Trump said in a Nov. 7 statement: "Joe Biden has not been certified as the winner of any states, let alone any of the highly contested states headed for mandatory recounts, or states where our campaign has valid and legitimate legal challenges that could determine the ultimate victor."

The Trump campaign has filed lawsuits in several key states, including Pennsylvania, arguing there have been many irregularities in the process of counting votes and what votes are being counted.

"The American people are entitled to an honest election: that means counting all legal ballots, and not counting any illegal ballots," Trump's statement said. "This is the only way to ensure the public has full confidence in our election. It remains shocking that the Biden campaign refuses to agree with this basic principle and wants ballots counted even if they are fraudulent, manufactured, or cast by ineligible or deceased voters."

Tom McClusky, who is in charge of government affairs for the Washington-based March for Life organization, told CNS a Biden presidency would be a major setback for the pro-life movement, especially if state Medicaid restrictions for abortion funding are removed.

"It is also expected that Biden will surround himself with abortion activists looking for ways to use the federal government to push their extreme agenda," McClusky said.

"Biden has vowed to rejoin international pro-abortion organizations like

the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund as well as resume the war on the Little Sisters of the Poor," he added.

In July, the Little Sisters of the Poor won relief from the U.S. Supreme Court, which sided with them in their nine years of litigation over the Obama-era contraceptive mandate.

The Obama administration required employers to provide cost-free coverage for contraceptives, sterilizations and emergency birth control in employee health plans under the Affordable Care Act. He provided "an exemption for houses of worship and an accommodation for nonprofit organizations with religious missions."

In a 7-2 decision July 8, the court upheld regulations put in place by the Trump administration to allow employers, like the Little Sisters, more ability to opt out of providing contraceptive coverage in their health plans for moral and religious reasons.

In a statement the same day, Biden said he was disappointed with the ruling and that as president, he would "restore the Obama-Biden policy" providing "an exemption and accommodation" on the mandate.

The "accommodation," allowing religious nonprofits to cover contraceptives through a third-party, is what the Little Sisters have been fighting since 2011, saying it still requires the order to be complicit in providing contraceptives in violation of church teaching.

Mary FioRito, the Cardinal Francis George fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, said the importance of 2020 election can be understood in reports that Planned Parenthood spent \$45 million in funding to help elect Biden — a tripling of its election bankroll in the 2016 election.

Biden also would likely reverse the so-called "Mexico City policy," which blocks U.S. funding of foreign nongovernmental organizations that perform and promote abortion as a form of family planning.

First announced by President Ronald Reagan during an international meeting in Mexico City, it has been upheld by Republican presidents since then and overturned by Democratic presidents. "Biden's position is vastly out of step with the American public,

since the majority of Americans, even some who identify as 'pro-choice,' do not want their tax dollars used for programs that endorse abortion as a method of family planning," said FioRito, an attorney, public speaker and commentator on issues involving women's leadership in the church.

"In opposing the Mexico City policy, Biden is consistent with positions taken by previous Democratic administrations, including (Bill) Clinton and (Barack) Obama," she told CNS.

Biden's promises on the campaign trail and put forth in his "Early Executive Actions" list are out of step with the American sentiment on abortion — which is largely in favor of limits on abortion — and on funding it with federal tax dollars, FioRito added.

"Most dramatically, Biden has said he will make 'Roe v. Wade the law of the land,'" she said. "Codifying Roe, and its companion case Doe v. Bolton, in federal law and making them 'the law of the land' is wildly out of step with the views of the majority of Americans, who would generally restrict abortion to the first trimester of pregnancy."

Among Catholics, news agency AP VoteCast showed they were split between the two candidates, with 50% of Catholics backing Trump and 49% Biden.

Trump's successful appointment of Catholic Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court also scored points with pro-lifers and U.S. Constitution originalists.

Biden, who would be the second Catholic president in U.S. history, has referenced his Catholic faith on a number of occasions and appealed to Catholic voters during the campaign by referencing Pope Francis. The first Catholic president was President John F. Kennedy, elected in 1960 and assassinated in 1963.

FioRio noted Biden claims to be guided and motivated by the Catholic Church's social justice teachings but neglects to mention the church's social justice doctrine has as its foundation respect for human life from conception to natural death.

"One cannot simultaneously support abortion on demand and be working within a Catholic social justice framework," she said.

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# Two DWC Parishes Receive OCP Grants to Enhance Music and Liturgy

By Colleen Rowan

**WEST VIRGINIA**—Two parishes of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are the recipients of grants from Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) to enhance liturgy and music. St. James the Apostle Parish in Clarksburg received \$4,000 and Our Lady of Grace Parish in Romney received \$1,500. They are among the 109 OCP Parish Grant recipients for 2020.

In a letter to OCP Publisher Wade Wisler,

Bishop Mark Brennan said that he is grateful to Archbishop Alexander Sample of the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., and the OCP Board of Directors for awarding the grants to the West Virginia parishes.

"I am impressed with your commitment to assist parishes who stand in need," Bishop Brennan wrote. "It is clear that OCP is not just a witness, but a willing participant in the mission of the church."

St. James and Our Lady of Grace were selected from hundreds of applications from parishes across the U.S.

"It is our sincere hope that these grants will help these parishes meet the needs they so clearly presented in their applications, as well as support their efforts to enhance their community's liturgy and music," Wisler wrote in a letter to Bishop Brennan announcing the grant awardees.

Both parishes are grateful to be named recipients of the grants. The music ministry at St. James is led by organists Mary K. Greer, Barbara J. Cale, and April Seamone. "We are about to upgrade our PA system and donate ours to another parish that is under our pastor," Greer said.

On its website, OCP describes its Parish Grants program as a unique program of direct financial grants authorized by the OCP Board of Directors to provide assistance to parishes seeking to enhance the worship experience of their parish community. Grants are awarded annually, and the number and amounts given vary from year to year. It was established as a means of providing Catholic churches with financial support for religious, educational and charitable purposes.

Since its inception in 2001, the OCP Parish Grants program has awarded more than \$3.3 million to parishes throughout the United States. This year, OCP donated \$200,000 for liturgical and music purposes. OCP will begin accepting 2021 grant applications in mid January.

## Veterans ...

Cont'd from Page 1

honor veterans on this special day, Folio told the children. Attending a memorial service or watching one on TV, she said, or writing a letter to a veteran and sending him or her a prayer, wishing them safety and well-being.

She then led the students in the following Prayer for Veterans: "Dear Lord, today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage for all of us. Please bless them abundantly for the hardships they face, the sacrifices they have made, for the contributions they have made for America's victories over tierney and oppression. We respect them, we thank them, and we honor them. We are proud of them. We pray that you watch over them. We pray that you will watch over these special people today and always. We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen."

The children then sang You're a Grand Old Flag while proudly waving their American Flags and marching. After the ceremony, students return to their classrooms where they wrote messages and colored postcards for veterans at the VA Hospital in Clarksburg.

## Mountaineer Catholic Students and Mountaineers for Life Gather in Prayer for Unborn Babies



Courtesy Photo

Members of Mountaineer Catholic and Mountaineers for Life from Morgantown traveled to Pittsburgh to stand together in prayer for unborn babies. Above, the students pray as witnesses to life outside of an abortion clinic in Pittsburgh.

# Eighth-Grader Outlines Positives That Came out of Pandemic in Winning Essay

**MARTINSBURG**—St. Joseph School eighth-grader Claire Freeman recently won the Catholic citizenship essay contest sponsored by Monsignor Lackey Council 1169 of the Knights of Columbus in Martinsburg.

Twenty-three students from St. Joseph School participated in the contest, which was judged by Principal Patrick Blanc and Jonathan A. Noyalas, a member of the Knights.

Freeman's essay discussed the challenges presented to the world by the coronavirus pandemic, but also the positive changes it has caused. On a global scale, those include a decrease in air and water pollution. On a personal level, she said the restrictions in gatherings of large groups expanded the depth of her faith and deepened her connection to her family.

"The quarantine has also given me more time and opportunities to grow in my stride with God," she wrote. "Since the start of the pandemic, I have been reading my Bible more and spending more of my time in prayer and meditation. I have found God and rest reading His word."

She said her father reads stories from a daily devotional and the family talks about how they relate to the words he shares.

"We have grown closer because we are more comfortable talking about our experiences as a family and spending more time together," Freeman wrote.

The pandemic also has given her more time to volunteer in her community. She helps feed the homeless and hungry in Martinsburg, and sewed and donated face masks to youths in Berkeley County for this school year to help keep people safe and healthy.

"I feel God's presence in these people when I have conversations and connections to hear



**Courtesy Photo**  
St. Joseph School middle school teacher Sarah Middlemiss, left, and Jonathan A. Noyalas, right, a member of Monsignor Lackey Council 1169 of the Knights of Columbus in Martinsburg, present St. Joseph eighth-grader Claire Freeman with a certificate for winning the Knights' Catholic citizenship essay contest.

their stories and life experiences," she wrote. "Seeing the smiles on these people's faces makes me very happy to do what I do, and I feel like

while serving them, I am serving God." Claire's prize was a \$25 Amazon gift card, which was presented to her Nov. 10 by Noyalas.

## Diocese Forming TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) Leadership Team

**WEST VIRGINIA**—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is working to form a group of interested adults as an official, diocesan TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) Leadership Team.

The new co-chairs of the team are Ralph Modena and Gina Bog-gess, both of Princeton.

"We're looking for adults who will be able to devote some time to developing a robust TEC program throughout the state and building the infrastructure to maintain it," diocesan officials said. "We will need help identifying other adults who might be able to help,

reaching teens who might be interested in attending a retreat, and promoting the retreats to parishes, schools, and ministry centers."

"Do you enjoy ministering to young people, or might you want to give it a try? Do you have experience with TEC retreats, or

might you want to learn more about them?"

For those who might have an interest in joining the efforts, contact Jeanne McKeets in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, at (304) 233-0880, ext. 374, or send e-mail to [jmckeets@dwc.org](mailto:jmckeets@dwc.org).

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# Charleston Knights Raising Funds for Risen Lord's Food Pantry, Sponsoring Blood Drive

By Colleen Rowan

**CHARLESTON**—The Knights of Columbus Council #12630 in Charleston have a long history of service in their community. This month, they are holding two events that help those in need in a very tangible way.

The council will again sponsor a Thanksgiving Food Drive and fundraiser to benefit the Risen Lord Food Pantry in Clay County. The pantry is operated by St. Thomas Parish in Gassaway and offers desperately needed food for the less fortunate of the area.

Father Thien Duc Nguyen, SVD, is administrator of St. Thomas Parish and the parish's Mission of Risen Lord in Maysel. The parish community operates two food pantries, one at St. Thomas and the other at Risen Lord. "About a year ago, the only grocery store (IGA) in Clay County was closed, so it makes it more difficult to people," Father Thien told The Catholic Spirit earlier this year. This, he said, is another reason why these food pantries are so vital to the communities.

Those who wish to help provide support for the council's cause in Clay County, are invited to do so with the suggested donations of \$17 to purchase a turkey for a family or \$30 to purchase a Thanksgiving meal for a family. Checks may be made out to Knights of Columbus #12630 and may be mailed, c/o Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 11578, Charleston, WV 25339. Cash may be accepted if given to a Knight. Those who would like to donate food to the pantry at any time can contact Father Thien, who says his most requested items are: peanut butter, canned tuna fish, canned soup, any canned vegetable and canned fruit.

Knights have been collecting non-perishable food and money after all Masses at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston and will continue to do so Nov. 14 and 15. Food collection points for those Masses will be in the church parking lot or in front of the church, where Knights will receive food and donations and store it until it is taken to Clay County the week after the last donation time.

"Our parishioners have been generous in the past in supporting Father Thien's good work and we again ask for your consideration of this project," council officials said.

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, volunteers at the pantry at Risen Lord packed 1,700 food bags for area children. Risen Lord Church also help people in emergency situations and needing assistance for utility cut off notice, medical/pharmacy bills, gasoline. The pantry also serves about 100 children in need who are enrolled at Clay Elementary School.

Also sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #12630 this month will be a Red Cross Blood Drive.

"We have been informed that the Red Cross is in great need of blood," council officials said. "Accordingly, we are sponsoring a blood drive..."

The blood drive will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the West Montgomery Room at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 402 2nd Ave. SW in South Charleston. Council officials said the Red Cross has been holding blood drives at this location for some time and has the protocol for Covid-19 precautions in place.

For assistance in registering, call 1-800-733-2767, or contact Richard Fauss at 304-550-0806.

The West Virginia Knights of Columbus has councils all over the state. They assist charities, are Pro-Life advocates, and promote the Catholic faith and patriotism throughout West Virginia.

Their mission is: "To promote the original principles of (Blessed) Father Michael J. McGivney of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism throughout West Virginia, and to serve as an example of Catholic gentlemen dedicated to our Church and its principles and teachings."

The Knights' vision is: "To be the leaders of Catholic principles,

teachings and values in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and to create a Knights of Columbus organization based on our founding principles and dedicated to God and our families that all Catholic gentlemen in the Diocese aspire to be a part."

At this time, the Knights of Columbus are encouraging Catholic men 18 and older to join. In honor of the recent beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, free first-year membership is being offered to those who join before Dec. 31.

To join, visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus) and use promotion code MCGIVNEY2020.



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# Employment Opportunities

## Catholic Charities West Virginia Case Manager, Western Region

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Case Manager, who will be responsible for the coordination of program services at the Western Region's Charleston office. This includes assisting and supporting the Regional Director in multiple programs, and performing case management duties that are essential in carrying out the mission and vision of CCWVa.

The essential job duties include:

- Conduct face-to-face interviews with clients to assess needs, utilizing agency's instrument for interviews.
- Assist clients in implementation of long-range plan by exploring all available options, identifying the client's own resources and available community and governmental resources, making appropriate referrals, and assisting in linking client with available resources serving as facilitator and advocate when necessary.
- Maintain the operation of region's Emergency Assistance Programs in the Charleston Office by assisting clients with applications and providing follow up as necessary.
- Maintain accurate and timely records for all revenues as budgeted.
- Develop comprehensive service plans with clients that state goals, identify needs, and outline corresponding interventions, responsible agents, and time frames.
- Exhibit professional documentation skills in writing case management progress notes. Document accurately all client information and contacts in the case file according to protocol.

Assist the Regional Director in working with regional Catholic parishes to develop and maintain ongoing working relationships, and network these parishes with other community-based groups, churches, and coalitions to meet the larger needs of the community.

Qualifications include: a minimum of a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or related field; experience in working with parish social concerns committees; casework experience working with at-risk populations; excellent computer skills with the ability to track and analyze data; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; willingness to adapt to change in schedule, including evenings and weekends, if necessary; knowledge of federal, state and community resources, case management practices, populations served and their culture and needs; and must have transportation to travel as needed.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by Monday, November 23, 2020, to: bhagy@ccwva.org. Application materials can also be delivered to: Bill Hagy, Western Regional Director, Catholic Charities WV, 1024 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301.

## Catholic Charities West Virginia HomeCare Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

- Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver (ADW) Services
- Veteran's Waiver Services
- Private Pay Services

-Serve as the main contact person for general program questions and referral info for the community

- Development/implementation of a client recruitment plan in both office areas
- Deliver HomeCare program info sessions at community sites/potential referral sites/health fairs (with accommodations during the COVID-19 pandemic) on an ongoing basis
- Work with Advancement Department to create and maintain functional marketing materials for program, craft appeal requests, and market program for maximum coverage through all identified networks (including social media)
- Perform other job-related duties as assigned

Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree preferred; experience working with programs serving people with disabilities and/or seniors preferred; solid interpersonal skills/experience for building a genuine rapport with people and families in need of supportive services; ability to communicate clearly with audiences from various social, cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds; ability to work independently; good customer service skills/experience; and must have a valid driver's license.

Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by December 1, 2020 to: Sara Lindsay at slindsay@ccwva.org. Application materials can also be delivered to: Sara Lindsay, Chief Program Officer, Catholic Charities West Virginia, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

**Full-time and part-time teacher positions for the Early Learning Center and After-school care programs for the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.** Diocesan benefits and salaries commensurate with experience and education. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma and clear a background check. WVIT and ACDS helpful but not required. Please contact Sheila Kerekes at the parish office, 304-414-5757 or mail your resume to 1114 Virginia St. E., Charleston, WV 25301.

## St. Joseph School in Martinsburg is in need of two full-time, experienced maintenance workers.

Responsibilities include sweeping; mopping; dusting; emptying trash cans; cleaning restrooms, doors and windows; vacuuming; cleaning out flower beds; shampooing carpets; and stripping floors. The hours are 3 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call the school at 304-267-6447 or send an email to pblanc@sjsww.org.

## CONFIRMATION

### SCHEDULE

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

St. Anthony Parish,  
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# Catholic Charities West Virginia Honors Those with Compassionate Commitment to Humankind

**WHEELING**—Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is proud to announce the recipients of its 2020 Charity In Action Award.

The honorees are Danny Vance of Huntington, Margaret O'Neal of Charleston, Jim Hoffman of Huntington, and Elizabeth Hoffman of Huntington.

These individuals have performed meaningful service and demonstrated deep compassion for others. They personify CCWVa's mission: to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

"It is with much appreciation and gratitude Catholic Charities celebrates our Charity In Action honorees. God calls us to be brave and to share His love unconditionally with all who cross our paths," said Beth Zarate, President and CEO of CCWVa. "Our honorees embrace their Gospel call to serve."

We honor these individuals in a special way:

#### **Danny Vance, Huntington**

Danny espouses the core values of "charity" at every instance. He gives freely of his time and talent.

"Danny can be seen at the front of the line when things are tough; or in the back of the line when its time for accolades or praise," said Matthew Bowles, Esq. of Charleston.

A member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities West Virginia, Danny serves as the Chairman of its Finance Committee. His introductions, volunteerism, energy and commitment have increased Catholic Charities West Virginia's footprint in Huntington and his home county of Cabell. His Charity In Action is statewide.

#### **Margaret O'Neal, Charleston**

Margaret is President and CPO of the United Way of Central West Virginia in Charleston.

She works every day with partners across her region to reduce poverty and provide hope.

"Margaret has given back tremendously to our community and always has a positive attitude and smile on her face. I saw her in action during United Way's Christmas Bureau bring Christmas to under privileged children to brighten up their holiday," said Chris Signorelli, president, Security America.

Her Charity In Action has been demonstrated over and over. Margaret passionately serves the most vulnerable populations in the Mountain State.

#### **James and Elizabeth Hoffman, Huntington**

Jim and Liz are gifts to humankind in West Virginia!

They try to live their lives according to what St. Peter Claver has stated: "We must speak to them with our hands before we try to speak to them with our lips."

The Hoffmans' fundamental goal is to use their resources to assist those less fortunate. They support projects that reinforce the proverb: "Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime."

"Every volunteer who walks in the doors of Catholic Charities increases our impact and makes lives better," said Zarate. "The Hoffmans are certainly a testament to that, and to charity in action."

The programs and services of Catholic Charities West Virginia provide help for people devastated by the pandemic, Home Care for the elderly, food for the hungry, and assistance for people in poverty or at risk of being in poverty.

The honorees are normally recognized at a Charity In Action Awards Luncheon in Charleston in Autumn. However, that Luncheon has been postponed this year due to coronavirus.



Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate a  
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November 20 • 12:05 P.M.  
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Please visit [dwc.org](http://dwc.org) and share your own prayer intentions that will be offered during the Mass.

If unable to attend, view live at [DWC.org](http://DWC.org) or [Facebook.com/DioceseofWheelingCharleston](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofWheelingCharleston)

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Catholic Charities  
West Virginia  
Mission Moment

# Building a Better Future

**By Katie Hinerman Klug,  
Catholic Charities West  
Virginia Marketing Com-  
munications Specialist**

West Virginia resident Amanda Cowgill had dropped out of high school and started a family at a young age. Although her family was struggling, she refused to be defined by her situation.

“At the lowest point in my life, I asked myself if I wanted to be like this for the rest of my life, and the answer was no,” said Amanda.

Amanda enrolled in Catholic Charities West Virginia’s (CCWVa) case management services.

Case management services at CCWVa empower clients and consider the needs of the person holistically. CCWVa case managers build relationships with clients, empower them, and provide support for them to reach their goals.

At CCWVa, case management is also a vehicle to unite all programs offered throughout the agency, providing a continuum of service and making efficient use of all available resources. Ultimately, case managers assist clients in making lasting changes that lead to greater stability in their lives.

Amanda developed a close relationship with her CCWVa case manager, and she received the guidance, resources and support she needed to achieve



Courtesy Photo

**Amanda Cowgill prepares for a day at work at her local Wal-Mart pharmacy in southern West Virginia**

her goals. Amanda earned her High School Equivalency diploma, and then went on to secure a job at her local Wal-Mart

pharmacy.

Amanda’s success is inspirational, especially for her own teenagers. They are proud of

their mother, and have seen how it is possible to make positive changes that can create a better future.

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.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [catholiccharitieswv.org](http://catholiccharitieswv.org).

# Informe de McCarrick describe falta de investigación seria de rumores

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** —Aunque fue perseguido durante años por rumores de conducta sexual inapropiada, Theodore E. McCarrick pudo escalar la estructura jerárquica católica gracias a contactos personales, protestas de su inocencia, y la falta de funcionarios de la iglesia que informaran e investigaran las acusaciones, según el resumen del Vaticano de su informe sobre el asunto.

Al elegir al entonces arzobispo Theodore E. McCarrick de Newark en el 2000 para ser arzobispo de Washington y luego elevarlo a cardenal, San Juan Pablo II probablemente no le dio mucha atención a los rumores y acusaciones sobre la conducta sexual inapropiada de McCarrick debido a una larga relación con él, la fuerte negación de McCarrick, y la experiencia del papa con las autoridades comunistas en Polonia haciendo acusaciones para desacreditar a la iglesia, expone el resumen.

Pero, de hecho, los rumores sobre la conducta de McCarrick, especialmente el conocimiento de que había hombres jóvenes y seminaristas durmiendo en la misma cama con él cuando era obispo de Metuchen, Nueva Jersey, llevaron al Vaticano a decidir que sería "imprudente" promoverlo cuando se estaba buscando candidatos para el cargo de arzobispo de Chicago en 1997, Nueva York en 1999-2000 e, inicialmente, de Washington en julio de 2000, según el informe.

Una hora antes de la publicación el 10 de noviembre del "Informe sobre el conocimiento institucional y la toma de decisiones de la Santa Sede en relación con el ex cardenal Theodore Edgar McCarrick", los periodistas recibieron un resumen de 14 páginas del documento que describía la inves-

tigación de dos años que condujo a la compilación del informe y dio un "resumen ejecutivo" de sus hallazgos.

En junio de 2018, el Vaticano suspendió a McCarrick del ministerio después de que una investigación de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York encontró creíble un cargo de que abusó sexualmente de un adolescente. McCarrick renunció al Colegio Cardenalicio en julio, y en febrero de 2019, tras que un proceso canónico declarara culpable a McCarrick de "solicitud en el sacramento de la confesión y pecados contra el Sexto Mandamiento con menores y con adultos, con el agravante del abuso de poder", el papa Francisco lo destituyó del sacerdocio.

En agosto de 2018, el arzobispo Carlo Maria Viganò, ex nuncio en Estados Unidos, pidió al papa Francisco que renunciara, después de afirmar que había informado al Santo Padre sobre el abuso de McCarrick en 2013 y que los altos funcionarios del Vaticano sabían del comportamiento abusivo de McCarrick durante años.

Esa afirmación llevó al papa Francisco a iniciar una investigación sobre cómo McCarrick pudo continuar ascendiendo en las filas de la iglesia a pesar de los repetidos rumores, cartas anónimas, acusaciones e incluso acuerdos con presuntas víctimas.

El resumen del informe exteriorizaba: "No hay registros que apoyen el relato de Viganò" sobre su reunión con el papa Francisco "y la evidencia de lo que dijo es muy disputada".

Hasta que se presentaron las acusaciones sobre abuso sexual de menores a la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York en 2017, "Francisco solo había escuchado que había existido acusaciones y rumores relacionados con la conducta inmoral con adultos previo al nombramiento de McCarrick en Washington",

señaló.

"Sabido que las acusaciones ya habían sido revisadas y rechazadas por el papa Juan Pablo II, y muy consciente de que McCarrick estuvo activo durante el papado de Benedicto XVI, el papa Francisco no vio la necesidad de alterar el enfoque que se había adoptado en años anteriores", explicaba el resumen.

La introducción al informe indicaba que se basa en documentos encontrados en el Vaticano y la nunciatura apostólica en Estados Unidos, así como entrevistas, "que duran de una a 30 horas", con más de 90 testigos en Estados Unidos, Italia, y otros lugares. Las entrevistas incluyen sobrevivientes, cardenales, obispos, y ex seminaristas.

En un comunicado emitido con el informe, el cardenal Pietro Parolin, secretario de estado del Vaticano, expresó que las contribuciones de los sobrevivientes eran "fundamentales". La introducción del informe advierte a sobrevivientes de abuso que ciertas secciones "podrían resultar traumáticas" y advierte que algunas partes del documento son "inapropiadas para menores".

También dijo que en el transcurso de los dos años que se tardaron en completar la investigación y compilar el informe, "hemos dado pasos importantes para asegurar una mayor atención a la protección de menores e intervenciones más efectivas para evitar" la repetición de errores del pasado.

Entre esos pasos, destacó "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("Ustedes son la luz del mundo"), el documento realizado por el papa Francisco en 2019 sobre la promoción de la responsabilidad de los obispos y el establecimiento de procedimientos para manejar las acusaciones de abuso contra los obispos.

Según el resumen, las decisiones de San Juan Pablo de nombrar a McCarrick obispo de

Metuchen en 1981 y arzobispo de Newark en 1986 se basaron en "sus antecedentes, habilidades y logros. Durante el proceso de nombramiento, McCarrick fue ampliamente presentado como un obispo inteligente y entusiasta".

El resumen también decía que, en ese momento, "no surgió información creíble que sugiriera que hubiera incurrido en alguna mala conducta".

Sin embargo, en octubre de 1999, el cardenal John J. O'Connor de Nueva York escribió al arzobispo Gabriel Montalvo, entonces nuncio en Estados Unidos, resumiendo las acusaciones sobre McCarrick, en aquel tiempo arzobispo de Newark. La carta fue entregada a San Juan Pablo, quien le pidió al arzobispo Montalvo que investigara.

El nuncio lo hizo escribiendo a cuatro obispos de Nueva Jersey, apuntaba el resumen sin nombrar a los obispos. Los obispos, nombrados en el informe completo, fueron los obispos James T. McHugh de Camden, 1989-1998; Vincent D. Breen de Metuchen, 1997-2000; Edward T. Hughes de Metuchen, 1987-1997; y John M. Smith de Trenton, 1997-2010.

"Lo que ahora se sabe, a través de la investigación realizada para la preparación del informe, es que tres de los cuatro obispos estadounidenses proporcionaron información inexacta e incompleta a la Santa Sede sobre la conducta sexual de McCarrick con adultos jóvenes", expone el resumen.

En respuesta a las acusaciones del cardenal O'Connor, según el informe, McCarrick escribió al ahora cardenal Stanislaw Dziwisz, secretario de San Juan Pablo, afirmando: "En los 70 años de mi vida, nunca he tenido relaciones sexuales

**Ver investigación en la página 15**

## investigación ...

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con ninguna persona, hombre o mujer, joven o viejo, clérigo o laico, ni he abusado de otra persona ni la he tratado con falta de respeto".

"Se creyó en la negación de McCarrick", indicaba el resumen, agregando que debido a "la naturaleza limitada de la propia investigación previa de la Santa Sede, la Santa Sede nunca había recibido una denuncia directa de una víctima, ya sea adulta o menor, sobre la conducta de McCarrick".

"Aunque no hay evidencia directa", agrega el resumen, "parece probable, a partir de la información obtenida, que la experiencia pasada de Juan Pablo II en Polonia con respecto al uso de acusaciones falsas contra los obispos para degradar la posición de la iglesia, jugó un papel en su voluntad para creer en las negaciones de McCarrick".

Además, McCarrick tenía una relación con el papa polaco que se remonta a sus días como cardenal de Cracovia. El resumen señalaba: "La relación directa de McCarrick con Juan Pablo II probablemente también tuvo un impacto en la toma de decisiones del papa".

San Juan Pablo II "tomó person-

almente la decisión" de nombrarlo arzobispo de Washington y cardenal, registró.

El informe también concluyó que el ahora retirado papa Benedicto XVI no inició un proceso canónico formal contra McCarrick y que ni siquiera le impuso sanciones porque "no hubo acusaciones creíbles de abuso infantil; McCarrick reconoció bajo su 'juramento como obispo' que las acusaciones eran falsas; las acusaciones de mala conducta con adultos eran relacionadas a eventos en la década de 1980; y no había indicios de ninguna mala conducta reciente".

Sin embargo, después de pedirle inicialmente a McCarrick que permaneciera en Washington durante dos años después de su 75avo cumpleaños en 2005, según el resumen, surgieron nuevos detalles relacionados con las acusaciones de un sacerdote sobre la conducta sexual inapropiada de McCarrick y el papa Benedicto XVI le pidió que renunciara en 2006.

En ese momento, expresaba el resumen, el cardenal Giovanni Battista Re, entonces prefecto de la Congregación para los Obispos, le dijo a McCarrick que "debería mantener un perfil más bajo y minimizar los viajes por el bien de la iglesia".

"Si bien el enfoque del cardenal Re fue aprobado por el papa Bene-

dicto XVI, las indicaciones no llevaban el imprimátur explícito del papa, no se basaban en un hallazgo fáctico de que McCarrick realmente había cometido mala conducta, y no incluía una prohibición del ministerio público", expone el resumen.

El arzobispo Viganò, mientras trabajaba en la Secretaría de Estado del Vaticano, escribió memorandos en 2006 y 2008, "trayendo preguntas relacionadas con McCarrick a la atención de los superiores", dice el resumen. Los memorandos se referían a acusaciones y rumores sobre la "mala conducta de McCarrick durante la década de 1980 y plantearon preocupaciones de que pudiera producirse un escándalo dado que la información ya había circu-

lado ampliamente".

El arzobispo, según el informe, señaló que "las acusaciones seguían sin ser probadas", pero sugirió abrir un proceso canónico para investigar.

El arzobispo Viganò, quien fue nombrado nuncio en Estados Unidos el 2011, recibió "instrucciones" en 2012 para que realizara una investigación sobre las acusaciones de un sacerdote que afirmó haber sido agredido sexualmente por McCarrick, según el resumen.

El arzobispo Viganò, continuó el resumen, "no tomó estos pasos y, por lo tanto, nunca se colocó en la posición de verificar la credibilidad" de las afirmaciones del sacerdote.

## Publicite con el espíritu católico

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**Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:** La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://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](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

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

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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](http://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](http://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.wvdhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

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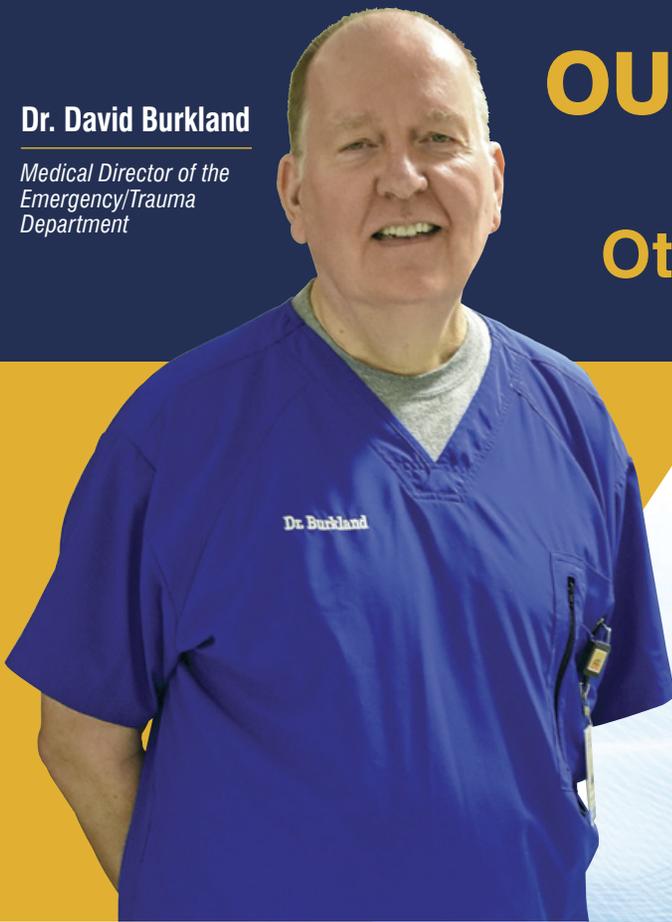
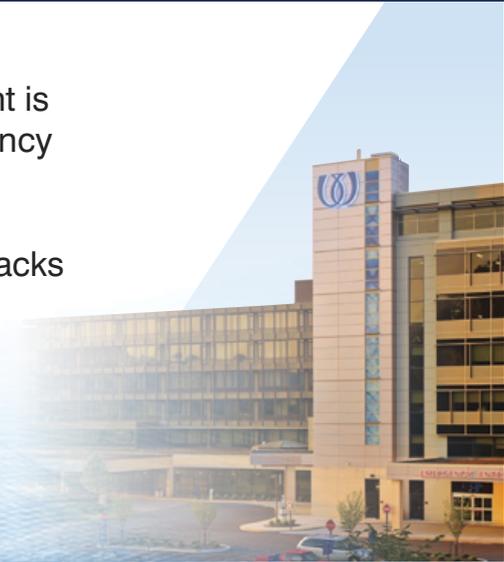
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