Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis & St. Manuel Garcia at W.Va. Parishes This Month

By Colleen Rowan

Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Garcia are traversing West Virginia throughout November. Parishes all over the diocese are hosting the relics with public veneration, Masses, Taizé services, Eucharistic adoration, and the option to receive the sacrament of penance.

The relics arrived in West Virginia Nov. 12 at Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Weirton and have since gone to five parishes. Today (Nov. 18), the relics are being hosted by St. Patrick Parish and School in Weston.

See “Relics” on Page 6

Archbishops Broglio, Lori Elected USCCB’s Next President, Vice President

By Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services was elected Nov. 15 to a three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the bishops’ fall general assembly in Baltimore.

The native of suburban Cleveland was chosen from a slate of 10 nominees, winning with 138 votes.

In subsequent voting, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore was elected to serve a three-year term as conference vice president. He was elected on the third ballot by 143 to 96 in a runoff with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

Under USCCB bylaws, the vice president is elected from the remaining nine candidates.

The two top officers begin their terms at the conclusion of the fall assembly Nov. 17.

Archbishop Broglio, 70, worked in the Vatican diplomatic corps before being named the head of the military archdiocese in 2007. He has served as conference secretary for the past three years.

The prelate has been an advocate for members of the U.S. military around the world. He regularly visits U.S. service members as part of his responsibilities in leading the archdiocese. Archbishop Broglio also has been an advocate for pro-life causes.

Because Archbishop Broglio is conference secretary, the bishops Nov. 16 elected Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City as his replacement over Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, 130 to 104.

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Church has ‘Work to Do’ in Promoting Pro-Life Message, Bishops Told, Page 3

Pope to Catholic Teachers: Beware of ‘Ideological Colonization’, Page 14
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Similarly, Archbishop Lori, 71, stepped down as chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities with his election as USCCB vice president. On Nov. 16, the bishops elected Bishop Michael E. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, as the new pro-life chair. He won over Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, 174 to 63.

Archbishop Broglio has served as chairman of the bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace and their Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance and as a member of the Task Force for the 2013 Special Assembly. He also served on the committees for Religious Freedom and International Justice and Peace and the subcommittees for the Defense of Marriage and Health Care. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Cleveland in 1977. In the Vatican diplomatic corps, he served as secretary in the apostolic nunciature in Ivory Coast and later in Paraguay. From 1990 to 2001 he was chief of cabinet to Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state under St. John Paul II and desk officer for Central America.

In 2001, he was named nuncio to the Dominican Republic and apostolic delegate to Puerto Rico. Archbishop Lori was appointed the 16th archbishop of Baltimore by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. He is the former chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine and its Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. He began a three-year term as the bishops’ pro-life chairman at the end of the USCCB’s fall assembly.

Archbishop Lori is chancellor and chairman of the board of St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, chancellor of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland, and past chairman of the board of trustees of The Catholic University of America in Washington. He is also currently the supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

USCCB...  
Cont’d from Page 1

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington in 1977. His first assignment was as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Landover, Maryland. Then he served as secretary to Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey as well as chancellor, moderator of the curia and vicar general.

In 1995, Archbishop Lori was ordained as an auxiliary bishop of Washington. In 2001, he was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

In other voting Nov. 15, bishops were elected for three episcopal seats on the board of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency.

Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer of Atlanta was elected to his first term on the CRS board, while Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, and Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas, were reelected for a second term.

The bishops also voted Nov. 16 for chairman-elect of six standing committees:

— Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance: Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, was elected over Bishop Alfred A. Schlert of Allentown, Pennsylvania, 147 to 91.

— Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs: Bishop Joseph C. Carambula of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was elected over Auxiliary Bishop Peter L. Smith of Portland, Oregon, 128 to 111.

— Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis: Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis was elected over Bishop William D. Byrne of Springfield, Massachusetts, 149 to 90.

— Committee on International Justice and Peace: Bishop Abdullah Elias Zaidan of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon was elected over Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia, 148 to 95.

— Committee on Protection of Children and Young People: Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia, was elected over Auxiliary Bishop Elias R. Lorenzo of Newark, New Jersey, 127 to 114.

— Committee for Religious Liberty: Bishop: Anthony J. Buxton of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, was elected over Auxiliary Bishop Lori, 71, 149 to 90.

— Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People: Bishop Marc R. McLister of Phoenix, Arizona, was elected over Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, 149 to 90.

— Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People: Bishop David J. Talley of Jackson, Mississippi, was elected over Auxiliary Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Bridgeport, Connecticut, 141 to 90.

— Committee on the Anniversary of the Violation of Religious Liberty in Puerto Rico: Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois, was elected over Bishop Alfred A. Schlert of Allentown, Pennsylvania, 147 to 91.

— Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs: Bishop Joseph C. Carambula of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was elected over Auxiliary Bishop Peter L. Smith of Portland, Oregon, 128 to 111.

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By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — In a year when abortion has been front and center in U.S. politics — from the Supreme Court decision to recent state referendums — the Catholic Church faces a challenge of promoting its pro-life message to its own members and society at large, said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori.

“We have more work to do,” the archbishop told his fellow U.S. bishops Nov. 15 during their annual fall general assembly in Baltimore.

The archbishop spoke as the outgoing chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Because he was elected as USCCB vice president earlier in the day, his term as pro-life chair ended.

Elected as his successor the next day was Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia.

Archbishop Lori also said he would be leaving the bishops’ meeting early to be with his 103-year-old mother.

In his remarks on pro-life activities, he said the diverse actions this past year — from the Dobbs ruling overturning the court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide and the passage of multiple referendums — bring the church to a crucial time.

“In this pivotal moment in our culture, this post-Roe moment, you and I as shepherds of the church in the United States need to take stock,” he said, particularly as some Catholics “are conflicted about abortion.”

He said for some in the church, there is a disconnect right now between the works of mercy the church is about every day and the church’s teaching “on the need always to protect innocent human life.”

“arbitrary victory if we fail to win the minds and hearts first and foremost of our fellow Catholics,” Archbishop Lori said, referencing an ancient Greek victory that ended up being a costly defeat.

He urged his fellow bishops to engage with Catholics on the issue of abortion and “encourage them to be closer to the mind and heart of the church,” stressing that they would not succeed by “changing our teaching” but rather by “laying open” and showing with compassion what the church means by its emphasis on the dignity of life at all stages.

He also stressed that for the church to speak credibly in a polarized society as long as our own house is divided, “we cannot credibly speak in a polarized society as long as our own house is divided,” he said, while also stressing that “we cannot wait until perfect unanimity has been obtained before we can bear witness to the ambivalent culture about human life and dignity.”

He said the more unified the church is, the more effective its witness will be.

The church’s teaching on the dignity of life — with the ultimate goal that abortion and other attacks on human life “become more and more unthinkable” — has to be the underlying message in meetings with political leaders and participation in marches for life.

“Building a culture of life demands that we win the hearts and minds of our fellow Catholics and many others,” he said, “but it also demands that we speak forthrightly. In an era of disinformation, we must courageously bear witness to the truth.”

To not speak out, when the church should have a voice in the public square, only “aids and abets the deterioration of public discourse while seeming to ignore the massive tragedy of abortion,” he added.

Archbishop Lori acknowledged that church leaders “face a long and difficult struggle,” in this arena but must remain united in their efforts to “proclaim the Gospel of life and defend human life at every stage.”

USCCB...

Cont’d from Page 2

Each chairman-elect will begin their three-year term as chairmen at the end of the 2023 fall general assembly.

In addition, several chairman-elect chosen last year will become committee chairmen at the end of this year’s assembly and will serve three-year terms:

— Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations: Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Michigan.
— Divine Worship: Bishop Steven J. Lopes, who heads the Houston-based Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.
— Domestic Justice and Human Development: Archbishop Boris Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.
U.S. Bishops Gather for General Assembly in Baltimore

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The U.S. bishops’ quadrennial document on Catholic participation in public life was getting a tweaking rather than a wholesale update, but will be supplemented with a new introductory note, parish bulletin inserts, additional social media and video components.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops overwhelmingly approved the steps Nov. 16 during their fall general assembly in Baltimore with the goal of submitting the document for a wholesale reworking after the 2024 elections. The document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” has been issued every four years since it was first adopted in 2007. Issued a year ahead of the presidential election, the document serves as a guide to the faithful, providing guidance for social teaching to current policies and political concerns facing U.S. society.

The plan for changes in materials to implement the document was approved by 88.7% of bishops voting on the measure. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, who presented a series of options for the bishops to consider before the vote, told reporters afterward that the new supplementary materials “will help people realize that it is a document that is applicable to the challenges we’re facing today.” The specific content of the supplementary materials remains to be determined, said Archbishop Coakley, adding that more needs to be done to get the document and related materials into parishes, dioceses and the wider community.

The U.S. bishops’ three-year Eucharistic revival, which will culminate in a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024, is in full swing, according to Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, which is spearheading the revival, reminded the bishops Nov. 16 how they overwhelmingly voted in favor of the revival during their meeting a year ago. It has “incredible momentum,” he told them, pointing out how the three-year initiative launched this summer on the feast of Corpus Christi with eucharistic processions around the country.

The effort is meant to revitalize Catholics’ understanding of and love for Jesus in the Eucharist. The ultimate goal, said Bishop Cozzens, is that this “this encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist” will move Catholics who have been part of this experience to be missionary disciples who would in turn lead others to the faith. This first year of the revival is focused on the diocesan level and the second phase next year will focus on the parish level and resources aimed at increasing Catholics’ understanding of what the Eucharist really means.

Part of the impetus prompting this effort was a Pew study in the fall of 2019 that showed just 30% of Catholics understand the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The bishops gave their consent for the advancement of the sainthood causes of three U.S. Catholics at the local diocesan level. The bishops gave their assent in a voice vote, with a few of the three causes Nov. 16, the only full day of public sessions during their assembly.

“We are not being asked to approve the causes,” said Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki of Milwaukee, chairman of the bishops’ Committee Canonical Affairs and Church Governance. “We are being invited to offer any observations related to a cause’s advancement related to its...significance.” Bishops could take into account the sainthood candidates’ “reputation for holiness” and vote on whether they “consider it opportune to advance on the local level.”

The causes are for: Mother Margaret Mary Healy Murphy, founder of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, the first order of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and the second order of the Mary Immaculate, the first order of the United States. Latin-language texts were issued for the United States. Latin-language “ognitio” before they can be used in Latin-language texts for the feasts of Our Lady of Loreto and the Sacrament of the Sick, a collection of texts taken from other liturgical books. The vote for the English version was 196-8 with two abstentions. The vote for the Spanish counterpart, “Ministerio Laico a Los Enfermos,” was 196-8 with two abstentions. Both votes took place Nov. 16. To advance to the Vatican’s Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, an affirmative vote was required from two-thirds, or 167, of the Latin-rite bishops. Another book, “Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of Their Pastoral Care,” was clearly designed for use by a priest, and occasionally by a deacon, Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of Hartford, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship. He added that two rites in that book can be used by a layperson if no priest is available.

“Generally speaking, the liturgical books are for use by the clergy. However, there are certain sections of the books that can be delegated to lay ministers,” Archbishop Blair told the bishops Nov. 15 in presenting the proposed texts they would vote on the following day. “Since lay ministers often assist pastors,” he added, the divine worship committee “proposes collecting all of these rituals in a single volume” so that lay ministers can “have the correct rites at their fingertips.”

The coronavirus pandemic, combined with inflation and another reorganization of the U.S. bishops’ communication arm, have altered the budget picture for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the 2020s.

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November 18, 2022
Bishops...
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The year-over-year challenges, beginning in the spring of 2020 with the pandemic, continue,” wrote Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of St. Petersburg, Florida, USCCB treasurer and chairman of its Committee on Budget and Finance, in an introductory message to his fellow bishops prior to their meeting.

“The relief experienced in 2021 with the emergence of readily available vaccines has been met in 2022 with inflation and the possibility of a recession,” Bishops Parkes said.

“The financial market’s reaction to the uncertainties of the economy continue to adversely impact the rate of return on our long-term investments,” he added — down 23.9% through Sept. 30, and down 23.7% for the pension plan. Because of inflation, investment returns have impacted, and the performance — “or, lack of performance,” Bishops Parkes told the bishops — of the stock market, budget figures were revised from those sent earlier in the fall.

On Nov. 16, the bishops approved the revised budget 215-4, with one abstention. One consequence of the budget revision is a higher raise next year for USCCB employees. Instead of a planned 3% pay increase come Jan. 1, it will be 4.5%. Bishop Parkes noted that inflation was running at an 8.2% annual rate at the end of October.

As teachers of the faith, Catholic bishops recognize that their role continues to expand in the modern world. And to help them with this work, they have established an outreach called the Institute on the Catechism, introduced last year by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, chairman of the bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catechism.

Bishop Caggiano, the subcommittee’s outgoing chairman, who gave the bishops an update on this effort, said the institute launched its first gathering Nov. 10-12 in Baltimore in a time of formation, listening and discernment.

The gathering, which he described as the “synodal nature of the church at its best,” involved 106 participants from 24 dioceses and included 15 bishops. He said he hopes that next year even more will join in this work inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The subcommittee, which was formed more than 28 years ago to review catechetical texts, is taking on a new role to review more quickly digital resources being used now to spread the faith and to also look at other ways to actively pass on the faith in a world often against spirituality. The aim is for catechetical publishers to work directly with the USCCB subcommittee in new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools and aiming to reach a more diverse church. The institute also will provide resources to dioceses and yearly, in-person training conferences and retreats for diocesan catechetical leaders.

Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez completed his three years as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Nov. 15 with images of conflict, changes and challenges during his term. He spoke of the pandemic, “a long season of unrest in our cities,” a contentious presidential election as well as “deepening political, economic and cultural divisions,” “war in Europe, a refugee crisis and “the overturning of Roe v. Wade.”

“We’ve been through a lot of changes together,” Archbishop Gomez told U.S. bishops during his departing address. He raised alarm over what he saw as a U.S. society moving “hard and fast toward an uncompassionising secularism,” adding that “traditional norms and values are being tested like never before.”

He said he has heard concerns from “young mothers and fathers who are trying to raise their children to know Jesus in a difficult culture.” The challenge for those ministering in this moment, he said, “is how to maintain some kind of perspective” in a “noisy, distracted media culture.”

He spoke of how U.S. bishops united with the pope during the pandemic. However, some U.S. bishops notably also have taken to the internet to criticize the pope, gaining attention from abroad for their public sentiments against him.

In his Nov. 15 address to the U.S. bishops, the papal nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, emphasized the need to remain focused on the church’s missionary role of spreading the Gospel message. This is particularly important “as we live through a time of accelerated change,” he said.

The archbishop said one way to determine if the church is following its missionary role is to look at how local churches are functioning as evangelizing communities, something he said is especially evident in the current Eucharistic revival in the United States. The nuncio also reminded the bishops of the need for the church to reflect the image of a field hospital, a description used by Pope Francis who said the church must be about the work of healing those who are wounded.

The archbishop said the church lives this work out in its outreach to immigrants and to young mothers in the “Walking with Moms in Need” initiative. He said Pope Francis is calling the Catholic Church to be “a missionary church that encourages everyone to be an evangelist.”

A key part of that work involves encouraging Catholic lay faithful to “accept responsibility for the church,” the nuncio said. For this to happen though, he noted that the spiritual and liturgical formation of the laity can’t be ignored.

“If we accompany our people more closely, then we can more easily trust them and encourage their spiritual growth,” he said.

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GOD IS DOING SOMETHING NEW—AND HE IS CALLING YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!

We are in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival. Why? Because the Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.

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eucharisticrevival.org

Daily Living
with Fr. Chapin
Sunday Mornings
6:30 WOWK 13 Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTV 11 Wheeling-Steubenville
8:00 WBOC NBC 12 Westmorland-Fairmont
8:30 WYNS FOX 40 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
6:00 WPAT TV Parkersburg
6:30 WOAY TV 4 Beckley-Bluefield
Plus watch episodes online at - mydailyliving.com

December 3rd
9am-3pm
Relics...

Cont’d from Page 1

There is still plenty of time to visit one of the parishes that will be hosting the relics for the remainder of the month.

The upcoming dates and locations are: Nov. 19 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Mass will be at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 20 at 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John University Parish in Morgantown (Relics present at all Masses. Public veneration in between Masses). Nov. 21, 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown. Nov. 22, 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown. Nov. 26 at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.—public veneration; 5 p.m.—relics present at Masses; 7 p.m.—relics present at the Spanish Mass. Nov. 27 at St. James Parish in Charles Town from 8 to 11 a.m. (Relics present at all Masses. Public veneration in between Masses).

The relics are in the United States for the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. bishops to reinvigorate devotion in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Garcia are intercessors for the revival.
HOLY RELICS TOUR of Bl. Carlo Acutis & St. Manuel Garcia
Nov. 12–27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nov. 22
8:30AM Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

Nov. 26
Saint Joseph, Martinsburg
8:00 AM to 8:00 PM – Public Veneration
5:00 PM – Relics present at the Mass
7:00 PM – Relics present at the Spanish Mass.

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

Updates and more info:
https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/
In this season of gratitude we pause to say

THANK YOU

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

Join Bishop Mark Brennan for the

 MASS OF GRATITUDE

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

livestream available at dwc.org/CSA
Last year, the Creation Care Team at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston, highlighted reducing the use of single-use plastics, and the sacredness of water in our church, in “Laudato Si’,” and in our state of West Virginia. This year, the Blessed Sacrament Creation Care Team is embarking on a journey, through the eyes of the church, to discover more about something each of us needs to live—the food we eat. They will explore the relationship between creation care and the gift of food.

Their plan for the next few months is: “We will explore where our food comes from and how we can eat in ways that most directly care for the Earth’s resources, the people who grow it, and those who transport it to our table,” Creation Care Team members said.

In the parish gathering space recently, the team assembled a display that highlights the why’s and how’s of choosing local food.

The display consisted of a variety of food choices from a can that travelled thousands of miles to a can of West Virginia processed green beans to fresh green beans from a farmer’s market, and even better, from someone’s back yard. Pumpkins and apples were displayed in the same way—all to make the point that “Food Miles” are an important factor in choosing the food we eat.

“The U.S. food system alone uses as much energy as France’s total annual energy consumption, and fresher, healthier food can support local farmers, keep money in the community, and help reduce our carbon footprint. In addition, regenerative, or sustainable food systems invest in the long-term welfare of farmland and often support local farming economies,” team members said.

This is just one example of how our food choices and our food sources can respond to the plea of Pope Francis in his 2015 Encyclical “Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home.” One of the team members summed it up beautifully: “As Catholics, we have a responsibility to be stewards of the world God has entrusted to our care. From tending the garden of Eden to employment in any part of today’s food production system we use today, humans have worked to maintain and offer God’s gifts of food to us. Unfortunately, some serious vulnerabilities in this system have recently become apparent to a number of scientists and social leaders. Pope Francis reminds us, in ‘Laudato Si’,” that we need to pay attention to food production issues now, so that we can be blessed with food abundance for all for years to come.”

There are many ways we can eat to support our common home, in addition to supporting local farmers (which also helps ensure the local availability of food supplies). Try growing your own food or invest in a subscription to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) local farm. Eat locally for more variety of foods—see how many more varieties of apples or tomatoes you can find at a farmer’s market. Consider eating in—season produce, which doesn’t require food to travel enormous distances. (There are charts that indicate this—check the West Virginia Produce calendar at farm-flavor.com.)

As we move toward the Thanksgiving holiday, you might consider the following thoughts on gratitude from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: “Before and after meals, say a short prayer of thanksgiving for the life-giving food that sustains and nourishes us. Briefly consider how all nourishment ultimately comes from the earth and give thanks for the human hands that helped bring this food to your table. May we recognize, as ‘Laudato Si’ has taught us, that this ‘moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life.’ (LS #227)”

Blessed Sacrament is grateful to Creation Care Team members Megan Murphy, Tricia Watson, and Madison and Michael (Megan’s children) for their countless hours of work in planning and designing a display in the church. Madison, age 11, crocheted the purple pumpkin on the table.

The Creation Care Team at Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston: Megan Murphy (left) and her children Michael and Madison and Tricia Watson (right) show the display they created for their program to explore the relationship between creation care and the gift of food. Madison, age 11, crocheted the purple pumpkin on the table.
Bishop Brennan presides over last night of Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague

By Colleen Rowan

Bishop Mark Brennan presided over the last night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 31. Held on nine consecutive Mondays, the novena’s theme was “The Holy Eucharist” and coincided with the celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival, launched by the U.S. bishops earlier this summer.

In the Incarnation, God truly become one of us, a human being, the bishop said in his homily. “The Incarnate son, once he suffers and dies on the cross and then rises from the dead, becomes flesh in a new sense. He becomes flesh in the Eucharist. We can describe it, but we can’t explain it. ... In a mysterious way, Jesus, the risen savior, takes that bread and wine and incorporates that into himself, so that when we go to Holy Communion we are not receiving a mere symbol ... it is really him.”

The bishop recalled conversations about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist he has had with children. He would point out to them that when they go trick or treating, they wear costumes.

“Who’s underneath?” the bishop would ask the children. They would say to the bishop, “It’s me.” He would then explain to them that under the appearances of bread and wine, the costume, it is Jesus.

“The word made flesh becomes flesh for us in the body and blood of Christ to build us up from within as we receive him,” the bishop said, continuing his homily.

That, the bishop said, is what St. Paul is getting at in the first reading for the novena from his first Letter to the Corinthians—the oldest passage describing the Last Supper, older than all the gospels. “… the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you.’ (1 Corinthians 11:23-24).

The next day, Jesus will give his body on the cross for all, Bishop Brennan said, “to free us from sin and death. To perpetuate the immense value, the immense power of that loving sacrifice on the cross, the risen Jesus now is for us. This is his body in Communion for us, to build us up.”

The same is true for the cup of wine, the bishop said, as the First Letter to the Corinthians continues, Jesus says, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me (1 Corinthians 11:25).

“The Lord wants us to come together to hear his word in the spoken way and to receive that word made flesh in the Eucharist so that he may build us up. That’s why we go to Mass.”

“The incarnate son of God, now risen from the dead, becomes flesh for us in the Eucharist, coming to us in person,” the bishop continued. “A great mystery, but our people over the centuries and surely you as well have experienced the reality of Christ’s presence in that sacrament—the Christ who we honor today in adoration, but whose primary purpose is to come into us through the worthy reception of Holy Communion at Mass.”

Bishop Brennan said the U.S. bishops launched the Eucharistic Revival throughout the country to strengthen and renew faith that it is truly the Lord Jesus the Catholic faithful receive in Holy Communion.

Knowing that it is the Lord Jesus, himself, in the Eucharist strengthens our ability to respond to the call of the Lord to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, the bishop said; to love our neighbor as ourselves and to engage in works of charity, justice, and peace.

“We’re called to do that,” the bishop said. Knowing Christ’s true presence in the Eucharist, Bishop Brennan continued, “we have the power within us to change and help the world to change.”

“So, we honor the Lord Jesus, not only by affirming the truth of the Incarnation and his true presence in the Eucharist but also by living by the grace that he gives us through faith and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist,” Bishop Brennan said. “Then we come to know in our own lives the truth of the Infant of Prague’s words to Father Cyril, the Carmelite priest in Prague: The more you honor me, the Lord said to him, the more I will bless you. And as we use our hands to serve others... letting that grace of the Eucharist propel us forward in service to others ... we will come to know more fully the Lord’s blessings.”
Give the gift that enlivens your parish and shines light in the lives of Catholics across West Virginia.

Visit dwc.org/CSA to learn more!
At the end of October, our Relatives as Parents Program held a Halloween party, bringing together costumed kids and caregivers over pizza. “It was a fun time for parents and kids to get together and celebrate the holiday,” said Diana Bell, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Case Management Specialist.

CCWVa’s Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) serves families in which caregivers other than the biological parents are raising children. We often see grandparents or aunts or uncles stepping in to raise children when their biological parents are not in a place to do so.

RAPP provides a variety of supports and interventions for these children and families. The program gives participating caregivers the resources they need to be informed, effective, and responsible parents.

While the children did a Halloween craft, the caregivers learned about parenting topics from the monthly guest speaker. “As much as our parents learn from the guest speaker at each meeting, they also learn from each other,” said Bell.

In that way, group members engage and support one another. “The common aspect of raising other people’s children – for whatever reason – brings the parents together,” said Bell.

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

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.

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**No Tricks, Just Treats**

Children do a Halloween craft while adults gather to hear from a guest speaker about a relevant parenting topic.

Families from Catholic Charities’ Relatives as Parents Program gather for a Halloween party.

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Darkness, Desolation Invite People to Draw Closer to God, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Moments of difficulty and desolation are opportunities for praying, drawing closer to Jesus and discerning the right path, Pope Francis said.

“The spiritual state we call desolation ... can be an occasion for growth,” the pope said Nov. 16 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Indeed, if there is not a little dissatisfaction, healthy sadness, a healthy capacity to dwell in solitude, to stay by ourselves without fleeing, we risk always remaining on the surface of things and never making contact with the center of our existence,” he said.

“Desolation causes a ‘rousing of the soul,’ it keeps us alert, it fosters vigilance and humility, and protects us from the winds of fancy,” which are indispensable for growth, he said.

Continuing his series of audience talks on spiritual discernment, the pope reflected on desolation and why the feeling occurs.

In an earlier audience, Pope Francis had defined desolation as the “darkness of the soul” and the inner sense of unrest and dissatisfaction.

During his Nov. 16 catechesis, the pope said the dark, sad moments challenge complacency, prompt people to appreciate God’s graces and act as an incentive to grow in one’s spiritual life by drawing closer to Jesus.

“For many saints, restlessness was a decisive impetus to turn their lives around,” he said.

But, he said, when someone lives in a world of “perfect” and “artificial serenity” where they ignore or do not try to understand their true feelings, they will be “indifferent to the sufferings of others and incapable of accepting our own.”

“Important choices come at a price,” the pope said, but it is “a price that is within reach of everyone.” It is a price paid with prayer, discernment and the effort of coming to a decision.

Paying the price of making a decision is also needed “to get out of a state of indifference, which always drags us down,” he added.

Experiencing desolation is an invitation to no longer take for granted the people in one’s life, he said, but rather to deepen those relationships, including with God.

“Let us think of our childhood,” he suggested. “As children often we look for our parents to obtain something from them, a toy, some money to buy an ice cream, permission. And so, we look for them not for themselves, but for gain. And yet, they — our parents — are the greatest gift, and we understand this gradually as we grow up.”

Often people’s prayers also are like that — simply requests for favors without any real interest in Jesus, Pope Francis said.

“It may seem strange, unreal, to ask the Lord, ‘How are you?’” the pope said. But “instead, it is a beautiful way to enter into a true, sincere relationship, with his humanity, with his suffering, even with his singular solitude.”

It is good to learn to be with the Lord “without ulterior motives, exactly as it happens with people we care for: We wish to know them more and more, because it is good to be with them,” he said.

Do not be discouraged by difficulties and “do not be afraid of desolation,” he said. Move forward with perseverance, “seeking to find Christ’s heart, to find the Lord and the answer will come, always.”

Pope Francis greets a woman during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Nov. 16.

CNS Photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters

Pope to Catholic Teachers: Beware of ‘Ideological Colonization’

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Educational colonization is destroying the human personality and it can be disastrous when it is applied in education, the pope said.

“Today, ideological colonization is destroying the human personality and it can be disastrous when it is applied in education,” the pope said.

Teachers work with human beings, who, when they are young, “change from year to year, and sometimes from month to month. Moreover, the young people of one generation differ from those of the next,” he said.

Therefore, he said, educators “must continually reassess their own motivations and their methods. They cannot be rigid. Rigidity destroys education.”

Each year a teacher must start anew with new classes and students, and they must “renew their capacity for empathy and communication,” he said. As a network that aims to encourage and motivate teachers “to be fully aware of their important mission as educators and witnesses of the faith,” Pope Francis said, the World Union of Catholic Teachers is there to help teachers “maintain their desire to grow together with their students, to find the most effective ways of transmitting the joy of learning and the desire for truth, by employing language and cultural forms suited to the young people of today.”

But, he said, teachers must find the right balance in using “language suited to today’s cultural forms” and avoiding “ideological colonization.”

“The presence of Christian educators in school communities is vitally important,” he said. They must be “capable of establishing genuine relationships with students and understanding their deepest needs, questions, fears and dreams,” he said, but also “capable of testing — above all by their lives but also by their words — that the Christian faith embraces all of human experience, that it brings light and truth to every area of existence, without excluding anything, without clipping the wings of young people’s dreams, without impoverishing their aspirations.”

The church has long believed that the goal of education is not only about teaching concepts “but the integral formation of each human person in all his or her dimensions,” he said.

“Teaching is a great responsibility, the pope said, and is a great opportunity to guide young people “with wisdom and respect, along the paths of the world and of life, helping to open their minds to the true, the beautiful and the good.”
Arzobispos Broglio y Lori elegidos próximos presidente y vicepresidente de USCCB

Por Catholic News Service

Baltimore (CNS) — El 15 de noviembre, el arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio, de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, y el arzobispo John C. Lori, de la Arquidiócesis de Baltimore, fueron elegidos para un mandato de tres años como presidente y vicepresidente de la Conferencia Nacional de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB). La elección del secretario de la conferencia será anunciada en una segunda reunión de los obispos en diciembre.

El arzobispo Broglio, de 70 años, trabajó en el Cuerpo Diplomático del Vaticano antes de ser nombrado jefe de la arquidiócesis militar en 2007. Se ha desempeñado como Secretario de la conferencia durante los últimos tres años.

El prelado ha abogado por la iniciativa de adopción de niños, así como miembro del Grupo de Actividades Pro-Vida de los obispos de Estados Unidos. Su sucesor será votado después de la elección del secretario de la conferencia.

El arzobispo Broglio se ha desempeñado como presidente del Comité de Actividades Pro-Vida de los obispos de Estados Unidos en la Asamblea General de la Conferencia durante los últimos tres años, es presidente del Comité de Justicia y Paz Internacional y de los subcomités de Defensa del Matrimonio y Cuidado de la Salud.

Fue ordenado sacerdote en la Diócesis de Cleveland en 1977. En el Cuerpo Diplomático del Vaticano, se desempeñó como secretario en la nunciatura apostólica en Costa de Marfil y luego en Pakistán. De 1990 a 2001, él fue jefe de gabinete del cardenal Angelo Sodano, secretario de Estado del Vaticano bajo San Juan Pablo II y funcionario encargado de América Central.

En 2001, fue nombrado nuncio en República Dominicana y delegado apostólico en Puerto Rico.

Por su parte, el arzobispo Lori fue nombrado decimosexto arzobispo de Baltimore por el Papa Benedicto XVI en 2012.

El arzobispo Lori es canónigo y presidente de la junta del Seminario Mayor de St. Mary’s en Maryland y ex presidente de la junta directiva de la Universidad Católica de América en Washington.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños: La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían dependiendo de la ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513.

Ampliar los detalles 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 el sitio www.reportbishopabuse.org.

La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta de personal religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela de la Diócesis: llame a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656.


Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Naveg Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes. Además de confidencialidad, se informa a la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

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

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WHEELING — The Trauma Center at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital has been verified as a Level III by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The announcement by the Verification Review Committee of the ACS’s Committee on Trauma (COT) states the achievement recognizes the trauma center’s dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients.

Work to achieve the verification was a team effort led by the program’s Medical Director, Howard Shackelford, MD, and program Manager Stephanie Isaly, RN. Both of them report directly to Alison Wilson, MD, who oversees the Level I Trauma and Critical Care Program at WVU Medicine’s Ruby Memorial Hospital.

“Congratulations to all the hard work of this program’s leadership, particularly Dr. Shackelford and Stephanie Isaly,” Wilson said. “I also applaud the entire team of registrars, nurses, physicians and all members of the multi-disciplinary trauma team throughout all phases of the hospital.”

She said the Level III verification shows that Wheeling Hospital is capable of providing 24/7 immediate management of all significant and life-threatening injuries.

“The community can be assured that quality care for severe injuries is provided at Wheeling Wheeling Hospital,” Wilson said.

Douglass Harrison, president and CEO of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital and Reynolds Memorial Hospital, said, “Our Level III Trauma designation is further evidence that the most advanced care in the region is happening at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. The ACS surveyors who reviewed us were extremely complimentary of our hospital and the providers. Ultimately, it’s the highly trained providers who deliver the most advanced trauma care in the region and they do it each and every day without fail.”

Shackelford said, “This was a team effort. Thanks to all involved.”

Elements of Level III trauma centers include:
• 24-hour immediate coverage by emergency medicine physicians and the prompt availability of general surgeons and anesthesiologists.
• Provides back-up care for rural and community hospitals.
• Offers continued education of the nursing and allied health personnel or the trauma team.
• Involved with prevention efforts and must have an active outreach program for its referring communities.