

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## Pope Prays for Dialogue, Reconciliation, Peace in Ukraine

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Pope Francis prayed for a conversion of hearts and a start to dialogue, reconciliation and peace in a letter marking the 1,000th day since Russia launched its large-scale invasion of Ukraine.

“May the Lord comfort our hearts and strengthen the hope that, while gathering every tear shed and holding all accountable, he remains close to us even when human efforts seem fruitless and actions inadequate,” the pope said in a letter sent to Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas, apostolic nuncio to Ukraine Nov. 19.

The Vatican newspaper published a copy of the letter on the front page of that day’s edition.

The pope addressed the letter to the nuncio, “as my representative in the beloved and tormented Ukraine” so that the archbishop would convey the pope’s wish “to embrace all its citizens, wherever they may be.”

Aware of the immense suffering of people in Ukraine, he wrote he was also “well aware that no human words can protect their lives from daily bombings, console those mourning their dead, heal the wounded, bring children back home, free prisoners, mitigate the harsh effects of winter or restore justice and peace.”

The word, “peace,” he wrote, is “sadly forgotten by today’s world,” and it is still a word “that we would like to hear resounding in the families, homes and squares of dear Ukraine.”

Pope Francis said his letter was not meant to be “mere words, albeit full of solidarity, but, as I have been doing since the beginning of the invasion of this country, a heartfelt invocation to God, the only source of life, hope and wisdom, that he may convert hearts and enable them to initiate paths of dialogue, reconciliation and harmony.”

See “Peace” on Page 2



## High Fives for Father!

After every school Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling, Father Jeelson Stephan, MCBS, pastor, stands in the back of church to greet the students of St. Vincent de Paul Parish School. Following Mass on the morning of Nov. 13, preschool 4 students (shown above) give high fives to Father Jeelson as they leave to return to school. (Colleen Rowan photo)

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# Peace...

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He recalled the country's practice of tolling the bells every morning at 9 o'clock to observe a "national minute of silence" to solemnly remember "the many victims" and the children and adults, "civilians and military personnel, as well as prisoners, who often find themselves in deplorable conditions."

"I join them so that the cry may be louder that rises to Heaven, from which comes our help," he wrote.

The pope blessed all Ukrainian people, "beginning with the bishops and priests — along with you, dear brother — who have stood by the sons and daughters of that nation throughout these thousand days of suffering.

## Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L., J.V.**, is appointed Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, effective November 15, 2024, for a period of five years. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg.

**Father Joseph Augustine, J.C.L.**, is granted a three-month leave of absence beginning on November 15, 2024.

**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.report-bishopabuse.org](http://www.report-bishopabuse.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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint 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 requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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Plus watch online at - [www.mydailyliving.com](http://www.mydailyliving.com) and YouTube

## The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org))

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and

### Advent

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is **November 29**

### Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is **December 20**

**THE CATHOLIC Spirit** November 22, 2024 | Office: 1322 Eoff St. | [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org)  
Vol. 55, No. 48 | Mailing: PO Box 230 | [dwc.org](http://dwc.org)  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 232-0444

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Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule, left). All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

# The Wounded Healer: Exploring Compassion for Self and Others in Health Care Held in Wheeling

**WHEELING** — St. Joseph Retreat Center welcomed 25 health care professionals and para-professionals from the WVU Medicine health care system for The Wounded Healer: Exploring Compassion for Self and Others in Health Care.

This one-day workshop led by Dr. Evangeline Andarsio, MD, director of the Remen Institute for the Study of Health and Illness™ at Pure Healthcare®, focused on those who are seeking reflection and renewal in their professional and personal life. The worship was designed to offer clinicians and health care workers an opportunity to explore the wounded healer archetype and the impact of imposter syndrome on clinician and healthcare worker well-being as well as developing ways to foster and strengthen resiliency.

Participants engaged in reflection, experiential exercises, as well as small and large group discussion. The day was full of insights, learning and healing for all who participated. This day was made possible through St. Joseph Retreat Center and the generosity of donors from WVU Medicine



Courtesy photo

Twenty-five health care professionals and para-professionals from the WVU Medicine health care system participate in The Wounded Healer: Exploring Compassion for Self and Others in Health Care Nov. 8 at the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling.

and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

CME's were offered through

Wright State University School of Medicine. The St. Joseph Retreat Center is grateful to collaborate

and offer quality programs to health care professionals in the area.

## St. Agnes Parish in Charleston Welcomes Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

**CHARLESTON** — Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is beginning at St. Agnes Parish in Charleston.

"We will begin with Level I catechesis, which is shaped to the needs of children 3-6 years old," parish officials said. "We will spend the rest of this year introducing CGS, and preparing our Atrium, and plan to begin catechesis at the end of January 2025."

Children will attend one, two-hour session a week.

"Depending on the demand, we will offer one to two session times," they said.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a method of religious education and spiritual formation built on the two pillars of Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy, and born out of the pedagogy and educational principles of Dr.

Maria Montessori.

Begun in Rome in the 1950s—by Sofia Cavalletti, a biblical scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator—CGS today is embraced by dioceses throughout the U.S., as well as 65+ other countries around the world.

At the heart of CGS is the child, and their relationship with God through Jesus. Very young children are particularly capable of receiving and enjoying the most essential elements of the faith. In a special room, called the Atrium, and through thoughtfully designed and carefully crafted materials, CGS makes concrete for the child the mystery of God and His great love. You can learn more about CGS at: [www.cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/](http://www.cgsusa.org/discover/cgs-approach/)

St. Agnes parishioners who have a child who will be between the ages of 3 and 6 in January,

and are interested in enrolling them in the CGS program, should e-mail Catechist Aisling at [aislingterese@gmail.com](mailto:aislingterese@gmail.com), so the parish can begin to build a class list.

Prayers and volunteers are needed for the program, parish officials said.

"The formation of our catechists, the preparation of our space, and the work of supporting our children's growth in relationship with God, will all benefit richly from your prayers!" they said.

There are and will be many ways you can help! Needs include, but aren't limited to, people skilled in crafts like woodworking, sewing, painting, calligraphy; people who enjoy thrift-ing, and/or are willing to help locate or pick up.

The creation and furnishing of an Atrium is an enormous work, parish officials said.

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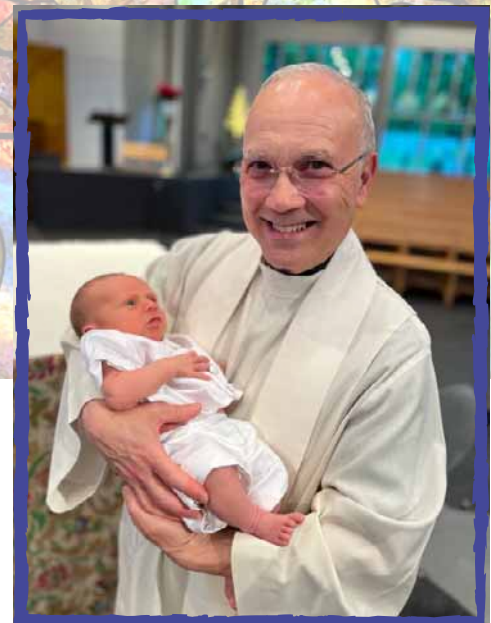
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# Seminarian Nathan Schmidt Receives Admission to Candidacy; Seminarian Timothy Kawash Installed as Lector



Photo provided by Mount St. Mary's Seminary Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarian Nathan Schmidt, left, is pictured with Bishop by James D. Conley of the Diocese of Lincoln and Msgr. Andrew Baker, rector for Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., right.



Photo provided by the Pontifical College Josephinum Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Seminarian Timothy Kawash is installed as lector by Bishop John Iffert of Covington, Ky., at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 17.

On Nov. 20, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seminarian Nathan Schmidt was among six seminarians who received Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders by Bishop James D. Conley of the Diocese of Lincoln at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Seminarian Timothy Kawash received the Ministry of Lector. He was among seminarians in the Configuration Stage of formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, who were installed as lectors and acolytes on Nov. 17 by Bishop John Iffert, of Covington, Ky.

Kawash was admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders on Oct. 27 in Saint Turibius Chapel by Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of Columbus.

In an official sense, through the Rite, the Church numbers and enrolls each man among the candidates for the diaconate and priesthood. When calling men for ordination, a bishop chooses from among those enrolled as candidates.

During the Mass, seminarians are called forward by name; each rises and answers "present." This act is the moment at which he declares publicly his desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God and mankind.

It is a self-offering of the candidate; a manifestation of his will. Candidacy also is a reception of that offering by the Church, and a new commitment by the candidate to care for his vocation.

Once termed minor orders, the ministries of lector and acolyte were established by Pope Paul VI in 1973 with the apostolic letter Ministeria Quaedam. Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments. Acolytes are entrusted with attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Holy Communion during the liturgy and to the sick.

In the rite, each candidate is handed a symbol of the ministry to which he is being instituted. Lectors receive a Book of the Gospels and acolytes are presented with a chalice, as the bishop encourages the men to fulfill the ministry faithfully.

(Part of this news release was provided by the Pontifical College Josephinum.)

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# Eight Couples Prepare for Marriage



Courtesy photo

The eight couples who attended the diocese's Preparing for Christian Marriage Weekend Retreat at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center are pictured above.

**CHARLESTON**—On Nov. 16 and 17, eight couples from the diocese joined together to prepare for their upcoming nuptials.

This weekend retreat allowed them an opportunity to get away from the stressors of life and take time to communicate with each other and with the Lord. This weekend retreat encouraged the couples to pray together, have conversations that they may not have previously had, and to meet other

couples that are on the same journey.

Utilizing Together In God's Love, the couples journeyed through the understanding of what Matrimony is in the Church, communication with each other, marriage and sexuality, a Natural Family Planning overview, and Marriage and Stewardship.

Gregory Gust, assistant director of Marriage and Family from the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, facilitated the event and Father John Finnell provided the

Sacramental ministry.

A profound thank you to the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center for providing the space, lodging and accommodations to make this a successful retreat. For upcoming Preparing for Christian Marriage Weekend Retreats as well as other Marriage and Family Life resources, visit [wymarriage.org](http://wymarriage.org) or reach out to Gust in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis by e-mail to [ggust@dwc.org](mailto:ggust@dwc.org).

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# Pope Approves Simplified Rites for Papal Funeral, Burial

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Pope Francis, who will celebrate his 88th birthday in December, has approved simplified liturgical rites for the death of a pontiff.

His body will rest in a zinc-lined wooden casket, according to the new rites. Recent popes had been buried inside a cypress wood coffin surrounded by another coffin made of lead, which was then covered by a third wooden coffin.

Vatican News carried a story Nov. 20 about the second edition of the “Ordo Exsequiarum Romani Pontificis” (“Funeral Rites of the Roman Pontiff”); the book updates the rites originally approved by St. John Paul in 1998, technically published in 2000, but released only when St. John Paul died in 2005. Modified versions of the rites were used after Pope Benedict XVI died

Dec. 31, 2022.

Archbishop Diego Ravelli, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, told Vatican News the revised edition was needed, “first of all because Pope Francis asked, as he himself stated on several occasions, to simplify and adapt some of the rites so that the celebration of the bishop of Rome’s funeral would better express the church’s faith in the risen Christ.”

And, he said, the revised rites highlight “even more that the Roman Pontiff’s funeral is that of a shepherd and disciple of Christ and not of a powerful man of this world.”

Pope Francis approved the new rites April 29 and received the first printed copy of the book Nov. 4, Vatican News reported.

The new rites maintain the practice of having the deceased pope’s body placed in St. Peter’s Basilica

for public viewing and prayer before the funeral. However, instead of lying on a catafalque, that is, a kind of decorated platform, the body will be placed inside the coffin which will remain open until the night before the funeral, the Vatican News article said.

The rites still are divided into three “stations” based on the place they occur: “at home, in the Vatican basilica and at the burial place.” However, instead of ritually verifying the death of the pope in his bedroom, the new rite specifies that it take place in his private chapel and that he be placed inside the coffin before being carried into St. Peter’s Basilica.

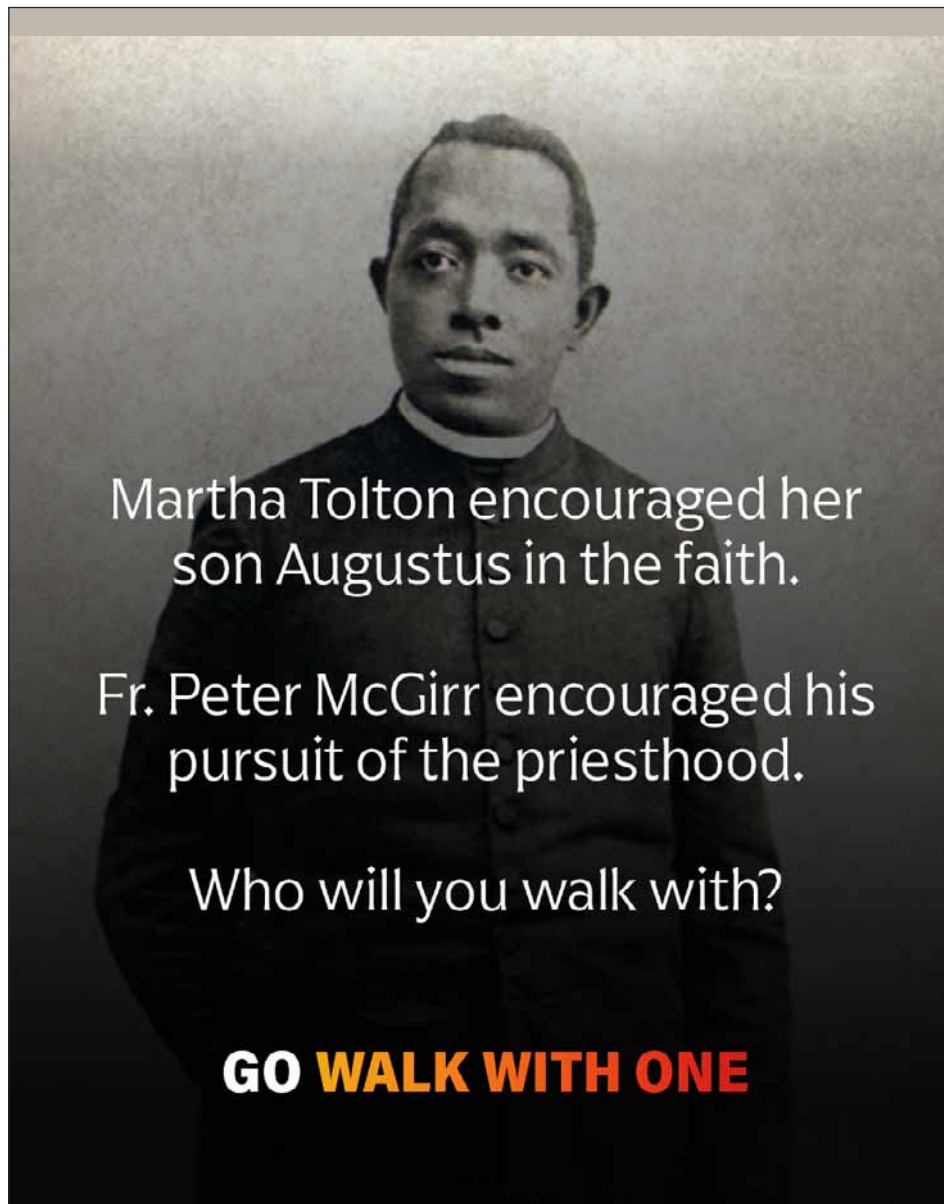
Vatican News reported the book also includes “the necessary indications for possible burial in a place other than the Vatican basilica.” Pope Francis said in an interview a year ago that he plans on

being buried at Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Much of the revision has to do with updated language in the prayers and Scripture readings to match revised translations of the Mass prayers, Lectionary and Bible in Latin and in Italian, Archbishop Ravelli said. And more saints, including all of the popes who have been canonized, are included in the Litany of Saints chanted as the body of the deceased pope is carried in procession from his private chapel into St. Peter’s Basilica.

The revised rites still call for memorial Masses to be celebrated at the Vatican for nine days after his funeral.

Archbishop Ravelli said the rites give precise indications for celebrating the funeral and burial of “a disciple of Christ chosen as successor of Peter.”



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# Catholic Groups Merge Events for Giant Pro-Life Youth Rally before March for Life

**By Zoey Maraist, OSV News (OSV News)** — Before joining other pro-life advocates at the March for Life in Washington, Shannon Allen spent an evening with thousands of other teens. Inside a darkened arena, the crowd around her clapped to the upbeat music, cheered for the speakers and knelt in silence as a Eucharistic procession wound its way through the stadium.

But what Allen remembers most from the pro-life rally was the feeling of not being alone.

“The biggest thing for me was just being with so many Catholics my age,” said Allen, a college student from Northern Virginia who has twice attended Life is VERY Good, a pro-life event for youth. “Oftentimes it feels like we’re a minority, so being able to be surrounded by thousands of people who are all for life the same way you are is comforting.”

Pro-life organizers are hoping to augment that sense of togetherness with the merger of two pre-march youth events, announced Nov. 14. The Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, and host of Life is VERY Good since 2009, and the Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life, co-hosts of Life Fest since 2022, are joining forces to create one big pro-life rally called Life Fest ahead of the 2025 March for Life Jan. 24.

“This event will inspire a new generation and help them see that life at all stages is precious,” said Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly in a statement announcing the merger. “Love is the answer; it transforms lives and changes hearts and minds, and that’s what Life Fest is all about. Together, we pray for a world in which abortion is unthinkable.”

The two-day pro-life event will be held Jan. 23-24 at EagleBank Arena on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, 20 miles southwest of the National Mall and the March for Life. The EagleBank Arena has pre-

viously hosted Life is VERY Good, while Life Fest was held at the DC Armory in Washington.

Life Fest 2025 will begin with a night of praise, held the evening before the March for Life with speakers, live music and Eucharistic adoration. The following day, a morning rally and Mass will be held hours before the March for Life. Attendees will have the chance to go to confession and to venerate the relics of St. John Paul II, Blessed Carlo Acutis, the recently beatified Ulma family and Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus.

Organizers hope to attract some 8,400 participants to the event each day. A two-day ticket is \$20.

“The Diocese of Arlington is excited to continue our long history of hosting groups from across the country and providing these participants with a peaceful time of prayer in preparation for the March for Life,” said Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in the Nov. 14 announcement. “We are especially excited that this year we will be working alongside the Sisters of Life and the Knights of Columbus through this single ministry experience.”

Sister Marie Veritas, a Sister of Life and the community’s director of evangelization in Denver, said Life Fest affirms the dignity of every human being.

“We’re living in a time where the goodness of the human person is questioned,” she said in the Nov. 14 statement. “Every human heart needs to know: I am good; I am important; I am irreplaceable. Every woman who is pregnant needs to know that she is not alone. Every woman who has experienced one or more abortions needs to know that Jesus sees her, loves her and longs to forgive and heal her.”

**“See ‘Events’ on Page 10**



OSV News photo/Jeffrey Bruno, Knights of Columbus  
Young people pray during the first-ever Life Fest Jan. 20, 2023, at the Entertainment & Sports Arena in Washington.

## A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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# Events...

## Cont'd from Page 9

During the pandemic, the Arlington Diocese's Life is VERY Good event was considerably scaled down, said Kevin Bohli, the diocese's executive director of the Office of Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministries.

Then, after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Roe v. Wade decision in 2022, many pro-life youth groups decided to forgo their annual trip to the national march and the Life is VERY Good event, likely to attend state marches instead, he said.

"We're continuing to rise back out of those years," Bohli told OSV News. "I think our numbers are going to increase because some of the groups are realizing there's something very good for young people about making this trip to D.C. and seeing tens of thousands of young people very excited about being pro-life."

Organizers also believe combining the two pro-life rallies into a larger one will pack a more powerful punch. "Together, we are stronger," said Sister Marie Veritas in the statement. "Together, we can witness more powerfully to a broken world: Life is possible! Love

is possible!"

Speakers and musicians for the upcoming Life Fest are yet to be announced. Past Life is VERY Good guests have included musician Matt Maher, The Catholic Channel's Katie McGrady and "Real Life Catholic" host Chris Stefanick. Past Life Fest guests have included Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, now-retired archbishop of Boston, Sister of Life Bethany Madonna and musician Sarah Kroger.

Michael Albrigo, a student at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, and past attendee of Life is VERY Good, encouraged teens to attend Life Fest.

"It's a good time — everyone there is excited to be there, the seminarians, the speakers, the sisters — and it's important to take time out of our busy lives and dedicate that to things which we know and believe to be important," he told OSV News.

Other Catholic pre-March for Life events include the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, which features evening Mass, adoration and Mass on the morning of the march.

(Zoey Maraist writes for OSV News from Virginia.)



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OSV News photo/Stephanie Lecocq, Reuters

People attend a Marian candlelit procession Nov. 15 where the Virgin of Paris statue returns to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, after it was kept at the Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois Church near the Louvre for five years since Notre Dame was ravaged by a fire in 2019.

## *Notre Dame de Paris Returns to Her Cathedral with Thousands of Parisians Walking Her Home*

**By Caroline de Sury, OSV News**

**PARIS (OSV News)** — Miraculously missed by burning beams falling from the roof on April 15, 2019, and waiting for five years to make it back to Notre Dame Cathedral, the 14th-century statue of the Virgin of Paris made it back home Nov. 15, accompanied by thousands of Parisians praying, singing and lighting candles as they walked their Virgin to Paris' most iconic church, restored after the fire.

Since the fire, the statue, also referred to as Virgin and Child, or the Virgin of the Pillar, has been housed near the Louvre in the Church of Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, from where the procession started at 6 p.m. local time.

For Auxiliary Bishop Philippe Marsset of Paris, the statue represents "a kind of miracle."

"Many Christians saw the fire as a sign of the purification God was asking his church to experience," he told OSV News. "The statue of the

Virgin was spared in the flames and the waters. It remained standing, as a sign that heaven was watching over us, and that this disaster would not have the last word."

It seemed like the entire city, typically proud of its "laïcité," or secularism, wanted to be with her the night of Nov. 15. All major newspapers and websites in the country invited Parisians to join throughout the day, making her the top of the news cycle, with a brief pause to report on surprise off-camera "reconnaissance" visit of French President Emmanuel Macron, who sneaked unexpectedly inside the cathedral Nov. 15, before the announced meeting planned on site with the archbishop of Paris Nov. 29, Le Figaro confirmed.

The Virgin of Paris quickly took back center stage in the evening. Standing 6 feet high and sculpted in white stone, the copy of the original statue was solemnly walked to the cathedral as

the original was transported by a special truck.

From 1855 — the first major restoration of the cathedral in the 19th century — it was standing at the foot of the southeast pillar of the transept crossing, a position that earned the statue the name Virgin of the Pillar.

When the fire broke out in April 2019, the statue was found soaked by water from the firefighter units and surrounded by ashes, next to pieces of fallen timber, and stone rubble from the collapsed transept vault. But the surface was intact. The following October, it was moved to Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, where Notre Dame's liturgical activities had been transferred.

As the long-anticipated Marian procession was about to start, Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris welcomed the crowd on the square in front of the church, along with the chaplains of Notre Dame, and knights of the Equestrian Order of

**"See 'Home' on Page 12**

## Home...

**Cont'd from Page 11**  
the Holy Sepulchre, dressed in their white capes.

Transporting the real statue of the Virgin on foot was out of the question for security reasons. Instead, everyone was able to witness her departure by truck, before setting off, with candles and singing, behind a replica, illuminated and decorated with white flowers. The procession followed the banks of the Seine River toward the Île de la Cité, one of two Parisian islands and home to Notre Dame Cathedral.

Arriving in front of the cathedral at around 7 p.m., the pilgrims were greeted by the singing of the Maîtrise Notre Dame, the cathedral's choir, homeless but traveling the world for the last five years. The archbishop blessed the original statue, the crate carrying it having been opened so that it could be seen. The truck then entered the cathedral's construction site.

At the same time, the "Pèlerinage des Pierres Vivantes," or "Pilgrimage of the Living Stones" — a youth association of the Archdiocese of Paris — led a prayer vigil in front of the cathedral.

"It was an opportunity to remind us that even before the doors are officially open, Notre Dame is a building destined for prayer," Noémie Teyssier d'Orfeuill, a volunteer leader, told OSV News. "Originally, the return of the statue was a logistical event. But the opportunity was seized to turn it into a missionary and popular event," she said.

For Teyssier d'Orfeuill, this pilgrimage symbolized "the restoration of Notre Dame's cult vocation," prior to its inauguration by the official authorities of the French state and cultural world on the weekend

of Dec. 7-8.

"The cathedral is first and foremost an icon of the mystery of the church," the young French Catholic said.

Inside the cathedral, the original statue is once again being installed not far from the altar, near the pillar at the foot of which the famous French writer and diplomat Paul Claudel converted on Christmas Day 1886.

In 1913, he described the conversion moment: "It was the gloomiest winter day and the darkest rainy afternoon over Paris," he wrote. He recalled standing "near the second pillar at the entrance to the chancel, to the right, on the side of the sacristy," when "occurred the event" which dominated his "entire life."

"In an instant, my heart was touched and I believed," Claudel wrote. "I believed with such a strength of adherence, with such an uplifting of my entire being, with such powerful conviction, with such a certainty leaving no room for any kind of doubt, that since then all the books, all the arguments, all the incidents and accidents of a busy life have been unable to shake my faith, nor indeed to affect it in any way."

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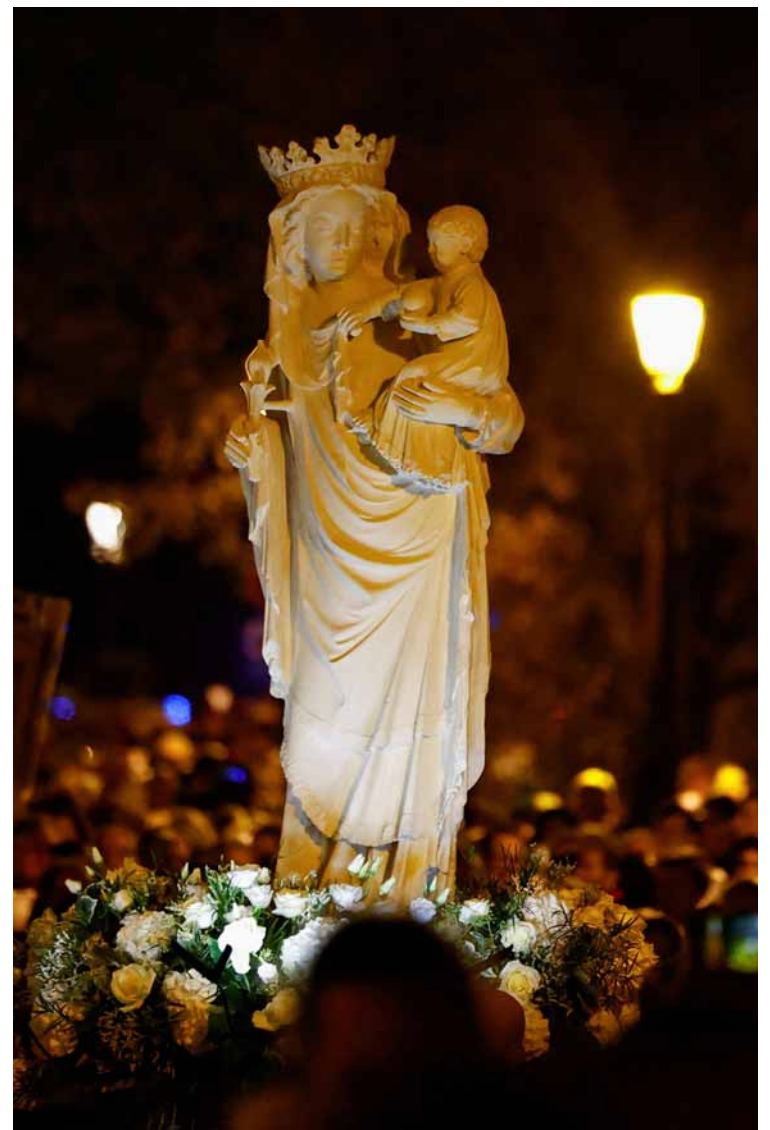
Father Gaëtan de Bodard, new chaplain of the iconic Paris' fire brigade that saved Notre Dame — and successor to Father Jean-Marc Fournier, who courageously ran into the burning cathedral to first preserve the Blessed Sacrament, bless the burning church and then save the crown of thorns — said that Notre Dame today is already a witness to new miracles of conversion.

"I personally know one of the firefighters who intervened that evening at Notre Dame and who rediscovered his faith at that moment," Father de Bodard told OSV News. "He had turned away from his faith in the face of all the suffering, pain, deprivation, loneliness, blood and wounds he saw. But on the night of the fire, he was moved to see the whole city of Paris at a standstill, and people praying on their knees in the streets," the new chaplain of Paris' firefighters unit said.

"Inside, he was struck by the luminous cross of Christ shining in the choir, after the collapse of the spire. He felt a guiding presence, which marked the beginning of a profound rapprochement with God," Father de Bodard said.

For Bishop Marsset the cross inside the destroyed cathedral and the saved Virgin of the Pillar are signs that there is hope "beyond destruction."

"Mary, in her humility,



OSV News photo/Stephanie Lecocq, Reuters  
A Virgin of Paris statue replica is carried during a Marian candlelit procession through the streets of Paris Nov. 15 as the original, for security reasons, was transported on a truck back to Notre Dame Cathedral. The statue was kept at the Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois Church near the Louvre for five years since Notre Dame was ravaged by a fire in 2019.

and the cross, in its radiance, gave us the direction: 'Church, cross over your ashes, assume what you have done, do penance,

and at the end of this road, there is a 'beyond disaster.'"

(Caroline de Sury writes for OSV News from Paris.)

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# La Virgen de París regresa a la catedral de Notre Dame con miles de parisinos acompañándola en procesión

**Por Caroline de Sury, OSV News**  
**PARÍS (OSV News)** — Tras haber evitado milagrosamente las que cayeron del techo durante el incendio del 15 de abril de 2019, y después de esperar cinco años para volver a la catedral de Notre Dame, la estatua del siglo XIV de la Virgen de París regresó a casa el 15 de noviembre, acompañada por miles de parisinos que iban rezando, cantando y encendiendo velas mientras caminaban a su Virgen a la iglesia más icónica de París, restaurada después del incendio.

Desde el incendio, la estatua, también llamada Virgen con el Niño o Virgen del Pilar, se encuentra cerca del Louvre, en la iglesia de Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, desde donde partió la procesión a las 6 p.m. hora local.

Para el obispo auxiliar de París, Philippe Marsset, la estatua representa "una especie de milagro".

"Muchos cristianos vieron el fuego como un signo de la purificación que Dios pedía a su Iglesia", dijo a OSV News. "La estatua de la Virgen se salvó entre las llamas y las aguas. Permaneció en pie, como señal de que el cielo velaba por nosotros, y de que este desastre no tendría la última palabra".

Parecía que toda la ciudad, típicamente orgullosa de su "laïcité," o secularismo, quería estar con ella la noche del 15 de noviembre. Todos los principales periódicos y sitios web del país invitaron a los parisinos a unirse a ella durante todo el día, convirtiéndola en la principal noticia del ciclo, con una breve pausa para informar sobre la visita sorpresa de "reconocimiento" fuera de cámara del presidente francés Emmanuel Macron, que se coló inesperadamente en la catedral el 15 de noviembre, antes de la anunciada reunión prevista en el lugar con el arzobispo de París el 29 de noviembre, según confirmó Le Figaro.

La Virgen de París recuperó rápidamente el protagonismo por la tarde. De 2 metros de altura y esculpida en

piedra blanca, la copia de la estatua original fue paseada solemnemente hasta la catedral mientras la original era transportada en un camión especial.

Desde 1855 — la primera gran restauración de la catedral en el siglo XIX -- se encontraba al pie del pilar sureste del cruce del transepto, posición que le valió a la estatua el nombre de Virgen del Pilar.

Cuando se declaró el incendio en abril de 2019, la estatua fue encontrada empapada por el agua de las unidades de bomberos y rodeada de cenizas, junto a trozos de madera caída, y escombros de piedra de la bóveda derumbada. Pero la superficie estaba intacta. En octubre siguiente, fue trasladada a Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois, donde se habían transferido las actividades litúrgicas de Notre Dame.

Cuando estaba a punto de comenzar la tan esperada procesión mariana, el arzobispo de París, Laurent Ulrich, dio la bienvenida a la multitud en la plaza frente a la iglesia, junto con los capellanes de Notre Dame y los caballeros de la Orden Ecuéstre del Santo Sepulcro, ataviados con sus capas blancas.

Por razones de seguridad, no fue posible transportar a pie la estatua real de la Virgen. En su lugar, todos pudieron presenciar su salida en camión, antes de partir, con velas y cantos, detrás de una réplica, iluminada y adornada con flores blancas. La procesión recorrió las orillas del Sena en dirección a la Île de la Cité, una de las dos islas parisinas y sede de la catedral de Notre Dame.

Al llegar ante la catedral, hacia las 7 p.m., los peregrinos fueron recibidos por los cantos de la Maîtrise Notre Dame, el coro de la catedral, que se había quedado sin hogar pero que viajaba por el mundo desde hace cinco años. El arzobispo bendijo la estatua original, cuyo cajón se había abierto para que pudiera verse. A continua-

ción, el camión entró en las obras de la catedral.

Al mismo tiempo, el "Pèlerinage des Pierres Vivantes", una asociación de jóvenes de la Arquidiócesis de París, organizó una vigilia de oración frente a la catedral.

"Fue una oportunidad para recordarnos que, incluso antes de que se abran oficialmente las puertas, Notre Dame es un edificio destinado a la oración", dijo a OSV News Noémie Teysier d'Orfeuill, líder de los voluntarios.

"En un principio, la devolución de la estatua era un acontecimiento logístico. Pero se aprovechó la oportunidad para convertirlo en un acontecimiento misionero y popular", dijo.

Para Teysier d'Orfeuill, esta peregrinación simboliza "la restauración de la vocación de culto de Notre Dame", antes de su inauguración por las autoridades oficiales del Estado y del mundo cultural francés el fin de semana del 7 y 8 de diciembre.

"La catedral es ante todo un icono del misterio de la Iglesia", declaró la joven católica.

En el interior de la catedral, la estatua original vuelve a instalarse no lejos del altar, cerca del pilar a cuyos pies se convirtió el famoso escritor y diplomático francés Paul Claudel el día de Navidad de 1886.

En 1913, describió el momento de la conversión: "Era el día más sombrío del invierno y la tarde más oscura y lluviosa sobre París", escribió. Recordaba que estaba de pie "cerca del segundo pilar a la entrada del presbiterio, a la derecha, en el lado de la sacristía", cuando "ocurrió el acontecimiento" que dominó su "vida entera".

"En un instante, mi corazón se conmovió y creí", escribió Claudel. "Creí con tal fuerza de adhesión, con tal evacuación de todo mi ser, con una convicción tan poderosa, con una certeza tal que no dejaba lugar a ningún tipo de duda, que desde entonces todos los libros, todos los argumentos, todos los

incidentes y accidentes de una vida ajetreada no han podido sacudir mi fe, ni de hecho afectarla en modo alguno."

El padre Gaëtan de Bodard, nuevo capellán del emblemático cuerpo de bomberos de París que salvó Notre Dame — y sucesor del padre Jean-Marc Fournier, quien corrió valientemente al interior de la catedral en llamas para preservar primero al Santísimo Sacramento, bendecir la iglesia en llamas y salvar después la corona de espinas, una de las reliquias más valiosas de la catedral —, afirmó que Notre Dame ya es hoy testigo de nuevos milagros de conversión.

"Conozco personalmente a uno de los bomberos que intervinieron aquella tarde y el redescubrió su fe en ese momento", dijo el padre de Bodard a OSV News.

"Se había apartado de su fe ante todo el sufrimiento, el dolor, las privaciones, la soledad, la sangre y las heridas que veía. Pero la noche del incendio, se sintió conmovido al ver toda la ciudad de París paralizada y a la gente rezando de rodillas en las calles", explica el nuevo capellán de la unidad de bomberos de París.

"En el interior (de la catedral), le impresionó la cruz luminosa de Cristo que brillaba en el coro, tras el derrumbe de la aguja. Sintió una presencia que le guiaba, que marcó el inicio de un profundo acercamiento a Dios", dijo el padre de Bodard.

Para Mons. Marsset, la cruz en el interior de la catedral destruida y la Virgen del Pilar salvada son signos de que hay esperanza "más allá de la destrucción".

"María, en su humildad, y la cruz, en su resplandor, nos dieron la dirección: 'Iglesia, cruza sobre tus cenizas, asume lo que has hecho, haz penitencia, y al final de este camino, hay un 'más allá del desastre'".

(Caroline de Sury escribe para OSV News desde París.)

## 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 varían 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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304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en [www.dwc.org](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 Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

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

# Employment Opportunities

## High School Principal, St. Joseph High School, Martinsburg

New position! The new St. Joseph High School in Martinsburg has begun the search for the ideal leader to serve as principal for the school opening for the 2025-2026 school year. DEADLINE IS DEC. 15!

We are searching for a dynamic, mission-driven, forward-thinking principal who will work with our team to create a new Catholic high school for students in grades nine to 12 that will open for the 2025-26 academic year.

We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

The position will begin in January 2025.

Candidates must be practicing Catholics in good standing with church precepts and act as examples

and motivators toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. The ideal candidate will have a master's degree in educational leadership or administration; begin the process of completing that degree requirement; or hold a valid educational leadership certificate from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

Candidates also must have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience; administrative experience is preferred.

A résumé, cover letter and three letters of reference may be emailed to Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D., at [deaconpat@stjosephwv.org](mailto:deaconpat@stjosephwv.org).

Applications will be accepted until Dec. 15.

## High School Principal, Parkersburg Catholic High School

Parkersburg Catholic High School, located in Parkersburg, West Virginia is seeking a 6-12th Grade Principal. We are searching for a dynamic, mission-driven, forward thinking high school principal for Parkersburg Catholic High School. The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. The ideal candidate would have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification. The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience. A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments to Father Rice: [jrice@dwc.org](mailto:jrice@dwc.org) Resumes will be accepted until November 22, 2024. Click here to apply.

## St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Cook

The Cook at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests. The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions. Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function. Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area. Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

For more information, click here. Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at (304) 342-0507.

## St. John XXIII Pastoral Center Job Opening – Guest Services Coordinator

The Guest Services Coordinator at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Guest Services Coordinator is responsible for working with guests to plan and book lodging and events. Some of the required qualifications include multi-tasker, problem solver & self-starter, detail oriented, excellent written & verbal skills, computer knowledge, team player and welcoming & respectful to all faith & secular guests. Additionally, the position entails the ability to perform the physical requirements of kitchen aide & housekeeper.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Works in kitchen & housekeeping when needed.

For more information, click here.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at (304) 342-0507 or [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) to schedule an interview or for more information.

## Grant Manager

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

Maintain grant compliance and reporting, including outcome measurements and grant budgets – taking responsibility for meeting high standards of effectiveness, timeliness, transparency, and completeness. This position will require you to work a hybrid schedule out of the Wheeling office.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Implement and strengthen systems for overall grants management, coordination and compliance; Collaborate with Grants Director to maintain library of grant support documents including bios, IRS forms, board/staff lists, program summaries, etc.; Collaborate with Grants Director to maintain a comprehensive calendar of grants, reporting schedule, prospects, and all associated files and correspondence; Ensure acknowledgment of funders (i.e. via website, social media); Track progress toward organizational and programmatic outcomes and goals; Be aware of, and adhere to, organizational policies and procedures, laws and regulations, and applicable donor/grant requirements; Draft compelling progress reports and targeted program updates that fully capture programmatic success and challenges; Collaborate with other members of the Advancement team to develop updates that can be shared to steward funders and partners, and to raise awareness when shared more broadly (via website, social media, etc.); Monitor and ensure that sub-recipients meet performance standards and submit documentation, including reimbursement requests, timely and accurately.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Help to build capacity of colleagues on compliance obligations; Request reimbursements and drawdowns as needed; Coordinate with regional and program directors to assemble all necessary reporting materials and documents, including budget reports, outcome measurements, success stories, etc.; Research statistics, trends and data for grant proposals and community advocacy; Collaborate with the Grants Director, Chief Mission Officer and others throughout the grant lifecycle to strengthen agency processes and build capacity for future growth; Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed here are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required: Bachelor's degree in business, communications, nonprofit administration, or related field; 3+ years of experience in fundraising, grant writing, grants management, or contract management; Strong administrative skills: self-motivated with the ability to set priorities, implement systems and manage multiple tasks in an effective and efficient manner; Ability to work independently and with a team; Proficiency in Microsoft Office (specifically Word, Excel and PowerPoint); Strong attention to detail; Experience with CRM software systems a plus; Familiarity and experience working with federal and state funders a plus; Demonstrated interest in the mission, vision and values of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Click here to apply.

## Maintenance Worker

Saint Joseph School in Martinsburg is in need of a full-time, experienced maintenance worker.

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 4 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday. The pay starts at \$14 per hour, based on experience. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

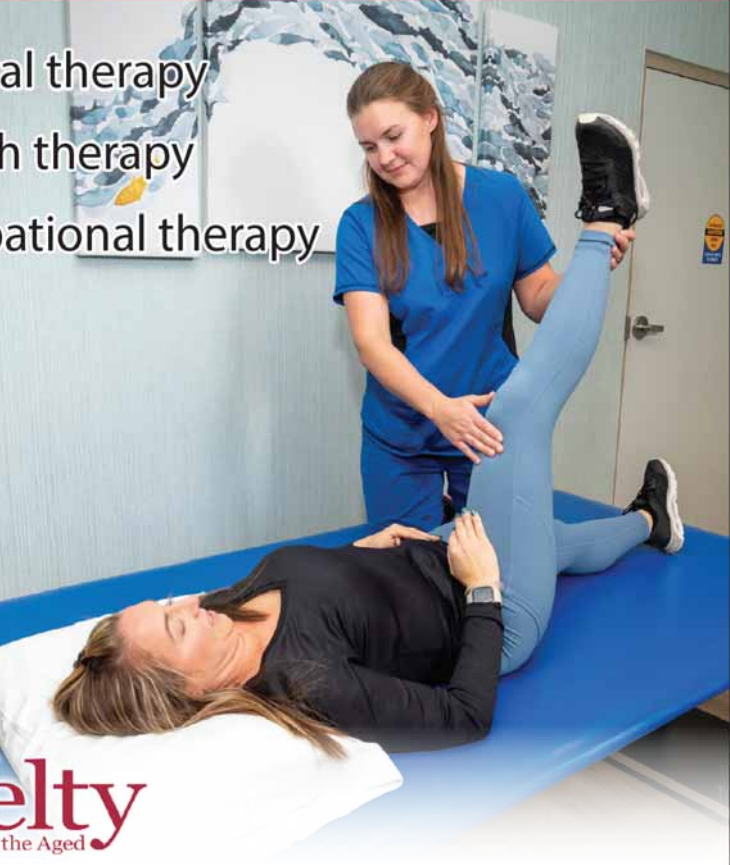
Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjswv.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.org).

## Office Assistant

St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee is seeking an experienced office assistant. Duties include bookkeeping, correspondence, general office duties, and administration of parish records. Qualified applicant will be trusted with confidential information. General accounting experience preferred along with general office experience. Full-time hours with pay based on experience. If you are interested, please send your applications to: [manackstover@yahoo.com](mailto:manackstover@yahoo.com)


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