

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

November 28 Will be an Opportunity to Do Great Things

By Joyce Bibey

As Catholics we are called to receive God's gifts gratefully and share them lovingly.

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Let your giving be a reflection of your heart, priorities, and gratitude.

The Catholic Sharing
**See “Opportunity”
on Page 3**



Seminarians Receive Candidacy

Courtesy Photo

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston congratulates seminarians Bryan Tedeschi (left), Dominic Re (second from right), and Michael Aiello (right) on receiving Candidacy, an important step in seminary formation. They attend Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. With them at Immaculate Conception Chapel are Auxiliary Bishop Manuel Cruz of Newark, N.J. (second from left), who celebrated the Holy Mass of Admission to Candidacy; and Msgr. Andrew Baker, rector of Mount St. Mary's (third from right).

Inside: Bishop Brennan Celebrates Mass of Gratitude,
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Eucharistic Adoration, Charity, Promoting Justice
Are Connected, Pope Says, Page 11

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. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly or indirectly, with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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.reportbishop-abuse.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.reportbishop-abuse.org.

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



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Opportunity...

Cont'd from Page 1

Appeal is one of many ways that we are united in God's love as Catho-

lics and as members of our Diocesan Family. The CSA is a great consideration for financial gift as it provides essential support for ministries and programs, including

funding for Camp Carlo, social ministries, tuition assistance, parish food pantry programs, emergency services, and outreach efforts.

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Bishop Brennan Celebrates Mass of Gratitude

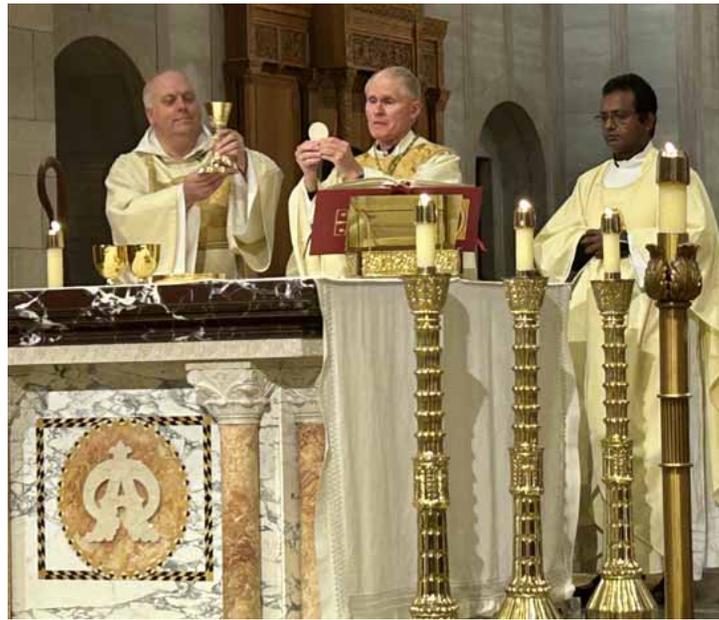
In Celebration of All Who Support Ministry and Outreach through Their Gifts to the Catholic Sharing Appeal

By Colleen Rowan

Bishop Mark Brennan welcomed all to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Nov. 20 for the annual celebration of the Mass of Gratitude, thanking all who support ministry and outreach in the diocese through their gifts to the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA). It is a fitting celebration, he said, that is held the week of Thanksgiving.

For those who could not be present at the Mass, the celebration was livestreamed on the CSA website and the diocese's Facebook page.

Concelebrating were Father Shinto Mathew, pastor of St. John Parish in St. Marys, Christ Our Hope Mission in Harrisville, and St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro; and Father Doney Chacko, RCJ, parochial vicar of St. John Parish in Benwood and St. James Parish in McMechen. Deacon Doug Breiding of the cathedral served as deacon for the Mass.



Colleen Rowan Photos

Left: Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates the Mass of Gratitude at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Nov. 20. Right: The bishop greets the faithful following the Mass.

"Gratitude is a good attitude," the bishop said in his homily. It's positive to be grateful for blessings received, he said, and good things that have happened. The bishop expressed his thanks to those who have given gifts to the CSA.

"It really does do good work around the diocese and in the parishes...", he said to donors. "You give generously. I am very grateful for your response."

Some of that good work made possible by the CSA, the bishop noted, includes the diocese's summer youth camp—Camp Carlo, where not only young people from parishes around the state go to enjoy nature in the

beautiful area of Huttonsville, but also children of less fortunate families or those who have a parent incarcerated. They enjoy a free week every summer. "Your funds provide that help," the bishop said.

Catholic school tuition is also supported through the appeal, the bishop said. The West Virginia Hope Scholarship is available, but "We have to be willing to support Catholic schools ourselves. The Catholic Sharing Appeal provides a few hundred thousand dollars a year for tuition assistance to enable families of modest means to send their children to Catholic school," Bishop Brennan said. "Your participation in the Catholic Sharing Ap-

peal provides those funds."

The bishop then spoke of the work of Catholic Charities West Virginia, most notably in Huntington with drug addiction counseling. CCWV's soup kitchens and food pantries and other programs around the state are also supported by appeal funds, the bishop said.

"I do thank you for responding to those who need you," Bishop Brennan said to donors. "I give to this appeal myself because I see the good that it does, and I urge you to keep up your commitment to the Catholic Sharing Appeal. May God bless you and I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends."

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THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

Glen Dale Parish Honors Veterans with 'Quilt of Valor'



Courtesy Photos

GLEN DALE—Earlier this month, St. Jude Parish in Glen Dale honored its veterans by giving them each a “Quilt of Valor” for their service. The quilts were given out at Masses along with a special blessing for veterans. The parish thanks Susan Chambers and its Women’s Guild for their help with this project. Pictured above are three veterans who were the recipients of the quilts: John Klos, Charlie Hawkins, and Wayne Bero (pictured from left). At top right is a display in the church thanking veterans. At right are veterans Jim Gardill (left) and Wayne LeMasters. Not pictured are veterans Phil DeVendra and Pat Doyle. Catherine Roberts started “Quilts for Veterans” after her son came home from war. She noticed he was calmer when wrapped in the quilt. Her organization has given out over 300,000 quilts.



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Honor Our Black Catholic History

By Joyce Bibey

In these final days of Black Catholic History Month take time to find out more about the lives of the six men and women of African American descent on the road to sainthood.

Their path in life brought many strains, struggles, and unjust treatment. The fact is they were treated less than human by society and experienced institutional racism. While we can't change our history, through awareness and education, we can learn from their lives and become a better people – a better Church.

- Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853) – taught us the importance of sharing our love of God through our words and actions. Venerable Pierre was born a slave to the Berard family in Haiti around 1766. The family moved to New York with Pierre when he was about 21. After they arrived, Mr. Berard died. Pierre learned how to be a hairdresser, a luxury service at that time for wealthy women. His earnings supported Mrs. Berard. It wasn't until she died about 16 years later that he became a free man. He was proud of his Catholic faith, sharing with all of his customers the beauty of Christ and the Church. His life was a life of charity – helping the sick, caring for the abandoned, and raising money for Mother (later saint) Elizabeth Seton's orphanage. He and his wife Juliette helped open the first Catholic school in New York for black children, and a religious order of nuns for black women. Pierre also made it a priority to give to the appeal that built the first Cathedral in New York, the original St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was given a seat of honor at the dedication Mass, which was unheard of because of the color of his skin. He was originally buried in the cathedral cemetery, but in 1990 his remains were moved inside the cathedral among the cardinals and archbishops. Read more about him at archny.org

- Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (birth is estimated circa 1784- died Feb. 3, 1882) – founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. It is believed she was born into an affluent Catholic family in Cuba. By 1813 she had relocated to Baltimore (a slave state before the Emancipation Proclamation). She used her own money and home to educate black children many of Caribbean descent. Fifteen years later the Church approached her to start a formal Catholic school for girls of color. She said she would, but also wanted to begin a religious order that would be the first congregation of women of African heritage. A year later she and three other black women professed vows as members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. After the Civil War she opened an orphanage for black destitute children. Read about her life at:



Photo Illustration by Joyce Bibey

<https://www.motherlange.org>

- Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862) – founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, a religious community of African American women. The congregation is still strong today continuing to serve youth, elderly, and the poor and needy.

This blessed woman is described as a humble and devout who “devoted herself untiringly for many years, without reserve, to the religious instruction of the people of New Orleans, principally slaves....” In her honor, let us humble ourselves, quiet our world, and focus on the prayer she said, “I believe in God, I hope in God. I love. I want to live and die for God.” Read more about her at: <https://www.sistersoftheholysfamily.com/henriette-delille>

- Julia Greeley (born sometime between 1833-1848 and died 1918) – honored as a great disciple of the Sacred Heart by the Jesuit fathers of their parish in Colorado. She was called Denver's Angel of Charity and a guardian of firefighters. Servant of God Julia Greeley was born in Missouri into slavery, but once freed she traveled to Denver Colorado, where she spent the rest of her life showing mercy, love, and charity to others. Read about her inspiring life at: <https://juliagreeley.org/>

- Sr. Thea Bowman (1937-1990) – was the daughter of a Mississippi doctor and a teacher, a granddaughter of

slaves. This dynamic lady was proclaimed a “holy woman” in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Two years ago today, her cause for sainthood was approved by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and on June 1, 2018, she was declared a Servant of God.

She was eager to learn from other cultures, but also wanted to share the abundance of her African American culture and spirituality. She was the first non-white member of her congregation (the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration) in an all-white city in Wisconsin. Her friends, both religious and lay, said she had the uncanny gift and energy that brought people together. She was a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer sharing the joy of the Gospel. Despite her debilitating battle with breast cancer, she did not let it stop her from speaking to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989. She explained what it meant to be African American and Catholic. She enlightened the bishops on African American history and spirituality. She urged them to continue to evangelize the African American community, to promote inclusivity and full participation of African Americans within Church leadership, and to understand the necessity and value of Catholic schools in the African American community. She seemingly touched the hearts of the bishops as evidenced by their thunderous applause and tears

flowing from their eyes, after she brought them together all arm-in-arm to sing “We Shall Overcome.” Read more at: <https://www.sistertheabowman.com>

- Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) – was the first Roman Catholic priest in the US. A former slave, Fr. Tolton was ordained in Rome and served as pastor of St. Boniface in Quincy, Illinois. He was known as “Good Father Gus,” who had eloquent sermons and a beautiful signing voice. His story, which is beautifully inspiring because of his genuine love of God and God's people, but is also a poignant reminder of the accepted discrimination and a racist taunting that occurred in society and even in the brotherhood of the priesthood and the Church hierarchy. His story is so impressive and illustrates his strong will, courage, and determination to let nothing stop him from serving the Lord. Take time to learn more about him at: <https://tolton.archchicago.org>.

Dear Jesus, as we observe Black Catholic History Month, we call upon your saving grace to help ensure that the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters of color is honored, celebrated, and respected in our parishes, communities, schools, and homes.

Help us to not only open our eyes and our hearts as we not only speak unity, but also think and act like you. Amen.

Wheeling University Launches New Honor Society to Recognize First-Generation College Students

WHEELING—Wheeling University is proud to announce the formation of its newest honor society, Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha), which recognizes the academic achievements of first-generation college students. With the establishment of Tri-Alpha, Wheeling becomes the first private institution in West Virginia to form a chapter, and it is one of only three in the state.

Tri-Alpha was founded in 2018 at Moravian University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and today, more than 200 chapters exist on college and university campuses nationwide. The organization is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of first-generation college students, who often face unique challenges on their path to higher education.

“Wheeling University was founded on the principle of access and opportunity for all students, regardless of their background,” said Wheeling University President Ginny R. Favede, herself a first-generation college graduate. “The establishment of Tri-Alpha is a testament to our commitment to supporting and honoring first-generation students, who are essential to the diversity and vibrancy of our campus community.”

To qualify for induction into Tri-Alpha, students must have earned at least 48 credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree, achieved an overall grade point average of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, and have neither parent, step-parent, nor legal guardian who has completed a bachelor’s degree. Faculty and staff can also qualify for induction if they meet the definition of a first-generation student and are willing to serve as mentors for first-generation students.

“Tri-Alpha is more than just an honor society,” said Favede. “It is a community of scholars and leaders who are committed to supporting each other and making a difference in the world. We are excited to

welcome our first cohort of inductees in April 2024 and look forward to celebrating their many successes.”

The establishment of Tri-Alpha is a significant milestone for Wheeling University, as it reflects the institution’s deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Tri-Alpha will serve as a valuable resource for first-generation students, providing them with academic support, mentorship opportunities, and a sense of belonging.

In addition to its academic mission, Tri-Alpha is also committed to promoting social change. The organization recognizes that first-generation college students often face significant barriers to success, both in and out of the classroom. Tri-Alpha members are committed to dismantling these barriers and creating a more equitable educational system for all.

The establishment of Tri-Alpha at Wheeling University is a positive step forward for the institution and for the state of West Virginia as a whole. Wheeling’s Tri-Alpha chapter will play a vital role in recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of first-generation college students while also working to create a more equitable and inclusive educational system for all.

Wheeling proudly remains the only campus-based Catholic institution of higher education in West Virginia. According to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), Wheeling University is one of only 12 diocesan-sponsored universities in the United States. In addition to Wheeling, those other institutions include; Carroll College, Catholic Distance University, Donnelly College, Gannon University, Loras College, Mount St. Mary’s, Seton Hill University, St. Ambrose University, St. Thomas University, Thomas More University, University of Dallas, and the University of St. Thomas (M.N.).

Capitol Christmas Tree from Monongahela National Forest in Randolph County Arrives in Washington



Courtesy Photo

The U.S Capitol Christmas tree, a 60-foot Norway spruce from the Monongahela National Forest in Randolph County, arrives in Washington Nov. 17.

WASHINGTON — The U.S Capitol Christmas tree has arrived in Washington. The 60-foot Norway spruce completed its journey from the Monongahela National Forest in Randolph County Nov. 17. It will now be decorated in preparation for the tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 28 at 5 p.m.

Gates will open to the public at 4 p.m. on Nov. 28.

Parking near the U.S. Capitol is restricted, it is recommended that those attending the ceremony walk or use mass transit.

All attendees will enter along First Street at Garfield and Peace Circles.



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USCCB President on His Relationships with Pope Francis and Cardinal Pierre, the Synod's Influence and Bishop Strickland's Status

By **Michael R. Heinlein**

BALTIMORE (OSV News) — Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio is just beginning his second year of his three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He sat down with OSV News during a break at the fall general assembly of bishops in Baltimore Nov. 15 to answer questions about his relationship with Pope Francis and Apostolic Nuncio Cardinal Christophe Pierre; Pope Francis' comments on the American church; how to help those hurt facing war and violence around the world; the current status of Bishop Joseph E. Strickland, and more. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

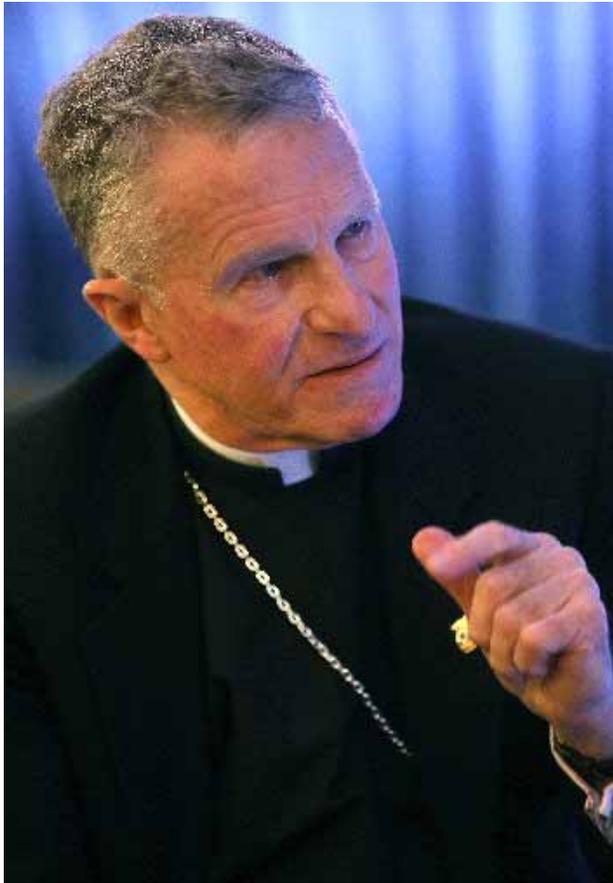
OSV News: When we spoke last year, you said that you wanted to continue the good work of Archbishop (José H.) Gomez to foster unity in the church. What continue to be the issues that most divide, and how do you see a path forward?

Archbishop Timothy Broglio: I think there are always questions that, just from the difference in the way people approach things, that can be a source of division. Although I noticed certainly in these two days of public session — if you look at the votes, and especially the votes for questions that are “yes” or “no” — they've been overwhelmingly one way or another. So I think that's indicative of a certain unity of thought. And the other thing that I think is very striking: With few exceptions, all of the votes for the candidates for the different offices were all very close to one another. So I mean it's not as if there's tremendous lopsided feelings in the conference. So I think that's a positive sign going forward.

I think there's always going to be a difference in approach between issues like the role of the dignity of the human person and how that's interpreted — from protection of the infant in the womb to social issues. That's always going to be, you know, where do you put the emphasis? How do you emphasize both at the same time? And I think that's always going to be a source of concern, or a possible source of division, or at least a divergence in how people approach questions.

OSV News: Also when we spoke last year, some were claiming in the media that you were anti-Pope Francis, which you balked at. Given your last year of working more closely with the Holy Father, could you comment a little bit about what that working relationship has been like?

Archbishop Broglio: Of course I saw him



(OSV News Photo/Bob Roller) Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks during an interview with OSV News at the bishops' fall general assembly in Baltimore Nov. 15.

right after the election because there was a meeting of the synod on the continental phase of the synod preparations, and so I had an opportunity to be with him. And he was actually very encouraging. He right away said — you know, we spoke to one another in Spanish — that, oh, you know, you have a big job now in addition to the big job you already had. He told me not to lose heart, and in that sense he was very encouraging.

Now when we went in April — you know, the president always has an audience with the pope — he was very attentive to the questions that we raised. Obviously I don't want to get into specifics, but he spent almost an hour with us, which certainly was extremely generous on his part. And he was very receptive to anything that we wanted to talk to him about. He let us really lead the dialogue, and then he would respond to

the different issues about the synod and the North American continental phase, which had been completed by that time, and it was a very positive exchange. So I think the myth of us being somehow on opposite sides of the spectrum is ... a myth.

OSV News: There is an underlying critique among some American Catholics that Pope Francis doesn't understand Catholics in the U.S. Do you think there's any merit to that, and could you elaborate on what that might really mean, in your experience with dealing with him?

Archbishop Broglio: I think Pope Francis is certainly one who's always open to listening to others. That's always amazing. The amount of time that he'll give to audiences, I think, that's certainly been a hallmark of his pontificate — and I have plenty of experience on which to base that statement. But let's remember Pope Francis' only experience (outside South America) until he became Bishop of Rome was that he lived for three years in Germany. Otherwise, his whole experience is Argentinian. You can't expect him to have an experience or an experiential view of different places. Argentina, in one sense, is a country very much like the United States. There's many, many possibilities. They just haven't been developed in the same way they have been here in the United States. So, I think all of those are factors that would color his vision and also his understanding even of the church in a different reality.

I believe the first time he ever came to the United States was when he came here on his, thus far, one and only papal visit here. And, you know, even if you went to a few places, the United States is a big country. You're not going to discover it in five days. So, I think those are all factors that might lead people to say that he doesn't know the United States or he doesn't know the church in the United States. But I think he's very open to learning about it. And, I think that's something that has to be perhaps emphasized.

When the new students came to the North American College — the pontifical seminary in the United States — he gives them a private audience. Let me assure you, no pope in modern history, with the exception of Pius IX, who founded the college, has ever done something like that. So, I think there's a willingness to learn more about the country.

OSV News: On Monday (Nov. 13) in your See “President” on Page 10

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President...

Cont'd from Page 9

homily, you preached that the bishops are begging for wisdom so that Catholics might embrace the way of life that Christ offers us. What, in your opinion, is the issue that the U.S. bishops most need that wisdom and guidance on?

Archbishop Broglio: I think it's basically how we draw people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Obviously we have some ideas, but we're continually trying to reach out because we recognize that, particularly with young people, we have to find ways to draw them into an experience of the Gospel, an experience of Jesus Christ. You know, in the Aparecida Document (the concluding document from the Fifth General Conference of the Episcopate of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007 that Pope Francis, then a cardinal, helped to draft), there is a statement there that the best thing that has ever — and I'm paraphrasing it — the best thing that has ever happened to a Catholic is to know Jesus Christ. And the best gift he can give to another is to share that experience with him or her. And so I think that's what we're all striving to do.

We recognize that we don't have all the answers. We don't always know how to reach everyone. And so that's a desire. I know certainly in my own experience with the youngest archdiocese in the United States, I'm continually looking for ways — and I'm not speaking about programs — but ways to reach out to these young people. And, you know, I can get hundreds of them at a Mass on a training base because it's the only time during the day they don't yell at you. But the real question is how to get them to grow in

their faith and to continue in the practice of that faith. And I think that's what we really need, an infusion of divine wisdom.

OSV News: You recently returned from a month in Rome with the Synod on Synodality. And you mentioned some of the ways that synodality already exists in the conference. What do you think that you learned from that experience that you think might be worthy of consideration for applying to the conference?

Archbishop Broglio: We do pray together, but I think the intentional invocation of the Holy Spirit was an important factor in the synod gatherings. And I think that might be something we can, at least in our smaller group meetings, we can certainly do that. I'm also excited about the new strategic planning process, which is based on mission. And I think we've just approved something that's much more flexible than the model we had before that. And so I think it is more synodal, and I think that will be something that will make a difference in how we address issues and concerns of the church in the United States in a different way, in a new way.

OSV News: On the note of synodality, both America magazine and The Pillar blog have mentioned that you're at odds with the apostolic nuncio on a vision. Is there any comment or clarification that you'd like to add?

Archbishop Broglio: I don't necessarily agree with the nuncio's assessment as it was presented in America magazine. And I think he would be the first one to say that his view would be much more nuanced than what that interview purported to present. I also think that the United States is very different from Latin America, and it's very

different in terms of how we experience and how we practice our faith. Some of that might come from the fact that for a long time we were kind of in the ghetto. And we've come out of that but that doesn't mean that we can't learn new things. I think the difference between the nuncio's view of the church in the United States and mine has been exaggerated.

OSV News: You mentioned that the delicacy of the present moment in the Middle East is of great concern for you and the bishops, where war has broken out and innocent people are paying such a high price. And you also mentioned in your (Nov. 14) address the many places around the world facing conflict. What do you think the U.S. bishops and U.S. Catholics at large can do to respond to the growing violence and unrest in the world today?

Archbishop Broglio: In about three ways. First and foremost, praying for peace. I think we can never overestimate the power of prayer. Secondly, I think we have to be leaders in our country in promoting civil discourse. It is deplorable that you cannot disagree in a civilized way in this country — that people do not read something that they think will be against their opinions. It's almost a cultivation of a tunnel vision. And the violence with which people even verbally respond to one another when they disagree is deplorable. And I think we have to change that in our own house before we can go and then try to be peacemakers elsewhere.

And then the third way, I think, is obviously — and United States Catholics are

tremendously generous — but I think just the financial support of the victims in these conflicts of those who are left behind. And we've been doing that most notably since the Second World War with Catholic Relief Services, but that's a tremendous agency, and it's a tremendous tribute to the U.S. Catholic Church's interest in the rest of the world. And so I think we need to continue to support those kinds of efforts, as well, because so many areas of conflict in the world are also based on situations of poverty and inability of people to survive. And I think if we can help that, then we help, we are also makers of peace.

OSV News: Bishop Joseph Strickland, who was removed from his role as episcopal leader of the Diocese of Tyler just days ago, is here in Baltimore and has said he doesn't have a voice at the USCCB meeting. What is Bishop Strickland's status as a USCCB member?

Archbishop Broglio: As far as the Conference of Catholic Bishops is concerned, he's a retired bishop, which means he has a voice in the confer-

ence, but he cannot vote. And I'm unaware of any invitation to him not to come to this meeting. It didn't come from us.

(Michael R. Heinlein writes for OSV News from Indiana.)

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Eucharistic Adoration, Charity, Promoting Justice Are Connected, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The daily rhythm of the life of a priest should resemble “ping pong” — praying on one’s knees before the tabernacle, helping those in need and returning to prayer, Pope Francis told a group of Latino priests from the United States.

“Do not leave those who suffer alone; do not leave the Lord in the tabernacle alone. Convince yourselves that you cannot do anything with your hands unless you do it on your knees,” the pope told members of the National Association of Hispanic Priests during an audience in the Apostolic Palace Nov. 16.

“It’s like ping pong, one thing leads to the other,” the pope told them.

Priests in the group had been invited to send the pope questions in advance. He prepared a general response but added liberally to his prepared text.

Meeting the priests in the Clementine Hall, a room ornately decorated with marble and frescoes, Pope Francis told them to “beware

of ecclesiastical elegance,” because concern for keeping churches pristine increases the temptation to keep the doors closed and “that won’t do.”

During the U.S. National Eucharistic Revival and with preparations well underway for the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024, the pope focused his remarks on the importance of eucharistic adoration and the essential tie between reverencing the Eucharist and serving one’s brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis said he did not want to make anyone “blush,” so he would not ask the priests how many hours a week they spend in adoration, but “I’ll throw the question out there.”

In the busy life of a priest, there are many possible excuses for limiting time in private prayer, he said. “But if you don’t pray, if you don’t adore, your life is worth little.”

The pope said he wanted to respond to one of the questions sent in by the group by recalling a talk about the women at the foot of

Jesus’ cross given by St. Manuel González García, one of the patron saints of the National Eucharistic Revival.

“The same helplessness, the same desire to act against injustice, that the holy women experienced in those moments, we can experience in the face of the problem of immigrants, the closure of certain civil and religious authorities, the challenges of interculturality, the complexity of proclamation — so many things,” the pope said.

But the saintly bishop noted that “Jesus does not cease to suffer” and that although he has risen, “he is still on Calvary in the person of his brothers and sisters,” the pope said. “In every tabernacle, in every consecrated ciborium, we see the cross being erected, and ask ourselves, ‘Can we do something to alleviate the suffering Christ of today?’”

“What God asks of you is not to abandon them,” the pope said.

Pope Francis said a priest cannot always schedule or predict when someone experiencing injustice or

simply in need of spiritual consolation will need him.

“Sometimes the modern world leads us to schedules,” he said, imagining a conversation: “Father, can I confess?” “No. The schedule is from such and such a time to such and such a time.”

“Please,” the pope said, “first the people, then the schedule. Do not become clerks of the sacred.”

Pope Francis told the story of a priest at a parish in a poor neighborhood who “used to say that he wanted to board up his window” because if people came looking for him and found the door closed, they would just go to the window.

Keep the doors open, the pope told them, and be “priests for the people.”

While priests often will not get to see the results of the seeds they plant, he said, God wants them to trust that he will make them bear fruit.

“May you sow much and not have to take sleeping pills because you are very tired when night comes,” Pope Francis said.

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Polish Archbishop Urges Pope To Resist German Church Demands

(OSV News) — The president of the Polish bishops' conference has bitterly criticized demands for liberal change by the church in neighboring Germany and urged the pope not to allow them to dominate the Rome Synod on Synodality.

"Awareness of the power of truth sustains my hope for the ongoing synod — that it won't be in any way manipulated or used to authorize German theses which openly contradict Catholic Church teaching," Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Poznan said in a letter to Pope Francis released Nov. 14.

"There's a risk the scientific claims being cited are wrong, as happened with another once-popular theory about racism. If doctrinal competence were granted to bishops' conferences or continental assemblies, then such theses would be considered Catholic — and perhaps imposed on other conferences, despite their obviously non-Catholic character," the archbishop said.

The 1,000-word letter was published ahead of the Polish bishops' Nov. 20-21 fall plenary, which was expected to focus on reactions to the October Rome synod.

At the close of the Oct. 4-29 synod, a report summarizing the discussions was released. What follows now is a yearlong period of reflection for the whole church, which will culminate in the second and final synod assembly in late 2024 on the same topic of synodality.

In his letter, Archbishop Gadecki said he had been alarmed by a 150-page document circulated to synod participants, setting out German demands, as well as by suggestions in the synod's working document, or "Instrumentum Laboris," that "discernments by a single episcopal conference" might carry "authentic doctrinal authority."

"The authors of this document seem so ashamed at how German bishops reacted to reports of sexual abuse by clergy that they've decided to start a moral and legal revolution in the universal church — however, it seems this wouldn't be an evangelical revolution, but one inspired by left-liberal

ideologies," the Polish bishops' president told the pontiff.

"The main themes are change to the church's order and teaching on sexual morality, and ordaining women to the diaconate and priesthood ... (that) the church should become as similar as possible to the liberal democratic world, which exemplifies humanism," he said, criticizing the German church's "Synodal Path."

Germany's Catholic Church sent six delegates to the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome and was widely believed to have influenced the agenda through its own "Synodal Path" discussions, launched in December 2019. The path, running till 2026, resumed in Essen Nov. 11, although several German bishops, including Cardinal Rainer Maria Woelki of Cologne have pulled out after opposing its liberal demands.

In his letter, Archbishop Gadecki said the German "Synodal Path" had called on the church to adopt the "political system" and "democratic bureaucracy" dominant in the West, through lay supervision over clergy, decision-making transparency and a "power structure parallel to the hierarchy," while also demanding "the blessing of non-sacramental unions, including same-sex unions" on grounds these were not sinful.

"On the contrary, it's the church's teaching which is sinful, as well as unmerciful and discriminatory — it makes the church, according to the authors, responsible for the persecution and suicide of transgender people," the Polish archbishop said.

"In reality, relationships between people, including sexual relationships, are traditionally subject to moral evaluation in the church's teaching. ... Love does not justify everything or make everything good. In the Catholic approach, we treat every person with respect, but not every human choice," he said.

Bishops from Poland's predominant Catholic Church are widely seen as upholding conservative Catholic teaching in Europe.

Meanwhile, a Polish lay delegate to

the synod told OSV News the archbishop's open letter signaled Polish "public misgivings" over reform demands in the wider church, but said he doubted any Polish bishop would openly dissent from papal decisions, such as by publicly issuing critical questions, known as "dubia."

"The Polish church believes any changes must be pastoral, rather than doctrinal," said philosophy professor Aleksander Banka, a member of the Polish church's Lay Apostolate Council.

"But 'dubia' aren't a proper way of communicating with the Holy Father, since they apply pressure and force him to reply on issues requiring delicacy and care. Any bishop with questions or doubts can resolve these through direct talks with the pope. Having shown much greater public loyalty to the Holy Father and church teaching than their German counterparts, I don't think Polish bishops would go public this way," he said.

Archbishop Gadecki's letter follows a ruling released Nov. 8 by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith that transgender persons "may receive baptism under the same conditions as other faithful," if it would not cause scandal or confusion among other Catholics.

In his letter, the Polish archbishop said German reform demands also had

included not recording a child's gender on baptismal certificates, and providing transgender people with access to the sacraments, including priesthood and consecrated life.

"The entire teaching of the church on gender should thus be fundamentally changed, since it does not correspond to the self-understanding of transgender people," the Polish bishops' president told the pope.

"This is all in the name of so-called latest achievements in social sciences," he said.

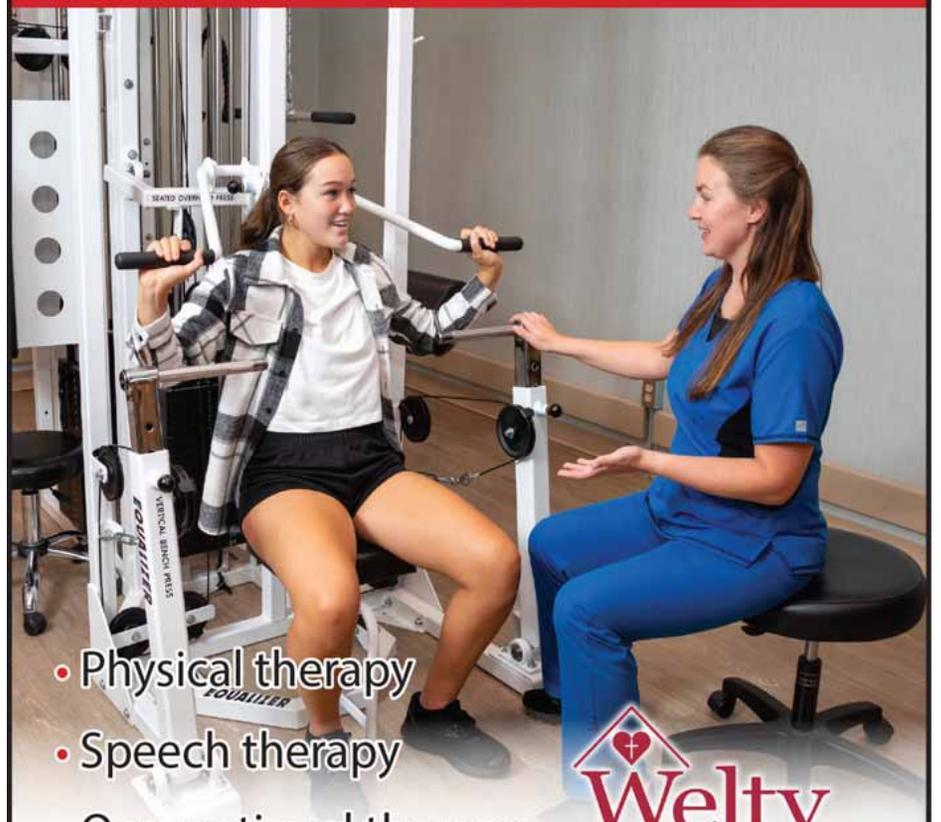
However, Banka said the Vatican had shown "great critical reserve" about current German demands, adding that the new transgender ruling reflected the impact of "many public voices."

"The Vatican is seeking cautiously to maintain the basic anthropological view of the human person long articulated by the church, while recognizing the present situation requires a deeper, sensitive understanding," the Polish delegate told OSV News.

"While maintaining its unity of doctrine, it's trying to answer pastoral needs by moving towards these people. It's clearly necessary to speak about this, whatever postulates have emerged in Germany."

(Jonathan Luxmoore writes for OSV News from Oxford, England.)

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Papa Francisco: La Adoración Eucarística, La Caridad Y La Promoción De La Justicia Están Interconectadas

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El ritmo diario de la vida de un sacerdote debería parecerse al “ping pong”, con una cosa llevando a la otra: rezar de rodillas ante el sagrario, ayudar a los necesitados y volver a la oración, dijo el Papa Francisco a un grupo de sacerdotes latinos de Estados Unidos.

“No dejen abandonados a los que sufren, no dejen abandonado al Señor del Sagrario, convézanse que no van a poder hacer nada con las manos si no lo hacen con las rodillas”, dijo el Papa a los miembros de la Asociación Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos durante una audiencia en el Palacio Apostólico el 16 de noviembre.

“Es como el ping pong, una cosa lleva a la otra”, les dijo el Papa.

Los sacerdotes del grupo habían sido invitados a enviar preguntas al Papa con antelación. El Papa preparó una respuesta general, pero sus respuestas fueron más allá del texto que había preparado.

Al reunirse con los sacerdotes en la Sala Clementina, una habitación ornamentada con mármol y pinturas al fresco, el Papa Francisco les

dijo que tuvieran “cuidado con la exquisitez eclesial”, porque la preocupación por mantener las iglesias exquisitas aumenta la tentación de mantener las puertas cerradas y “eso no funciona”.

Durante el Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional de Estados Unidos y con los preparativos en marcha para el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional que tendrá lugar en julio de 2024, el Papa enfocó sus comentarios en la importancia de la adoración eucarística y el vínculo esencial entre reverenciar la Eucaristía y servir a los hermanos y hermanas.

El Papa Francisco dijo que no quería hacer sonrojar a nadie, por lo que no preguntaría a los sacerdotes cuántas horas a la semana pasan en adoración, pero que lanzaba la pregunta para que cada uno se conteste dentro.

En la ajetreada vida de un sacerdote, hay muchas excusas posibles para limitar el tiempo de oración privada, dijo. Pero “Si vos no orás, si vos no adorás, tu vida vale poco”.

El Papa dijo que quería responder a una de las preguntas enviadas por el grupo recordando una

charla sobre las mujeres al pie de la cruz de Jesús pronunciada por San Manuel González García, uno de los santos patronos del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional.

“La misma impotencia, el mismo deseo de actuar en contra la injusticia, que vivieron las santas mujeres en aquellos momentos, lo podemos sentir nosotros ante la problemática de los inmigrantes, la cerrazón de ciertas autoridades civiles y religiosas, los desafíos de la interculturalidad, la complejidad del anuncio... tantas cosas”, dijo el Papa.

Pero el santo obispo señaló que “Jesús no deja de padecer” y que, aunque ha resucitado, “sigue estando en el Calvario en la persona de sus hermanos”, dijo el Papa. “En cada sagrario, en cada copón consagrado, vemos erigirse la cruz y nos pregunta: “¿Podemos hacer algo para aliviar al Cristo sufriente de hoy?””.

“Lo que Dios les pide es que no los dejen abandonados”, dijo el Papa.

El Papa Francisco dijo que un sacerdote no siempre puede programar o predecir cuándo le necesi-

tará alguien que experimenta una injusticia o simplemente necesita consuelo espiritual.

“A veces el mundo moderno nos lleva a los horarios”, dijo imaginando una conversación: “Padre, ¿me puede confesar?”. “No. El horario es de tal hora a tal hora”.

“Por favor”, dijo el Papa, “primero la gente, después el horario. No se vuelvan oficinistas de lo sagrado”.

El Papa Francisco contó la historia de un sacerdote de una parroquia en un barrio pobre que tenía ganas de “tapiar la ventana” porque si la gente venía a buscarlo y encontraba la puerta cerrada, simplemente iban a la ventana.

Mantengan las puertas abiertas, les dijo el Papa, y sean “curas para la gente”.

Aunque los sacerdotes a menudo no llegan a ver los resultados de las semillas que plantan, dijo, Dios quiere que confíen en que Él hará que den fruto.

“Ojalá siembren mucho, y ojalá no tengan que tomar pastillas para dormir porque llegan cansadísimo a la noche”, dijo el Papa Francisco.

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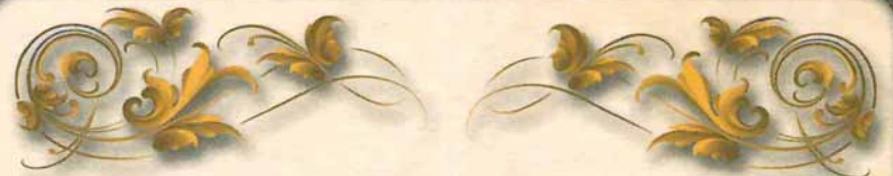


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WHEELING — WVU Medicine Cancer Institute at Wheeling Hospital proudly announces that it has earned accreditation from the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). To achieve CoC accreditation, Wheeling Hospital underwent a site visit to confirm the program's compliance with accreditation standards that evaluate the cancer care services offered by the program.

As a CoC-accredited cancer center, Wheeling Hospital applies a multidisciplinary approach and treats cancer as a complex group of diseases that requires consultation among surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists,

diagnostic radiologists, pathologists, and other health care professionals that specialize in caring for the cancer patient. Cancer patients benefit from having access to clinical trials, screening and prevention events, palliative care, genetic counseling, rehabilitation, oncology nutrition, and survivorship services.

Wheeling Hospital maintains a cancer registry and contributes data to the National Cancer Database (NCDB), a joint initiative of the CoC and the American Cancer Society. "Quality care, continued growth, and cooperative work have always been focuses of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital," says Douglass Harrison,

CEO and president of WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. "Our continued high ratings and accreditation from the COC is a prime example of what dedicated physicians can accomplish, as our Cancer Institute remains devoted to the highest quality patient care."

The NCDB is a clinical oncology database sourced from hospital registry data collected from CoC-accredited facilities. These data are used to analyze and track patients with malignant neoplastic diseases, their treatments, and their outcomes. Online reporting tools provide the program with comparative benchmarks for similar programs. In addition, the program has

access to reporting tools for quality improvement, quality assurance, and surveillance.

About the Commission on Cancer

Established in 1922 by the American College of Surgeons, the CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving patient outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons.

For more information, visit: www.facs.org/cancer.

Only System in West Virginia to Offer New FDA Approved Scope for Kidney Stone Treatment is at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital

WHEELING — WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital continues to be a regional and national leader for innovation and safety as they proudly announce their approval for full time use on a new pressure monitoring scope that has the potential to reduce the risk of infection during the surgical treatment of kidney stones by allowing technical adjustments based on live pressure readings. Increased pressure in

the kidney is a leading cause for sepsis during surgical treatment for kidney stones. Traditionally, there has been no way to actively monitor pressure build up during these surgeries, but this new technology allows surgeons to monitor pressure in real-time while operating.

Michelle Jo Semins, MD, Chief of Division of Urology at Wheeling Hospital, and Chad Morley, MD, WVU Medicine

Urologist at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, were among the first urologists in the country to have access to this technology and were the first two urologists in the state of West Virginia to use the scope during surgeries. Only 35 locations across the country even qualified for access to this technology on a limited trial basis, and WVU Medicine now has full time access to this thanks to the work of these two

doctors.

"It's not common knowledge for patients, but high intra-renal pressure is a major risk factor for complications of ureteroscopy such as sepsis", says Dr. Semins. "This is a new single use, FDA approved scope that enables live monitoring of intra-renal pressure, so if we see the pressure rising, we can remove fluid to decrease the pressure or end the procedure in favor of a safer ap-

proach." Sepsis, an infection-based injury, can lead to many downstream complications. By qualifying for safer, more technologically advanced equipment, Wheeling Hospital is bringing higher quality services to their patients. Kidney stones are a common problem for residents across the Ohio Valley, and Wheeling Hospital is grateful to be able to offer this cutting edge technology to their patients.

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The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.

OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
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