November 28, 2025 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Vol. 55, No. 47

THE CATHOLIC Spirit

Pope Issues Apostolic Letter on the Creed, Marking Anniversary of Nicaea

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Christians recite the Creed, it should prompt an examination of conscience about what they truly believe and what kind of example of faith in God they give to others, Pope Leo XIV wrote.

"Wars have been fought, and people have been killed, persecuted and discriminated against in the name of God," he wrote. "Instead of proclaiming a merciful God, a vengeful God has been presented who instills terror and punishes."

Publishing "In Unitate Fidei" ("In the Unity of Faith") Nov. 23, Pope Leo marked the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea

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Marriage is an Exclusive Union Requiring 'Tender Care,' Vatican Says

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The foundation of sacramental marriage is the unity of the spouses, a bond so intense and grace-filled that it is exclusive and indissoluble, said a document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The document, "'Una Caro' (One Flesh): In Praise of Monogamy. Doctrinal Note on the Value of Marriage as an Exclusive Union and Mutual Belonging," was released only in Italian by the Vatican Nov. 25. Pope Leo XIV approved its contents Nov. 21 and authorized its publication.

"Although each marital union is a unique reality, embodied within human limitations, every authentic marriage is a unity composed of two individuals, requiring a relationship so intimate and all-encompassing that it cannot be shared with others," the document said.

Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the doctrinal dicastery, wrote in the document's introduction that the dicastery wanted to draw from

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Bluefield's Sacred Heart Parish Provides Thanksgiving Food, Coats, and More to over 2,000 Children and Adults

Sacred Heart Parish in Bluefield helped to feed over 2,000 children and adults for Thanksgiving. Over 500 turkeys, 1,000 food bags, and many coats and clothing items were given out.

"Thanks to ALL of the volunteers who helped on this busy day, without you it would not be possible. We also would like to thank those who brought turkeys to church the past few weeks," the parish posted to Facebook. "We hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving!!" Above: Charles Lipscomb, a volunteer at the parish's food pantry distributes turkeys during the give-away. At right: Father Joseph Augustine, J.C.L., pastor of the parish, blesses volunteers at the food pantry where they distributed the food and provisions to those in need on Nov. 20. Courtesy photos

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and its Creed. He said he wanted it released in anticipation of his visit to Turkey Nov. 27-30 to celebrate with Orthodox and Protestant leaders the anniversary of the Creed Christians share.

The bishops who had gathered in Nicaea in 325 had survived anti-Christian persecution, the pope said, but were facing the fracturing of their communities over disputes regarding "the essence of the Christian faith, namely the answer to the decisive question that Jesus had asked his disciples at Caesarea Philippi: 'Who do you say that I am?'"

"Arius, a priest from Alexandria in Egypt, taught that Jesus was not truly the Son of God," the pope explained. Arius taught that "though more than a mere creature," Jesus was "an intermediate being between the inaccessible God and humanity. Moreover, there would have been a time when the Son 'did not exist.'"

The challenge facing the bishops, he said, was to affirm their faith in one God while making it clear that, as the creed now says, Jesus is "the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages ... true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father."

The bishops, he said, knew "no mortal being can, in fact, defeat death and save us; only God can do so. He has freed us through his Son made man, so that we might be free."

In affirming monotheism and the true humanity and divinity of Christ, the pope said, "they wanted to reaffirm that the one true God is not inaccessibly distant from us, but on the contrary has drawn near and has come to encounter us in Jesus Christ."

"This is the heart of our Christian life," Pope Leo wrote. "For this reason, we commit to follow Jesus as our master, companion, brother and friend."

The version of the Creed recited by most Catholics at Mass each Sunday and shared with other mainline Christians is formally called the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, because it includes an article of faith inserted by the bishops at the First Council of Constantinople in 381 about the Holy Spirit.

Western Christians say: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets."

A footnote in the pope's letter said that the phrase known as the "filioque" — and proceeds from the Father and the Son — "is not found in the text of Constantinople; it was inserted into the Latin Creed by Pope Benedict VIII in 1014 and is a subject of Orthodox-Catholic dialogue."

Recent popes, including Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis and Pope Leo, have omitted the phrase at ecumenical prayer services.

In his letter, Pope Leo affirmed the Catholic Church's commitment to the search for Christian unity and said, "The Nicene Creed can be the basis and reference point for this journey."

And he prayed that the Holy Spirit would come to all Christians "to revive our faith, to enkindle us with hope, to inflame us with charity."

"The Nicene Creed does not depict a distant, inaccessible and immovable God who rests in himself, but a God who is close to us and accompanies us on our journey in the world, even in the darkest places on earth," Pope Leo wrote.

Reciting the Creed, he said, should prompt Christians to "examine our conscience."

The questions they should ask, he wrote, include: "What does God mean to me and how do I bear witness to my faith in him? Is the one and only God truly the Lord of my life, or do I have idols that I place before God and his commandments? Is God for me the living God, close to me in every situation, the Father to whom I turn with filial trust?"

And, he continued with more questions: "Is he the Creator to whom I owe everything I am and have, whose mark I can find in every creature? Am I willing to share the goods of the earth, which belong to everyone, in a just and equitable manner? How do I treat creation, the work of his hands? Do I exploit and destroy it, or do I use it with reverence and gratitude, caring for and cultivating it as the common home of humanity?"

Believing that God became human in Jesus means "that we now encounter the Lord in our brothers and sisters in need," the pope said. That is why Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."

The Creed "does not formulate a philosophical theory," Pope Leo wrote. "It professes faith in the God who redeemed us through Jesus Christ. It is about the living God who wants us to have life and to have it in abundance."

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in 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, 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:** 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, 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://dhhr.wv.gov/bss/services/Pages/Centralized-Intake-for-Abuse-and-Neglect.aspx 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, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2025 Print Issues and Dates: Christmas, December 19

Pope Leo Urges Release of Kidnapped Children and Teachers after Gunmen Abduct over 300 in Nigerian Catholic School

By Ngala Killian Chimton, OSV News

(OSV News)—During the Nov. 23 Angelus prayer, Pope Leo XIV appealed for the release of over 300 children and teachers abducted from a Catholic school in central Nigeria.

He said he was "deeply saddened to learn of the kidnapping," mentioning not only Nigeria, but also Cameroon, where six Catholic priests from the Archdiocese of Bamenda were kidnapped in Ndop, Cameroon.

"I feel great pain, above all for the many young men and women who have been abducted and for their distressed families," Pope Leo said.

"I make a heartfelt appeal for the immediate release of the hostages and urge the competent authorities to take appropriate and timely decisions to ensure their release."

He asked for prayers that "churches and schools may always and everywhere remain places of safety and hope."

The number of children abducted from a Nigerian Catholic school on Nov. 21 has been updated to 303 schoolchildren, the Christian Association of Nigeria said Nov. 22. Twelve teachers also have been taken by gunmen. Earlier reports indicated that 215 schoolchildren had been abducted.

The students were both male and female and ranged in age from 10 to 18, CAN said in a statement.

Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna said 88 students were "captured after they tried to escape" during the attack and a final census carried out confirmed the number of kidnapped children is bigger.

The Catholic Diocese of Kontagora in Nigeria's Niger state confirmed the kidnapping in a statement issued Nov. 21.

Signed by the diocesan secretary, Father Jatau Luka Joseph, the statement indicates that gunmen attacked St. Mary's Catholic Primary and Secondary School in Papiri, in the Agwarra local government area, between 1 and 3 a.m. local time on Nov. 21.

As they abducted students and teachers, the gunmen badly shot security personnel.

The diocese said it "strongly condemns the attack and expresses deep concern for the safety of the kidnapped children and their families."

"Security agencies were immediately informed and have begun coordinated efforts to ensure the safe rescue and return of the victims." Father Jatau said in the statement, assuring that the diocese "is actively collaborating with security operatives, community leaders, and government authorities."

The diocese urged the public to remain calm, support security efforts, and continue praying for the safe and quick return of all those abducted.

The Christian Association of Nigeria also condemned the attack and expressed "deep concern for the safety of the kidnapped children and their families."

"CAN also reaffirms our commitment to the protection of children and promises to provide further updates as verified information becomes available," the statement said. "May the Lord grant quick release to those abducted and continue to protect his people from all dangers."

Italian Prime minister Giorgia Meloni condemned the "renewed violence against Christian communities in Nigeria."

"Religious freedom is an inviolable right: we call on the Nigerian government to strengthen the protection of Christian and all religious communities and to prosecute those responsible for these brutal attacks," she said on X.

"Italy expresses its deepest sympathy to the victims and to the communities in Nigeria who today feel threatened because of their religious beliefs," Meloni said.

Niger state's Police Command said it had already deployed police to Papiri to ensure that the kidnapped students and teachers are freed.

"Police tactical units, military components and other security agencies have moved to the scene, combing the forests with a view to rescue the abducted students," said Wasiu Abiodun, public relations officer for the police.

He said the goal is "to rescue the students unhurt."

The Niger state kidnapping comes just five days after a similar attack in neighboring Kebbi state, where 25 girls were abducted from a government school. The vice principal of the school was killed during that attack.

On Nov. 19, attackers stormed Christ Apostolic Church in Eruku, killing three worshippers and abducting several others, including the pastor.

No group has taken responsibility for the string of attacks, but advocates now say strongly that what happens to Christians in Nigeria is genocide.

"Is there anyone who can say that there is no Christian genocide in Nigeria?" asked Emeka Umeagbalasi, director of the Catholic-inspired nongovernmental organization Intersociety.

OSV News/Abdullahi Dare Akogun, Reuters

Bloodstains are seen on the floor of the Christ Apostolic Church in the town of Eruku, Nigeria, Nov. 19, the day after an attack by gunmen on the church in Nigeria's Kwara state. People were killed, and the pastor and some worshippers were kidnapped. A growing number of attacks on Christians are taking place in the West African nation.

"There is a deliberate plan to wipe out Christianity from Nigeria," he told OSV News Nov. 21.

The latest Intersociety report revealed that an average of 32 Christians are killed in Nigeria every day. The report published in August indicates that as many as 7,000 Christians were massacred across Nigeria in the first 220 days of 2025.

It said at least 185,000 people, including 125,000 Christians and 60,000 moderate Muslims had been killed in Nigeria since 2009.

The report, which covers the period from 2010 to October 2025, details the destruction of 19,100 churches and the seizure of 1,100 Christian communities by Islamic extremist forces allegedly protected by the government.

The NGO also issued an updated version, indicating that between Oct. 28 and Nov. 17, 113 Christians were killed in Nigeria and 135 others were abducted, according to Umeagbalasi.

The report also highlights a pattern of targeting spiritual leaders, with 600 clerics abducted and dozens more killed or missing.

"I just don't know what to say anymore after this latest kidnapping attack in Niger State, Nigeria, at St. Mary's Catholic School," Sean Nelson, senior counsel of ADF International Christian advocacy group, said on X on Nov. 21.

"The terrorists want to destroy the futures of a generation of young girls & boys. They want to destroy Christians," he said. "They are enemies of civilization," he concluded.

Videos posted on social media indicated that a statue of Virgin Mary was vandalized and burned on the premises of St. Mary's school, from where over 300 children were taken Nov. 21.

Nigeria returned to the U.S. list of countries of "particular concern" over Christian persecution with President Donald Trump announcing the designation Oct. 31 to protect Christianity, which he said was "facing an existential threat in Nigeria."

He also threatened to halt all aid to Nigeria and launch military action if the government fails to stop the killings. He later instructed the Department of Defense, which he has nicknamed Department of War, to prepare for possible "action" — a move that brought mixed reactions from church leaders in Nigeria.

(Ngala Killian Chimtom writes for OSV News from Yaounde, Cameroon.)

Marriage ...

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Scripture, theology, philosophy and "even poetry" to explain why it is best to choose "a unique and exclusive union of love, a reciprocal belonging that is rich and all-embracing."

The poets quoted included Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda, Emily Dickinson and Rabindranath Tagore.

The dicastery said it issued the note in response to requests from the bishops of Africa where polygamy is still practiced as well as because "various public forms of non-monogamous unions — sometimes called 'polyamory' — are growing in the West."

"Polygamy, adultery or polyamory are based on the illusion that the intensity of a relationship can be found in the succession of faces," the document said. But "as the myth of Don Juan illustrates, numbers dissolve the names; they disperse the unity of the loving impulse."

While the church, its theologians, pastors and canon lawyers have written much about the indissolubility of the marriage bond, the note said, there has been less official reflection "on the unity of marriage — meaning marriage understood as a unique and exclusive union between one man and one woman."

The doctrinal dicastery insisted that sacramental marriage is forever and that openness to procreation is an essential part of marriage, but it also said the purpose of the doctrinal note was to focus primarily on the unitive aspect of marriage.

While there are examples of polygamy in the Old Testament, many other passages celebrate the love found in an exclusive, monogamous relationship, it said. And the Song of Songs uses the language of a lover and beloved allegorically to refer to the relationship of God with his people — a relationship that is unique and exclusive.

CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV blesses a newlywed couple at the end of his general audience Aug. 6 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

In the Gospels, it said, Jesus exalts faithful, lifelong monogamy, pointing back to God's "original plan" that a man and a woman would become "one flesh."

The document has a long section on what popes and Christian theologians — from the early church to modern times — have said and written about marriage.

Unlike other early theologians, it said, St. John Chrysostom did not emphasize procreation as a primary purpose for marriage but wrote that "the unity of marriage, through the choice of a single person to whom one is joined, serves to free people from an unrestrained sexual outlet devoid of love or fidelity, and properly directs sexuality."

Until Pope Leo XIII wrote an encyclical on marriage in 1880, the popes did not write much about matrimony, the document said.

In that encyclical, it said, the pope's defense of monogamy was in part "a defense of the dignity of women, which cannot be denied or dishonored even for the sake of procreation. The unity of marriage therefore implies a free choice on the part of the woman, who has the right to demand exclusive reciprocity."

Because marriage is a union between a man and a woman "who possess exactly the same dignity and the same rights," the document said, "it demands that exclusivity which prevents the other from being relativized in their unique value or being used merely as a means among others to satisfy needs."

In the Latin-rite sacrament of matrimony, it noted, "consent is expressed by saying: 'I take you as my wife,' and 'I take you as my husband.' In this regard, following the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, it must be said that consent is a 'human act by which the spouses mutually give and receive one another.'"

"This act, 'which binds the spouses to each other,' is a giving and a receiving: it is the dynamism that gives rise to mutual belonging, called to deepen, to mature and to become ever more solid," the doctrinal note said.

How that belonging to one another in an exclusive way is lived out may change over time, "when physical attraction and the possibility of sexual relations weaken," the document said, but it does not end.

"Naturally, various intimate expressions of affection will not be lacking, and these are also considered exclusive," it said. "Precisely because the experience of reciprocal and exclusive belonging has deepened and strengthened over time, there are expressions that are reserved only for that person with whom one has chosen to share one's heart in a unique way."

"The mutual belonging proper to exclusive, reciprocal love implies a delicate care, a holy fear of profaning the freedom of the other, who has the same dignity and therefore the same rights," the note said.

The unique friendship of spouses, it said, is "full of mutual knowledge, appreciation of the other, complicity, intimacy, understanding and patience, concern for the good of the other and sensitive gestures."

That friendship " transcends sexuality," but "at the same time embraces it and gives it its most beautiful, profound, unifying and fruitful meaning," the document said.

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Bishop Brennan Thanks Faithful for Support of the Catholic Sharing Appeal

By Colleen Rowan

At the annual Mass of Gratitude in Wheeling on Nov. 24, Bishop Mark Brennan thanked the faithful for their support of the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) which provides vital funding to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's ministries and programs. The bishop celebrated the Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph with area priests concelebrating and donors of the CSA attending. Those who could not make the trip to Wheeling were able to watch the Mass on livestream.

The appeal has raised more than $2.6 million, surpassing its goal by 132 percent. This success was achieved through the 3,463 gifts made to the appeal.

The celebration that day was on the Memorial of St. Andrew Dŭng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs. To begin his homily, the bishop said the first reading, the Gospel, "and in the lives of the Vietnamese martyrs who we honor today, there's a consistent pattern of being willing to forgo things—to give up things for a higher cause."

The widow in the Gospel (Luke 21:1-4) did not have much to give in quantity, but gave the totality of what she lived on. "She gave it all," the bishop said.

St. Andrew Dŭng-Lạc first gave up the possibility of having a wife and children to become a celibate Catholic priest, the bishop said. He is one of 117 Vietnamese martyrs canonized together by Pope John Paul II in 1988. Between 100,000 to 300,000 Vietnamese were martyred from the 18th through the 19th centuries. They paid the ultimate price for their faith, the bishop said, "giving up their lives to be faithful to Christ."

Colleen Rowan photo

Bishop Mark Brennan processes at the end of the Mass of Gratitude at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Nov. 24.

And finally, in the first reading (Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20) young Jewish men were willing to eat only vegetables, being faithful to God and not eating the food from the pagan king's table.

"All of them giving up something—lives or money or food—in order to honor their God," Bishop Brennan said.

Speaking to the CSA donors, the bishop said, "All of you have given with the right heart. You want to support efforts around our state…"

One of these many efforts the bishop pointed to is the diocese's Camp Carlo, a summer youth camp in Huttonsville. The bishop visited the camp this summer and met two brothers who were there as campers.

"Both of their parents had died in the same year leaving them orphans. They died of drug related illnesses," the bishop said. "Your money gave those boys some wonderful weeks of camp this summer."

The bishop also said that one of the boys has asked to be baptized. The gifts given to the appeal not only affect material needs but also spiritual needs as this young boy has been drawn to the Catholic faith.

"Thank you for what you have given," Bishop Brennan said to donors. "I encourage you to continue because your contributions do make a difference in the lives of other people around this state. So, may God bless you and keep you strong in your faith and in your charity."

During the Mass, prayers were offered for the special intentions from faithful around the state which they sent in on the CSA website. A reception was held following the Mass.

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Two Gifts Totaling $1 Million Launches Wheeling University Light The Way Campaign

Courtesy photo

From left are Bishop Mark Brennan; Josh Contraguerro, Tom Contraguerro, Bob Contraguerro, Sr., and Bob Contraguerro, Jr., from Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration; Michael Mistovich and Amanda Brown from WesBanco Bank, Inc.; David Hendrickson, chair of the Wheeling University Board of Trustees; Dr. Dianna Vargo, president of Wheeling University; and Father David Griffin, OSB, director of Campus Ministry at Wheeling University.

WHEELING—Wheeling University launched its annual fundraising campaign, "Light The Way," which will support academic programs, scholarships, student programming, service-learning opportunities and facility improvements. On Nov. 25, Dr. Dianna Vargo, Ed.D., president of Wheeling University, and Board of Trustees Chairman David Hendrickson announced two gifts totaling $1 million to kick off this fundraising campaign.

The university leadership noted it has received a $500,000 gift from WesBanco, Inc. and a $500,000 gift from Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration. This funding will be used to renovate the outdoor athletic complex at Wheeling University.

Hendrickson said he is overwhelmed by the generosity of the "two local businesses and neighbors" who stepped forward to help renovate the outdoor stadium. He expressed his gratitude to the Contraguerro family and WesBanco officials for their belief in Wheeling University.

"We hope this is the beginning of many, many more gifts to the school, because what you are allowing is for this institution to educate our future leaders. The money you have invested in their future will be paid back many, many fold," Hendrickson said to the donors.

Vargo said, "Today, we are all moved by the generosity of Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration and WesBanco. These gifts provide our students with the opportunity to showcase their talents in an impressive venue and to compete at the highest level. We are grateful."

Vice President of Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration, Bob Contragueurro, Jr. noted, "Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration is proud to support Wheeling University's Light The Way campaign with a gift of $500,000. As a company deeply rooted in this community, we are committed to investing in opportunities that strengthen and enrich the Ohio Valley. This contribution will help renovate the outdoor stadium complex, creating an enhanced space for students, athletes and families to gather and celebrate for years to come. We are honored to play a part in advancing the university's mission and bright future."

Jeff Jackson, president and chief executive officer of WesBanco, Inc. said, "Wheeling University is an important part of the fabric of our region, and we're honored to join Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration to help 'light the way' in supporting the University's mission. Together, we're investing in a facility that will enhance the student experience and strengthen the connection between the University and the community we all call home."

Bishop Mark Brennan, said Wheeling University is part of a community of human beings who live and work in the city.

"It (the university) is important to this community and it is so good for me to see that other institutions – a business, Panhandle and a bank, WesBanco – have stepped up to support this institution within the community. I hope that others will join them to offer their resources to strengthen this university so it can fulfill its purpose to prepare young people to enter the world with the skills, and hopefully the values of service to others, to make them good citizens and worthy members of this human community," the bishop said.

Vargo added this day "will always carry great significance for each of us, especially those of us at Wheeling University. A special thank you to Bishop Brennan for his unwavering care and support of our students, and for inspiring us to be men and women for others."

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Electric, Unforgettable, Unmistakably Catholic:
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By Joyce Bibey (courtesy of FaithInWV)

Something electric happened inside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis last week—something more powerful than any concerts, louder than the cheers for a winning touchdown, and deeper than the booming bass pulsing through 16,000 young Catholics gathered for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

It was the unmistakable sound of THE CHURCH FULLY ALIVE.

For three unforgettable days, more than 120 youth from WV gathered with 16,000 teens from across the country. They sang, prayed, laughed, danced, asked big questions, and encountered the living God together.

From the outside, NCYC looked like a huge Catholic party (and yes, it absolutely was). But from the inside? It was something far more powerful – it was a world-shifting, heart-transforming encounter with Jesus Christ.

A Historic First: Pope Leo XIV Speaks Directly to NCYC Youth

Making history, the Holy Father joined the teens live in an interactive digital conversation broadcast to millions on EWTN.

Pope Leo XIV didn't deliver a distant speech. He answered their questions, laughed with them, listened to them, and spoke to them as a shepherd speaks to his flock.

His message was clear, personal, and powerful:

"You are the present of the Church. Your voices—your presence—matters. Be active. Say yes to Church opportunities!"

He urged young people to:

- bring Christ's love home,
- pray for one another,
- seek Jesus in the quiet moments,
- talk to Him each morning and night,
- and remember the guiding love of Mary.

And then he gave a line to empower every soul in that stadium:

"Remember—we weren't made for comfort. We were made for greatness."

The roar that followed the Holy Father's final blessing was only second to the excitement of his live greeting. Both shook the banners in the rafters.

The Greatest Cathedral in America

There were moments when the stadium sounded like a concert—and moments when it became hushed and still as a quaint chapel.

At Mass the thousands became one voice, praising God in unison, uniting with faithful around the world.

During the Eucharistic procession and holy hour, a wave seemed to come over the crowd as 16,000 strong profoundly bowed or fell to their knees on the concrete floor, honoring the Real Presence of Christ. The diocesan, parish, and school leaders from Clarksburg, Bridgeport, Weston, Charleston, South Charleston, Parkersburg, Wheeling and surrounding areas experienced a true embrace of the Holy Spirit as they watched their students connect with Christ. For in that moment, although among a vast crowd, it was as if they were alone with the Savior.

So, yes, in these moments, Lucas Oil Stadium became the largest, greatest cathedral in America.

Breathtaking moments continued at breakout sessions, hallways, and the exhibit hall seeing teens waiting in confession lines that stretched and zigzagged around the room and across hallways. Students huddled in prayer randomly everywhere—concourse floors, stairwells, hallways, seats - some prompted, others sincere spontaneity.

WV Youth Represented Joy, Prayer, and Spirit

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's delegation showed up with enthusiasm and heart. They prayed hard, sang louder, and represented you, West Virginia Church, with pride and sincerity.

They carried your prayers with them, and they carried Christ back home.

Let us learn from them.

Let us pray for them.

Let us thank God for them.

These young people are the Church. Right now. Today.

Voices From WV Youth: Faith Alive in Their Own Words

Brandon Miller, Senior, Central Catholic HS/Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish (Wheeling): "I wish my friends could have experienced the community here… the Eucharistic miracles, the Liturgy of the Hours. NCYC has been spiritually moving for me. Our mission as the young Church is to keep the integrity of the Church and ignite the Holy Spirit within our souls."

Grace Przybysz, Freshman, Central Catholic HS/St. Michael Parish (Wheeling): "Meeting new people, deepening my faith, experiencing it alive—it was unforgettable. Pope Leo reminded us we're not too young to matter. Our influence begins now. We have fresh ideas the Church needs. No one is too small to make a difference."

John Brady Jordan, Senior, Notre Dame HS (Clarksburg)/St. Patrick Parish (Weston): "After NCYC, 'I AM' reminds me God is always with me. Even when I feel small, my identity is rooted in Him—not what others think."

Witnessing the Movement – Unforgettable Moments

Andrew Myers, Campus Minister Parkersburg Catholic HS/St. Francis Xavier Parish/Hidden Gems Ministry (Parkersburg): "The next generation of Catholics in WV showed up strong. We were loved, taught, inspired.

See "NCYC" on Page 9

Photo illustration by Joyce Bibey

NCYC ...

Cont'd from Page 8

Now we must bring the fire home. I'm committed to fanning that flame across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston."

Sr. Maria Rukwishuro, of the Sisters of the Child Jesus (SJI), serving Notre Dame HS/Immaculate Conception Church (Clarksburg): NCYC was an "amazing experience" the conference was truly EPIC, and I can tell from (the students') reflections that it had a profound impact on them (be sure to read your FaithInWV for their responses on pages 8-10)

"The music was incredible - it spoke directly to the hearts of our young people! The live Zoom with the Pope was a highlight, and I loved seeing the joy on their faces. Most importantly, I pray that my students felt the love and presence of God and realized they're not alone in their struggles. (To all who supported this experience for our parishes, schools, and youth groups to attend) THANK YOU, (you gave) them this unforgettable experience. God bless you."

"Jesus Wants Your Hearts" – Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV urged the teens to trust Jesus with their struggles because Christ longs to walk with them:

"We cannot give our problems to someone we barely know. Build a real relationship with Jesus."

He encouraged them to seek:

- true friends who lead them closer to Christ,
- active engagement in their parishes,
- and opportunities to serve.

"Your voices, your ideas, your faith matter right now."

"God Has Not Changed His Mind About You" - Sr. Miriam James Heidland

Keynote speaker Sr. Miriam James Heidland, of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT), best-selling author, podcaster, national Catholic speaker, and a former Division 1 athlete, pressed deeply into Jesus' healing love: "At baptism you were marked forever as belonging to Christ. Nothing—nothing—can change that."

Her message hit home for thousands:

Jesus is not overwhelmed by your fears.

- He is not disappointed in your struggles.
- He looks at you—and loves you.
- He wants to heal the hidden places of your heart.

NCYC Was More Than a Conference—It Was a Call

A call to holiness.

A call to mission.

A call to greatness.

And our young people answered it.

They knelt before their King, stood together as the Church, and left burning with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

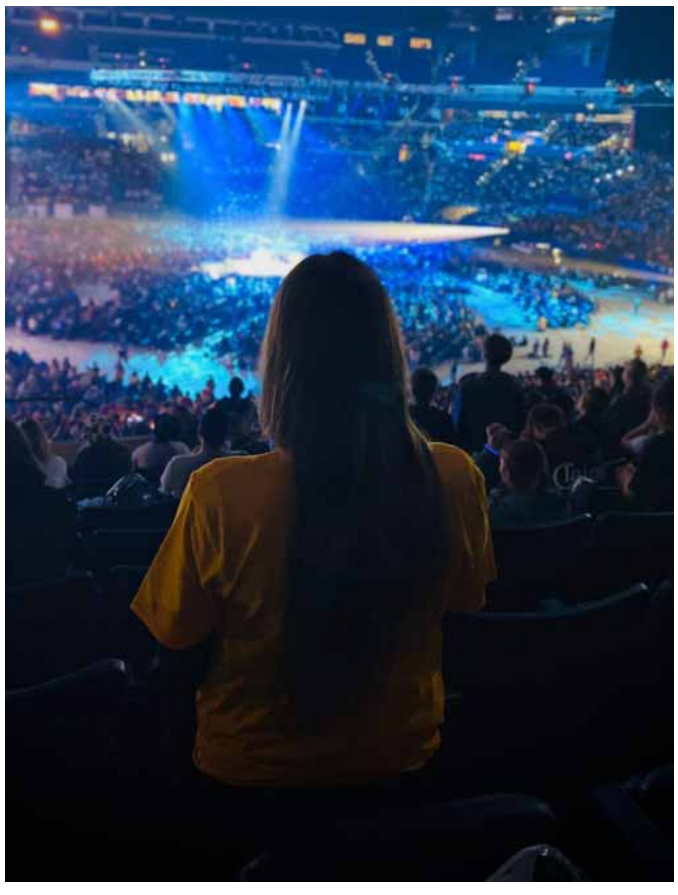
Let us celebrate them.

Let us pray for them.

And let us join them.

Because the Church is not someday.

The Church is NOW.



Joyce Bibey Photos

Moments from the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) are shown on this page.

Faith First: Bus Breakdown Didn't Derail Christ-Centered NCYC Journey

By Joyce Bibey (courtesy of FaithInWV) The Clarksburg area delegation began their National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) journey long before they arrived in Indianapolis—gathering at Immaculate Conception Parish at 4:30 a.m. for a 6 a.m. departure. But when their charter bus broke down en route to pick them up, their plans took a disappointing shift, delaying their arrival in Indianapolis with the rest of their peers from around the state from early afternoon to after 5:30 p.m. Despite the rocky start, the group which also included several from Charleston, returned from the National Catholic Youth Conference filled with gratitude, joy, and a renewed sense of faith. Throughout the weekend, students and chaperones shared powerful moments of connection—with God, with one another, and with thousands of young Catholics from across the country.

Reflections from the Group

Many participants described a deep spiritual closeness they had never experienced before. "Over two days I felt the closest to God I've ever been," said Angelina Policano, grateful for the opportunity to join the parish pilgrimage. Logan Heslep shared a similar transformation, noting, "I was asked to open up to God… I released myself from the captivity of doubt and came face to face with His love." Others echoed how the environment strengthened their sense of belonging. As Caroline Lewis put it, "It was such a beautiful experience knowing that all 16,000 of us were there for the same reason: to love and serve our Lord."

A major theme across reflections was how NCYC showcased the unity of young Catholics. Mariella Policano emphasized the "feeling of unity" among so many young believers, while Josh Beale highlighted the "incredible sense of community." Piper Fryer said the weekend helped her realize "how many people hold the same beliefs as me and to not be afraid to be open about your faith." Seeing peers from around the country helped many feel understood—Kaden Lehasky shared that being surrounded by others with the same beliefs "made it feel like I already knew them."

For countless teens, the most unforgettable moment was Mass with thousands of their peers. Parker Ziecina described the final Mass, remembering "singing, dancing, praying, and worship" with 16,000 other teens. Josef Ricketts said, "Seeing 16,000 people attending Mass… singing all together was the best part of my experience." Brady Jordan added that it showed him "how strong and alive our faith really is." For Perla Cortez, the stadium Mass "made me feel closer to God," while Adrián Salazar especially loved the multilingual liturgy and seeing "many bishops and priests."

Breakout sessions and speakers made a tremendous impact as well. Emma Yates found the sessions insightful, saying they offered "options and perspectives" that deepened her connection to the Lord. Caroline Arnold appreciated sessions focused on real teen struggles, sharing how helpful it was to hear "a sound Catholic standpoint on a lot of our problems." Zac Lane said the sessions were "focused on what we go through," and were among the best parts of his weekend. Colton Wright was especially touched by one message: "God has a plan for all of us and he will guide us on what we need to do."

For some, keynote speakers were a standout highlight. Araceli Bland said, "They didn't sugarcoat anything… all 16,000 people cared about you personally through our faith." Meanwhile, Nolan Power was moved by a session with Pope Leo, especially the reminder of the youth's role in the Church's future. Maxwell Wagner also cited Pope Leo as a highlight, saying it was "truly amazing to see so many people… express your faith and adoration for the love of Christ."

The sense of friendship—new and old—was another blessing of the trip. Katie Moodspaugh said she cherished "the time I got to spend with my friends… and hearing about other Catholics' experiences." Aubrey Morrison and Jordan King echoed these feelings, with Jordan reflecting, "I felt like I got so much closer to God and my friends… I hope to go back soon." Favian Salazar said the experience was "incredible… I was able to make more friends, meet more people and see Pope Leo."

Some favorite memories were surprisingly simple moments of connection. Brandon Bartlett appreciated how "everyone in that stadium just talked like friends," while Isaiah Garnek said the kindness of everyone—even the speakers—made him feel at ease. Damian Zacarias admitted he was unsure about attending at first, but left feeling grateful, saying, "I'm so glad… it was such a fun and unforgettable experience."

Courtesy photo

The Clarksburg area delegation is shown above.

Even the fun traditions of NCYC carried deeper meaning. Molly Parrish, a chaperone, shared that the hat-trading culture helped youth "step out of their comfort zone… risk rejection, and experience real joy." Olivia Wagner said trading hats was one of the best parts of the trip, helping everyone come together in faith.

Chaperones also witnessed how transformative the weekend was. Mark Ziecina reflected, "These kids are not the future, they're the present." He was moved seeing thousands of young Catholics "completely invested and making their mark."

Many teens also described profound spiritual moments during adoration and confession. Madeline Palmer shared that during her penance, she began listing everything she was grateful for and "suddenly had pages." Aubrey Morrison said confession felt "cleansing and freeing," and Annagrace Lewis described the entire experience as "refreshing," helping her feel less alone in her faith journey. Lexi Shaffer said she learned to trust that "God has a path for me," and grew more confident speaking about her faith.

Several students noted how NCYC helped them understand the Church more deeply. Kimberly Hernandez valued learning about "how the sacraments represent salvation and God's presence with us." Leno Reyes said the trip "changed the way of thinking about my religion" and made him feel part of something truly important. Tristan Korn shared that the people and the Masses were what brought him closest to Christ.

Again and again, the group expressed awe at being surrounded by thousands of peers who love God. Alexa Romo appreciated seeing how "you can unite with them in our faith and love for Christ." Izzy Fittro said hearing others' stories strengthened her own faith, noting, "I hope to experience it again one day." Kaden Lehasky and Maxwell Wagner echoed how inspiring it was to see Christ at work in so many lives.

And for many, that shared faith is what they will take home the most. Adrián Salazar loved the beauty of the liturgy, Perla Cortez felt deeply connected to God, and Damian Zacarias said he will never forget the experience. Leno Reyes summarized it well, calling it "something really special and important… as I learned more about my religion."

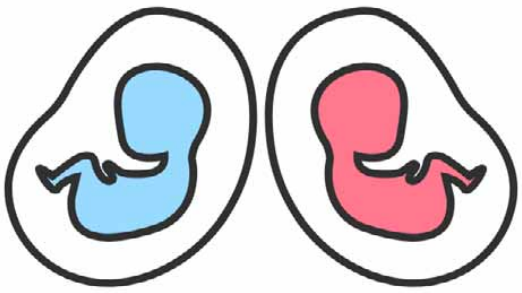
Each teen's reflection reveals a unique journey, yet all point to the same truth: NCYC was a powerful reminder that God is alive in the hearts of young people, and that the Church is vibrant, joyful, and growing—right here and now.

Joyful Little Saints

For All Saints Day, students at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling portrayed these holy men and women at their school Mass. Portraying St. Paul the Apostle are the first-grade boys (from left): Ledger Sturm, Louie Zambito, Krew Kirby, Brody Tucker, Nicholas Kilpatrick, Zake Drosieko, Gabriel Beiter, Hudson Vankirk, and Jackson Burnley. Portraying St. Catherine of Sienna are the first-grade girls (from left): Mila Moray, Madison DeMundo, Sophia Parsons, and Gwendolyn Birch. Courtesy photo

Join Saint Agnes in Charleston for the

MARCH FOR LIFE



January 23, 2026

Bus Leaves: 5:00am

Bus Returns: ~10:30pm

Not able to attend but still wish to support our cause? Ask us how to help provide others the opportunity to go!

Sign Up

Questions?

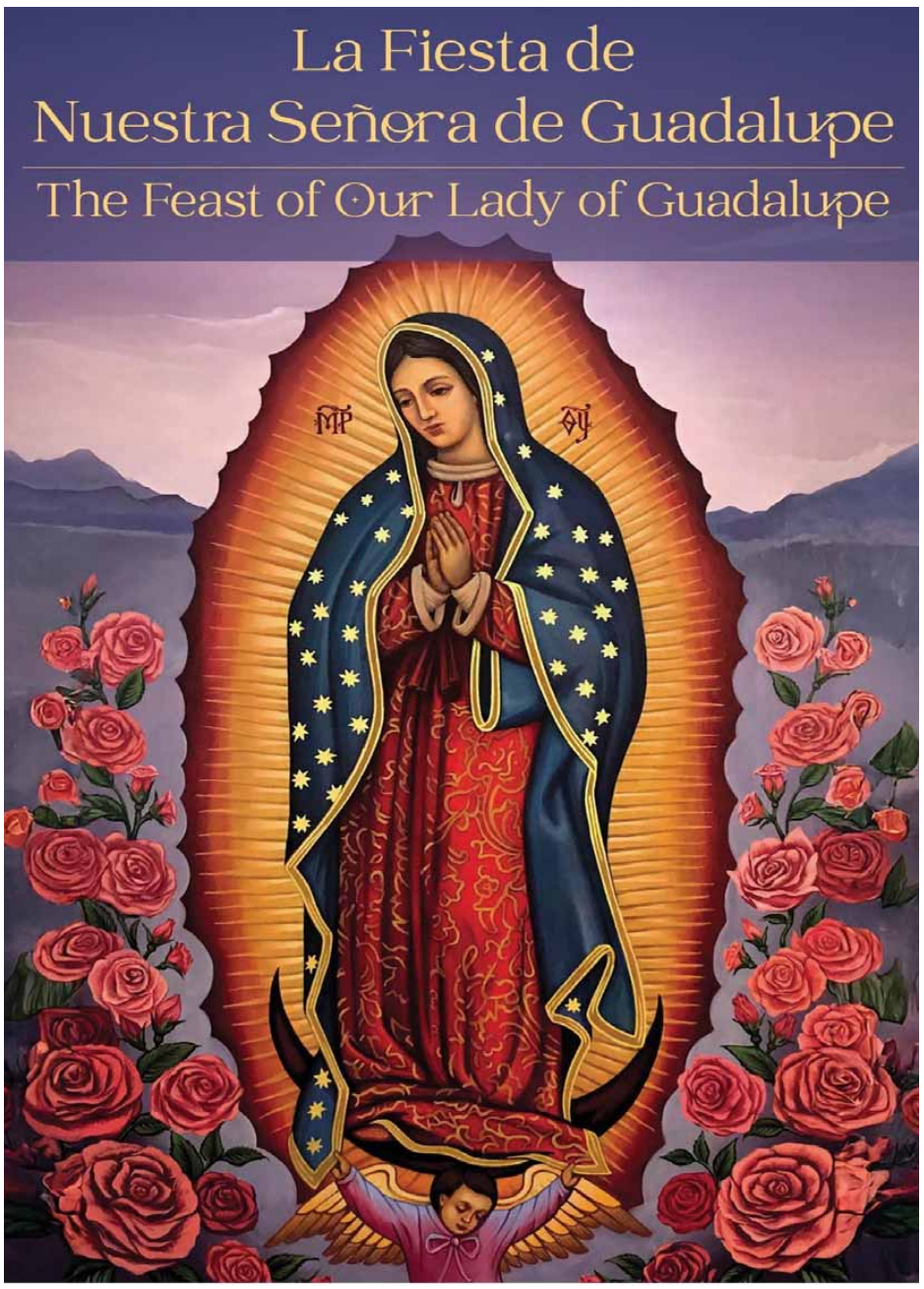
dre.stagneswv@gmail.com

project rachel

Peace starts here

If you experience regret, guilt, or grief after abortion, be assured that God's healing love and mercy are always available to the repentant heart.

For confidential, non-judgmental help, call 888-456-HOPE (4673), or visit www.HopeAfterAbortion.org



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses in Spanish to be Celebrated around the Diocese

Bishop Mark Brennan will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a Mass in Spanish at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. A reception will follow.

Mass in Spanish on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will also be celebrated around the diocese. Below are some of the locations.

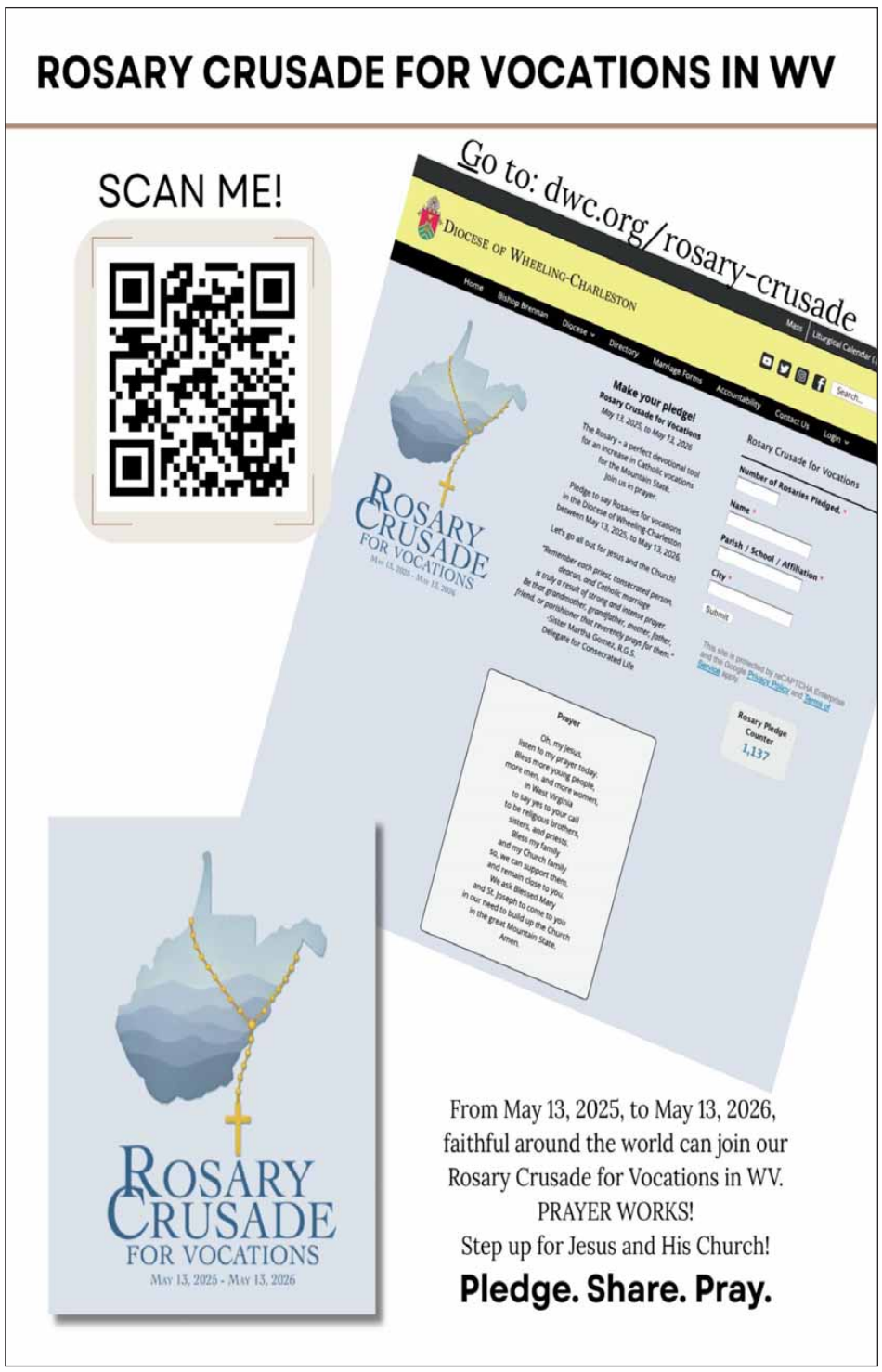
Epiphany of the Lord, Moorefield, Friday, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m. Holy Rosary; 6:00 p.m. Mass. Reception to Follow

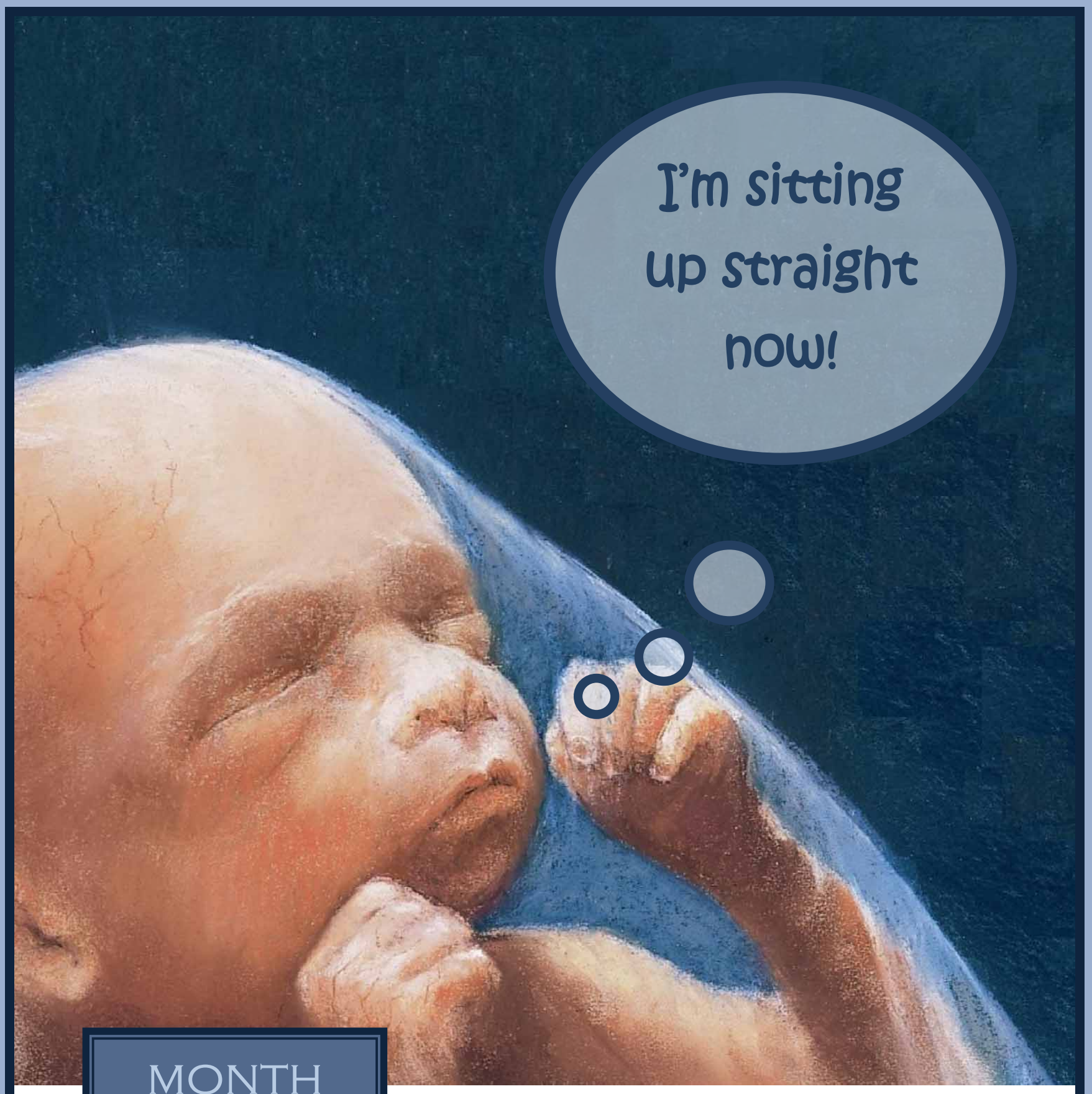
Holy Family, Richwood, Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m.

Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, Friday, Dec. 12, 11:00 p.m. Party in the church hall after Mass. Immaculate Conception would be grateful if you could bring a donation of dried beans and rice for those in need.

St. Francis de Sales, Beckley, Friday, Dec. 12, 11:00 p.m.

St. Mary, Star City, Friday, Dec. 12, 6:00 p.m. Party in the church hall after Mass.





MONTH

6

The baby's oil and sweat glands are functioning; these help regulate body temperature. A white filmy layer covers the baby and protects her delicate skin from the surrounding amniotic fluid and from scratches as she twists and turns. This waxy substance will be quickly absorbed into her skin soon after she is born – a sort of body lotion. She sits up straight to make room for her growing organs, which are now shifting slightly into their proper places within her body. She can now respond to sound. Her lungs are fairly well developed, and she would stand a good chance of survival if born at this time.

Information on the developing baby was taken from: *Life before Birth* by Marjorie A. England, © 1996, Mosby-Wolfe, Times Mirror Int'l. Pub., Ltd., London, and *Abortion: Questions and Answers*, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wilke, ©

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El matrimonio es una unión exclusiva que requiere un 'cuidado delicado', afirma el Vaticano

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — La base del matrimonio sacramental es la unidad de los cónyuges, un vínculo tan intenso y lleno de gracia que es exclusivo e indisoluble, según un documento del Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe.

El documento, titulado "Una Caro (Una sola carne): Elogio de la monogamia. Nota doctrinal sobre el valor del matrimonio como unión exclusiva y pertenencia mutua", fue publicado en italiano por el Vaticano el 25 de noviembre. El Papa León XIV aprobó su contenido el 21 de noviembre y autorizó su publicación.

"Aunque cada unión matrimonial es una realidad única, encarnada en las limitaciones humanas, todo matrimonio auténtico es una unidad compuesta por dos individuos, que requiere una relación tan íntima y total que no puede compartirse con otros", afirma el documento.

El cardenal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefecto del dicasterio doctrinal, escribió en la introducción del documento que el dicasterio quería recurrir a las Escrituras, la teología, la filosofía e "incluso la poesía" para explicar por qué es mejor elegir "una unión única y exclusiva de amor, una pertenencia recíproca que es rica y abarca todo".

Entre los poetas citados se encuentran Walt Whitman, Pablo Neruda, Emily Dickinson y Rabindranath Tagore.

El dicasterio afirmó que publicó la nota en respuesta a las peticiones de los obispos de África, donde todavía se practica la poligamia, así como porque "diversas formas públicas de uniones no monógamas --a veces denominadas 'poliamor'— están creciendo en Occidente".

"La poligamia, el adulterio o el poliamor se basan en la ilusión de que la intensidad de la relación puede encontrarse en la sucesión de rostros", afirma el documento.

Pero "como ilustra el mito de Don Juan, los números disuelven los nombres; dispersan la unidad del impulso amoroso".

Si bien la Iglesia, sus teólogos, pastores y canonistas han escrito mucho sobre la indisolubilidad del vínculo matrimonial, según la nota, ha habido menos reflexión oficial "sobre la unidad del matrimonio, es decir, el matrimonio entendido como una unión única y exclusiva entre un hombre y una mujer".

El dicasterio doctrinal insistió en que el matrimonio sacramental es para siempre y que la apertura a la procreación es una parte esencial del matrimonio, pero también dijo que el propósito de la nota doctrinal era centrarse principalmente en el aspecto unitivo del matrimonio.

Si bien hay ejemplos de poligamia en el Antiguo Testamento, muchos otros pasajes celebran el amor que se encuentra en una relación exclusiva y monógama, decía. Y el Cantar de los Cantares utiliza el lenguaje de un amante y una amada de forma alegórica para referirse a la relación de Dios con su pueblo, una relación que es única y exclusiva.

En los Evangelios, se dice que Jesús exalta la monogamia fiel y para toda la vida, remitiéndose al "proyecto original" de Dios de que un hombre y una mujer se convirtieran en "una sola carne".

El documento contiene una larga sección sobre lo que los papas y los teólogos cristianos—desde la Iglesia primitiva hasta la época moderna—han dicho y escrito sobre el matrimonio. A diferencia de otros teólogos primitivos, según el documento, San Juan Crisóstomo no enfatizó la procreación como el propósito principal del matrimonio, sino que escribió que "la unidad del matrimonio, a través de la elección de una sola persona con la que uno se une, sirve para liberar a las personas de un desahogo sexual desenfrenado, desprovista de amor o fidelidad, y orienta adecuadamente la sexualidad".

Hasta que el Papa León XIII escribió una encíclica sobre el matrimonio en 1880, los pontífices no escribieron mucho sobre el matrimonio, según el documento.

En dicha encíclica, según el documento, la defensa de la monogamia por parte del Papa era en parte "una defensa de la dignidad de la mujer, que no puede ser negada ni deshonrada ni siquiera por el deseo de la procreación. La unidad del matrimonio implica, por tanto, una libre elección por parte de la mujer, que tiene derecho a exigir reciprocidad exclusiva".

Dado que el matrimonio es una unión entre un hombre y una mujer "que poseen exactamente la misma dignidad y los mismos derechos", según el documento, "exige esa exclusividad que impide que el otro sea relativizado en su valor único o sea utilizado meramente como un medio entre otros para satisfacer necesidades".

En el sacramento del matrimonio de rito latino, señala, "el consentimiento se expresa diciendo: "Te tomo como mi esposa" y "Te tomo como mi esposo". A este respecto, siguiendo la enseñanza del Concilio Vaticano II, hay que decir que el consentimiento es un acto humano por el cual los cónyuges se dan y se reciben mutuamente.

"Este acto, 'que une a los esposos entre sí', es un dar y un recibir: es el dinamismo que da lugar a la pertenencia mutua, llamada a profundizarse, a madurar y a hacerse cada vez más sólida", dice la nota doctrinal

La forma en que se vive esa pertenencia mutua de manera exclusiva puede cambiar con el tiempo, "la atracción física y la posibilidad de tener relaciones sexuales se debilitan", dice el documento, pero no termina.

"Naturalmente, no faltarán diversas expresiones íntimas de afecto, que también se consideran exclusivas", dice. "Precisamente porque la experiencia de pertenencia recíproca y exclusiva se ha profundizado y fortalecido con el tiempo, hay expresiones que se reservan solo para aquella persona con la que se ha elegido compartir el corazón de manera única".

"La pertenencia mutua propia del amor recíproco exclusivo implica un cuidado delicado, un santo temor a profanar la libertad del otro, que tiene la misma dignidad y, por tanto, los mismos derechos", señala la nota.

La amistad única de los cónyuges, dice, está "llena de conocimiento mutuo, aprecio por el otro, complicidad, intimidad, comprensión y paciencia, preocupación por el bien del otro y gestos sensibles".

Esa amistad "trasciende la sexualidad", pero "al mismo tiempo la abraza y le da su significado más bello, profundo, unificador y fecundo", dice el documento.

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Misas en Español se celebrarán en algunos lugares de la Diócesis

El Obispo Mark Brennan celebrará la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con una Misa en Español en la Catedral de San José el 12 de Diciembre a las 6:00 p.m. Recepción a continuación.

La Misa en Español de la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe también se celebrará en diferentes lugares de la diócesis. A continuación, se indican algunos lugares.

Parroquia de la Epifanía del Señor, Moorefield, viernes 12 de diciembre, 5:30 p.m. Santo Rosario; 6:00 p.m. Misa. Recepción a continuación.

Parroquia de la Sagrada Familia, Richwood, Jueves 11 de Diciembre, 6: 00 p.m.

Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Clarksburg, Viernes 12 de Diciembre, 11:00 p.m. Fiesta en el salón parroquial después de la Misa. La Inmaculada Concepción agradecería que trajera una donación de frijoles secos y arroz para los necesitados.

Parroquia de San Francisco de Sales, Beckley, Viernes 12 de diciembre, 11:00 p.m.

Parroquia de Santa María, Star City, Viernes 12 de Diciembre, 6:00 p.m. Fiesta en el salón de la iglesia después de la misa.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estado Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada. **Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911. Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513. **Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas correspondientes. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocesis of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciar a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

School Nurse

Full time, Wheeling. The Diocese of Wheeling - Charleston is looking to fill the position of School Nurse for its School Based Health Program. This is a full-time position requiring 40 hours per week for 40 weeks. The position is located at St. Vincent de Paul School, St. Michael Parish School, Central Catholic High School and Our Lady of Peace School.

The school nurse is responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating school health services within the context of the School Based Health Program. The nurse serves in the roles of program manager, case manager, direct care provider, collaborator, advocate, educator and counselor to students, parents, faculty, and the community as appropriate.

The successful candidate will possess a current valid WV Nursing License with a BSN. Pediatric, adolescent or public health experience is desired. The individual must be able to function independently within scope of practice. Interested persons should submit a resume to Erin McFarland, School Based Health Coordinator at emcfarland@stvincentschool.org

Full-Time Middle-High School Theology Teacher

Full time, Martisnburg. Saint Joseph School (SJS) and High School (SJHS) in Martinsburg educate in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. The ideal candidate is one who embraces the mission, who is looking for a place to share the faith, be respected and supported, and grow professionally.

SJS is seeking a great communicator with excellent interpersonal skills for the role of a middle-high school theology teacher. The classroom teacher will have solid classroom management skills, be responsible for developing learning activities and hands-on material, tending to individual student needs and communicating regularly with parents.

Reports to: Principal

Job Type: Full-time, Contract

Essential Responsibilities: Developing religion standards and applying those set by the diocese; planning daily lessons and activities to meet those standards; supporting and managing campus ministerial duties and activities; adopting a data-driven attitude toward measuring learner progress; attending to individual student needs; demonstrating an awareness of different student backgrounds and cultures; communicating regularly with parents; providing extra support to students who need it; monitoring student growth to identify strengths and areas for improvement; using learner data to constantly refine curriculum; providing regular feedback to students

Theology Requirements: Practicing Catholic; bachelor's degree or masters (preferred) in education or relevant field; state teaching license in the relevant field or qualified to obtain it; knowledge of teaching best practices; empathy and great interpersonal skills; excellent written and verbal communication; proficiency with basic computer software such as Word and Excel; experience working with children and adolescents; previous experience as a middle-high school teacher is advantageous; good classroom management skills; good teamwork abilities

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

Homeless Winter Shelter Assistant

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

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

The Winter Shelter Assistant (WSA) will provide essential 24-hour awake coverage and supervision of the assigned shelter. This position is responsible for the welfare, safety and comfort, as well as daily support to the shelter residents. The incumbent is expected to always stay awake during shift.

Job responsibilities include: Create a welcoming environment for shelter clients, including greeting clients, orienting new clients to the shelter, and answering questions; empower shelter clients and provide support and crisis intervention through a trauma-informed care lens; provide resource information or triage questions for families residing in the shelter; ensure the safety and security of the shelter and the residents by enforcing house rules and conducting inspections during shift and reporting incidents by following protocols; support and assist guests with their shelter needs as they arise (ex. questions, concerns, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, bedding, food and more); maintain the safety and security of shelter property, and report concerns to Shelter Director.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

Answers phone calls and relays important telephone calls to Service Specialist and Shelter Director; document shift notes at least once per shift and completes proper documentation, including but not limited to task list checks off lists, incident reports, reasonable suspicion forms, and mandated reporter documentation/reporting duties.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily; the requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required; high school diploma; at least one (1) year related work experience in direct service, preferably working in residential shelter services environment; ability to work a flexible schedule, working as a part of a 24 hour on-call system, and always staying awake during work hours; ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds; ability to respond to physical emergencies, including immediate evacuation of campus buildings and potential client medical and behavior situations.

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Click here to apply.

HR Generalist, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Full time, Wheeling. The Human Resources Generalist as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Human Resources Generalist will work as part of the HR team with a focus on supporting the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese. The generalist will also serve to drive the onboarding process within the Diocese.

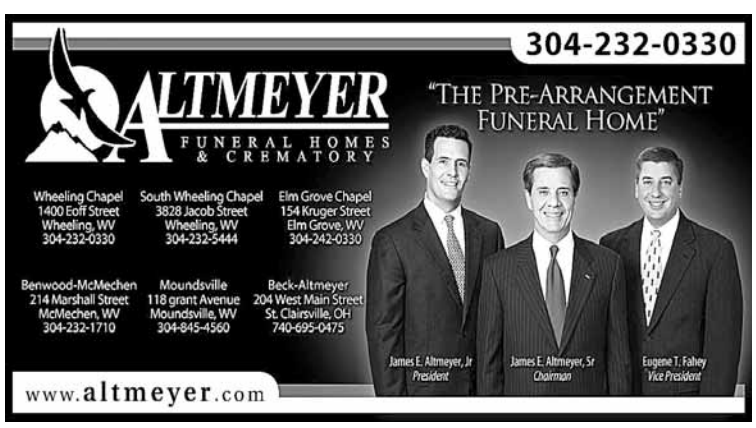
ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Performs all onboarding for Diocese, including schools and parishes; works directly with school administration and staff to ensure accuracy and proper use of entire HRIS system; supports person for Family Medical Leave and Short Term Disability; ensures all ACA reporting and maintains file accuracy in the payroll system; assists with open enrollment for all benefit platforms; helps maintain organizational guidelines; maintain employee files and records electronically; monitors HR Help Desk; backup for Diocesan Pension Plans.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate; Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources or Business; five (5) years' experience in human resources; firm knowledge and understanding of human resources best practices; knowledge and experience working with payroll and HRIS applications. Labor relations and policy experience a plus; ability to maintain confidentiality; ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and current resume to: Debbie Turziano, Director of Human Resources at dturziano@dwc.org.

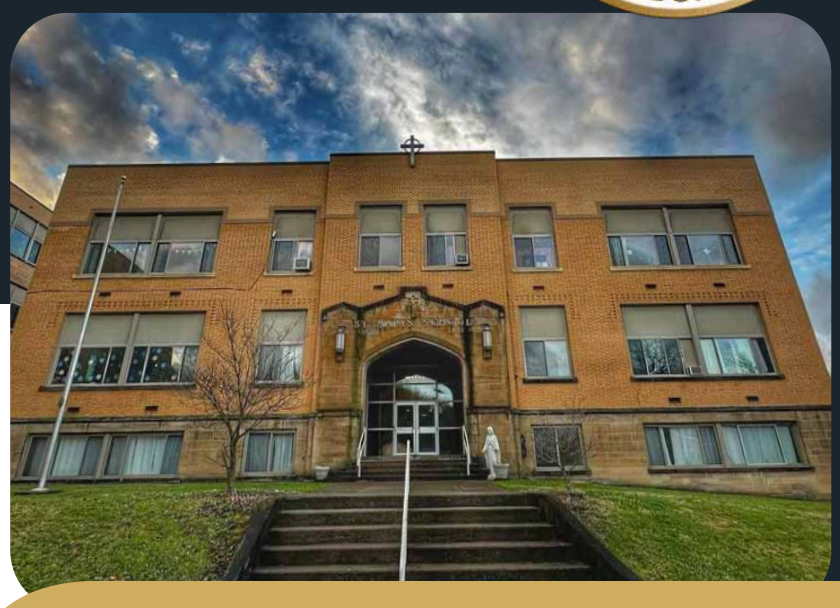
DWC is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Click here for more Employment opportunities



WE'RE HIRING

Principals for Notre Dame Middle/High School & St. Mary's Grade School



Faith - Knowledge - Service

JOIN OUR TEAM!

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is seeking dynamic, faith-filled leaders to serve as principals for Notre Dame High School and St. Mary's Grade School in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

These schools share a proud tradition of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and community engagement, forming young men and women who live out their faith in service and leadership.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The principals will serve as the spiritual, instructional, and administrative leaders of their respective schools. Each will work closely with the designated pastor, faculty, parents, and the DWC Catholic Schools Office to advance the mission of Catholic education.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- The ideal candidate must 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.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in this position should be energetic, positiove, enjoy working with children, and be able to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church.
Interested candidates should email their resume to avernon@stmaryswv.org

Good Shepherd
treats us like family.

Welty Home for the Aged www.WeltyHome.org • (304) 242-1093

Catholic Charities WEST VIRGINIA

HERE FOR GOOD.

Catholic Charities West Virginia Invites You to Join Us in Our End-of-Year Campaign: A Season of Hope, Generosity, and Community, Where You Make a Difference.

Through every season of change, you have been there for your community. Because of your generosity, families have had food on their tables, lights in their homes, and hope in their hearts. You have trusted us, year after year, to meet West Virginians in their most difficult moments. Together, we have proven that we are **Here For Good.** But today, the need is greater than ever. **One in six of our neighbors is hungry.** Nearly half of Mountain State families **struggle to meet their basic needs.** In these moments of hardship, your compassion shines like a light in the darkness.

When eviction looms, **Catholic Charities is there.**
When the electricity is about to be shut off, **we are there.**
When disasters strike, **we are there.**
And with your support, **we will always be there.**

This giving season, you can help carry that light into the new year. With you by our side, we are and always will be Here For Good.

HERE FOR GOOD.

Catholic Charities WEST VIRGINIA

Join in Our Mission to Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Scan to donate or visit
Here4WV.givesmart.com

ESTABLISHED LEADER IN STRUCTURAL HEART CARE

THE MOST ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA

The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.

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
Cardiology

Learn more at: My**WVU**Heart.com
Appointments: 304-243-8362

WVU Heart & Vascular Institute