

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Bishop Brennan's Letter for Advent

Monday, November 23, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,

We are about to enter the season of Advent, a time of joyful expectation for the coming of the Lord. Early in Advent we focus on the Lord's second coming in glory before turning to the season's later phase to remember how God fulfilled His promise to Israel to send a Savior, Jesus, born in humility in Bethlehem.

After a contentious election season, during a dangerous pandemic whose end is not yet in sight, having become more conscious of ongoing patterns of racism and nativism in our country and still grappling with scandals in our beloved Church, it may seem that the promise of Christ is remote from our experience. Yet the Lord is never absent from us! He comes to us through his Word, proclaimed in church or meditated upon at home; through those in need, in whose faces we recognize Christ's; and through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, in which the Lord personally enters each of us, and Penance, which purifies us to receive the Lord worthily. In these ways he keeps his word to us: *I am with you always, until the end of the age* [Matthew 28:20].

The COVID-19 pandemic will affect how we celebrate Advent and Christmas in our Diocese, but we will celebrate them! Masks and hand sanitizers and physical distancing cannot stop us from expressing our faith and joy in the Lord. They actually allow us to gather for worship in a safe manner, considerate of those with whom we worship.

Even during this pandemic, many people who do not ordinarily worship with us will join us at Christmas Masses. Let us welcome them, if not with embraces, because of the pandemic, then with "the elbow of friendship" and a hearty "Welcome!" Let us presume that they want to hear how God, through the birth of His Son, has shown His love and mercy to the world. Let them know you hope to see them again.

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A lit candle is seen on an Advent wreath. Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 29 this year. CNS Photo/Lisa Johnston, St Louis Review

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The truth is that we have a great message to announce to the people we live and work with. To a world submerged in the darkness of sin, error and death, God has sent a Savior. We cannot overcome these evils on our own. Only God can destroy sin, enlighten those in error and bring the dead to new life. That's the message we have: Jesus Christ is the Savior designated by God the Father to bring us light and life. Our message is rightly called Good News. It is news too good to keep to ourselves. We have to share it.

I hope you are willing to share the Good News about Jesus Christ with others. It is not beyond your ability. Let me share with you a simple Advent plan.

First, make a list, mental or on paper, of people you hope will hear the Gospel: family members, friends, coworkers, fellow students. Make the commitment to pray for them every day. In your morning prayer or at some other time, ask the Lord to open their minds and hearts to His Word.

Second, fast for these people once a week. Fasting can be from food — most of us can afford to forego lunch or another meal without hurting our health — but fasting can also be from some favorite activity such as a television show or playing video games. We do without a good thing as a sacrifice to show the Lord we mean it when we are praying for those on our list.

Third, offer to God any hardship or suffering you are experiencing: an illness, the loss of a loved one, a job opportunity that slipped away. Rather than let it embitter you, give it to God on behalf of those for whom you are praying. You can also offer good works you engage in: a teacher might dedicate her teaching on behalf of those for whom she prays, while a doctor does the same as he sees his patients; a teenager might dedicate to this intention her effort to reach out to a fellow student no one talks to, while a father might give to the Lord his getting up from bed to check on the baby he heard crying. When we do things with the right spirit, our prayers have greater effect. *The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful before God [James 5:16].*

There is a final step: ask the Lord to give you opportunities to speak to those for whom you have been praying. Sometimes they give you an opening: a desire to talk about a problem, a great joy they share with you. You can then speak in a simple way from your own experience about why your faith in Jesus Christ and your belonging to his people matter to you. You don't need a theological degree or the eloquence of St. Paul to do it. You are an expert on your own life, including how God has blessed you and held you up. Your willingness to speak of your faith may win an absent Catholic back or gain a soul we never had.

Some may feel that, buffeted as we have been by scandals, this is not the time to speak to anyone about our Catholic faith or reach out to those who have left us. I must disagree. St. Paul said: *Proclaim the word; be persistent, whether it is convenient or inconvenient [II Timothy 4:2].* Athletes who don't run will never win the race. Christ's Gospel is not an appetizer. It's the main course. Indeed, it is the best food for the spiritually starved. If it sustains us, it will sustain others.

We are the Gospel people today must encounter. The Lord is counting on us to do our part. Make the commitment to pray, fast and offer your hardships and good works to God for those you hope God's grace will touch. And if anyone shows an openness to hear your testimony of faith, have the courage to share it. Keep a good Advent! May it bring you happily to the joy of Christmas!

Faithfully in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.report-bishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

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

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

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988.

In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) requires that all Dioceses/Eparchies have in place a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer—directly or indirectly—with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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Bishop Celebrates Mass of Gratitude

By Colleen Rowan

At his celebration of the Mass of Gratitude Nov. 20 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, Bishop Mark Brennan was presented with 32 typed pages of prayer intercessions shared by the faithful from all over the state.

"They will be part of my daily prayer," the bishop assured those gathered for the Mass in the church and watching the livestream on the diocese's website and Facebook page. In the weeks leading up to the Mass, West Virginia's Catholic faithful were invited to visit the diocese's website and to share their prayer intentions, which were offered at the Mass.

Concelebrating the Mass were Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G.; Father Joseph Wiley, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling and Father Arul Anthony, administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg. Deacon Doug Breiding of the cathedral served as deacon of the word.

Continuing his homily, Bishop Brennan said that one of the truths Jesus taught is to make use of the resources one has to help others. Whether that is faith that moves one to pray for others, or helping in a building project, carrying out works in their parishes or neighborhoods, or contributing the money that enables others to help serve those in need. Jesus said it's not just enough to love God, the bishop reminded the faithful, they have to love their neighbor too.

"Today I want to thank the people around this diocese, the whole state of West Virginia," Bishop Brennan said, "who have been supporting their parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Charities, and other good works in whatever way."

The bishop explained that the diocese was unable to conduct the annual Catholic Sharing Appeal this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Yet, through the pandemic, he said, Catholic Charities has continued to serve; parishes have continued



Pictured following the Mass of Gratitude at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Nov. 20 are, from left, Deacon Doug Breiding; Father Arul Anthony, administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg; Bishop Mark Brennan; Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G.; and Father Joseph Wiley, associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling. Bishop Brennan is holding the 32 typed pages of prayer intercessions shared by the faithful from all over the state.

Heidi Sforza Photo

to serve and livestream Masses; Catholic schools are open, some virtual and some in person, forming children in Christ.

"You have been helping them," he said to those gathered and watching online. "Your contributions have been making a difference. And your prayer intentions ... They will be part of my daily prayer. I thank all of you who help others through your contributions."

He then reminded all of the diocese's participation in the Dec. 1 Giving Tuesday, one day of giving to support parishes and diocesan ministries as well as Catholic Charities West Virginia.

"Such help is a witness to our faith in Jesus Christ," the bishop said, "who gave of himself to save all of us."

The Giving Tuesday website dwc.org/GivingTuesday has been up and running since Nov. 20, and is available for those who wish to make their donation early. The website will be open to accept donations through Dec. 2. Every parish has its own profile page within the website. The full amount of one's donation will go to his or her parish.

"Your generosity provides your parish with the tools to help them teach the faith, celebrate the Blessed Sacraments, expand chari-

table outreach, and build a vibrant culture centered around the eucharist," stated on the diocese's Giving Tuesday website.

There is also a place on the website to make donations to the diocesan ministry of Catholic Education: "The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop, and share their God-given talent."

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Mass ...

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"Your gift will help provide challenging academics complimented with life and leadership lessons in empathy, morals, responsibility, and faith," the site states. "You can help give our students a strong foundation for the future—spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially!"

Donors may also provide support for the diocese's efforts in Evangelization and Catechesis. Stated on the website: "Your gift will support formation opportunities for Lay Ministry, and training and education for parish catechists who teach the Catholic faith to adults, youth and children through RCIA, parish religious education, sacramental preparation and adult formation."

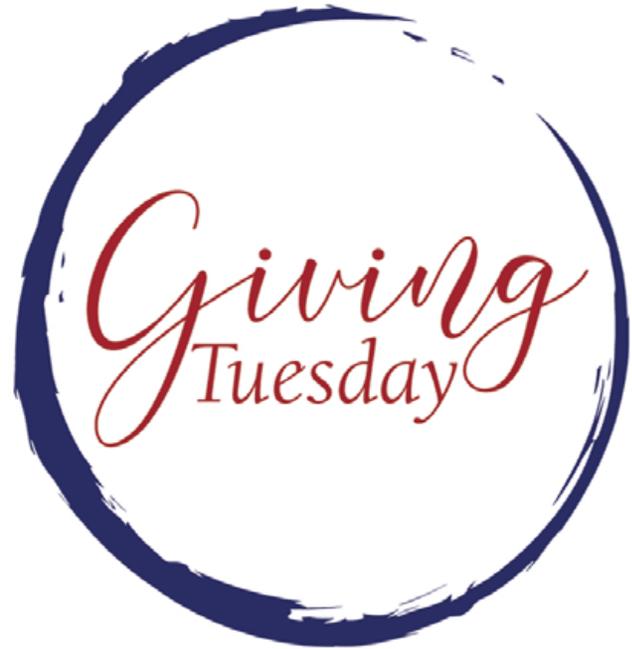
Donations also may be made to support Catholic Charities West Virginia. "We envision a West Virginia where all people can access the services they need to be happy, healthy, and reach their full potential," the site states.

"Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change."

"Your gift will help sustain and expand outreach efforts to some of the most underserved areas of our state. Your generosity provides funding for statewide services such as food and utility assistance as well as programs that provide for children and the elderly," the site states.

Donations can also be dropped off at one's parish or in the collection basket during Mass. Donors should include Giving Tuesday on the memo line of their checks.

Join us online, as we gather together to raise funds, support our parishes & ministries, and share our faith!



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Communities That Take Their Own 'Path' Lack Holy Spirit, Pope Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said he was dismayed by Catholic communities and groups that claim to be working to improve church life, but attempt to do so without prayer, the Eucharist and unity with the rest of the church.

"At times, I feel a great sadness when I see a community that, with goodwill, takes a wrong path because it thinks it is making the church through gatherings, as if it were a political party: the majority, the minority, what this one thinks of this or that or the other, (saying), 'This is like a synod, a synodal path that we must take,'" the pope said Nov. 25 during his weekly general audience.

"I ask myself, 'Where is the Holy Spirit there? Where is prayer? Where is the community's love? Where is the Eucharist?' Without these four coordinates, the church becomes a human society, a political party," he said. "But there is no Holy Spirit."

While the pope did not mention a specific country or situation, already in June 2019, he had written a letter to Catholics in Germany urging them to ensure that their "synodal path" was guided by the Holy Spirit with patience and was not simply a "search for immediate results that generate quick and immediate consequences but are ephemeral due to the lack of

maturity or because they do not respond to the vocation to which we are called."

The Catholic Church in Germany launched the Synodal Path in 2019. Scheduled to run for two years, it is debating the issues of power, sexual morality, priestly life and the role of women in the church.

The aim is to restore trust lost in the clergy abuse scandal after the German bishops' conference released a study that revealed an estimated 3,700 cases of sexual abuse reported in the German church from 1946 to 2014.

The statistics prompted outrage in the general public, and the German bishops held several meetings to discuss reforms; some of the suggestions included reviewing the church's discipline on priestly celibacy, reviewing church law, promoting more women in church administration and reviewing Catholic teaching on sexual morality.

But some German bishops are concerned about the process. In an interview published Sept. 17 by Germany's Catholic news agency, KNA, Cardinal Rainer Maria Woelki of Cologne warned that the Synodal Path reform project could lead to a "German national church."

"The worst outcome would be if the Synodal Path leads to a schism ... with the universal church," Cardinal Woelki said. "That would be the worst thing if something like a



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Nov. 25.

German national church were to be created here."

In his audience talk, the pope said that in order "to evaluate a situation, whether it is ecclesial or not, we must ask ourselves if there are these four coordinates: community life, prayer, the Eucharist and preaching."

If one of those aspects is missing, he said, then the presence of the Holy Spirit is missing, which risks converting the Catholic Church into "a beautiful humanitarian association," but "it is not

the church."

Discussions and negotiations do not lead to the growth of the church, he said. "It grows by attraction. And who creates that attraction? The Holy Spirit," Pope Francis said, echoing the words of retired Pope Benedict XVI.

"If the Holy Spirit, who attracts people to Jesus, is missing, then there is no church there. There is a nice club of friends, good, with good intentions, but there is no church, there is no synodality," the pope said.

New Date for Local World Youth Day Suits Needs of Dioceses, Vatican Official Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis' decision to move the local celebrations of World Youth Day from Palm Sunday to the feast of Christ the King addresses the pastoral needs of local churches, said Father Joao Chagas, head of the youth section of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

"We're not considering the new date as better than the previous one, but rather as one that nowadays suits best the dynamic of the local church and, at the same time, does not change the intention with which the WYD has been established," Father Chagas said in an email to Catholic News Service Nov. 24.

The pope announced at the end of Mass Nov.

22 that the change was made "after listening to various opinions and consulting" the dicastery.

"The center of the celebration remains the mystery of Jesus Christ, the redeemer of man, as St. John Paul II, the initiator and patron of WYD, always emphasized," the pope said.

Father Chagas told CNS that the dicastery consulted national directors of youth ministry in bishops' conferences around the world and discovered that many dioceses were already celebrating WYD on days that were "more suited to their pastoral and liturgical contexts than Palm Sunday."

For example, a youth minister in Poland, he said, agreed with changing the date "because Palm Sunday is an engaging time for parochial

communities" and a different date for the youth and young adult gathering would show "the vitality of the church, which continuously searches for the best ways to encounter young people."

"This new date, which seems to best correspond to the varied dynamics of local churches nowadays, was chosen as a fruit of listening to the local realities and of searching for best ways to walk together as a family of the church," Father Chagas said.

Other dioceses, especially in the Holy Land and many dioceses in English-speaking countries, already observed the local celebration of WYD on the feast of Christ the King, he added.

"Let us consider this change as a new boost for all the church to walk together, in synodality, with young people," Father Chagas told CNS.

‘Make Space at the Table’: Pope Urges Valuing, Welcoming All Human Life

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis admits he is not an economist, but he is a pastor.

And as a pastor, he has seen how the global economy has cast aside many members of his flock, and he knows that the Gospel and Catholic social teaching call for a different response.

“Solidarity is not the sharing of crumbs from the table, but to make space at the table for everyone,” Pope Francis said in a new book written with Austen Ivereigh.

The book, “Let Us Dream: The Path to A Better Future,” was to be published Dec. 1 by Simon & Schuster. Journalists were given copies in advance.

The pope’s concerns about the current situation of the world, especially given the coronavirus pandemic, will not be new to anyone who followed his homilies as the pandemic developed in the spring, watched his weekly general audience series on Catholic social teaching or read his new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship.”

But the new book sets out systematically how he takes the “see-judge-act” method of social action — what he calls “contemplate-discern-propose” — and uses it to describe the current state of affairs, to look at attitudes behind many issues and to call for a new way of doing things.

Part of the new book, Ivereigh said, is based on Pope Francis’ recorded responses to his written questions and part on suggestions outlined by the

pope, elaborated by Ivereigh and then redacted by the pope.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a global trauma or trial, Pope Francis said, and it is precisely how one acts in a trial that reveals the state of his or her heart: “How solid it is, how merciful, how big or small.”

“God asks us to dare to create something new,” he said. “We cannot return to the false securities of the political and economic systems we had before the crisis. We need economies that give to all access to the fruits of creation, to the basic needs of life: to land, lodging, and labor.”

And, he said, “we need a politics that can integrate and dialogue with the poor, the excluded and the vulnerable, that gives people a say in the decisions that impact their lives.”

In other words, the pope said, “we need to slow down, take stock and design better ways of living together on this earth.”

The only way to get a proper perspective, he said, is to go to the margins of society, to the places where people suffer most and allow that suffering to touch one’s heart.

“I think often of persecuted peoples: the Rohingya, the poor Uighurs, the Yazidi — what ISIS did to them was truly cruel — or Christians in Egypt and Pakistan killed by bombs that went off while they prayed in church,” he said.

The pope’s prescription is centered on dialogue, a recognition of the God-given dignity of every human being and an understanding that the Earth and all the good it con-

tains were meant by God to be a gift for everyone, not just those strong enough to grab the most the quickest.

“I cannot stay silent over 30- to 40-million unborn lives cast aside every year through abortion,” he said. “It is painful to behold how in many regions that see themselves as developed, the practice is often urged because the children to come are disabled, or unplanned.”

“Human life is never a burden. It demands we make space for it, not cast it off,” Pope Francis insisted.

“Of course,” he said, “the arrival of a new human life in need — whether the unborn child in the womb or the migrant at our border — challenges and changes our priorities. With abortion and closed borders we refuse that readjustment of our priorities, sacrificing human life to defend our economic security or to assuage our fear that

parenthood will upend our lives.”

To claim “to promote the Gospel and not welcome the strangers in need, nor affirm their humanity as children of God, is to seek to encourage a culture that is Christian in name only, emptied of all that makes it distinctive,” Pope Francis said.

Abortion, anti-immigrant sentiments, racism, lack of care of the elderly and the embracing of an economic system that focuses on profit at all costs are all signs of the “erosion of the value of life,” he said.

“Without a vision for society rooted in the dignity of all people,” he said, “the logic of the unfettered market ends up turning life from a gift into a product.”

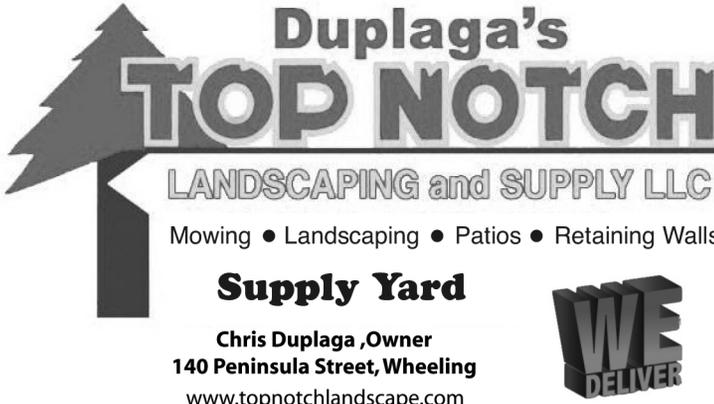
As he did in a letter in April to grassroots workers’ cooperatives, Pope Francis said in the book that he believes “it is time to explore concepts like

the universal basic income (UBI), also known as ‘the negative income tax’: an unconditional flat payment to all citizens, which could be dispersed through the tax system.”

The payment would guarantee every citizen has the minimum necessary to survive and, he said, could encourage people to job share with others, increasing employment, or give more time to volunteer work.

Pope Francis urged people to pause and look around for something new and different they could do to help someone else.

“When you feel the twitch, stop and pray,” he said. “And then act. Call up, go visit, offer your service. Say you don’t have a clue what they do, but maybe you can help. Say you’d like to be part of a different world, and you thought this might be a good place to start.”



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Wheeling Serra Club Launches Annual Diaper Drive to Help Mothers and Babies in Need

WHEELING—The Wheeling Serra Club has launched its annual Diaper Drive to help the Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project.

This year, the organization has made it easier than ever to help mothers and their babies. Donors merely visit <https://go.rallyup.com/b20e94> to make their online donation. Or, send checks to Wheeling Serra Club and mail it to P.O. Box 4, Wheeling, WV 26003.

The Gabriel Project provides practical help to pregnant women in need and to families with infants and children 2 years of age and younger to give children a healthy and safe start in life.

Donations will be multiplied thanks to the generosity of Team Sledd, which matches every diaper donated by the Serra Club up to 5,000 diapers.

The relationship between the Gabriel Project, Team Sledd and the Wheeling Serra Club has become “a continuing blessing for Ohio Valley families,” Gabriel Project Northern Programs Coordinator Faith Hicks said earlier this year. She said about 150 women each month are helped thanks to direct and indirect support from Team Sledd and Serra.

Rob Sincavich, president of Team

Sledd, is well aware of the excellent work of the Gabriel Project, as his wife Dianne is a longtime, faithful volunteer with the organization.

“Team Sledd and the Sincavich family have been extremely generous to us,” Hicks said.

“In addition to matching the diapers donated through Serra Club’s drive, Team Sledd gives us a good deal all year long on things families need: diapers, hygiene products and other baby items,” she said. “And they deliver to our Gabriel Project sites in Wheeling, Moundsville, New Martinsville and Parkersburg.”

Sincavich explained his family’s support of the Gabriel Project and Diaper Drive.

“My wife Dianne and I are so appreciative of the work that the Gabriel Project does in the West Virginia,” he said. “We have been doing and will continue to do whatever we can to support its efforts and those of all of its volunteers who donate their time and resources to assisting mothers and their young children when they need help with basic needs and a healthy start to their lives.”

Potential donors can contact the Northern Programs Gabriel Project at (304) 639-5039 for more information or for locations in West Virginia.

Virtual ‘Walk to the Manger’ Aims to Help Faithful Prepare Physically & Spiritually for Christmas

CLARKSBURG—To help the faithful prepare physically and spiritually for Christmas, the Immaculate Conception Parish Nurses invite all to join them in their virtual “Walk to the Manger.”

Participants will set walking goals for the Advent Season, receive a devotions booklet, and have access to virtual meetings to discuss progress. The program will begin on Nov. 30. To sign up to participate, go to https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71BEIlgZgVH0vrQ9

For more information, visit the IC Parish Nurses on Facebook.

Monday Morning Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer Culminates This Month

WHEELING—St. Michael Parish in Wheeling began Monday Morning Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer Oct. 5, and it will conclude on Dec. 14.

“You are invited to join us on any Monday for the full morning, or any portion of the morning,” parish officials said. By the end, there will have been 11 Mondays of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. The gatherings include: 7:30 a.m. daily Mass; 8 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration, Miraculous Medal Novena followed by the Rosary; 9 a.m. Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; 10 a.m. Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help; 11 a.m. Quiet prayer; and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament at noon.

Morgantown’s St. Francis de Sales to Host Red Cross Blood Drive

MORGANTOWN—A Red Cross blood drive will be hosted at St. Francis de Sales Church in Morgantown Dec. 10 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. in the lower level of the church social hall. New and returning blood donors can call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (or enter the code STFRANCISWV at redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment. “Please join the ranks of heroes who help maintain a safe and sufficient blood supply for patients who need it,” parish officials said. For questions or to volunteer to help out with the blood drive, call (304) 291-0745.

Catholic Daughters to Offer Drive-thru, Drop Off for Christmas Basket Food Donations in Weston

WESTON—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Weston along with St. Patrick Parish and St. Patrick School are collecting non-perishable for food items for their Christmas food baskets.

Due to current restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, items cannot be left in the church. The Catholic Daughters will offer a drive-thru, drop service at the cafeteria Dec. 5 from 9-11 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., and Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“This way you don’t need to get out of your car,” parish officials said. “Someone will

come to you and carry the food into the school. You may also leave items in the tote on the back porch of the parish office.”

Items needed include instant potatoes and gravy, cake/brownie mix and icing, soup and crackers, mac and cheese and boxed dinners, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, and canned goods.

Recipients of the baskets are those recommended through parishioners of St. Patrick Church and School. The effort will work in conjunction with “Our Neighbor” to eliminate duplicates to help more people.

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Employment Opportunities

Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center Director

The Diocese is currently searching for candidates to fill the position of Director, St. John XXIII Pastoral Center. This is a full time position located in Charleston, WV. The Director is responsible for the overall management of personnel, facilities and services offered at the Center. This person will implement policies, procedures and directives in order to manage the facility. The individual will see to the quality of care, hospitality, environment provided to the guests at the center. The Director is accountable for the budget, financial management of the Center and operations and maintenance of the facility. Qualified individuals should have at least a Bachelor's Degree. Person should have demonstrated experience in the management of a retreat/conference facility, lodging, resort management or related facility management. Person must be in adherence with the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith. The individual will possess excellent organizational, leadership and communication skills. Interested individuals should send letter of interest and resume to the Human Resources Office. Please contact Michael A. Nau, Director of the HR Office for a complete job description and application by e-mail to mnau@dwc.org. Position will remain available until an offer has been accepted.

St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley has an opening for a Title I teaching position. This is a three day per week assignment — Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The duties include: To provide a supplemental, structural support to identified K-5 students in reading and math; the implementation of research-based interventions to strengthen learning; to collaborate with classroom teachers, school staff and Raleigh County Schools' Federal Program staff. Qualifications include working with K-5 students in reading and math; West Virginia Elementary Education certification; or experience or training in West Virginia college and Career Ready Standards and technology skills. Contact Principal Mary Grace Peck at (304) 252-4087.

Associate Immigration Attorney, Martinsburg

Catholic Charities West Virginia is seeking a full-time Associate Immigration Attorney for its Migration and Refugee Office located in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Responsibilities include: assists in the development and provision of services to immigrants and refugees in West Virginia; provides legal advice and representation in accord with the best practice of the profession; maintains caseload of detained and non-detained clients in removal proceedings eligible for immigration remedies such as SIJS, asylum, CAT or withholding of removal, cancellation of removal, UVAWA, or family-based petitions; interviews individuals seeking legal assistance and advises the client as to possible options through proper interpretation of current laws; and provides ongoing legal representation to the client commencing with the initial intake interview, drafting of documents, correspondence and client applications/petitions. Required job qualifications: Law Degree (J.D.) required. Admission to the practice of law in any state and/or Washington, DC required. Completion of Continuing Legal Education required, in addition to any and all licensing requirements for the Jurisdiction where the attorney is licensed to practice. A year of experience practicing immigration law preferred. Bilingual (English, and Spanish or French) preferred; public speaking skills in English and Spanish or French preferred. Ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks at once. Excellent interpersonal, team, and communication skills. Strong organizing skills and attention to details, especially with regard to immigration laws, guidelines, and policies. Ability to work effectively with diverse populations. Tolerance and sensitivity necessary in dealing with people with hardships. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to drive and travel to court hearings. Please send cover letter, resume and three references to Beth Zarate, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities WV, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003, or . Applications will be accepted through November 30, 2020.

Catholic Charities West Virginia HomeCare Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver (ADW) Services, Veteran's Waiver Services, Private Pay Services. Serve as the main contact person for general program questions and referral info for the community; Development/implementation of a client recruitment plan in both office areas; Deliver HomeCare program info sessions at community sites/potential referral sites/health fairs (with accommodations during the COVID-19 pandemic) on an ongoing basis; Work with Advancement Department to create and maintain functional marketing materials for program, craft appeal requests, and market program for maximum coverage through all identified networks (including social media); Perform other job-related duties as assigned. Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree preferred; experience working with programs serving people with disabilities and/or seniors preferred; solid interpersonal skills/experience for building a genuine rapport with people and families in need of supportive services; ability to communicate clearly with audiences from various social, cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds; ability to work independently; good customer service skills/experience; and must have a valid driver's license. Please email resume, cover letter, and three professional references by December 1, 2020 to: Sara Lindsay at slindsay@ccwva.org. Application materials can also be delivered to: Sara Lindsay, Chief Program Officer, Catholic Charities West Virginia, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

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Catholic Charities
West Virginia
Mission Moment

Helping to Fight the Spread of Disease

By **Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist**

Because of COVID-19, our Neighborhood Center in Wheeling has adapted its on-site meals from congregate dining inside our facility, to “to-go” meals served just outside our Center’s side entrance.

This allows us to follow health and safety guidelines and maintain social distancing; however, our neighbors/clients did not have the opportunity to sanitize or wash their hands as they normally would inside the building.

Thanks to a mini-grant from Volunteer West Virginia to host a ‘Be Kind, COVID-19’ volunteer project, volunteers were able to install a hand sanitizing station in the outdoor gathering space.

This will help to keep neighbors, volunteers and staff safe from the potential spread of illness.

“This project is a great example of what happens when our dedicated volunteers and staff work together to find solutions to the problems faced by the people that we



Courtesy Photo

Catholic Charities West Virginia Americorps member Bryant Anderson tests the newly installed hand sanitizing station.

serve,” said Mark Phillips, Catholic Charities West Virginia Northern Regional Director.

“Many thanks go to Volunteer West Virginia

for funding this project.”

Catholic Charities West Virginia remains committed to staying present and working through the COVID-19

pandemic with the vulnerable populations we serve.

The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center serves between 35-65

meals twice a day, six days a week. The hand sanitizing station can also be utilized by those who visit the Center’s twice-weekly food pantry.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit catholiccharitieswv.org.

Carta del obispo Brennan para el Adviento

Estimados fieles de la diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston,

Estamos a punto de entrar en la temporada de Adviento, un tiempo de gozosa expectativa por la venida del Señor. Al principio del Adviento, nos enfocamos en la segunda venida del Señor en gloria antes de pasar a la última fase de la temporada para recordar cómo Dios cumplió Su promesa a Israel de enviar un Salvador, Jesús, nacido en humildad en Belén.

Después de una temporada de elecciones polémicas, durante una pandemia peligrosa cuyo final aún no está a la vista, habiendo tomado más conciencia de los patrones continuos de racismo y nativismo en nuestro país y aún lidiando con escándalos en nuestra amada Iglesia, puede parecer que la promesa de Cristo está alejado de nuestra experiencia. ¡Sin embargo, el Señor nunca está ausente de nosotros! Viene a nosotros a través de su Palabra, proclamada en la iglesia o meditada en casa; a través de los necesitados, en cuyos rostros reconocemos el de Cristo; ya través de los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía, en la que el Señor entra personalmente en cada uno de nosotros, y la Penitencia, que nos purifica para recibir dignamente al Señor. De esta manera nos mantiene su palabra: Yo estaré con ustedes siempre, hasta el fin de los tiempos [Mateo 28:20].

La pandemia de COVID-19 afectará la forma en que celebramos el Adviento y la Navidad en nuestra Diócesis, ¡pero los celebraremos! Las máscaras, los desinfectantes de manos y el distanciamiento físico no pueden evitar que expresemos nuestra fe y gozo en el Señor. De hecho, nos permiten reunirnos para adorar de una manera segura, considerando a aquellos con quienes adoramos.

Incluso durante esta pandemia, muchas personas que normalmente no adoran con nosotros se unirán a nosotros en las misas de Navidad. Démosles la bienvenida, si no con abrazos, a causa de la pandemia, luego con “el codo de la amistad” y un cordial “¡Bienvenidos!”. Supongamos que quieren escuchar cómo Dios, a través del nacimiento de Su Hijo, ha mostrado Su amor y misericordia al mundo. Hágales saber que espera volver a verlos.

La verdad es que tenemos un gran mensaje que anunciar a las personas con las que vivimos y trabajamos. A un mundo sumergido en las tinieblas del pecado, el error y la muerte, Dios ha enviado un Salvador. No podemos vencer estos males por nuestra cuenta. Solo Dios puede destruir el pecado, iluminar a los que están en error y traer a los muertos a una nueva vida. Ese es el mensaje que tenemos: Jesucristo es el Salvador designado por Dios el Padre para traernos luz y vida. Nuestro mensaje se llama con razón Buenas noticias. Es una noticia demasiado buena para guardarla para nosotros. Tenemos que compartirla.

Espero que esté dispuesto a compartir las Buenas Nuevas de Jesucristo con los demás. No está más allá de su capacidad. Permítanme compartirlas un sencillo plan de Adviento.

Primero, haga una lista, mental o en papel, de las personas que espera que escuchen el Evangelio: familiares, amigos, compañeros de trabajo, compañeros de estudios. Comprométete a orar por ellos todos los días. En su oración matutina o en cualquier otro momento, pídale al Señor que abra sus mentes y corazones a Su Palabra.

En segundo lugar, ayune para estas personas una vez a la semana. El ayuno

puede provenir de la comida (la mayoría de nosotros podemos permitirnos el lujo de renunciar al almuerzo u otra comida sin dañar nuestra salud), pero el ayuno también puede provenir de alguna actividad favorita, como un programa de televisión o jugar videojuegos. Prescindimos de algo bueno como sacrificio para mostrarle al Señor que lo decimos en serio cuando oramos por aquellos en nuestra lista.

En tercer lugar, ofrezca a Dios cualquier dificultad o sufrimiento que esté experimentando: una enfermedad, la pérdida de un ser querido, una oportunidad de trabajo que se le escapó. En lugar de dejar que te amargue, dáselo a Dios en nombre de aquellos por quienes estás orando. También puede ofrecer buenas obras en las que se involucre: una maestra podría dedicar su enseñanza en nombre de aquellos por quienes ora, mientras que un médico hace lo mismo cuando ve a sus pacientes; una adolescente puede dedicar a esta intención su esfuerzo por acercarse a un compañero de estudios con el que nadie habla, mientras que un padre puede darle al Señor que se levante de la cama para ver cómo está el bebé que escuchó llorar. Cuando hacemos las cosas con el espíritu correcto, nuestras oraciones tienen mayor efecto. La oración ferviente de una persona justa es muy poderosa ante Dios [Santiago 5:16].

Hay un paso final: pídale al Señor que le dé la oportunidad de hablar con aquellos por quienes ha estado orando. A veces te dan una apertura: un deseo de hablar sobre un problema, una gran alegría que comparten contigo. Luego, puede hablar de una manera sencilla desde su propia experiencia acerca de por qué le importa su fe en Jesucristo y su pertenencia a su pueblo. No necesitas un título teológico o la elocuencia de San Pablo para hacerlo. Eres un experto en tu propia vida, incluso en cómo Dios te ha bendecido y te ha sostenido. Su disposición a hablar de su fe puede recuperar a un católico ausente o ganar un alma que nunca tuvimos.

Algunos pueden sentir que, golpeados como hemos sido por los escándalos, este no es el momento de hablar con nadie sobre nuestra fe católica o acercarse a aquellos que nos han dejado. Debo estar en desacuerdo. San Pablo dijo: Proclama la palabra; sea persistente, ya sea conveniente o inconveniente [II Timoteo 4: 2]. Los atletas que no corran nunca ganarán la carrera. El evangelio de Cristo no es un aperitivo. Es el plato principal. De hecho, es el mejor alimento para los espiritualmente hambrientos. Si nos sostiene, sostendrá a otros.

Somos el Evangelio que las personas de hoy deben encontrar. El Señor cuenta con que hagamos nuestra parte. Comprométase a orar, ayunar y ofrecer sus dificultades y buenas obras a Dios por aquellos a quienes espera que la gracia de Dios toque. Y si alguien se muestra abierto a escuchar su testimonio de fe, tenga el valor de compartirlo. ¡Que tengas un buen Adviento! ¡Que te lleve felizmente a la alegría de la Navidad!

Fieles en Cristo,



+ Mark E. Brennan
Obispo de Wheeling-Charleston

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en www.dwc.org, haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida.

Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Wheeling Hospital Offers Specialized Fibromyalgia Program

WHEELING—The Hand Rehabilitation Center/Occupational Therapy Department at Wheeling Hospital is now offering a fibromyalgia treatment program.

Fibromyalgia is a chronic nervous system condition that can cause widespread pain and tenderness. It is characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory and mood issues. Researchers believe that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way the brain and spinal cord process painful and nonpainful signals.

Symptoms often begin after an event, such as physical trauma, surgery, infection or significant psychological stress. In other cases, symptoms gradually accumulate over time with no single triggering event. The symptoms may include: widespread musculoskeletal pain, a dull ache on both sides of the body, lasting for more than three months; sleep disturbances; stiffness; and increased sensitivity to odors, noise, bright light, temperatures.

Fibromyalgia affects 2-4 percent of the population, with more than 3 million cases yearly in

the U.S. It's more prevalent in females ages 35-50.

Wheeling Hospital's Fibromyalgia Program consists of approximately seven treatment sessions, much of which can be done through telehealth. It includes a thorough evaluation, a home exercise program, and a focus on learning self-management techniques for pain, fatigue and stress. Case studies have been done that have shown an improvement in pain, function, and overall well-being after completion of a similar fibromyalgia program.

"This program was designed by occupational therapists here at Wheeling Hospital, and it is a very comprehensive, evidence-based approach to the management of fibromyalgia," Suzanne Holsen, Occupational Therapy director, said. "I am very excited to be able to offer this treatment to the community."

Those interested in participating in this program will need a doctor's referral to Occupational Therapy with the diagnosis of fibromyalgia.

Referrals can be faxed to (304) 243-6375. For more information, call (304) 243-3195.

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