

THE CATHOLIC

# Spirit

## As Many Expected, Presidential Contest not Settled after Election Day

**WASHINGTON (CNS)—**The U.S. remains uncertain about the winner of the presidential race after Election Day, as a counting of the vote continues, showing Democratic candidate Joe Biden ahead in electoral votes, but not by much. This was the latest at press time.

By 3 p.m. Nov. 4, projected results from The Associated Press showed Biden ahead with 248 electoral votes compared to incumbent Republican President Donald Trump's 214. To win, a candidate needs to reach 270.

Results in Nevada as well as in states rich in electoral votes such as Pennsylvania and Michigan, remained unsettled with millions of votes still being counted Nov. 4. But it didn't stop Trump from declaring an early victory and making comments about getting the Supreme Court involved, prompting outcry from Republicans and Democrats.

Mail-in votes postmarked by Election Day are accepted in several states and many are typically counted in the hours or days after the election.

Biden urged calm. "It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who has won this election," Biden said to a group of his supporters gathered at a drive-in rally in Wilmington, Delaware.

## Blessed McGivney: Model Parish Priest with 'Zeal' for Gospel, for Serving Faithful



CNS Photo/courtesy Knights of Columbus  
**Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J., accepts a relic from Michael "Mikey" McGivney Schachle, during the Oct. 31 beatification Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn.**

**By Julie Asher, Catholic News Service**

**B**lessed Michael J. McGivney was "an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance" because of his "zeal" for proclaiming the Gospel and his "generous concern for his brothers and sisters," Pope Francis said in his apostolic letter of beatification of the founder of

the Knights of Columbus.

Representing the pope, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, read the letter in Latin during the Oct. 31 Mass of beatification for Father McGivney at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut. Beatification is a step toward sainthood.

In his homily, Cardinal Tobin elaborated on Blessed McGivney's attrib-

utes as a parish priest.

"Father McGivney's life is an illustration of how a holy priest can provide that necessary and intimate connection so crucial in the life and mission of a parish," the cardinal said.

Blessed McGivney "knew the simple, indispensable requirement for a pastor: to love his people. He was with

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DIocese OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 30, 2020

Dear Brothers in Christ,

You may or may not have heard of the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic men’s organization in the world. Let me tell you why I became a Knight and why I encourage you to consider becoming one.

The Knights of Columbus are not just another “club.” They are Catholic men committed to living out their faith in practice. They engage in numerous good works as the fruit of their faith, works such as support for seminarians, prolife activities, help to Catholic schools, and aid to the handicapped.

My father joined Msgr. Lackey Council at St. Joseph’s, Martinsburg, WV, in the 1980’s and later helped found Our Lady of Guadalupe Council at St. John Neumann Church, Gaithersburg, MD, in the 1990’s. When he needed treatments for cancer, my brother and I brought him to the hospital, but on some days neither of us was free to go. Who brought him? His brother Knights. I realized that their commitment to fraternity, unity and charity was not mere words; they lived it.

I became a Knight in Washington, DC, and convinced some men of my parish to join, too, as a way to develop their spirituality and Catholic identity. Once transferred to Gaithersburg, MD, I oversaw the formation of a new Council in my parish, St. Martin of Tours, and happily served as its chaplain.

We men need to band together and work with one another to serve God and our neighbor. President John Kennedy reminded us: “On earth God’s work must truly be our own.” The Knights of Columbus are an excellent way to be formed as brothers in Christ and to do God’s work on earth.

Knights must be practicing Catholics at least eighteen years of age. I urge you to consider becoming a Knight of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus have made it easy to join by going on-line at KOFC.org and click on JOIN US or contact any of the 3 individuals listed below for more information.

Paul Niedbalski, State Deputy, 304-545-5100; ginooffice@aol.com  
Harry Helmick, Membership Chair, 304-295-7097; helmickhp@yahoo.com  
Sam Gross, On-line Membership Chair, 304-545-4329; hawkeye221@aol.com

May the Lord bless you as you live your faith!

Faternally in Christ,

Most Reverend 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.reportbishopabuse.org](http://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](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

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

**To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or 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](http://www.dwc.org), click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment”, then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**To Report to the Diocese’s Victim Assistance Coordinator:** 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](http://www.dwc.org), under “Accountability”, then “Report Misconduct” or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

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

**Sexual Abuse Awareness Training**

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (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](http://www.dwc.org), click “Diocese”, then “Offices”, then “Office of Safe Environment.”

**In honor of Father McGivney’s Beautification.....**

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# Pope Not Changing Church Teaching on Gay Unions, Secretariat of State Says

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — The Vatican Secretariat of State has sent an explanatory note to nuncios around the world insisting that when Pope Francis spoke about civil unions, he was not changing or challenging “the doctrine of the church, which he has reaffirmed numerous times over the years.”

The note, which was not signed, explained that the pope’s remarks about gay people in the recent film, “Francesco,” come from his responses to two separate questions in a 2019 interview for Mexico’s Televisa network.

The pope’s comments were “edited and published as a single answer without the necessary contextualization,” the note said.

As Catholic News Service reported

Oct. 26, when Pope Francis said gay people have a right to be in a family and that gay couples needed some form of civil law to protect their rights, he was not advocating any form of “marriage” or marriage rights for gay couples.

Yet, in his documentary “Francesco,” director Evgeny Afineevsky presented the statements as if Pope Francis had been talking about the right of gay couples to form a family, including with children.

Afineevsky, who a Vatican official said was never granted an on-camera interview with the pope, pulled the quotes about families and the quote about civil unions from the interview by Valentina Alazraki, correspondent Televisa, CNS had reported.

The clips used in Afineevsky’s film

put together quotes from three separate moments of the Televisa interview, so the pope appears to say: “They are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or be made miserable over it. What we have to create is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered.”

The note from the Secretariat of State also noted that Pope Francis repeatedly has insisted that gay unions cannot be equated to marriage, pointing to a 2014 interview with the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

In the interview six years ago, Pope Francis was asked about moves across Europe to legalize gay marriage or adopt civil union laws.

“Marriage is between a man and a woman,” he said. “Secular states want to validate civil unions to regulate dif-

ferent situations of cohabitation, driven by the need to regulate economic aspects between people, such as ensuring health care. These are cohabitation pacts of various kinds, of which I could not list the different forms.”

“It is necessary to see the different cases and evaluate them in their variety,” he said, implying that some forms of civil unions would be acceptable.

From the unedited interview with Televisa, the pope’s remarks to *Corriere della Sera* and similar distinctions he has made on other occasions, the Secretariat of State’s note said, “It is clear that Pope Francis was referring to particular state regulations, certainly not the doctrine of the church, which he has reaffirmed numerous times over the years.”

## McGivney ...

Cont’d from Page 1

them in their sorrows, in times of death and bereavement. He was sanctified by doing what parish priests still do, day in and day out.”

His parish was not bound by names on his church’s registration rolls, Cardinal Tobin said. “He was not a stranger to jails and hospitals. He fostered respectful relationships with other Christian churches and civil authorities. He was a bridge-builder who shunned walls.”

In Blessed McGivney, “we see the face of a son of immigrants who gave his life in pastoral service of those most recently arrived in this country,” he said. “We meet the eldest of 13 children, who worked to keep families united in dignity and security; we are in the presence of an apostle who cared for victims of an epidemic before he himself died of the disease.

“We praise God for (the) timeliness of this celebration because 130 years after his death, the brief life of this holy man speaks eloquently to our own path to holiness.”

Jesus asks “each one of us to become a saint,” and “each one of us can certainly find encouragement in the life of Father McGivney, but none more than those of us who are called to become saints as parish priests,” Cardinal Tobin said.

The founding of the Knights of Columbus “grew out of his ministry as a parish priest,” he noted. And “long

before his exhausted body surrendered to disease, he died daily to his own desires,” the cardinal added, and “he laid down his life for his friends.”

God is good for giving the church Blessed McGivney “at this moment of our common pilgrimage,” Cardinal Tobin said. “In a time of suffering and division, we glimpse his face among the ‘cloud of witnesses’ that urge us on. In Blessed Michael, we are reminded that life is not transactional, but a gift to be shared.

“We appreciate that true worship is centered on a right relationship with God and others, particularly those on the margin of society, and that Christian unity is more than simply adherence to a common belief,” the cardinal said. “We accept that like him, God calls each of us — in our own day and our own way — to be vessels of mercy and so enter into our heavenly inheritance.”

The beatification rite came shortly after the beginning of the Mass. After Cardinal Tobin read the rite in Latin, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, the Knights’ supreme chaplain, read the English translation of the letter. A giant tapestry of Blessed McGivney’s portrait was unveiled in the cathedral sanctuary.

Michael “Mikey” McGivney Schachle, together with his parents, Daniel and Michelle, and several of his 12 brothers and sisters, carried a relic of Blessed McGivney and presented it to Cardinal Tobin. The relic was placed in



CNS Photo/courtesy Knights of Columbus  
A giant tapestry with a portrait of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, is seen during his beatification Mass Oct. 31 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Conn. It was unveiled at the conclusion of the beatification rite at the start of the Mass.

the sanctuary and censed.

Mikey, now 5, is the child whose in utero healing from a life-threatening condition that, under most circumstances, could have led to an abortion, was confirmed by Pope Francis; it was announced in May as a miracle that occurred through Father McGivney’s intercession.

This miracle paved the way for the priest’s beatification. In general a second miracle is needed for canonization.

Before asking Cardinal Tobin that the beatification proceed, Hartford Archbishop Leonard P. Blair welcomed those in attendance — and all watching from afar — to “the joyful celebration of the beatification.”

The number inside was limited by COVID-19 restrictions, and those in the cathe-

dral wore face masks and practiced social distancing.

Thousands more, in the U.S. and around the world, participated by watching the EWTN broadcast of the Mass or a livestream of it on [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org).

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson read a brief biography of the Knights’ founder, saying that by establishing fraternal order he “presented to the church a paradigm” for an active and engaged laity.

The priest embodied the order’s core principles of charity, unity and fraternity, he said. His holiness directed him toward parish life, “not away from it,” and did not separate him from others but “drew him to their lives,” because he knew his people’s hardships firsthand, Anderson added.

Blessed McGivney (1852-

1890), the son of Irish immigrants, was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, and was ordained a priest in 1877 for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford. As a parish priest, he worked to improve the condition of his 19th-century Irish immigrant community in Connecticut.

In 1882, while he was pastor at St. Mary’s Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, he founded the Knights of Columbus to provide financial support for widows and orphans and to keep Catholic men and their families close to their faith at a time of widespread anti-Catholic bigotry.

He died of pneumonia complications at age 38 in 1890, during an outbreak of influenza known as the Russian flu in Thomaston, Connecticut. Some recent evidence, according to the Knights, indicates the outbreak may have been the result of a coronavirus.

The apostolic letter of beatification also announced Aug. 13 as the feast day for Blessed McGivney — the day between Aug. 12, the day he was born, and the date of his death, Aug. 14.

It will be observed annually in the Hartford Archdiocese. Votive Masses in honor of Blessed McGivney also can be celebrated by priests for Knights of Columbus gatherings “with the permission of the local bishop on any day when not superseded by another observance on the liturgical calendar,” the letter said.

# Heroic Pro-Life Efforts in Thomas Helping Women in Nine Counties

By Joyce Bibey

**THOMAS**—You have heard the expression, “All heroes don’t wear capes.” Well, in this case one wears a collar and the others are in the pews.

When it comes to giving life to the pro-life movement in east-central West Virginia, Father Timothy Grassi and his parishioners in Tucker County are not only actively involved in pro-life education and activities, they are heroically involved.

Father Grassi and his Knights of Columbus Council #2010 recently received confirmation from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council in Connecticut that an application to secure ultrasound equipment had been approved.

The much-needed machine will benefit women in the Thomas, Parsons, and Buckhannon communities through the Central West Virginia Center for Pregnancy Care (CWVCPC), a free agency offering educational, emotional, practical, and spiritual support for women whose pregnancy may be unplanned or unwanted.

For 16 years, Father Grassi, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Thomas, and Our Lady of Mercy Mission in Parsons, has been working with Barbara Kincaid, director of the center, since he was assigned to the area.

“Father Grassi and his churches have been a gift from God to us,” Kincaid said. “They are the true superheroes in this story. We are both in the same business, when it comes to babies. Our mission is to save them from abortion. Life is precious.”

She went on to explain the pregnancy center serves nine counties and runs on a \$45,000 annual budget.

“It’s important to me to do something to support pro-life,” he said. “When I came here as a pastor and saw the needs in the community, I wanted to get a pregnancy center here. Barbara and I spoke and were on the same page. She had all the know-how. We just fall under her shadow now and faithfully offer our good deeds and support.”

The center now has a main office in Buckhannon and two satellite offices, the one in Tucker County and one also in Braxton County. Currently there are more than 280 women that are being as-

sisted and receiving necessary items including maternity clothing, baby furniture, formula, and other necessary supplies. The agency networks with local doctors, county health departments, WIC (Women Infants and Children) office, hospitals, Department of Health and Human Resources, food pantries, housing agencies, and other charitable organizations to help those in need.

The ultrasound equipment will give these expectant mothers a beautiful view of the life growing within them, Father Grassi said. The machine will be housed in the Tucker County facility which is a former doctor’s office above the St. George Medical Clinic in Parsons, but if needed it is a mobile unit that can be transported to the other CWVCPC facilities.

“If we know of someone who is considering abortion and we get them in here for an ultrasound we can show them life,” Kincaid said. “To see those tiny fingers and toes and watch that heartbeat.... It changes you. It can change minds. I’ve seen it happen.”

Father Grassi learned about the opportunity to apply for a machine from a visitor who attended one of his Masses. The visitor was a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Great Falls, Virginia. They had recently received a machine for their community. Father Grassi routinely includes the church’s pro-life message in his homilies and his bulletins. The parish is involved in a baby bottle fundraising ministry, March for Life, baby showers to benefit women who come to the centers, and Eucharistic Adorations focused on protecting the unborn.

The Thomas Knights of Columbus has a Pro-Life and Family Program committee who along with other parishioners are key to the success of the respect life activities.

“My goal is to help not just preach,” he said. “The only reason we have abortion is these women don’t feel there is any other alternative. I’m here to say there are alternatives, and we are here to show support. We are ready to help.”

Often times the volunteers from his churches deliver items right to the mother’s home, when she doesn’t have transportation.

“Most of the time we try to or-



Courtesy Photo

**Father Timothy Grassi stands with Central WV Center for Pregnancy Care Director Barbara Kincaid outside the Parson’s facility. The CWVCPC provides assistance to more than 280 women, and Kincaid considers Grassi their hero.**

chestrate that a husband and wife go together to deliver the car seat, crib, or whatever is needed. There are two great benefits of this: one, this shows they care, share stories; and two, they can be that living example of Christ’s love that is right here in front of them.”

Father Grassi was ordained a diocesan priest in 2000 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. “It has been the best 20 years of my life,” he said.

“I am a late vocation. I grew up wanting to be married and have like 12 children,” he said with a chuckle. “I love children. It used to be said, ‘the safest place for a child is the mother’s womb,’ but it breaks my heart to know that today it can be the most dangerous place for a little boy or girl. I can’t sit back and not try to change it.”

He is motivated by a pro-life speech given by the late Illinois Congressman Henry Hyde, and often refers to it to inspire his parishioners and community to join him and be an active advocate for the unborn and expectant mothers.

“When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the Final Judgment, I’ve often thought, as Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates. You are

there standing alone before God, and the terror will grip your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world. They will plead for everyone who has ever been in this movement. They will say to God, ‘Spare him because he loved us.’ And God will look at you and not say, ‘Did you succeed?’ Rather, He will say, ‘Did you try?’”

“My whole goal is summed up in those words,” Father Grassi concluded, “I stand before you and say, I’m trying!”

The Knights in Thomas, Father Grassi, and Kincaid are finalizing all the paperwork documenting proper staff, medical doctors and assistance, and logistics among other items. If all goes as planned, they should have the unit within six months.

Several K of C councils in West Virginia have been with the ultrasound initiative. For more information on the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council’s Culture of Life Fund grants for ultrasound equipment check out their website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org).

For more information and to help the CWVCPC go to their website at [www.cwvcpc.com](http://www.cwvcpc.com).

# Our Lady of Peace Parish and School Celebrate Completion of New Addition

By Joyce Bibey

**WHEELING**—Despite the constraints and setbacks COVID-19 ushered in, Our Lady of Peace Parish and School was able to break ground and complete a two-story addition.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, Bishop Mark E. Brennan blessed the new building, the Battaglino Family Center, after celebrating Mass with Father Joseph Mandokkara Augustine, pastor.

Our Lady of Peace broke ground on the project at the beginning of the pandemic. While construction was challenging as procedures to maintain safety and job-site cleanliness were heightened, the work was completed as scheduled. The new building features a large gathering hall, restrooms, a new preschool classroom, elevator, and an oversized tech-ready learning space for art and music to enhance the parish and school programs.

“This building is more than bricks and mortar,” said Principal Maureen Kerr. “It is a dream that has become reality. It is a space for all of us to gather to pray, embrace, celebrate, plan for the future, and build lasting relationships.

“At Our Lady of Peace, our mission and vision are built on our foundation of faith,” she said. “Our faith in Christ and our undying commitment to this parish and school have been our driving force as we plan and grow.”

Kerr has been a life-long parishioner of the Marshall County parish, graduated from the school, and after receiving her master’s degree in education taught for 11 years before becoming principal in 2013.

“Our Lady of Peace is my home, so watching it grow throughout these years and being able to have the opportunity to be a part of this expansion is truly a blessing,”

she said. “This gathering space is a true testament to the People of Peace – their dedication, commitment, care and love for this parish and school have been so evident throughout this process. It shows how strong this parish and school are – even with all of the obstacles we have had to overcome in the past months.”

The parish has been discussing an expansion for more than a decade. Father Augustine said it is an honor to be the pastor at this exciting time.

“The strength of this beautiful community is the members’ commitment to this parish and the school,” he said. “When they see or hear that something needs done, they step up to help. Since my arrival in 2018, they have welcomed me with their whole heart. It is a very joyful bunch of people. We do have a lot of socials in our community like or annual bonfire, outdoor picnic, annual Thanksgiving dinner, Fat Tuesday dinners, etc. And everyone loves to be a part of them. And it builds the community.”

The building project was initiated with a significant gift from Dr. John Battaglino, Virginia Battaglino, and the late Carmela Battaglino, longtime members of the parish, Augustine said, adding it is a sign of great “growth even in the midst of difficult times.” Further funding for the addition was raised through parish, school, and alumni donations. “The decision to donate this very generous gift came in a time when the Catholic Church here in WV was going through a major scandal, and when people were reconsidering their financial donations to the parishes,” he said. “I was greatly moved at (the Battaglinos’) decision. It is a great example of unwavering faith and strong dedication to the local parish community.”

He said the parish and



Members of the Battaglino family pause for parishioners wanting to take photos at the blessing and opening of Our Lady of Peace Parish and School’s new building – The Battaglino Family Center. Also pictured is Bishop Mark Brennan and Father Joseph Augustine, pastor.

Joyce Bibey Photo

school have historically been exemplary good stewards of their finances. He and Kerr do not take that for granted.

“We owe a great debt of gratitude to the former pastors and the leaders of the parish to build a system of continuing financial support into the future both for the parish and school. The members in the past looked at their community and said we need to create a financial stability here to support the school and the parish. They joined together and did exactly that, invested

for the future. We at present are able to do a lot of things in both the school and the parish because of those members’ futuristic vision and their will to make it happen. Our parish school is our pride and we are able to sustain it because of those stewardship decisions in the past.”

As a growing parish and successful school, they will continue their focus to provide a great education with a strong Catholic identity.

“The most basic reason and purpose of a Catholic school is

to make a great education with a religious (foundation) available and affordable to everyone in the community. While we are not too far from that goal, we are still able to make it happen to almost everyone who comes at our door. We need greater visions and long-term plans. And I am absolutely certain that our community can achieve anything they set their eyes on. The Lord has been always good, and he will continue to get us through every step in the future.”

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# What Catholics Must Know about Cremation

By Colleen Rowan

Many Catholic faithful prearrange their funeral plans, and cremation has become the expressed wish of many. To offer guidance—fittingly in November, the Month of the Faithful Departed—The Catholic Spirit offers a look at what the Catholic faithful must know when choosing the option of cremation, and where the Catholic Church stands.

In 2016, the Vatican released “Ad resurgendum cum Christo” (“To Rise with Christ”), an instruction “regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation.”

While the Catholic Church continues to prefer the presence of the full body at the funeral Mass and its interment, it accepts cremation as an option. The church forbids the scattering of ashes and the growing practice of keeping cremated remains at home, said Cardinal Gerhard Muller, who at the time of the instruction’s release was the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in a press conference Oct. 25, 2016 (reported in a story by Cindy Wooden of Catholic News Service upon the release of the instruction). The instruction was approved by Pope Francis after consultation with other Vatican offices and with bishops’ conferences and the Eastern churches’ synods of bishops, the story stated.

The instruction states that the church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places: “In memory of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that illumines the Christian meaning of death, burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body.”

Through the practice of burying the dead in cemeteries, in churches or their environs, the instruction states, Christian tradition has upheld the relationship between the living and the dead and has opposed any tendency to minimize, or relegate to the purely private sphere, the event of death and the meaning it has for Christians.

The instruction states: “When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority.”

“...the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted,” the instruction states.

“...it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects,” the instruction states.

The reservation of the ashes of the departed in a sacred place ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community, the instruction states. “It prevents the faithful departed from being forgotten, or their remains from being shown a lack of respect, which eventuality is possible, most especially once the immediately subsequent generation has too passed away,” the instruction states. “Also it prevents any unfitting or superstitious practices.”

Cremation was prohibited for Catholics until 1963, when the Holy Office, forerunner of the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation, issued a ruling allowing cremation under certain circumstances. The Code of Canon Law, issued in 1983, said the church earnestly recommends bodily interment but does not prohibit cremation unless it is done for reasons contrary to Christian teaching. Clearance came from Rome allowing U.S. bishops to permit funeral Masses in the presence of cremated remains in 1997.

For more information about cremation, one should contact his or her parish priest. To read “Ad resurgendum cum Christo” (“To Rise with Christ”), visit the vatican website: [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20160815\\_ad-resurgendum-cum-christo\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20160815_ad-resurgendum-cum-christo_en.html)

# The Catholic Notions of Cremation and Burial

Daniel Abram Maul, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Thanks to Albert Einstein, Catholics can be cremated. What?! Wasn’t he agnostic or, perhaps, Jewish? Now, he said nothing about where cremated human remains ought to be interred, but our Catholic beliefs do.

According to that brilliant physicist, physical matter can’t be destroyed; it can only change states: a liquid to a solid, a solid to a gas, etc. If this be true, then human remains are still existent after a cremation. Wherever those remains go, God only knows. And, that’s the crucial matter: even if we don’t, God still knows where a person is after cremation and, therefore, can later restore a person’s physical body. The issue here is the doctrine of the Resurrection of the Body. Our bodies matter; they’re important, sacred. Even after we die, our bodies are still important, still sacred. After His Resurrection, our Lord maintained his physical presence with His disciples. Mary Magdalene grabbed hold of Him. Thomas touched His hands and side. We, too, like Jesus, will be given our sacred bodies, after death, once again. When? God only knows.

Now burial, for Catholics, is a separate issue, even from that of cremation. What is done with a person’s remains after cremation matters, as well. The crucial Catholic beliefs here are about sacred space and worship. There are only two kinds of places that can be rendered sacred, in the Catholic Church: those designated either for divine worship or for the burial of the faithful. Burial and worship have always been linked throughout Christian Tradition. Early Christians in Rome would regularly worship in the catacombs; relics are inserted into our altars; and popes, cardinals, and diocesan bishops have been buried in their proper churches. The remains of our faithful departed help us to maintain the Tradition of the Church.

We designate certain places as sacred through dedications and blessings. Why? Human beings perform sacred rituals in relation to their most important events, beliefs, relationships, and places. When we bless a space, we are recognizing it as a gift from God and giving thanks to the Lord for it. We are marking it as so very special to us, worthy of protection and honor. We are carving out a space and place for our faith and for the things – and people – we hold most dear.

My wife and I had our first date miniature golfing at a fun center. After our wedding, we drove our entire wedding party, in a limo, to this “sacred place,” where it all began. Upon arrival, we realized it had been turned into a shopping mall. Well, so much for that supposed “sacred space,” as well as for proper planning and foresight.

It is one thing for the location of a first date – even one that resulted in a loving marriage and two beautiful children – to be steamrolled, but it is quite another for the place where you buried your husband or wife to be. Imagine how much more painful it would have been if we had been visiting – say, on the anniversary of death – the site where we had sprinkled the remains of one of our parents. For this very reason, Catholics properly bury their loved ones only in dedicated, blessed, and, thus, truly sacred cemeteries or churches. Our sacred loved ones deserve no less than this.

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# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church's Bells Will Ring out Again in Stonewood

By Colleen Rowan

Anyone visiting the town of Stonewood is met with an extraordinary sign of the Catholic faith—the 104-foot bell spire in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. The three bells of the spire which rang throughout the community for almost half a century, sadly fell silent eight years ago.

“Every day at 7 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. the Angelus bells would chime. And, as a child, it was our way of knowing the time of day,” said Janet Cox, a lifelong member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Cox has lived next door to the church since its construction in 1965. And the bells, she said, have been engrained in Stonewood residents’ daily lives.

“We also had the ‘call to Mass’ about fifteen minutes before Mass, giving us the reminder that it was time to head out the door so we weren’t late,” she said.

Cox remembers the funeral toll, which was a single bell tolling, signifying to the community they were laying a parishioner to rest or the celebratory bells on a Saturday afternoon for a wedding. “The bells were very common in our community, so it was quickly noticed when they stopped working about eight years ago,” she said.

At the center of the spire is a statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, originally covered by a protective circular cover representing a halo. Cox said the disc was damaged by water and fell about five years ago and has recently been replaced by a new protective triangular cover representing the Blessed Trinity.

Efforts to replace the bell system are currently underway, and have received a huge response from the parish community.

“We are close to the completion of our ‘Bell Tower’ project with the replacement of the bells to sound the praises of the Lord and call the faithful to worship,” Cox said. “In an effort to raise funds to help with the cost of replacing the bell system, we asked our parishioners to consider making contributions and within three weeks, we exceeded our fundraising goal. The bells clearly have been missed by our church and community.”

Deacon John Yaquinta, permanent deacon at the parish who

helped get the bell replacement project started, said it won’t be long now until the bells will be ringing once more.

“Catholics and non-Catholics alike will be able to know what is going on by the source of the bells,” he said. “They will know when Mass is about to start, when a funeral procession has arrived, when a couple is getting married, or when it is time to stop and pray the Angelus. In other words, God is about to start talking to his people again, using the bells installed in the bell tower at OLPH.

“It makes me happy that the community at large supports the project,” he continued. “The bells have not worked since I have been a member of OLPH. However, I am excited to hear them for the first time once the work is completed.”

The new bells are set to be installed Nov. 16. Information offered by the parish’s “Repair the Bell Tower Fund” said the project includes removal of the existing system and speakers, installation of a new Verdin Digital Sonata bell system, new speakers, cables, and hardware. Parishioners were invited to honor their loved ones who have passed away with memorial plaques along with their contribution. Contribution plaques will be placed in the church with the names of those memorialized or donors to the fund.

The architect, Louis Joseph Schmidt, wrote the following after the construction of the spire in 1966: “A new landmark on the skyline in Stonewood, the bell spire is rising more than 104 feet above the floor of the church. The three spire legs represent the Blessed Trinity and collectively support the Roman Cross, so the Christian community might be reminded of Christ’s continuous presence. Nestled high in the spire are external speakers to sound the praises of the Lord and call the faithful of Stonewood to worship.”

And so the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help today have made sure their beautiful bells will ring out to future generations.



Courtesy Photo  
At right is the 104-foot bell spire in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Stonewood.

# St. Mary's Seminary & University Launches Virtual 'McGivney Series' this Month

By Colleen Rowan

**BALTIMORE**—St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore will launch a virtual discussion series in honor of the beatification of alumnus and Knights of Columbus founder Blessed Michael J. McGivney of the Class of 1877.

The "McGivney Series" will begin Nov. 12 with the segment "Who Was Michael McGivney and What Does He Have to Say to Us Today?" This first segment will explore the essential qualifications and qualities of effective priestly ministry in the 21st century, discussed in a livestream conversation between Archbishop William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore and Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus; Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus; and moderator, Father Phillip J. Brown, PSS, President-Rector of St. Mary's Seminary and University.

The conversation, Father Brown said, will shed light on Blessed McGivney's ministry, what really motivated him, and how that exemplifies the ideals of priestly formation that prepared him to go forth

## Advent Parish Mission: Rediscovering Joy to be Held at Cathedral

**WHEELING**—Advent can be such a beautiful, prayerful season if we allow ourselves the time of preparing our hearts for the Lord. At the beginning of this Advent Season, the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling invites everyone to attend an Advent Parish Mission — three evenings of inspiring talks, prayer, music, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Father Adam Potter, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will present the Advent Parish Mission on the theme: "Rediscovering Joy". This is also a very fitting time to reach out to all those who have left the practice of the faith as we experience the joyful expectation and renewal brought about by the birth of the Savior.

The three-night Advent Parish Mission begins on Sunday, Nov. 29 and continues through Tuesday, Dec. 1 at the cathedral. Each evening begins at 6 p.m. All are welcome!



and do that work. Speaking on the eve of the beatification, Father Brown went on to say that Blessed McGivney had written many times about how much he owed to the Sulpicians (the Society of Priests of St. Sulpice) who ran St. Mary's, about their ideals of priestly formation, and how it was there at St. Mary's that he fell in love with the idea of being a parish priest.

"Of course he went on to be an outstanding parish priest and to really demonstrate the ideals of formation that have always been the heart of formation at St. Mary's," Father Brown said.

St. Mary's and the Sulpician tradition have always been focused on forming priests for a ministry in parishes, not for any other ecclesiastical offices, but rather good pastors who are in there with the flock, Father Brown said. Drawing upon the words of Pope Francis, who said, those "who have the smell of the sheep" and who really come to love that kind of service to people, Father Brown said.

"And, of course Michael McGivney really exemplified that service in his life," Father Brown said. "We're anxious to hold him

up as an ideal of what we still try to do at St. Mary's. We would like to be known as sort of the cradle of pastors. ... We see our mission as providing the people of God with the kind of priests, the kind of pastors they deserve."

The second and third segments of the series are in the planning stages. Father Brown sees the second segment delving into the seminary and how men are prepared to be pastors and to be priests.

"We are the only religious community in the church, as a pontifical institute, that is solely dedicated to seminary formation of diocesan priests," Father Brown said of his religious order, the Sulpicians. "So the priests who are members of the society, like myself, like a religious order make a commitment to do seminary formation for life. And we've been doing that since 1641, when our society was founded. So, we've spent a lot of time reflecting upon what makes for good formation for solid, holy, healthy, happy, and effective priests and pastors."

Seminary, he said, can seem like a mysterious place, and he would like to demystify formation as his

part in the series as rector and president of St. Mary's.

Through the series, Father Brown hopes that people will ultimately learn more about Blessed McGivney and the "outstanding" parish priest that he was—often, in a very quiet way. He made a big difference in people's lives, Father Brown said, and showed what it means to be a good parish priest.

"I would like to give people much hope that we continue to aspire to those same ideals, and that we're doing that," Father Brown said. "We have been through a rough period in the church. So I think we need to hold up the great priests who have been there in the past and really give people well-founded hope that we're going to provide many more great priests for the future."

Father Brown said the beatification of Father McGivney is a wonderful day for St. Mary's and for the church, more so, as he epitomized the priesthood.

"Michael McGivney was a great priest and we need a symbol and a model of the best of the priesthood today," Father Brown said, "and I think this is an opportunity to really begin to focus our attention away from the 2 to 4 percent of priests who have not been good priests to the 96 percent of priests who are working hard every day to serve the people of God."

To register for the first segment, visit [www.stmarys.edu](http://www.stmarys.edu) and click on McGivney Series on the right, then click McGivney Series — November 12, 2020, at the end of the press release. For updates on the second and third segments of the series, visit [www.stmarys.edu](http://www.stmarys.edu).

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Catholic Charities  
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Mission Moment

## Catholic Charities Pen Pal Program Seeks to Uplift Bluefield-Area Residents



CCWVa Southern Region Program Assistant Wendy Wilkerson prepares care packages for residents of nursing homes in Bluefield. Courtesy Photo

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

With nursing homes limiting visitors due to the coronavirus pandemic, many residents in long-term care facilities are experiencing feelings of isolation and loneliness.

"Many people would like to help, but are unsure of what to do," said Matt Atwood, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Southern Regional director. "We are recruiting volunteers to help send some happiness to a local nursing home."

CCWVa is collaborating with Mercer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bluefield to begin a Pen Pal Program. The program's goal is to connect volunteers in the community with pen pals who are living in the nursing center.

CCWVa will match volunteers with a pen pal. Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer for the Pen Pal Program can call (304) 425-4306 or stop by 203 S. 7th Street in Princeton for more information.

In addition to brightening the residents' days with cards and letters, CCWVa also hopes to kick off the program by delivering care packages to the nursing

home. Donations for care package items are being accepted through Nov. 20.

Suggested items to donate for the care packages include: stationery, magazines (for both men and women), tissues, coloring books, markers, devotionals, CDs of gospel music, CDs of 50s and 60s music, snacks (chocolate, cheese puffs, crackers, etc.), chapstick, lotion, nail polish, socks, watches, small artificial plants, knickknacks, pillows, blankets, stuffed animals.

Donations for the care packages can be mailed or dropped off to:

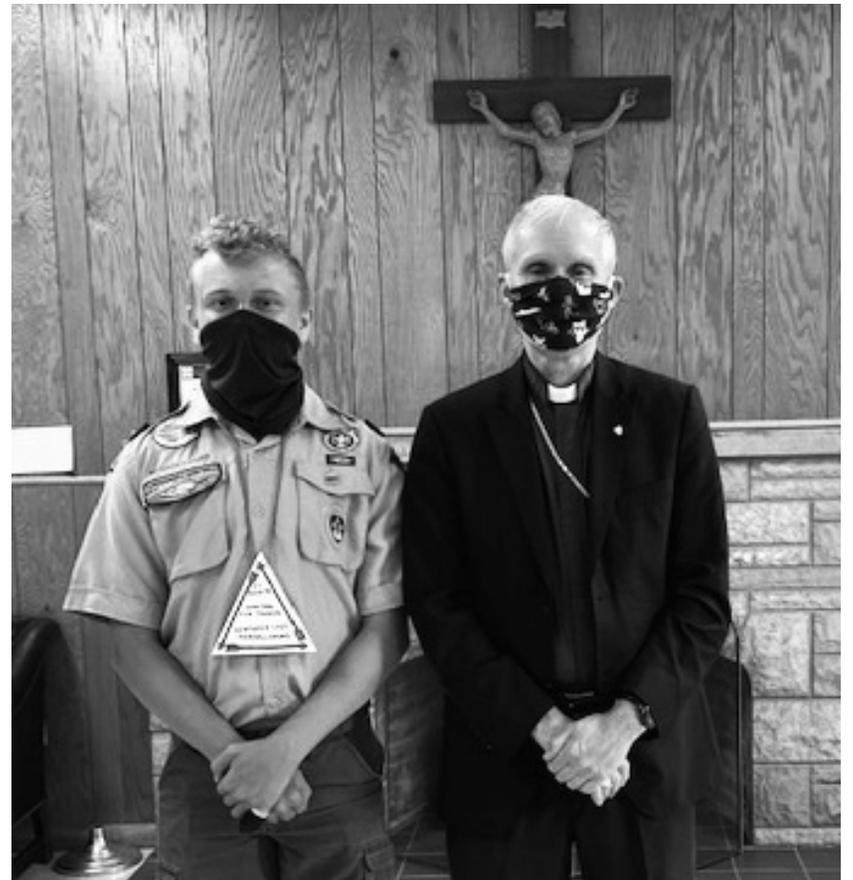
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203 S. 7th Street  
Princeton, WV 24740

To learn more about CCWVa's Pen Pal Program, call (304) 425-4306, ext. 4.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).

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.

## Bishop Presents Pillars of Faith Scouting Award to Kingwood Catholic Youth



Courtesy Photo  
JJ Reese, a Life Scout in Troop 84 of the Boy Scouts, is pictured with Bishop Mark Brennan, who presented the Pillars of Faith scouting award to him Aug. 22 at St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood.

**KINGWOOD**—Bishop Mark Brennan presented the Pillars of Faith scouting award to JJ Reese, a Life Scout in Troop 84 of the Boy Scouts, at St. Sebastian Parish in Kingwood Aug. 22.

The award provides a special recognition to those youth in Scouting who earn all the traditional Catholic Religious Awards: Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei, and Pope Pius XII. "Very few Scouts earn the highest award in their Scouting program. Even fewer Scouts earn a Religious Award, so to earn all the traditional Catholic Religious Awards is a monumental feat. The Pillars of Faith pin recognizes these Scouts," scouting officials said.

The name and design of the award represent the fact that Religious Awards are like pillars, supporting the Scout's development in and appreciation of the Catholic faith. The Religious Awards are the pillars, officials said, "not the roof, for none of us are ever done growing in our faith." The design also includes the church, bible, and cross, other essential elements in faith.

Reese is a junior at Preston High School where he plays on the soccer and baseball teams. Academically he is in honors and dual credit classes and currently undecided on his career path. He was involved in community youth sports until COVID hit. In Boy Scouts, he is currently working on his Eagle Project.

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# Loyalty Shines from Her Love of God, Country, Family

By Joyce Bibey

Janet Davis grew up in a loving, patriotic, and devout Catholic family. She was one of nine children. Her father worked as a civilian aviation mechanic for the fighter squadrons at Mitchel Air Force Base, Long Island, New York.

Her and her siblings attended Catholic school, where empathy and charitable giving was a great focus. She knew the value of hard work, loyalty, and responsibility. As a young girl, she'd enjoyed the times when she would fill in for her brother's newspaper delivery route. She fondly recalls pedaling her bike up and down the streets of the base tossing the papers onto porches and doorways. By the time she was a teenager Davis was working for families on the base babysitting, washing dishes, and cleaning. One week after graduating from high school, she began working in the finance office at Mitchel on military pay records. The building was located behind the Catholic chapel on base.

She was proud of her civil service job and met a wealth of great people, one of whom was her husband — Harry "Charles" Davis. He was in the Air Force and had transferred to Mitchel after being stationed in Turkey. He too worked in finance, attended Mass at the Catholic chapel, and joined the same bowling league that she belonged.

"We'd see each other at work, then at the bowling alley, so we started talking and really enjoyed each other," she said. "One thing led to another and I found myself traveling to Spencer, West Virginia to meet his family."

She fell in love with the little town that is nestled between the scenic hills of Roane, County. So, in 1961, they chose to get married at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, in Spencer, and immediately made their home there.

The couple had six children — Kevin, Kimberly, Kyle, Kurt, Keith, and Kane. All served in the military, except Kane, who was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates organization right out of high school in 1993 and continued his professional baseball career until he retired in 2010.

Through the years the small town in Central West Virginia wasn't able to escape economic struggles. It seemed more and more people were struggling to put food on their table. Many would seek the help of the churches in town including Holy Redeemer. With the need growing the churches decided to pool their efforts. They formed Roane County Helping Hand, Inc. The agency has moved several times through the years but is currently located at 811 Madison Avenue in Spencer.

"When it began in 1985, I still had kids at home and a husband who worked all hours, and it was important for me to be home for them — to make sure the house was taken care of and everyone was fed," she said. "But our pastor asked if I would represent Holy Redeemer and volunteer one or two days a week to make sure things would run smoothly at the food pantry."

It wasn't long after when Davis was then asked to step in as director of Helping Hand.

"I did it thinking it would be only for a few months or until I found someone to take over," she said. Well those months turned into years — 31 to be exact.

With the help of the local churches, community leaders, and businesses, Helping Hand, Inc., became a vital resource for Roane County families right along with Catholic Charities of West Virginia, the American Red Cross, and Salvation Army.



Courtesy Photo

**Charles and Janet Davis happily cut the cake on their 50th wedding anniversary in the gathering hall at Holy Redeemer Parish in Spencer.**

"Our donations came from the area churches," she said. "Holy Redeemer provided financial donations, and I would petition others for contributions. In each letter I would include my favorite bible verse, 'Whatever you do for the least of my people, that you do unto me' (Matthew 25:40)."

Helping Hand, Inc., purchases food each Tuesday from Walmart. In addition, they collect government distributed frozen food and literally tons of food from the Gassaway Food Bank. The volunteers put the baskets together for families and then open their facility on Wednesdays for distribution.

Davis has it down to a science making sure each family receives important staples, including apple sauce, beans, corn, flour, corn meal, canned fruit, cereal, tuna, canned chicken, and tomatoes. During the holidays the group secures a turkey or ham, as well, she said.

After her husband died in 2015, Janet continued as director for another two years, before she approached fellow Holy Redeemer parishioner Michael Bernardis to take over in 2017.

She just turned 86 in September and hasn't stepped away completely yet. She has been serving as president of the board for the last three years.

"I wanted to see everything continue and help new members," Davis said. "I am hopeful to stick with it, God willing, as long as I can, but I have to face reality.... I guess I'm not getting younger."

Davis' work ethic and organizational skills has made Helping Hand, Inc., a well-run machine.

"When Mike (Bernardis) came along, I could see he was committed," she said. "He was loyal, picked up food for us, took on the all the government paperwork, and most of all he enjoyed it."

Bernardis was raised like Davis in a strong faith-filled family, where serving your community was part of your Catholic identity.

"I know we are doing what God wants us to do, and what proves it is when people look up and say, 'God bless you,' as we hand them the food," Bernardis said. "That's enough to keep me going."

He said Helping Hand now has a team of 20-25 people to help out on a rotating and as needed basis. Holy Redeemer parishioners Jim Bissell, John Stone, and Gail Stone are also key in keep-



Courtesy Photo

**Charles and Janet Davis on the day of their wedding in 1961 pose in front of the fireplace in the Holy Redeemer Parish rectory in Spencer.**



Courtesy Photo

**Michael Bernardis and Janet Davis pause for a photo at Helping Hand, Inc.**

ing the organization running.

"You hear it takes an army, but it's true," he said. "It takes a mighty army to care for a village."

Bernardis' advice to others who want to get involved with their local food pantry or start one in their own parish is to look at Davis and Helping Hand as an example.

To donate to the food basket program, you can send your checks made out to "Roane County Helping Hand, Inc." to: Helping Hand, Inc., PO Box 576, Spencer, WV 25276.

## #FaithInWV

Do you know an exceptional Catholic in West Virginia, someone or a group who are shining examples of #FaithInWV? Email Joyce Bibey your feature idea to [jbibey@dwc.org](mailto:jbibey@dwc.org). Visit [FaithInWV.org](http://FaithInWV.org) and every issue of The Catholic Spirit to read more inspiring stories.

## En Español

### Como se esperaba, aún no hay ganador en elección presidencial

**Por Rhina Guidos, Catholic News Service**  
**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Estados Unidos permanece en la incertidumbre sobre la elección presidencial un día después las elecciones federales, mientras el conteo de votos continúa, mostrando al candidato demócrata Joe Biden por delante en los votos electorales, pero no por mucho. Este fue el último en el momento de la publicación.

A las 3 p.m. El 4 de noviembre, los resultados proyectados por The Associated Press mostraron a Biden por delante con 248 votos electorales en comparación con los 214 del presidente republicano en ejercicio, Donald Trump, para ganar, un candidato debe llegar a 270.

Los resultados en Nevada, así como en los estados ricos en votos electorales como Pensilvania y Michigan, permanecieron sin resolver con millones de votos aún contados el 4 de noviembre. Pero eso no impidió que Trump declarara una victoria anticipada y hiciera comentarios sobre la obtención del Supremo. Tribunal involucrado, lo que provocó protestas de republicanos y demócratas.

Los votos por correo con matasellos del día de las elecciones se aceptan en varios estados y, por lo general, muchos se cuentan en las horas o días posteriores a la elección.

Biden instó a la calma. "No es mi lugar ni el lugar de Donald Trump declarar quién ha ganado esta elección", dijo Biden a un grupo de sus partidarios reunidos en un mitin en Wilmington, Delaware.

### El Papa no cambia la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre las uniones homosexuales, dice la Secretaría de Estado

**CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — La Secretaría de Estado del Vaticano envió una nota explicativa a los nuncios de todo el mundo insistiendo en que cuando el Papa Francisco habló sobre las uniones civiles, no estaba cambiando ni cuestionando "la doctrina de la iglesia, que ha reafirmado en numerosas ocasiones A través de los años."

La nota, que no fue firmada, explicaba que los comentarios del Papa sobre los homosexuales en la película reciente, "Francesco", provienen de sus respuestas a dos preguntas separadas en una entrevista de 2019 para la cadena mexicana Televisa. Los comentarios del Papa fueron "editados y publicados como una sola respuesta sin la

contextualización necesaria", decía la nota. Como informó Catholic News Service el 26 de octubre, cuando el Papa Francisco dijo que las personas homosexuales tienen derecho a estar en una familia y que las parejas homosexuales necesitaban alguna forma de ley civil para proteger sus derechos, no defendía ninguna forma de "matrimonio" o matrimonio derechos de las parejas homosexuales.

Sin embargo, en su documental "Francesco", el director Evgeny Afineevsky presentó las declaraciones como si el Papa Francisco hubiera estado hablando sobre el derecho de las parejas homosexuales a formar una familia, incluso con niños.

## Publicite con el espíritu católico

Correo electrónico [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org)

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

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán 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 anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales 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](http://www.dwc.org), haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** llame a la 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](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa 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 Niños: 304-293-6400.

# La esperanza es un regalo para buscar en Dios, dice el Papa en la fiesta de Todos los Santos

**Por Catholic News Service  
CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)** — Cuando la vida se pone difícil y cuando uno está de luto por el fallecimiento de un ser querido, es hora de orar por el don de la esperanza y la capacidad de decir con el profeta Job: "Sé que mi redentor vive", dijo el papa Francisco.

Al celebrar la misa en la Fiesta de Todos los Santos, el 2 de noviembre, el papa dijo que recordar a los seres queridos que han muerto es un momento particularmente importante para "aferrarse firmemente a la cuerda" del ancla de la esperanza, que es Cristo.

La pandemia de COVID-19 obligó al papa Francisco a no seguir su práctica habitual de celebrar la misa en la fiesta de Todos los San-

tos en un cementerio, en Roma o cerca, con personas que visitan las tumbas de sus seres queridos.

En cambio, presidió una misa privada en el interior del Vaticano, en la capilla del Pontificio Colegio Teutónico, luego visitó y bendijo tumbas en el Cementerio Teutónico, que existe desde la Edad Media y ahora está reservado principalmente para el entierro de hablantes de alemán, sacerdotes y miembros de órdenes religiosas.

Más tarde, entró a la gruta de la Basílica de San Pedro para rezar ante las tumbas de los papas fallecidos.

El papa comenzó su homilía describiendo la esperanza demostrada en el Libro de Job, cuando el profeta es "derrotado" y al borde de la muerte, Job dice: "Sé que mi

vindicador vive" y "mis propios ojos, no los de otro, lo verán".

"Esta certeza casi en el último momento de la vida, esta es la esperanza cristiana", dijo el papa. "Es una esperanza que es un regalo".

"Tantas cosas nos llevan a la desesperación, a pensar que todo terminará en derrota y que después de la muerte no hay nada", dijo. Pero la voz de Job debería resonar en el corazón de los cristianos, diciendo: "Sé que mi redentor vive".

San Pablo, en la Carta a los Romanos, dice "la esperanza no defrauda", dijo; "La esperanza nos atrae y da sentido a la vida. No veo en el más allá, pero la esperanza es un don de Dios que nos atrae a la vida, hacia la alegría de la vida eterna".

"La esperanza es un ancla", dijo el papa, y los creyentes deben aferrarse a la cuerda que conduce a ella "en momentos de alegría y en momentos terribles".

El tipo de certeza que Job exhibió es "un regalo de Dios", algo que las personas no pueden simplemente producir por sí mismas sin la ayuda de Dios, dijo. Es un don que se debe pedir a Dios.

Jesús confirma la promesa de que la esperanza no defraudará en el Evangelio de San Juan, cuando dice: "Todo el que ve al hijo y cree en él puede tener vida eterna, y yo lo resucitaré en el último día", dijo el papa.

Sabiendo que Jesús es el ancla, dijo, vivir en la esperanza cristiana significa aferrarse a la cuerda del ancla; "No te defraudará".

## Iglesia responde cuando huracán Eta impacta Centroamérica

**Por David Agren, Catholic News Service  
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO** — Cáritas, la agencia de acción caritativa de la iglesia, ha estado respondiendo al huracán Eta, el cual causó estragos en Nicaragua el 3 de noviembre e incrementó el riesgo de provocar devastadoras inundaciones y destrucción a su paso por Centroamérica.

El huracán Eta tocó tierra en la Costa de Mosquito, al noreste de Nicaragua, cerca del municipio de Puerto Cabezas, donde fuertes vientos arrancaron los techos de los edificios.

El padre Francisco Chavarría, director de Cáritas en Nicaragua, le dijo a Catholic News Service que la agencia estaba trabajando con las parroquias a lo largo del Rio Coco, el cual demarca la frontera con Honduras y donde habitan los pueblos indígenas Mayangna y Miskito.

Cáritas Nicaragua estuvo trabajando con el apoyo de Trócaire --la agencia para el desarrollo internacional de la Iglesia Católica de Irlanda-- y Catholic Relief Services, la agencia de ayuda y desarrollo internacional de los obispos de EE.UU.

El obispo auxiliar Silvio José Báez de Managua, Nicaragua, tuiteó el 2 de noviembre lo siguiente: "Elevo mi oración al Señor por nuestros hermanos del Caribe al norte de Nicaragua ante la inminente llegada del huracán #Eta. Qué Dios proteja a los habitantes de la región y al pueblo nicaragüense que ha sufrido tanto".

Por lo menos 19 capillas se han estado utilizando como albergues, así como un seminario y un convento carmelita — según un documento de planificación de Cáritas.

El huracán Eta se fortaleció a categoría 4 con vientos sostenidos de 110 millas por hora, mientras se iba desplazando lentamente a lo largo de la costa de Nicaragua. Tocó tierra co-

mo una tormenta de categoría 2 — según reportes.

Representantes de Cáritas afirman que los huracanes son comunes en Centroamérica, pero una tormenta tan fuerte no ha azotado la región desde que el huracán Mitch generó una precipitación sin precedentes en Centroamérica en 1998, dejando 9,000 muertos y causando un daño enorme a la propiedad e infraestructura.

En Honduras, inundaciones en el sector norte del país se han reportado como una de-

presión tropical previa a la pronta llegada del huracán Eta.

Las parroquias, las cuales formaron equipos para responder a la pandemia del coronavirus, estaban listas para actuar nuevamente --según el padre Germán Calix, director de Cáritas Honduras.

Las lluvias este año — dijo— llegaron después de cuatro años de sequía y ayudaron a los agricultores, pero más precipitación podría causar deslizamientos de tierra y otros desastres.

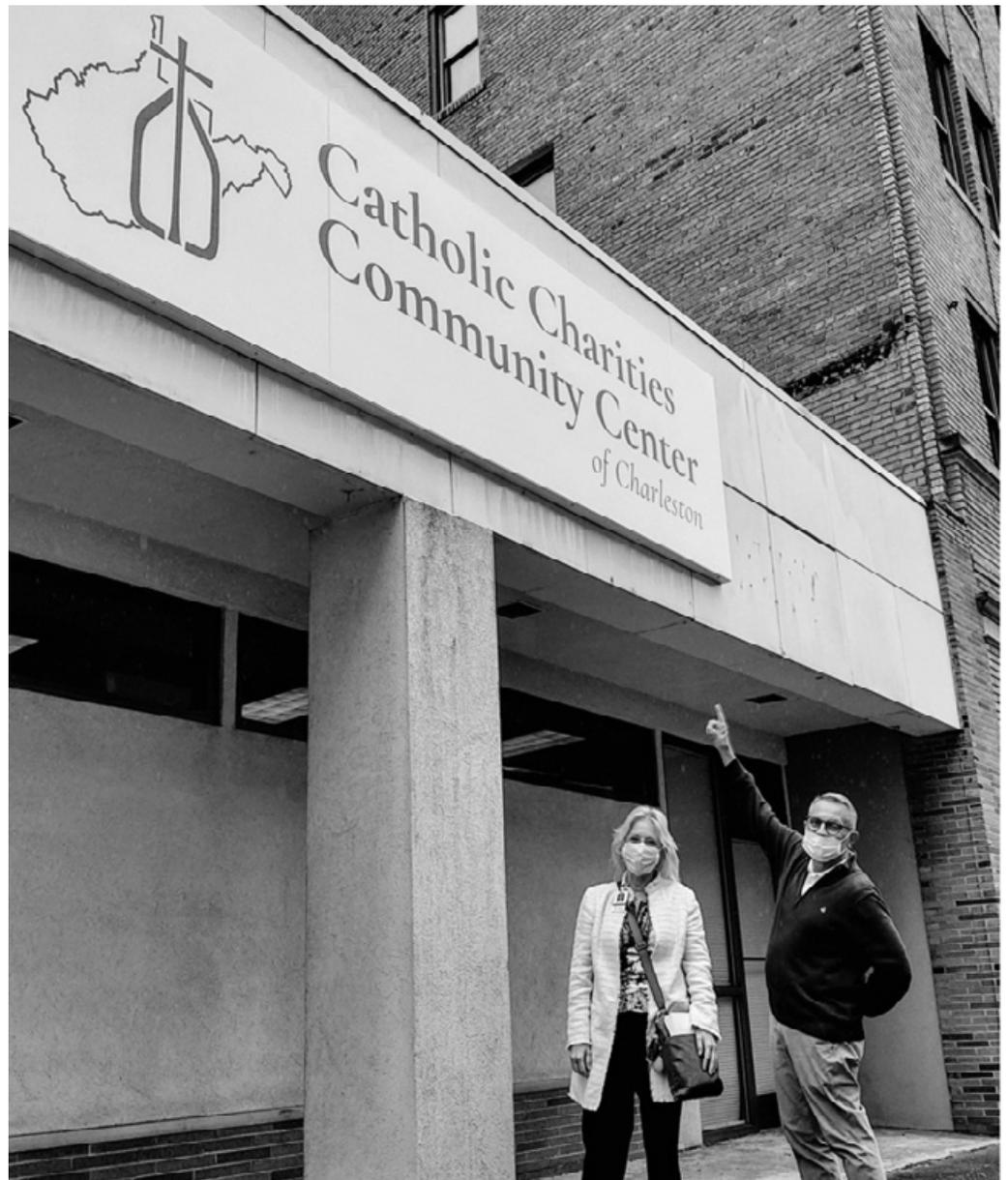


Foto del CNS / Jorge Cabrera, Reuters  
La gente atraviesa las aguas de la inundación en La Lima, Honduras, el 5 de noviembre de 2020, en los restos del huracán Eta, a causa de la lluvia.

# Catholic Charities West Virginia Installs New Sign in Charleston

Beth Zarate, CEO of Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVA), and CCWVA Western Regional Director Bill Hagy are pictured below the agency's new sign in Charleston. CCWVA's Western Region serves those in need from the counties of Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Outnam, Roane, Wayne, Wirt, and Wood. To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org). 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.

Courtesy Photo



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# Hope is Gift to Seek from God, Pope Says on All Souls' Feast

**By Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)**

— When life is difficult and when one is mourning the passing of a loved one, it is time to pray for the gift of hope and the ability to say with the prophet Job, “I know that my redeemer lives,” Pope Francis said.

Celebrating Mass on the feast of All Souls, Nov. 2, the pope said that remembering loved ones who have died is a particularly important time to “hold tightly to the rope” of the anchor of hope, which is Christ.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Pope Francis to forego his usual practice of celebrating Mass on the feast of All Souls in a cemetery — in Rome or nearby — with people who were visiting the graves of their loved ones.

Instead, he presided over a private Mass inside the Vatican, in the chapel

of the Pontifical Teutonic College, then visited and blessed graves in the Teutonic Cemetery, which has existed since the Middle Ages and now is reserved mainly for the burial of German-speaking priests and members of religious orders.

Later, he went into the grotto of St. Peter’s Basilica to pray at the tombs of deceased popes.

The pope began his homily at the Mass by describing the hope demonstrated in the Book of Job, when the prophet is “de-

feated” and on the point of death. Job says, “I know that my vindicator lives” and “my own eyes, not another’s, will behold him.”

“This certainty at almost the last moment of life, this is Christian hope,” the pope said. “It’s a hope that is a gift.”

“So many things lead us to despair, to think that everything will end up in defeat and that after death there is nothing,” he said. But the voice of Job should resound in the hearts of Christians, saying, “I know that my redeemer lives.”

St. Paul, in the Letter to the Romans, says “hope does not disappoint,” he said; “hope attracts us and gives meaning to life. I don’t see in the beyond, but hope is a gift of God that draws us to life, toward the joy of eternal life.”

“Hope is an anchor,” the pope said, and believers must cling to the rope that leads to it “in moments of joy and in terrible moments.”

The kind of certainty Job exhibited is “a gift of God,” something that people cannot simply muster up for

themselves without God’s help, he said. It is a gift that must be requested from God.

Jesus confirms the promise that hope will not disappoint in the Gospel of St. John, when he says, “Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day,” the pope said.

Knowing that Jesus is the anchor, he said, living in Christian hope means hanging on to the anchor’s rope; “it will not disappoint.”

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## Vatican Christmas: Details of Stamps, Nativity Scene, Tree Released



**CNS Photo/Vatican stamp and coin office**  
**Vatican Christmas stamps for 2020 show the baby Jesus and Pope Francis holding a lantern. The theme of this year's Christmas stamps is "the light of the peace of Bethlehem." This page was jointly issued with Austria.**

### By Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Although the Vatican knows Christmas may be very different this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it already has chosen its stamps and the Nativity scene and tree that will stand in St. Peter's Square.

The larger-than-life-sized ceramic figures in the Nativity scene will come from a high school in Castelli, a town in the ceramic-producing region of Teramo, northeast of Rome, the Vatican announced Oct. 30.

The F.A. Grue Institute, a high school focused on art, will send only a handful of the 54 sculptures that students and teachers crafted for the scene between 1965 and 1975, the Vatican said. In addition to the Holy Family, an angel and the three kings, there will be a bagpipe player, a pan-pipe player, a shepherdess and a little girl carrying a doll.

The scene will be displayed next to a towering spruce tree from Slovenia.

The tree, which is almost 92 feet tall, will come from an area outside the town of Kocevje, the Vatican said.

"This year, more than ever, the staging of the traditional space dedicated to Christmas in St. Peter's Square is meant to be a sign of hope and trust for the whole world," the Vatican statement said. "It expresses the certainty that Jesus comes among

his people to save and console them."

The Nativity scene will be unveiled, and the tree will be lighted Dec. 11, the Vatican said.

The Vatican also revealed the design for its 2020 Christmas stamps, which celebrate the birth of Jesus as a light of peace for the world.

The 1.15-euro stamp features the Baby Jesus with the Church of the Christ Child in Steyr, Austria, in the background and a 1.10-euro stamp shows Pope Francis holding a lantern with St. Peter's Basilica in the background.

As a joint issue with Austria, a single sheet with the two stamps pays tribute to an Austrian initiative called "Peace Light of Bethlehem."

In early December each year, an Austrian scout is chosen to go to Bethlehem and light a lantern from the oil lamp hanging over the 14-point star that marks the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born.

The lantern is brought back to Austria where the flame is used to light other lamps and candles that families and parishes place next to their Nativity scenes. It also is shared with officials at the European Union offices in Belgium and, from there, taken throughout Europe.

The initiative, begun in 1986 by the Austrian broadcasting company, ORF, also raises money for children with disabilities or other special needs.

## Supreme Court Looks for Compromise in Catholic Foster Care Case

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — The Supreme Court, now with a full bench, seemed willing to find a compromise during Nov. 4 arguments about a Catholic social service agency shut out from Philadelphia's foster care program for not accepting same-sex couples as foster parents.

In the case, which pits the rights of religious groups against state discrimination laws, the justices looked for middle ground. Justice Neil Gorsuch said he was concerned that the city of Philadelphia could "effectively take over a service that had been provided privately for some time and take it over so much so that it regulates it pervasively" preventing the free exercise of religion.

The case, *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, centers on Philadelphia's 2018 exclusion of the foster program of Catholic Social Services of the Philadelphia Archdiocese because of the agency's policy of not placing children with same-sex couples or unmarried couples because these unions go against church teaching on traditional marriage. A year later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit sided with the city, calling the agency's policies discriminatory.

After the Nov. 4 arguments, the chairmen of three U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees pointed out that "Catholics have been called to care for children who have been orphaned, or whose parents face unique difficulties in providing care, since the earliest days of our faith."

## Louisiana Voters Approve, Colorado Voters Reject Statewide Abortion Measures

**CLEVELAND (CNS)** — Louisiana voters by a wide margin Nov. 3 passed a measure declaring there is no state constitutional right to abortion, while Colorado voters defeated a proposal to ban abortion beginning at 22 weeks of pregnancy.

Unofficial results show that the Louisiana measure, known as the Love Life Amendment, passed 62.1% to 37.9%. It will add language to the state constitution that declares a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be included in the document. Despite the language being added, abortion remains legal in the state, amendment supporters said.

In Colorado, Proposition 115 went down 59.1% to 40.9%, according to unofficial results. The measure included exceptions to save the life of the pregnant woman but not for instances of rape or incest. If it had passed, doctors who continue to perform abortions at 22 weeks would have faced a fine up to \$5,000. Under the measure, the mother was not subject to any criminal penalties. Voters in the state had defeated previous initiatives to limit abortion in 2008, 2010 and 2014.

The abortion-related measures were among 120 proposed state laws and constitutional amendments on the ballot in 32 states.

## Church Responds as Hurricane Eta Pounds Central America

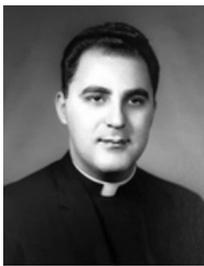
**MEXICO CITY** — Caritas, the church's charitable agency, was responding to Hurricane Eta, which hit Nicaragua Nov. 3 and threatened to provoke devastating flooding and destruction as it moved through Central America.

Hurricane Eta made landfall on the Mosquito Coast of northeastern Nicaragua near the municipality of Puerto Cabezas, where strong winds ripped the roofs off of buildings. Father Francisco Chavarría, Caritas director in Nicaragua, told Catholic News Service that the agency was working with parishes along the Coco River, which forms the border with Honduras and is home to indigenous Mayangna and Miskito peoples. Caritas Nicaragua was working with the support of Trócaire — the overseas development agency of the Irish Catholic Church -- and Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency. Timothy Hansell, country manager in Nicaragua for CRS, said Nov. 4 that the indigenous Miskito and Mayangna communities affected by the storm already were extremely vulnerable.

"We do not yet know the full extent of the impact, as many are isolated and do not have phones or electricity, but we are seeing some photos of the destruction that has left families with nothing," he said.

### Obituary — Father Patsy Joseph ‘Pat’ Wash

Father Patsy Joseph “Pat” Wash, 79, of Clarksburg died on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at his residence following an extended illness.



He was born in Clarksburg on January 17, 1941, a son of the late Joseph and Thelma Persico Barbina Wash.

He was a graduate of Notre Dame High School, and attended St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 1968, at St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Wheeling. He attended West Virginia University and obtained his master’s degree in Counseling from Marshall University. He was a licensed professional counselor and advanced alcohol and drug addiction counselor for over 15 years. He worked at the United Summit Center as an addiction therapist and continued his ministry to the priesthood during that time. He retired from counseling and the ministry from the Wheeling Charleston Diocese at the age of 73 and continued to fill in as a supply pastor when needed.

Father Pat was a member of the St. James Catholic Church in Clarksburg and was a 3rd Degree Knight of Columbus, Fairmont Chapter. He held memberships with the Association of Counselors in WV and the WV Drug and Alcohol Association.

Father Wash is survived by his brother Julian Wash and wife Vera of North View and sister, Carolyn Griffith of North View, as well as several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters Anna Marie Yeager and Sarah Skoch.

Honoring Father Wash’s wishes, he will be cremated. A private inurnment will be held at Holy Cross Cemetery.

A Memorial Mass will be announced at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may be extended to the family at [www.amoscarvelli.com](http://www.amoscarvelli.com).

# Daily Living

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with Fr. Chapin

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- 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley, Bluefield, Lewisburg
- 8:30 WTOV METV Wheeling, Steubenville
- 9:30 WVFX FOX 10 Clarksburg, Fairmont, Morgantown
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### Notice from the Tribunal

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston hereby formally notifies Ms. Eletta Poston, the respondent in the contention of marital nullity (Case 4051-2018 Morrison-Moore) introduced by her former spouse before this Tribunal, of the Publication of the Acts in this case. Ms. Poston should contact the Tribunal at (304) 233-0880 as soon as possible. Any member of the faithful who knows the whereabouts of Ms. Poston is kindly asked to advise her of this matter.

### Correction

In the story on St. Bernadette’s in Hedgesville becoming a parish, Father George Pucciarelli was mistakenly left out of the story. Father George Pucciarelli has been described as “an important part of St. Bernadette’s past, present and future.”

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