

# THE CATHOLIC Spirit

## Synod 2021-2023

*Two-Year Journey to Guide the Future of the Church Begins at the Local Level*

**By Joyce Bibey**

**H**ow is your parish journeying together; and how should we be journeying together into the future as a universal Church? These are the fundamental questions the Holy Father wants the faithful to prayerfully and reflectively consider and document as the Church moves further into the third millennium.

Pope Francis will open the worldwide Synod on Synodality to give a voice to the faithful and a road-map for the Church in Rome on Oct. 9. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston we will kick off our synod process with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan at 10 a.m., at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, in Charleston, on Oct. 17.

In early September, Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G., directed all pastors in the diocese to select a representative to coordinate their parish(s) synodal consultation process presented by the Vatican. These coordinators will be tasked with conducting listening sessions in the local parishes (and missions), and maintaining records of those conversations to be presented to the diocese. This first phase of the two-year process which begins at the parish level gets to the heart of the synodal process, according to the pontiff. The purpose is not to dwell on a church in peril, but to work together and guide the future of the Church with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

"Synodality" is the new buzzword coming from Pope Francis. While many Catholics may not be familiar with this word and its meaning the Holy Father wants to change that.

So, what is "Synodality" according to the pontiff? It "is much more than the celebration of

**See "Synod" on Page 3**



CNS Photo/courtesy Synod of Bishops)

This is the official logo for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

## St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Family, is Model for Respect Life Month

**By Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — As part of the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, the U.S. Catholic Church's annual Respect Life Month celebration in October "highlights the example of that great saint" as protector of life, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee.

"As the faithful protector of both Jesus and Mary," St. Joseph is "a profound reminder of our own call to welcome, safeguard and defend God's precious gift of human life," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas.

"Despite the mysterious circumstances surrounding Mary's pregnancy, St. Joseph took her into his

home at the word of the angel," and like the saint, "we are also called to care for those God has entrusted to us — especially vulnerable mothers and children," the archbishop said.

The prelate, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, made the comments in a Sept. 27 statement.

During October, Respect Life Sunday is observed on the first Sunday of the month, which this year is Oct. 3.

To join in prayer for the intercession of St. Joseph, defender of life, visit [www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph).

Various resources for celebrating  
**See "Life" on Page 6**

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Blue Mass Celebrated on Eve of 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks, Page 9

# Obituaries

## Sister Rose McBreen, CSJ

Sister Rose McBreen, CSJ, (104) died a peaceful death at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling on Saturday, September 25, 2021. She is preceded in death by her parents, Cornelius and Anna (Brady) McBreen, her brothers, Cornelius and Joseph McBreen, and her sister Anne Simpkins. She is survived by a sister, Rose Marie Cunningham of Pleasantville, N.J., several cousins, nieces and nephews.



Born Gretchen Cecilia McBreen, of Epiphany Parish in Philadelphia, Sister Rose entered the Congregation at St. Joseph in Wheeling on January 6, 1941. Upon reception into the novitiate, she became known as Sister Rose Immaculate, a name she shortened in the late 1960s to simply Rose. Sister received a Bachelor of Science degree from Mount St. Joseph College in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was certified to teach biology, art, and home economics. Later she received a Master of Science in Education degree from Duquesne University. She also studied art at the University of Hawaii, Temple University and at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., for a full year – living on campus.

As a teacher, Sister Rose ministered at Corpus Christi and Blessed Martin Grade Schools, St. Joseph Academy, and Central Catholic High School in Wheeling; Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg; Fairmont Catholic High School; and St. Joseph High School in Huntington. From 1984-2003, she participated in social ministry to women in need by her endeavors at Madonna House and the Sisters of St. Joseph House of Hospitality in East Wheeling.

Sister Rose retired to Mount St. Joseph in 2004, where she lived until her death. She brought a lot of joy to her sisters and staff. She was quick to smile, loved to sing and enjoyed celebrating with others. Sister Rose had deep compassion for people who are homeless and children in need. Sister Rose enjoyed art and left a lovely collection of original paintings. Due to continued pandemic restrictions, the vigil service was available via Zoom September 28.

The funeral liturgy was livestreamed on Wednesday, September 29. Online condolences are available by visiting Sister's obituary at [www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.altmeyerfuneralhomes.com).

## Clare G. (Swiftly) Smay

Clare G. (Swiftly) Smay, 95, of Wheeling passed away September 23 at Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling.

Born February 9, 1926 in Adams Twp., Pa. to Austin and Minnie Smay. Swiftly was a graduate of Vandergrift High School and the University of Pittsburgh. During and after high school, Swiftly worked with his Dad delivering ice and doing auto repairs at Smay's Service Station. He also played the drums in the Johnny Murphy Orchestra, and later worked for US Steel as a foreman of the Electrical Maintenance Shop. Swiftly was an electrical engineer. He was active in promoting the devotion to the Miraculous Medal Association of our Blessed Mother.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 27 years, Anne (Poleski) Smay and his second wife of 36 years, Delores (James).

He is survived by his three children: Jerry (Kathy) of Munhall, Pa., Jeff (Carole) of Wheeling, Sharon (Jim) Thompson of Mason, Ohio, by 12 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

He loved music and played drums and the marimba. He entertained many with musical selections on the marimba at the Welty Home and in his short stay at Good Shepherd Nursing Home.

The family would like to make special mention of and thanks to the Welty Home and Good Shepherd for their kind and compassionate care of Swiftly. A very special thank you to Suzie Dailer, RN at Welty Home.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, Sept. 28, at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church with Father Martin J. Smay, grandson of Swiftly, as celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Central Catholic High, 75 -14th Street, Wheeling, WV.

## 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."

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## Synod ...

### Cont'd from Page 1

ecclesial meetings and Bishops' assemblies, or a matter of simple internal administration within the Church; it is the specific 'modus vivendi et operandi' (way of living and working) of the Church, the People of God, which reveals and gives substance to her being as communion when all her members journey together, gather in assembly, and take an active part in her evangelizing mission," the synod documents state.

The General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops with the Holy Father declared the theme "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission." Pope Francis said the key to success is having the faithful "to journey together" toward Christ and discern how the Holy Spirit is guiding us to grow as a Church into the third millennium.

After the diocesan kick-off in Charleston, and follow-up training meetings in the six vicariates—Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, and Wheeling—the coordinators will begin individual meetings in their parishes and missions "to prepare and gather the People of God, so they can give voice to their experience in their local church," the Vatican handbook for the Synod states.

In order for the sessions to be truly productive and on task the local gatherings will be held in a "spiritual setting that supports openness in sharing as well as hearing."

The Vatican guidelines call for listening, dialogue, and community discernment sessions in which each and every person can participate and contribute. Coordinators will be trained on how to avoid pitfalls including the temptation to only focus on the problems of the Church, noting "fixating on the problems will only lead us to be overwhelmed, discouraged, and cynical." When we allow ourselves to foster the negative, we are not allowing the Holy Spirit to show us how God can work more fully in our lives and the life of the Church. The goal must focus on "walking together" forward into the future.

While we learn from the past, the journey is not about where we have been, but where we are headed. The Holy Father wants this process to strengthen our unity in Christ as we pray that the Holy Spirit will "work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace."

This synodal journey will involve all the baptized—pastors, deacons, lay faithful, parish associations, consecrated men and women and other participatory bodies of the local churches. Pope Francis notes in the documents that special care must be made to personally reach out to those who otherwise may be excluded, including "those who have left the church, those who rarely or never practice their faith, those who experience poverty or marginalization, refugees, (youth) etc." The document also states that "no one—no matter their religious affiliation—should be excluded from sharing their perspective..., insofar as they want to help the Church on her synodal journey of seeking what is good and true."

Further the Vatican documents note it is critical in the local diocesan phase to foster participation. The training for coordinators will encourage involving others who hold different views. "Listening to those who have the same views as we do bears no fruit," the documents state. "We must make a special effort to listen to those we may be tempted to see as unimportant and those who force us to consider new points of view that may change our way of thinking."

Pope Francis' vision for synodality includes having specific attitudes such as humility, patience, openness to conversion and change, ability to turn away from prejudices and stereotypes, the will to

learn from one another, hopefulness, and forward thinking.

Once the information is collected a synthesis will be written about the discussions. These documents will then go to the diocese in March, and then to the episcopal conferences in April, where they will compile the input and feedback in order to formulate syntheses that reflect the local level contributions. This phase is to be completed by September of 2022.

The initial working documents then become part of the international meetings of the seven continental assemblies in order to produce a working document for the Vatican by June 2023. All of this information that began at our local parishes and missions will ultimately be used by the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. The Vatican council of bishops, selected from around the world, will counsel and consult the pontiff on how the People of God around the world with the Holy Spirit as their guide discerned as the way the Church journey together to carry out her mission and continue the work of Jesus Christ on earth.

## What to Expect at the Parish Level

Each parish or in smaller congregations a group of parish(s) and missions will hold consultation and listening sessions. The faithful are encouraged to be alert to their parish's routine means of communication, such as bulletins, websites, social media pages, and emails, which will announce specific details about their local synod process.

These gatherings will be sensitive to COVID-19 and offered in-person. Other accommodations may be made to adapt to the needs of the community. These will be determined at the local level and communicated by the parish. The focus will be on maximum inclusion and participation.

The experience will be structured in order to keep the conversation productive so the coordinator can write the working document effectively. It is not a time for defamation, but a time for authentic reflection and prayerful discernment as we journey together. The Holy Father emphasizes the synodal process "is first and foremost a spiritual process. It is not a mechanical data-gathering exercise or a series of meetings and debates."

Coordinators will pose two fundamental questions:

1. How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church?
2. What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

Before responding to the coordinator, we are asked to:

- Recall our experiences: What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?
- Reflect on these experiences in greater depth: What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?
- Gather the fruits to share: Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

Synod documents state, the two interrelated goals of the process are to listen to God, so we may hear the cry of His people; and to listen to His people until we are in harmony to do what God calls us.

The process from October 2021 to April 2022 will include information gathered from discussions not only among parishes, but also Catholic schools, religious congregations, and other groups whose voices are seldom heard, but together desire to deepen communion, obtain fuller participation, and strengthen the mission of the Church.

The documents from the local levels collected by March 2022, as well as the diocesan level finalized in April 2022, will not be generic notes that record everything that was said, but rather a document that reflects the spirit, attitude, and dreams of the faithful for the Church.

## Bishop Brennan's Role

The primary role for Bishop Mark Brennan will be to listen to the People of God he shepherds. In order to complete this task, he has appointed Msgr. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G., as the diocesan contact person for the synodal process in the diocese to assist the priests and parish coordinators in the diocese. Bishop Brennan will also communicate with the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Presbyteral Council, and other pastoral ministries, as well as listen to their feedback to be included in the diocesan synthesis. He will also oversee Msgr. Ostrowski with the formation of a diocesan synodal team, who will be charged with creating a document reflective of the local parishes' reports. This team will reflect the diversity of the diocese in laity, clergy, men, women, young, old, etc. Bishop Brennan is to also ensure the diocesan synthesis is an honest report of all that was shared in order to build and strengthen the Holy Church.

## Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts.  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

# Catholic Distance University's Annual Gala to Feature Honoree Bishop Barron

**WASHINGTON**—Bishop Robert Barron, noted author, speaker, theologian, and founder of Word on Fire, will headline Catholic Distance University's (CDU) 38th annual gala as recipient of the Founders Award, CDU's highest honor.

The event will be held on Thursday, Nov. 18, at the National Shrine of St. John Paul II in Washington, D.C. Known as "the Bishop of the Internet," Bishop Barron is one of the most followed Catholics on social media. He will deliver an address that reflects on the gift of media and technology for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ that is expected to draw a record number of guests.

An innovative leader in using the Internet for evangelization, Bishop Barron's ministry intersects with CDU's mission of communicating the mind and heart of the church in a digital world and educating learners everywhere in Catholic theology, the liberal arts, and faith development for the growth of faith, ecclesial service, and leadership for the New Evangelization.

University Chancellor Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio said, "I am delighted that Bishop Barron was chosen to receive the Founder's Award. His talented use

of the media to evangelize corresponds well to the pioneer work done every day by CDU in making catechetical skills and theological studies accessible everywhere."

George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School professor and noted speaker Helen Alvaré will serve as the master of ceremonies. The evening will begin with an Academic Convocation Mass to honor the university's 2020 and 2021 graduates, who hail from throughout the United States as well as several other countries. Archbishop Broglio will serve as the principal celebrant.

Every year the gala draws supporters, alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of CDU. Degree and certificate graduates from throughout the nation will attend the Mass. Despite their diverse careers and professional backgrounds, most of the graduates actively lead or participate in ministries in their parishes and dioceses and are committed to sharing the Catholic faith with others. In addition to a wonderful meal, and a lively cocktail hour, attendees will enjoy the National Shrine of St. John Paul II's multimedia exhibit on the life of the sainted late pontiff and a silent auction featuring unique gifts.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://cdu.edu/gala>.

# Religious Vocations Awareness Day to be Held at Franciscan University of Steubenville

**STEUBENVILLE, Ohio**—Religious Vocations Awareness Day will take place at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Finnegan Fieldhouse. All those interested in learning about religious life and communities are invited to attend.

About 30 religious communities and dioceses will be represented at the annual event, including the Diocese of Steubenville, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Vocations Office, the TOR Franciscan Friars, TOR Franciscan Sisters, Dominicans, Carmelites, and many more.

The event is sponsored by Franciscan University's Priestly Discernment Program, which helps men discern a call to priesthood or religious life while attending Franciscan University. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lucia Bortz, Priestly Discernment Program, [lbortz@franciscan.edu](mailto:lbortz@franciscan.edu).

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# Diocese's New Partnership Aims to Support and Strengthen Marriages

By Colleen Rowan

**WHEELING**—Through a new partnership with the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston aims to support Catholic married couples and help strengthen their vocation of marriage.

The foundation is a national Catholic apostolate “proclaiming the good news about life and family through education and formation,” according to its website.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan said the diocese is delighted to announce the partnership. “Healthy marriages and wholesome family life are essential to the well-being of the church and, indeed, to society,” Bishop Brennan said. “We must encourage, support and strengthen marriages, which are a sign of Christ’s love for his church.”

Offerings through the partnership will begin this fall with the launch of the Together in Holiness Formation Series followed by the Together in Holiness Conference in February.

“We want to offer couples from the parishes the opportunity to continue their own faith formation

*“We must encourage, support and strengthen marriages, which are a sign of Christ’s love for his church.”*

—Bishop Mark E. Brennan

as married people, since marriage is a pathway to holiness,” said the diocese’s Director of Evangelization and Catechesis Daniel Maul. “We want to help strengthen marriages and help parishes form small groups of married couples for faith sharing and formation.”

Maul said the witness of families is often the best form of evangelization.

Parishioners want their parishes to offer more opportunities for fellowship, adult faith formation, and communal prayer, Maul said. “The partnership will provide opportunities for all three,” he said. “Marriages need support, and that support comes best from other married couples who seek to live similar,

Christian lives.”

The fall series will gather Catholic married couples in small, faith-sharing groups where they will study the Gospel message and the church’s teachings on married and family life, Maul said, in the context of mutual support and understanding.

“It’s an opportunity to study and share their faith and become a part of a small community of like-minded, married, Catholic couples,” he said.

Participating couples can support one another in their vocation, Bishop Brennan said, “to be the domestic church and become missionaries of life and love to a world that desperately needs both.”

This will be a seven-part series with spouses gathering as a community of friends to explore their call to holiness in and through their marriage and family life, Maul said.

The gatherings will include a meal and time for fellowship; prayer and meaningful friendships; short, compelling video presentations; discussions facilitated by “Host Couples” who are formed and supported by the St. John Paul II Foundation; and a “Bring it

Home” component that translates learning into living.

The diocese’s Catholic married couples can also look forward to the Together in Holiness Conference Feb. 12 at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. Maul said three dynamic presentations will be featured. One will offer a look at the foundational principles of marriage, while another will focus on practical suggestions for happy marriages. The third will discuss the missionary nature of marriage.

The sacraments will be made available, and Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brennan. The conference will include Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for confession.

“I encourage as many of our Mountain State married and engaged couples to attend as possible,” Bishop Brennan said. “I will be with you for Mass and conversation.”

Exhibitor opportunities such as ministries, resources, and activities will be included in the conference as well as fellowship with other Catholic couples.

The events and opportunities **See “Partnership” on Page 6**

## ‘Daily Living’ is Now on LoL Catholic Radio

By Colleen Rowan

**WEST VIRGINIA**—The long-running TV series “Daily Living with Father Chapin” is now on Catholic radio. Fans of the show and newcomers can tune in every Sunday at 2 p.m. on Light of Life (LoL) Catholic Radio.

“I am absolutely delighted, and I think that radio offers a wonderful opportunity to reach a much broader audience,” said Father Chapin Engler, host of the show. “We’re covering the Mountain State with ‘Daily Living’ on this radio station. So, tune in and listen.”

LoL Radio owns and operates WLOL FM 89.7 Morgantown, WDWC FM 90.7 Wheeling, WVUS AM 1190 eight counties in North Central West Virginia, and W248DB 97.5 Clarksburg/Bridgeport. LoL also broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week on [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL).

LoL also distributes

“Daily Living” to the following affiliates: WWGL LPFM 97.9 Steubenville/Weirton/Follansbee, WHMG LPFM 98.7 Purgitsville/Romney/Keyser, WOUC FM 105.3 St. Marys/Parkersburg, WLUX AM 1450 Charleston, WNUX FM 89.7 Beckley, and WSJE FM 91.3 Summersville.

Father Chapin is also the pastor of Christ the King Parish in Dunbar, Holy Trinity Parish in Nitro, and St. Patrick Mission in Bancroft. He believes he will reach more viewers through radio because most

people tune in to radio while they’re doing other things. For example, people listen to the radio while driving to work.

“I think it’s great,” Father Chapin said. “I’m very happy about it.” So much so that he is now exploring the idea of radio time in other markets. Over the last six months, “Daily Living,” has also expanded to Tampa/Orlando; Charlotte, N.C.; Akron, Ohio; Green Bay, Wis.; Knoxville, Tenn.; and Fort Worth/Dallas.

Father Chapin started “Daily Living” in Beckley

13 years ago just two months after his ordination to priesthood. The show began with 200,000 households tuning in. Today “Daily Living” reaches 51 million homes in the U.S.

Bob Carubia, president of LoL, was happy to welcome the show to LoL’s Sunday lineup.

“Father Chapin always has great insights into the Sunday Gospels and presents in a very understandable ‘down to earth’ manner,” Carubia said. “That is why we continue to broadcast ‘Daily Living’ every Sunday at 2 (p.m.) on

10 of the Catholic radio stations in West Virginia as well as on the LoL Radio stream. Praise the Lord!”

Carubia also noted that LoL Radio has begun broadcasting “Homily Highlights” which are excerpts from homilies by priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston including Father Chapin. “Homily Highlights” are broadcast at 7 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m. weekdays giving listeners a chance to hear and re-hear reflections from scriptures by multiple homilists. The homilies are also archived at [www.LoLradio.org/DWC](http://www.LoLradio.org/DWC).

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# House OKs Abortion Bill Called ‘Far Outside the American Mainstream’

By **Julie Asher Catholic News Service**

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — In a 218-211 vote Sept. 24, the U.S. House passed what opponents consider one of the most extreme abortion bills ever seen in the nation — the Women’s Health Protection Act.

“This bill is far outside the American mainstream and goes far beyond *Roe v. Wade*,” Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said in remarks ahead of the vote. “This bill constitutes an existential threat to unborn children and to the value of life itself.”

H.R. 3755 codifies the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide. The measure establishes the legal right to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy in all 50 states under federal law.

“For the first time ever by congressional statute, H.R. 3755 would legally enable the death of unborn baby girls and boys by dismemberment, decapitation, forced expulsion from the womb, deadly poisons or other methods at any time until birth,” he said.

“A significant majority of Americans are deeply concerned about protecting the lives of unborn children,” the Catholic congressman said.

He pointed to a 2021 Marist Poll that found 65% of Americans want *Roe v. Wade* “reinterpreted to either send the issue to the states or stop legalized abortion.”

The bill nullifies: requirements to provide women seeking abortion with specific information on their unborn child and on alternatives to abortion; laws requiring a waiting period before a woman receives an abortion; laws allowing medical professionals to opt out of providing abortions; and laws stating that only licensed physicians can perform abortions. “This deceptively named bill is the most extreme pro-abortion bill our nation has ever seen,” Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman

of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee, said Sept. 24. “H.R. 3755 is not about the health of women, but only about eliminating any and all protections for unborn children — including baby girls.”

If it became law, “it would lead to the deliberate destruction of millions of unborn lives, leaving countless women with physical, emotional and spiritual scars,” he said in a statement.

“This bill assumes that abortion can be the only, or best, solution to a crisis pregnancy” and “is built on a false and despairing narrative that utterly fails women,” he continued. “In treating abortion as the moral equivalent to the removal of an appendix, this proposal is radically out of step with the American public.”

“As a nation built on the recognition that every human being is endowed by its Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, this bill is a complete injustice,” Archbishop Naumann said.

“Congress should embrace public policy that respects the rights of mothers, their children and the consciences of all Americans,” he added, “not advance a radical ‘abortion on demand until birth’ policy that is completely out of step with our country’s principles.”

The Senate version of the Women’s Health Protection Act, S. 1975, is not expected to pass, but sponsors of the House bill said their vote still sends a message about the outrage they say has been felt by women over the new Texas law banning abortion after six weeks.

The vote also comes ahead of the Dec. 1 oral arguments to be heard by the high court in an appeal from Mississippi to keep its ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Supporters of the law are urging the court to reexamine its previous abortion rulings, including *Roe*.

## Partnership ...

**Cont’d from Page 5**

are being funded entirely by the diocese. To participate in or for more information about the formation series or conference, contact Maul at [dmaul@dwc.org](mailto:dmaul@dwc.org).

“Let us work together to celebrate all that holy matrimony is and can be: a pillar of faith and a source of strength for our people,” Bishop Brennan said. “May our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, her faithful spouse, intercede for all marriages and families!”

## Confirmation Schedule Fall 2021, Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, October 24, 2021: St. Thomas Parish, Gassaway, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 30, 2021: St. Patrick Parish, Mannington, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 7, 2021: Immaculate Conception Parish, Fairmont, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021: Combined Confirmation: Holy Redeemer Parish, Spencer, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, Elizabeth; at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mission, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20, 2021: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg, 5:00 p.m.

## Life ...

**Cont’d from Page 1**

Respect for Life Month — including dozens of articles, prayer cards, prayers for life, a toolkit for parish pro-life leaders, homily helps and other resources can be found online at <https://www.respect-life.org/respect-life-month>.

As the Holy Family’s protector, St. Joseph “guided their journey to Bethlehem, found shelter and welcomed the infant Jesus as his son,” Archbishop Naumann said. “When Herod threatened the life of the Christ Child, St. Joseph left his homeland behind and fled with Jesus and Mary to Egypt.”

“We can follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph as protector by advocating against taxpayer-funded abortion, which targets the lives of millions of poor children and their mothers here in the United States,” he continued.

“We can imitate his care and provision by helping to start Walking with Moms in Need at our parishes, ‘walking in the shoes’ of mothers experiencing a difficult pregnancy, especially low-income mothers in our communities,” he said.

In March 2020, the USCCB’s pro-life committee asked all U.S. Catholic bishops to invite the parishes in their dioceses to join a nationwide effort called “Walking With Moms in Need: A Year of Service,” which began March 25 of that year.

But “like everything else, the roll out of Walking with Moms in Need was dramatically impacted by COVID-19,” Archbishop Naumann noted in a Sept. 21 address to a Nebraska pro-life con-

ference.

He said the pro-life committee “is renewing our efforts to encourage every diocese and parish to implement the Walking with Moms in Need process.”

Walking with Moms in Need asks every diocese and parish to make an assessment of the resources available to assist mothers experiencing a difficult pregnancy.

The program seeks to identify gaps in available services and then encourage dioceses and parishes to find ways to fill those gaps. Walking with Moms in Need also includes efforts to communicate better available resources and to encourage every Catholic to support Pregnancy Resource Centers.

The program has its own website, [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com), with resources, outreach tools and models to assist parishes in this effort.

Also, Archbishop Naumann in his Sept. 27 statement urged Catholics to learn more about preventing taxpayer-funded abortion by visiting [www.notaxpayerabortion.com](http://www.notaxpayerabortion.com).

“At times, we may feel uncertain of our ability to answer the Lord’s call. But he invites us to faithfully respond, despite our own fears or weaknesses: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness’ (2 Cor 12:9),” the archbishop said.

“May we imitate St. Joseph’s faithful trust and courage as we work to uphold the dignity of every human life,” he added. “St. Joseph, defender of life, pray for us!”



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# West Virginia Parishes to Participate in National Rosary Congress

By Colleen Rowan

St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley is the second parish in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to announce its participation in the national Diocesan Rosary Congresses, which are being held across the country this month. St. John University Parish in Morgantown announced its plans for participation last month.

The rosary congresses gather the Catholic faithful to pray for life; reparation for sins; and for peace in cities, the nation, and world.

In observance of October, the Month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month, St. Francis de Sales will hold a daylong rosary congress Oct. 13. Plans are to pray the rosary at the beginning of each hour of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

that day, beginning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at approximately 9 a.m. until the 6:30 p.m. Mass that evening.

Father Leonard Smith, pastor of St. Francis de Sales, said he wanted the parish to participate in the effort to emphasize October as the Month of the Holy Rosary, "and to invoke our Blessed Mother's intercession for our world during these challenging times of the pandemic. ... October is also Respect Life Month, so it is a good time to invoke Mary, Mother of Jesus, on behalf of all of her children whose lives are threatened by the culture of death, especially the unborn and those most vulnerable to being exploited by others. Jesus himself entrusted us to Mary as her children as he hung upon the cross, so I am quite confident that Mary, who loved her Son with a perfect love,

and was always obedient to him, is a faithful and persistent intercessor on behalf of those who call upon her in any need."

Those not able to be present at St. Francis de Sales Church for one of the rosaries that day are encouraged to join in the effort by praying the rosary on their own at some point during the day, parish officials said.

"Since October is ... Respect Life Month, time spent in adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and the rosary are excellent ways of praying for a deeper respect for all human life, and for the protection of unborn children and all who are vulnerable to harm and exploitation in the midst of the culture of death that is so pervasive in our society and in the world," parish officials said.

St. John University Parish's ro-

sary congress will be held Oct. 6 praying for the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

The day will begin with Mass at 7 a.m., followed by Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament all day. A volunteer will lead the praying of the rosary aloud at the start of each hour throughout the day until Mass is celebrated at 5:15 p.m.

"In an era when so many Catholics no longer profess their faith or are lukewarm in living it out, we need Our Lady's intercession more than ever," said Father Brian Crenwelge, pastor of the parish. "We are asking for Our Lady to intercede at our parish but also throughout our whole diocese. We need her heavenly intercession so that we may have a spiritual revival in our state."

## 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil Comes to West Virginia

**CHARLESTON**—The 40 Days for Life campaign has come to Charleston to the only abortion facility in the state. The Kanawha-Putnam County Chapter of West Virginians for Life is leading the 40 Days for Life campaign in

West Virginia from Sept. 22 to Oct. 31.

Volunteers are needed to pray and hold signs, especially in the afternoon hours, Monday - Friday 1- 5:15 p.m. There are Saturday hours available for those who work

during the week, but the priority is keeping vigil during business hours, which are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Signs and resource flyers are available at the site. The flyers contain the phone

numbers for local Pregnancy Resource Centers and the abortion pill reversal help line.

Interested parties are asked to sign up to pray and fast at the only abortion facility in West Virginia. Visit

40daysforlife.com/charlestonwv to register, sign the Statement of Peace and sign up for vigil hours.

For more information, e-mail Missy Ciccarello at [kanawhvw4life@gmail.com](mailto:kanawhvw4life@gmail.com) or call her at (304) 989-0889.

## West Virginians for Life to Hold State Pro-Life Convention in Fairmont

**FAIRMONT**—West Virginians for Life invites young and old alike to attend its Annual State Pro-Life Convention on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Trinity Assembly of God in Fairmont. Doors open at 9 a.m. The theme is "All LIFE Matters." For \$35, a buffet lunch is included. College students and teens pay \$15. Groups of 10 or more pay \$25 per person (adults) or \$10 per person (college students/teens). National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross and WVFL President Dr. Wanda Franz will be featured.

The keynote speaker Kurt Kondrich calls himself a "Dadvocate" and advocates for not only his daughter Chloe but for all people with Down syndrome. Together, the father-daughter team proclaim the worth of all individuals with disabilities.

Kurt married his wife Margie in 1996, and they are the parents of their amazing son Nolan and beautiful daughter Chloe. Chloe was born in 2003 with a diagnosis of Down syndrome, and her birth placed the Kondrich family on an incredible journey. Kurt served as a Police Officer for 20 years and received many awards for service to the community. Shortly after Chloe's

birth Kurt learned that up to 90 percent of children diagnosed prenatally with Down syndrome were targeted and eliminated - 100 percent in Iceland. Kurt left his career as a Pittsburgh Police Officer and focused on being a strong advocate for our most vulnerable children. Margie and Nolan taught Chloe to read at age 3, and Chloe has had an amazing life in her community at age 17.

The Kondrich Family has received several awards for advocacy efforts including the PA Pro-Life Federation Leadership Award, The St. Anthony Award from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Good Counsel Homes Advocacy Award in NYC, The Array of Hope St John Paul Threshold of Hope Award, the "Chloe Award" in New Jersey, and the California Right to Life League Education Award. Kurt and Chloe spoke at the United Nations in 2017 and 2018 about the priceless gift of life and the silent genocide against children diagnosed prenatally with Down syndrome. The Kondrich family also met with the president and vice president at the White House for the 2018 March for Life.

See "Pro-Life" on Page 8

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

October is the month of the Holy Rosary.  
It is also Respect Life Month.

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PLEDGE YOUR COMMITMENT  
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"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." — Jeremiah 1:5

# Time is Now to Create Culture of Care for Each Other, Planet, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Pope Francis praised and encouraged young climate activists in their efforts to build a more fraternal society that cares for the environment.

“There must be harmony between people, men and women, and the environment. We are not enemies; we are not indifferent. We are part of this cosmic harmony,” he said in a video message.

“It is time to make wise decisions so that we can make use of the many experiences gained in recent years, in order to make possible a culture of care, a culture of responsible sharing,” he said, encouraging them to keep working for the good of humanity.

The pope’s message Sept. 29 came during a “Youth4Climate” gathering in Milan Sept. 28-30, ahead of the U.N. Climate Change Conference, called COP26, in Glasgow in November.

Hundreds of young climate leaders from all around the world, including Greta Thunberg, were in attendance — along with government policymakers — to propose ideas and concrete proposals on some of the most urgent issues

on the climate agenda.

The pope’s message was broadcast Sept. 29 during an afternoon session of presentations by a number of government ministers of education, speaking about the importance of climate education. He encouraged young people to combine their efforts “through an extensive educational alliance to form decent, mature generations, capable of overcoming fragmentation and rebuilding the fabric of relationships so that we can achieve a more fraternal humanity.”

“I would like to thank you for your dreams and good projects, and for the fact that you are as concerned about human relations as you are about caring for the environment. Thank you. It is a concern that is good for everyone,” he said.

“This vision is capable of challenging the adult world, for it reveals that you are prepared not only for action, but also for patient listening, constructive dialogue and mutual understanding,” the pope said.

He said the Global Compact on Education, launched in 2019, “aims to provide shared responses to the historical change that humanity is experiencing

and that has been made even more evident by the pandemic.”

“Technical and political solutions are not enough if they are not supported by the responsibility of each member and by an educational process that favors a cultural model of development and sustainability centered on fraternity and on the alliance between human beings and the environment,” he said. The pope reiterated his appeal for concrete action in caring for creation in a written message he sent to high-level talks underway at the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe. Among a number of issues, delegates were discussing, “The environment and human rights: the right to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment,” as part of their fall session in Strasbourg Sept. 27-30.

The pope said the Vatican would be interested in seeing whether the Council of Europe will decide to create “a new legal instrument to link the care of the environment to the respect of fundamental human rights.”

“There is no more time to wait; we must act. Any instrument that respects human rights, the principles of democracy and the rule of law — all funda-

mental values of the Council of Europe, can be useful to face this global challenge,” he said.

When people think of themselves as “the lord of the universe and not as its responsible stewards,” then they will find ways to “justify any kind of waste, both environmental and human, and treat other people and nature as mere objects,” Pope Francis said.

People should consume what they need to live, “not live to consume,” especially the kind of unbridled consumption seen today, he said.

“Everything is connected and, as a family of nations, we must have a common concern: to see that the environment is cleaner, purer and preserved. And to take care of nature so that it takes care of us,” he said.

There needs to be “a real change of course, a new awareness of the relationship of the human being with himself, with others, with society, with creation and with God,” he said.

“Let us act with hope, courage and willingness, making concrete decisions. They cannot be put off until tomorrow, if their purpose is to protect the common home and the dignity of every human being,” he said.

## Father Grassi Installed as Vicar Forane of Martinsburg Vicariate

Bishop Mark E. Brennan installs Very Rev. Timothy Grassi, V.F., left, as vicar forane of the Martinsburg Vicariate during the Mass he celebrated at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town Sept. 16. Father Grassi is pastor of the parish. Also pictured is Deacon David Galvin, permanent deacon at the parish, second from left, and altar server John Paul Cortese.

John Sherwood Photo



## Pro-Life ...

Cont'd from Page 7

Kurt and Chloe’s advocacy efforts led to the PA Legislature overwhelmingly passing the Down syndrome Prenatal Education Act (“Chloe’s Law”) in July 2014, and Chloe had the pleasure of signing the law on the governor’s

desk.

Teens who attend West Virginia’s Pro-Life Convention will find inspiration by attending the Teen Day Camp, which runs parallel to the adult convention. Catering to teens, the day camp will provide time for games in addition to learning.

Deadline to register is Oct. 1. After that, the

price increases by \$5. Checks should be made payable to: West Virginians for Life and mailed to: 25 Canyon Road, Morgantown, WV 26508.

For more information about the convention or to register, visit the WVFL website at <https://www.wvforlife.org> and click “Featured Events.”



# Blue Mass Celebrated on Eve of 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks



Weirton-area police, firefighters, members of the military, and other first responders are pictured after the Blue Mass celebrated at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton Sept. 10. Courtesy Photo

**By Colleen Rowan**

The Catholic community of Weirton gathered at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton for a Blue Mass celebrated on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. Prayers were offered for the near 3,000 people killed in the attacks and their families; survivors; and the police, firefighters, and first responders who risked their lives that day.

The Mass was celebrated by Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., pastor of St. Joseph's, with students from Madonna High School, St. Joseph the Worker Grade School, and St. Paul School

in Weirton participating. The Mass was also celebrated for local police, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, members of the military, and their families—the honored guests at the Mass.

"We pray for you in a special way," Father Schuelkens said to them, "because you have chosen and said yes to something that God has placed in your heart to give—where you step into a situation everyday," that can mean life or death at times. They train for those moments and ready themselves, Father Schuelkens said, for "moments that will echo in eternity."

Father Schuelkens re-

called Sept. 11, 2001, and the story of New York Fire Department Chief Joseph Pfeifer who was on a routine call when he saw the plane fly into the north tower of the World Trade Center. He immediately redirected, came to the base of the north tower, set up a command center, and began to direct. His brother, Kevin, also a firefighter then arrived with Engine 33. The chief directed everyone on Engine 33 to go up the tower and rescue as many people as possible.

"There was a moment, and he (Chief Pfeifer) speaks about it, that he turned back and looked at his brother with a nod—this is what we

do, we make these types of decisions. That was the last time he saw his brother. They went up the tower and ushered out hundreds of people. They saved hundreds of lives, but they gave their own. Moments before the tower came down, the chief was able to exit."

Turning to students from St. Joseph's, Father Schuelkens asked, "Boys and girls, wisdom is to think?" "Clearly," they answered. "To judge?" "Rightly," they answered. "And to act?" "Decisively," they answered.

"That is what we pray for you," Father Schuelkens said to the honored guests, "that when you are out, when you

are in the midst in the same type of thing Chief Pfeifer experienced—a clarity in the moment. Everybody else is running out, you are running in. ... That's what you have been called to do."

The congregation's prayer for them, Father Schuelkens said, is that they will have courage and wisdom, "and when you have them together, you have moments that matter the most ... moments that will echo in eternity."

After his homily, Father Schuelkens asked the honored guests to stand. He prayed for the Blessed Mother's intercession for them, and the congregation then prayed the Hail Mary. He then prayed for the intercession of St. Michael, the Archangel, and the congregation prayed the Prayer to St. Michael, the Archangel.

The honored guests were treated to a luncheon after the Mass.

## St. Michael's Graduate Wins National Art Contest



Sydney Doyle holds her artwork which won the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Auxiliary's Illustrating America National Art Contest for the Eighth-Grade Division. Courtesy Photo

**By Colleen Rowan**

**WHEELING**—Sydney Doyle, a 2021 graduate of St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling who is now a freshman at Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, has won the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Auxiliary's Illustrating America National Art Contest for the Eighth-Grade Division.

Doyle's winning artwork depicts a bald eagle with the American flag behind it. When asked what inspired her piece, she said it was "the strength of our country that our flag represents and the fierceness the eagle embodies." She also said that she is "very grateful and honored to receive such an award."

Doyle won the local eighth-grade contest, then the state title last month, and then the national title.

Doyle expressed her gratitude to the West Virginia VFW Auxiliary, specifically Post 3526 for sponsoring the contest. She also thanked her art teacher Mary Murphy and St. Michael Parish School for entering her artwork into the

contest.

Kim Burger, principal of St. Michael's, said that Doyle joined the school family as an eighth grader.

"We were so excited to watch her grow throughout her year here," Burge said. "Having her win on a national level too and her time at SMPS was icing on the cake!"

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# Love of God and His Church Strengthens the Bonds of Beckley Couple

By Joyce Bibey

Their love story is as much about serving and caring for others as it is about their commitment to each other.

Rev. Mr. Harry and Marcia Evans of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Beckley met as students at Woodrow Wilson High School in the late 1960s. They will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on Nov. 27. The milestone is significant, but so is their story of faith and service.

Soon after they were married, they began their family. They were blessed with four children—Matthew, Mark, John Paul, and Sarah; and now have five grandchildren—Emily, Claire, Lily, Caroline, and Owen.

The couple happily recalls praying to have a child that would be called to religious life.

“But instead, God gave me a husband who was to be a deacon,” she lovingly said.

Deacon Harry didn’t grow up Catholic nor did he consider himself being called to serve the Church and the people of God.

“I was raised in the Presbyterian church in which my parents were very active,” he said. “I was baptized there at the age of 13, but like many young people of the time was not so concerned with issues of faith.”

It was 10 years after they married that Deacon Harry chose to join the Catholic Church “for the sake of my children.”

He began the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Francis de Sales. “I have to admit I was not initially an enthusiastic candidate,” he said. It was after attending a Cursillo weekend he had no doubt he was on the right path for his faith life.

“I had a real conversion experience at the weekend which kicked off my true faith journey.”

“Cursillo was one of the many ‘renewal’ movements of the time and very popular in the diocese,” he said. “Upon receiving full communion in the church, I became very active in the St. Francis de Sales community. After having been involved with various parish ministries over the years I was always intrigued by the possibility that I might someday pursue the diaconate. This was greatly influenced by the two deacons that we had in our parish, Don Wise and Jay Ziolkowski who coincidentally were both in the same Cursillo weekend that I attended in 1980.”

Deacon Harry entered the permanent deacon formation program in 2011 and was ordained after five years of study and prayer on May 7, 2016, at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

While the ordination was spirit-

ually spectacular, he said, it is “being allowed to share in people’s lives in good times and bad (that) is most significant to me. For me the Diaconate has been a blessing in my retirement, giving my life a new meaning and helping me to overcome self-serving tendencies by providing many opportunities to serve others.”

His formation and service has been enriched with the help of Fathers Paul Wharton and John Finnell.

“I have many fond memories of our formation time forming a community of men who prayed, studied and shared a passion for serving the people of God,” he said. “As a deacon I have had many opportunities to serve the people of St Francis. I have had the pleasure of witnessing marriages, preaching, leading RCIA, and baptizing children. I have had the honor of performing wake and funeral services, visiting the sick and shut in and just being present in time of need. I have been called to participate in special rites at the Co-Cathedral such as the Rite of Election and the Chrism Mass serving with our bishop. Many of these things are not always easy but always come with a blessing and contribute to my spiritual growth.”

His greatest influence, he enthusiastically shares without hesitation, is his wife. If it weren’t for “Marcia and her faithfulness to the church I would not be where I am today. I have always said she would probably be a better deacon than me when it comes to service,” he said.

When their children were still young, Marcia had read a book from the church library—“The Story of Birthright.” She was so moved by the idea of helping women with unplanned pregnancies, she rallied several friends to read the book; and ultimately begin a Birthright center in Beckley. That was 38 years ago, she has served as director for 20 of those years.

Helping women in need personally appealed to her not only because of her faith but also because of her upbringing and the strong women in her life.

Marcia grew up Catholic, but her childhood home was not the typical one.

“At a very young age my father left our family,” she said. “My Mother with five young children moved in with my grandparents. They provided a good Catholic home where we always attended church at St. Francis de Sales.”

The family didn’t have a car, so they would find rides to Sunday and daily Mass through the kindness of various neighbors.



Courtesy Photo

Rev. Mr. Harry and Marcia Evans after his ordination to the diaconate in May of 2016.

“I had the most wonderful role models,” Marcia said. “My grandmother was a wonderful example she cooked cleaned and sewed for all nine of us living in our home. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters and was out volunteering at nursing homes. My mother was a nurse and was totally dedicated to her job and raising her five children.”

Her faith formation was admirable because of these women, “I have always felt so blessed and have been able to go to daily Mass as long as I can remember. Receiving the Eucharist daily and knowing that was the source and summit of my faith and what has sustained me through the years.”

That spiritual and emotional confidence is what motivates her to serve women in need at Birthright with an empathetic, loving heart.

“In the early days of Birthright almost every girl that came to us was crying,” she said, citing that compassionate motto of the center kept her focused—It is the right of every girl to give birth and the right of every child to be born.

“When girls have shared how they decided to have their babies I felt so blessed to be a part..., I felt so blessed to say, ‘I helped save a life,’” she said.

It has been through these stories and the kindness of others (the individuals and church groups, quilt

groups, girl scouts, giving baby showers, boy scouts building ramps, etc.) that have made her realize that “I have received many times over, more than I have given,” she said.

The success in their service and in their marriage has been because of their Catholic faith.

“It is a blessing to be able to share our faith as a couple while having separate ministries” God called them to do, she said.

Every day after his morning prayer routine Deacon Harry sends a text message to his children, their spouses, and his grandchildren. The text is a prayer to start their day.

Like St. Monica, Marcia’s favorite saint, we all need to humble ourselves to Christ and His teachings. We need to pray unceasingly for our family and their needs no matter how overwhelming they may seem, because as the mother of St. Augustine said, “Nothing is far from God.”

#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.

# One Serving All

**By Katie Hinerman Klug,  
Marketing Communica-  
tions Specialist**

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we are on a mission of love to end poverty, one family at a time. We provide caring and compassionate services to those in need, and we work to create lasting and meaningful change in West Virginia.

Recently, our program and regional directors from across the state gathered for a socially-distanced lunch with Bishop Mark E. Brennan to share more about the work we are doing.

“It is always a blessing when we have the opportunity to bring our directors from across the state together,” said Beth Zarate, CCWVa president and chief executive officer. “We rely on the talents and experience of each other to provide the greatest impact across the state.”

Current CCWVa programs



Courtesy Photo

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan meets with CCWVa program directors from across West Virginia.**

and services include: Adult Learning, Basic Needs Assistance, Case Management, Child Care Food Program, Child Care Resource Center, Disaster Services, HomeCare, Parish Social Ministry, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach, and West Virginia Birth to Three.

“I received an excellent

overview of the broad range of activities undertaken by Catholic Charities West Virginia,” said Bishop Brennan. “The work our CCWVa employees are doing to help people in need in our state is truly impressive.”

“We are vastly different in culture and geography across West Virginia, but vastly alike in our desire to honor the dignity of every human being and

in our shared values around Catholic social teaching,” said Zarate. “Bishop Brennan’s ongoing prayers and support mean the world to us.”

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.



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## Blessings in Ravenswood

On Sept. 19, Bishop Mark E. Brennan gathered with the Catholic faithful of Ravenswood celebrating Mass at St. Matthew Parish. In recognition of the Year of St. Joseph, the bishop blessed a statue of St. Joseph that was given to the parish to celebrate the special year. That day was also Catechetical Sunday, which marks the beginning of the Parish School of Religion (PSR) Year, and PSR teachers also received a blessing from the bishop.

After the Mass, Bishop Brennan enjoyed lunch and fellowship with parishioners. Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, HGN, pastor of St. Matthew's, Sacred Heart Mission in Point Pleasant, and St. Joseph Chapel in Mason, took Bishop Brennan to meet one of the eldest parishioners in Mason, Helen Smithson. She is 98 years young!

Before the bishop left, he gave Smithson Holy Communion. "It was a very special and exciting day for St. Matthew's," parish officials said.

Courtesy Photos

At left, Bishop Mark E. Brennan blesses PSR teachers at St. Matthew Parish in Ravenswood on Catechetical Sunday. With him is Father Penumaka Manikyalarao, HGN, pastor. The bishop also blessed the parish's St. Joseph statue, pictured at right.



## Parish Cluster Pilgrimage Takes Faithful to Pennsboro's St. Joseph Chapel

By Cynthia Alkire

St. John Parish in St. Marys and Christ Our Hope Mission in Harrisville hosted a Pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Chapel in Pennsboro on Sept. 12. Approximately 45 people made the pilgrimage which included a history of the parish, a rosary, a Litany to St. Joseph, and an outdoor garden reception.

Father Shinto Mathew, St. John's administrator, described the event as a wonderful afternoon and a complete success. Many former parishioners traveled to Pennsboro to attend the event.

During this year of St. Joseph, the faithful have been encouraged to visit Catholic churches that are named after St. Joseph. The church in Pennsboro was first founded by workers on the Northwestern Railroad with the first Masses celebrated at the railroad depot in 1859. The first church was built in the 1860s and was attended by Father Henry F. Parke of Parkersburg. In 1873, that building was replaced by the current church building and was assigned to be a mission of Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. In 1973 the mission was elevated to a parish and was staffed by Father Cyprian J. Mercieca, TOR.

In the history of the parish compiled

by Miss Mary Hazelbaker in 1973 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church, she wrote, "The light of the faith in Pennsboro has been unflinching for over 100 years. It first burned for the people who built the railroad. As they moved westward, the light continued in others, who moved into the area. A large number of these people resided there for a short time. The history of St. Joseph Church has been characterized by almost continuous influx and exodus, but the light was always there. In spite of this uniqueness of the Pennsboro Catholic Community, the faith is present in 1973 burning brightly."

Also in the program for the 1973 celebration was information about how the founding fathers paid for such a nice church. The history said that as people moved into the area, the Catholic community purchased land and built a log church which they used for six years.

In order to raise money to build a better church the parishioners would sponsor dances. To pay the debt they incurred, they also began holding picnics for church members. The members worked together to build a cement wall and sidewalks around the church in 1915. Many early families helped with



Courtesy Photo

### St. Joseph's Chapel in Pennsboro

the funding and the work itself.

In 1916 a glass plant was built in Pennsboro, which attracted residents from Belgium and France, many of whom attended St. Joseph's. When the plant closed in 1926, several of those church members moved from the area.

The church, as stated in the intro-

duction of the history, went through many ups and downs in membership and support. As a result, the church was made a mission in 1980 with the opening of Christ Our Hope in Harrisville. St. Joseph's was made a chapel in 1994, and in November 2017 was assigned to St. John Parish in St. Marys.

# Sínodo 2021-2023

## *El viaje de dos años para guiar el futuro de la Iglesia comienza a nivel local*

**Por Joyce Bibey**

¿Cómo va su parroquia juntos? y ¿cómo debemos caminar juntos hacia el futuro como Iglesia universal? Estas son las preguntas fundamentales que el Santo Padre quiere que los fieles consideren y documenten con oración y reflexión a medida que la Iglesia avanza hacia el tercer milenio.

El Papa Francisco abrirá el Sínodo mundial sobre sinodalidad para dar voz a los fieles y una hoja de ruta para la Iglesia en Roma el 9 de octubre. En la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston iniciaremos nuestro proceso sinodal con la Misa celebrada por el obispo Mark Brennan, a las 10 am, en la Basílica de la Co-Catedral del Sagrado Corazón, en Charleston, el 17 de octubre.

A principios de septiembre, Mons. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G., ordenó a todos los pastores de la diócesis que seleccionaran un representante para coordinar el proceso de consulta sinodal de su parroquia (s) presentado por el Vaticano. Estos coordinadores tendrán la tarea de realizar sesiones de escucha en las parroquias (y misiones) locales y mantener registros de esas conversaciones que se presentarán a la diócesis. Esta primera fase del proceso de dos años que comienza a nivel parroquial llega al corazón del proceso sinodal, según el pontífice. El propósito no es vivir en una iglesia en peligro, sino trabajar juntos y guiar el futuro de la Iglesia con el Espíritu Santo como nuestra guía.

"Sinodalidad" es la nueva palabra de moda que viene del Papa Francisco. Si bien muchos católicos pueden no estar familiarizados con esta palabra y su significado, el Santo Padre quiere cambiar eso.

Entonces, ¿qué es la "sinodalidad" según el pontífice? Es "mucho más que la celebración de reuniones eclesi-

ales y asambleas de obispos, o una cuestión de simple administración interna dentro de la Iglesia; es el específico 'modus vivendi et operandi' (modo de vivir y de trabajar) de la Iglesia, Pueblo de Dios, que revela y da contenido a su ser de comunión cuando todos sus miembros caminan juntos, se reúnen en asamblea y toman un parte activa en su misión evangelizadora", afirman los documentos del sínodo.

La Asamblea General del Sínodo de los Obispos con el Santo Padre declaró el tema "Por una Iglesia sinodal: comunión, participación y misión". El Papa Francisco dijo que la clave del éxito es que los fieles "viajen juntos" hacia Cristo y discernan cómo el Espíritu Santo nos está guiando para crecer como Iglesia en el tercer milenio.

Después del inicio diocesano en Charleston y las reuniones de capacitación de seguimiento en los seis vicariatos: Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, Parkersburg y Wheeling, los coordinadores comenzarán reuniones individuales en sus parroquias y misiones "para preparar y reunir a los Pueblo de Dios, para que puedan dar voz a su experiencia en su iglesia local", dice el manual del Vaticano para el Sínodo.

Para que las sesiones sean realmente productivas y centradas en la tarea, las reuniones locales se llevarán a cabo en un "entorno espiritual que apoye la apertura para compartir y escuchar".

Las directrices del Vaticano exigen sesiones de escucha, diálogo y discernimiento comunitario en las que todas y cada una de las personas puedan participar y contribuir. Se capacitará a los coordinadores sobre cómo evitar las trampas, incluida la tentación de centrarse únicamente en los

problemas de la Iglesia, y señalarán que "fijarnos en los problemas solo nos llevará a sentirnos abrumados, desanimados y cínicos". Cuando nos permitimos fomentar lo negativo, no permitimos que el Espíritu Santo nos muestre cómo Dios puede obrar más plenamente en nuestras vidas y en la vida de la Iglesia. El objetivo debe centrarse en "caminar juntos" hacia el futuro.

Si bien aprendemos del pasado, el viaje no se trata de dónde hemos estado, sino hacia dónde nos dirigimos. El Santo Padre quiere que este proceso fortalezca nuestra unidad en Cristo mientras oramos para que el Espíritu Santo "obre en nosotros para que seamos una comunidad y un pueblo de gracia".

Este viaje sinodal involucrará a todos los bautizados: pastores, diáconos, fieles laicos, asociaciones parroquiales, consagrados y consagradas y otros órganos de participación de las iglesias locales. El Papa Francisco señala en los documentos que se debe tener especial cuidado para llegar personalmente a aquellos que de otro modo podrían ser excluidos, incluidos "aquellos que han dejado la iglesia, aquellos que raramente o nunca practican su fe, aquellos que experimentan pobreza o marginación, refugiados, (jóvenes) etc. "El documento también establece que "nadie, sin importar su afiliación religiosa, debe ser excluido de compartir su perspectiva ..., en la medida en que quiera ayudar a la Iglesia en su viaje sinodal de buscar lo que es bueno y verdadero".

Además, los documentos del Vaticano señalan que es fundamental en la fase diocesana local fomentar la participación. La formación de coordinadores fomentará la participación de otras personas que tengan

diferentes puntos de vista. "Escuchar a quienes tienen las mismas opiniones que nosotros no da frutos", afirman los documentos. "Debemos hacer un esfuerzo especial para escuchar a aquellos que podemos sentir la tentación de ver como poco importantes y aquellos que nos obligan a considerar nuevos puntos de vista que pueden cambiar nuestra forma de pensar".

La visión del Papa Francisco para la sinodalidad incluye tener actitudes específicas como la humildad, la paciencia, la apertura a la conversión y el cambio, la capacidad de alejarse de los prejuicios y estereotipos, la voluntad de aprender unos de otros, la esperanza y la visión de futuro.

Una vez recopilada la información, se redactará una síntesis sobre las discusiones. Estos documentos luego irán a la diócesis en marzo, y luego a las conferencias episcopales en abril, donde recopilarán los aportes y comentarios para formular síntesis que reflejen las contribuciones a nivel local. Esta fase se completará en septiembre de 2022.

Los documentos de trabajo iniciales luego pasan a formar parte de las reuniones internacionales de las siete asambleas continentales con el fin de producir un documento de trabajo para el Vaticano para junio de 2023. Toda esta información que comenzó en nuestras parroquias y misiones locales será finalmente utilizada por la Asamblea de el Sínodo de los Obispos en octubre de 2023. El concilio de obispos del Vaticano, seleccionados de todo el mundo, aconsejará y consultará al pontífice sobre cómo el Pueblo de Dios en todo el mundo, con el Espíritu Santo como guía, discernió el camino de la Iglesia en el camino para llevar a cabo su misión y continuar la obra de Jesucristo en la tierra.

**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 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 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 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.

## A Warm Welcome in Farmington



Courtesy Photo

St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Farmington welcomed Father Binu Emmanuel, CST, as the new administrator of the parish this summer with a luncheon following Mass. Helping to welcome Father Emmanuel are parish matriarchs, 101-year-old Alice Priester (left) and 93-year-old Violet Alasky (right). Father Emmanuel is also administrator of St. Patrick Parish in Mannington.

## Sisters' Service Day to Support Neighbors in Need

**WHEELING**—Join the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters for their annual Service Day celebration in Wheeling. As part of this day of service, the Friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling is conducting a drop and drive event to collect socks and underwear, all sizes and colors, for men or women, to benefit the Youth Services System, Inc., (YSS) Winter Freeze Shelter.

The drive and drop will be held Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Michael Parish parking lot, or

Mount St. Joseph, 137 Mount St. Joseph Road.

Through the effort, donors drive into the designated locations and drop off their donations. Participants are asked to remain in their vehicles. Masks are required.

As donors drop off donations, they can say hello to some of the sisters.

For more information or questions about the effort, call (304) 232-8160.

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