Synod 2021-2023

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

By Joyce Bibey

How 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 roadmap 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 Synod 2021-2023 Two-Year Journey to Guide the Future of the Church Begins at the Local Level

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.

Various resources for celebrating See “Life” on Page 6

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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 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.

Clare G. (Swifty) Smay

Clare G. (Swifty) 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, Swifty was a graduate of Vandergrift High School and the University of Pittsburgh. During and after high school, Swifty 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. Swifty 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 Swifty. A very special thank you to Suzie Dailer, RN at Welty Home.

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 to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org.

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement: numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. If you 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. 333; or Very Rev. Dennis Schueldens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese’s Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese’s sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click “Diocese” on the menu bar, then “Offices,” then “Safe Environment,” then “Download Files and Forms.” The form is titled “Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor.” The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

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

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

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 Regarding Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information on the Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, click “Diocese”, then “Offices”, then “Office of Safe Environment.”
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 jour- ney 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 Syno-odal Church: communion, participation, and mis-

Armstrong says 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 fol-

low-up training meetings in the six vicariates—Beck-

ley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, Parkers-

burg, and Wheeling—the coordinators will begin in-

dividual 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

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 the Church.

The Vatican guidelines call for listening, dialogue, and community discernment sessions which yield no one—no matter their religious af-


traction their faith, those who experience poverty or mar-


dle those who have left the church, those who rarely or never prac-


tice their faith, those who are at work in every place and time,

who are at work in every place and time,

ficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What

wounds did they reveal? What insights have they re-

lected upon? 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, reli-
gious 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 every-thing 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 Presbytery Council, and other pastoral mini-

stries, as well as listen to their feedback to be in-

cluded 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 par-

ishes’ reports. This team will reflect the diversity of the diocese in laity, clergy, men, women, young, old. Bishop Brennan is to also ensure the dioc-

esan 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, 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.
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 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 “holy 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 W248BD 97.5 Clarksburg/Bridgeport. LoL also broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week on www.rdo.to/WLOL.

LoL also distributes “Daily Living” to the following stations: WWGL LPFM 97.9 Steubenville/Weirton/Follansbee, WHMG LPFM 98.7 Puntsbyville/Romney/Keyser, WOUX FM 105.3 St. Marys/Parkersburg, WLOU 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 the 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 Gospel 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 broad-casting “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.
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, but 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 court to reexamine its previous abortion rulings” or ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy 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.

“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, 5:45 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, homilies and other resources can be found online at https://www.respectlife.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 conference.

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, 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.

“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 weak nesses: ‘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!”

Confirmation, Schedule Fall 2021, Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant
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, “an opportunity 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 certain 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 rosary 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 Crewelge, 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 monitor signs, especially in the afternoon hours, Monday - Friday 1-5:15 p.m. There are Saturday hours available for those who wish to participate in the national Diocesan Rosary Congresses.

“October is a month to be 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
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 — from all around the world, including Greta Thunberg, were in attendance —

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Hundred 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 fundamental 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.
Blue Mass Celebrated on Eve of 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

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 recalled 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.”

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

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,” Burger said. “Having her win on a national level too and her time at SMPS was icing on the cake!”

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.
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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.

After having been involved with various parish ministries over the years, the Evans are now serving as a deacon couple. 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.

“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 spiritually 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 funeral 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 began 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.

“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 daily Mass as long as I can remember. Receiving the Eucharist 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 mentor 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. Visit FaithInWV.org and every issue of The Catholic Spirit to read more inspiring stories.
One Serving All

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications 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 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.

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.
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 unfailing 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 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 introduction 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.
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 Papa Francisco ha planteado en su Encíclica "Caritas in Veritate". El objetivo es que la Iglesia avance hacia el tercer milenio.

**Sinodalidad**

La sinodalidad es la nueva palabra del Vaticano. El Papa Francisco quiere que los fieles "vayan juntos" hacia el futuro como Iglesia universal. Estas son las preguntas fundamentales que el Papa Francisco ha planteado en su Encíclica "Caritas in Veritate". El objetivo es que la Iglesia avance hacia el tercer milenio.

El Papa Francisco quiere que este proceso se desarrolle en "caminar juntos" hacia el futuro como Iglesia. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia, incluido el abuso sexual, para que se implementen medidas para proteger a los niños y prevenir cualquier tipo de abuso. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea y pueden ser llenados y enviados a los organismos de participación de las iglesias locales.

Al principio de septiembre, Mons. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G., ordenó a todos los pastores de la diócesis que recopilaran la información sobre las reuniones locales y mantengan registros de esas conversaciones. Estos coordinadores serán finalmente utilizados por el Vaticano para junio de 2023.

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.reportbishopbuse.org para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispado en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispado ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visiten www.reportbishopbuse.org.

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Ninos 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 eclesiásticas:** Si bien todos los casos de abuso sexual de menores son considerados en sus efectos, la Iglesia también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiásticas apropiadas, en particular a los obispos. Estos casos serán finalmente utilizados por el Vaticano para junio de 2023.

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Victimas de la Diócesis:** Si ha sido un miembro de la Iglesia diocesana, puede informar a Mons. Eugene Ostrowski, V.G., en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informe mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponde y a las autoridades eclesiásticas, de tal manera que "fijarnos en los problemas solo nos llevará a sentirnos abrumados, deprimidos y cinicos". Cuando nos permitimos fomentar lo negativo, no estamos permitiendo al Espíritu Santo "obrar en nosotros para que sean una comunidad y un pueblo de gracia".

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.

Un poco recopilada la información, se redactará una síntesis sobre las discusiones. Estos documentos luego irán a la diócesis en marzo, 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 pasarán 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 las 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, discutirá el camino de la Iglesia en el camino para llevar a cabo su misión y continuar la obra de Jesucristo en la tierra.
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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