

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Pope Condemns Hamas' Terrorist Attacks on Israel, But Expresses Concern for Gaza Civilians

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS)

— Pope Francis condemned Hamas' terrorist attacks on Israel and pleaded with the militants to free their hostages unharmed, but he also expressed concern about Israel's tightening siege on

Gaza and its impact on innocent civilians.

"I continue to follow with sorrow and apprehension what is happening in Israel and Palestine. So many people killed, and others injured," the pope said Oct. 11 at the end of his weekly gen-

eral audience.

As the pope spoke, the Israeli Defense Forces website was reporting more than 1,200 Israelis killed by Hamas and more than 2,800 Israelis injured. At the same time, the Gaza Ministry of Health was reporting a death

toll of more than 950 Palestinians and said 5,000 others were injured as Israel continued its airstrikes on Gaza.

The initial Hamas attack Oct. 7, the pope said, took place on the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, which

marks the completion of the annual cycle of reading the Torah scroll. "I pray for all those families that saw a day of celebration be transformed into a day of mourning," the pope said.

"And I ask that the
See "Pope" on Page 2

Faithful Pray for Mary's Intercession in Candlelight Rosary Procession through Downtown Wheeling



'May Mary Immaculate hear our prayers this evening and bring us ever closer to her divine son as we journey together in faith.'

— Bishop Mark Brennan

Catholic faithful begin the candlelight rosary procession through downtown Wheeling from St. Alphonsus Church to the Cathedral of St. Joseph with Bishop Brennan, clergy, and religious. Faithful from Wheeling-area parishes and all the way from St. John University Parish in Morgantown and beyond participated as well as the boys soccer team from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington.

Colleen Rowan Photo

By Colleen Rowan

In a beautiful candlelight rosary procession Oct. 6, Bishop Mark Brennan led a group of more than 200 clergy, religious, and faithful through downtown

Wheeling from St. Alphonsus Church to the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Participants came from Wheeling-area parishes and all the way from St. John University Parish in Morgantown and beyond to

pray for the church, the world, and more.

Just before the procession began, the faithful gathered received a great surprise as the boys soccer team from St. Joseph Central

Catholic High School in Huntington arrived to join in the procession as well. The team was in Wheeling that weekend to play the Linsly School but made it

See "Rosary" on Page 3

Inside: Relics of St. Padre Pio to Visit Morgantown, Page 6

Bishop Brennan to Celebrate White Mass for Medical and Healthcare Professionals, Page 8

U.S. Bishops Pray for Peace Following Hamas' Attack on Israel

By **Maria Wiering**

(OSV News) — U.S. bishops called for prayers for peace following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel.

Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, called for prayers for peace in the Holy Land and decried the "continued tensions and violence that erupted into warfare between Gaza and Israel."

"The world is once again shocked and horrified by the outbreak of ferocious violence in the Holy Land. Reports have surfaced indicating large numbers of wounded and dead, including many civilians," Bishop Malloy said in an Oct. 8 statement.

On Oct. 7, Hamas militants launched a surprise attack in southern Israel with missiles and a ground invasion during which an estimated 900 Israeli soldiers and citizens were killed, while dozens others were taken hostage and brought to Gaza. Thousands of people in Palestinian territories were injured and an estimated 765 others dead from Israel's retaliation, including airstrikes that began hours following the Hamas attack.

Raphael Schutz, Israeli ambassador to the Holy See, told OSV News Oct. 9. "Total families were murdered — grandparents, parents and children, in villages, in kibbutzim, in the towns around Gaza. There is a feeling of a national trauma," Schutz said. The number of men, women and children who have died, he added, is on "a scale

that we have not known, I would say, since the beginning of the establishment of Israel."

Hamas militants launched an attack in southern Israel, killing civilians in cars and homes, and taking hostages to Gaza. Several videos seen by OSV News showed militants gunning down an entire family in their home, while another video showed militants stepping on the body of a civilian shot in his car.

"As we pray urgently for peace, we recall especially all the families and individuals suffering from these events," Bishop Malloy's statement said, adding calls for respect for civilian populations and the release of hostages. "Almost 50 years to the day of the launch of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, once again war is spilling out in the Holy Land. With it brings the mounting casualties and hostilities unfolding on all sides, and increased threats to the Status Quo of the Holy Places among Jews, Muslims, and Christians further dimming any hope for peace."

Other bishops, including the Catholic bishop of Arlington, Virginia, joined the calls for peace for those affected by the violence.

"Our hearts are shocked and saddened by the death of hundreds of people, and thousands more who are wounded or dispersed already," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge in an Oct. 8 statement. "It is my hope and prayer that the international community will work together to help ensure a peaceful and just resolution for the good of all.

"At this time, we also pray that the victims and their families find strength and support," he continued. "May we join with one voice in asking God to grant eternal rest to the deceased, console those who grieve, and guide political leaders to bring an end to the war without further violence."

His message came hours after Israel formally declared war on Hamas, a Islamist militant group. According to the World Jewish Congress, the United States is home to at least 5.7 million Jews, and its Jewish population is second only to Israel, which has more than 6.3 million Jews. With about 1.9 million Jews, New York City is home to the largest Jewish population in the U.S.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, issued an Oct. 8 statement from Rome, where he is a delegate to the Synod on Synodality. Noting the contrasting peacefulness of Rome, he wrote, "From here in Rome, my heart goes out to the assaulted people of Israel, and to our Jewish community we cherish as friends and neighbors back home in New York, realizing with tears that their sabbath yesterday was anything but peaceful. "A secure and safe home, surely intended by God for all His Children, wherever they may be. To have that home attacked is a sacrilege; to defend that home is righteous," he wrote. "To the urgent appeals of Pope Francis this Sunday; to the pleas of my brother bishops back home in the United States; to the concerns and condolences of those brothers and sisters gathered here in Rome for the synod of bishops, I sure add my own."

Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron posted on X, formerly Twitter, that

he joined his prayers for a resolution to the conflict. "It was with great sadness that I learned news of the violence in Israel. We have a number of citizens in southeast Michigan who have familial and cultural ties to Israel and Palestine; as Catholics, we stand in solidarity with them, praying for the safety of their loved ones," Archbishop Vigneron posted. "I encourage all people of good will to pray for a swift resolution to this conflict, and lasting peace for all." Bishop Malloy's statement concluded with urgent prayers for peace and solidarity with those suffering from these events. "We call on the faithful, and all people of good will to not grow weary and to continue to pray for peace in the land Our Lord, the Prince of Peace, called home," he said.

(Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.)

Pope...

Cont'd from Page 1

hostages be released immediately," he continued. Israeli government officials have estimated that Hamas is holding some 150 Israeli hostages.

"One who is attacked has the right of self-defense," the pope said, "but I am very concerned about the total siege under which Palestinians are living in Gaza, where there also have been many innocent victims."

"Terrorism and extremism will not help reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but only increase hatred, violence and vengeance and only make each other suffer," Pope Francis said.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 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, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

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

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

To Report to Diocesan Authorities: The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. 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. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.



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Colleen Rowan Photo

The statue of the Blessed Mother and the faithful pass Wheeling City Hall.

Rosary...

Cont'd from Page 1

a priority to participate in publicly praying to Our Lady. The team received a warm welcome from the bishop and Wheeling Catholic faithful. Two of the boys on the team were invited to lead the procession carrying the American Flag and the Flag of the Vatican City. The team's coaches, parents, and Principal Carol Templeton joined them as well.

As the procession began, the group gathered in the parking lot at St. Alphonsus as the bishop prayed: "for our church, for sanctification of the members, as well as an increase of vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, consecrated life, and Christian marriage. Let us pray also for our world, for peace especially in areas of war and conflict—too many to mention—and for the salvation of all humankind. We pray also for families, for strengthening the Christian family, for healing and comfort for those who are

sick or suffering in any way, and for a greater awareness and respect for the sanctity of all human life from the first moment of conception to natural death.

"May Mary Immaculate hear our prayers this evening," the bishop prayed, "and bring us ever closer to her divine son as we journey together in faith."

The faithful then began the walk to the cathedral, escorted by the Wheeling Police, as the bishop led all in praying the rosary. The bishop followed four men carrying a large statue of Our Lady, crowned and standing on a bed of white roses and other flowers.

Passersby, in cars and on foot, looked on in wonder at the glowing candles and voices raised in prayer. As the procession passed West Virginia Northern Community College on Chaplain Street, a man walking by stopped to record the procession on his phone.

Those who participated were praying for many intentions.

See "Rosary" on Page 4



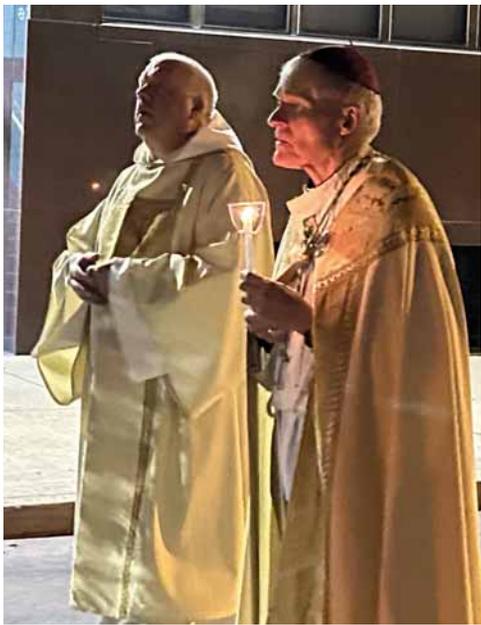
Colleen Rowan Photo

Lucas Vallejos, left, carries the Vatican City Flag and Grady Paynter carries the American Flag in the candlelight rosary procession in Wheeling. The boys are members of the soccer team from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington. The team participated in the procession as well.



Colleen Rowan Photo

The faithful walk in the candlelight rosary procession through Wheeling.



Colleen Rowan Photos

In the photos above: Bishop Brennan, Deacon Doug Breiding, and the faithful walk in the candlelight rosary procession through Wheeling.

Rosary...

Cont'd from Page 3

John Romanek of St. Michael Parish in Wheeling was participating with his family and told *The Catholic Spirit* before the start of the procession that they were praying for an end to abortion.

“Doing this is a testament and a sign to other people that life is precious and valuable,” he said of the procession. “And they see that there are people who actually are against slaughtering children in the womb. That’s what we’re praying for at St. Mike’s every Monday evening at 6 (p.m.) for the month. We have the rosary.”

See “Rosary” on Page 5



Colleen Rowan Photos

Left: Faithful walk in the candlelight rosary procession through Wheeling. Right: Bishop Brennan blesses the faithful at benediction at the Cathedral of St. Joseph where the procession ended.

Rosary...

Cont'd from Page 4

Kara Gordon of St. Alphonsus was there with her family as well. "It's nice that they're doing things like this again that Catholics have done for centuries that kind of haven't been done for the past several decades," she said.

"There are many things we need to pray for these days," said Terry Williamson, also of St. Alphonsus. Brian Gordon, another St. Alphonsus parishioner, said he was praying for vocations.

Adam Marquart, a Wheeling-area native who is a student at West Virginia University and currently a member of St. John University Parish in Morgantown, returned home for the procession because he wanted to honor the Blessed Mother.

"Recently, I've really grown in devotion to her, and she really is my mother," said Marquart, who was one of the four men who carried the statue of Our Lady in the procession. "All the ways we can honor her is so pleasing to her, but also to her son and it just makes them so happy when we do things like this.

"It's very good that we have a public display like this so that we can tell the city that this is our mother, this is our queen, and this is who we honor," Marquart added.

Like others, he was praying for vocations that night but also for a person going through a difficult situation.

The procession reached the cathedral and ended inside with adoration and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Before the faithful left for the evening, Bishop Brennan shared a reflection on Mary, who he said is the most faithful of all her son's disciples.

"Always keep in mind how much the Lord's mother—whom he gave to us as a gift, as a spiritual mother—how much she loves us."

He encouraged all to turn to her often in their needs.

"Sometimes she is called the untier of knots, the one who resolves things. Pray to her and trust her intercession before her son for us, so we develop in our Catholic faith very tender love for the Virgin Mother of our Lord and Savior."

The candlelight rosary procession was held the day before the Oct. 7 Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our Sunday Visitor reported that on the feast, Pope Francis said Mary is not only an "advocate," helping Christians in need, she also is a "facilitator," who helps them recognize that as her children, they are all brothers and sisters.

"Mary is a facilitator when conflicts and problems arise, such as the lack of wine at the wedding" feast in Cana, the pope said Oct. 7.

Mary also listens to everyone, the pope said. "Because she is our mother, she knows how to listen to so many things, so many requests, even when they come from a duplicitous heart, from a heart

that is not coherent with itself, an unjust heart that does harm. She listens, she listens even to the criminal son."

Those devoted to Mary, the pope said, are called to imitate her joy at sharing Christ with the world.

October is the Month of the Rosary and parishes and Catholic schools in West Virginia are holding rosary rallies and other gatherings where the faithful can come together to pray the rosary and ask Our Lady's intercession.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offers help in praying the rosary on its website at www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary.

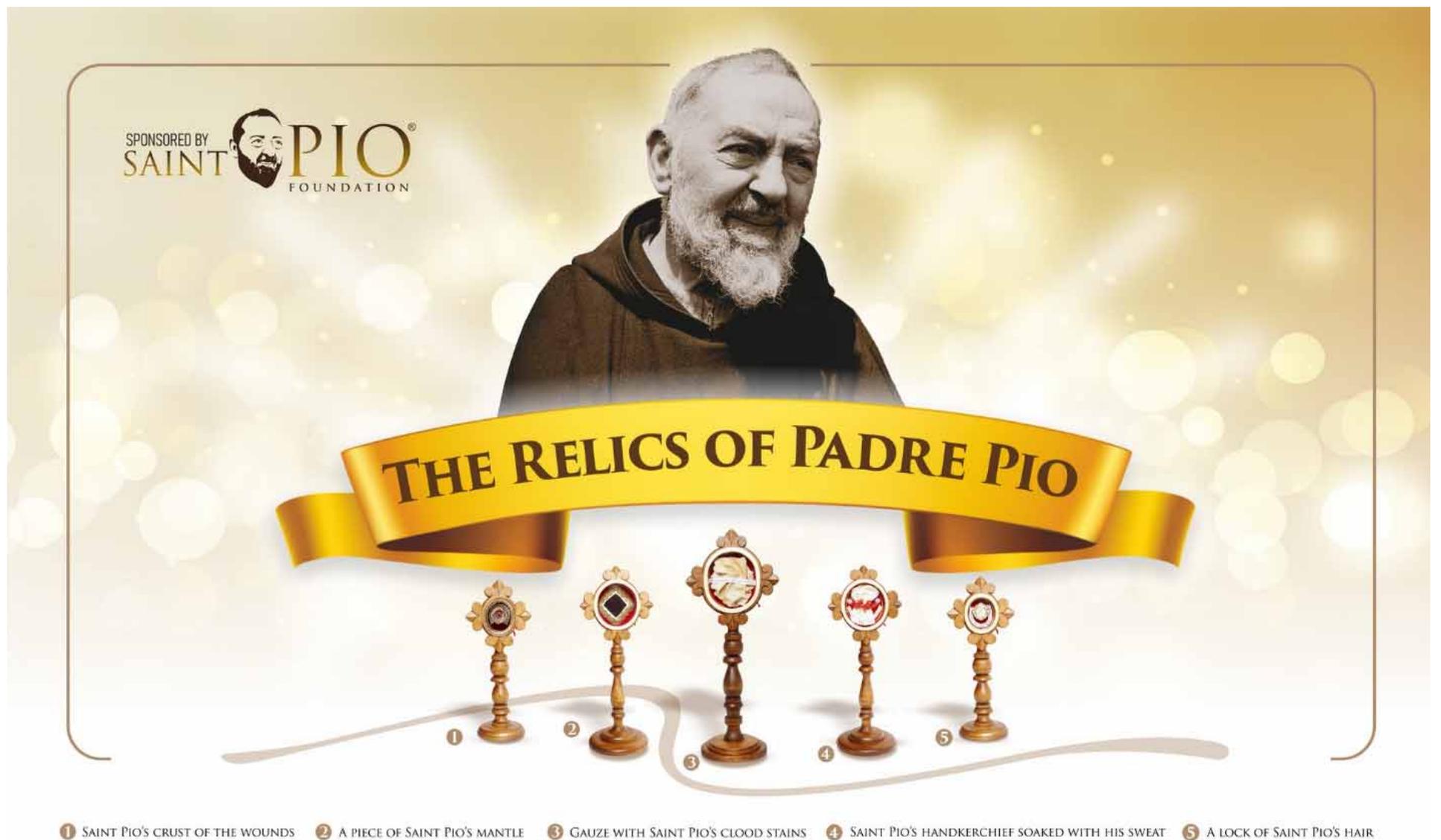
Sister Lucia dos Santos of Fatima beautifully said, "The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the holy rosary."

(Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden of OSV.)

At right: The statue of Our Lady, crowned and standing on a bed of white roses and other flowers which was carried in the candlelight rosary procession through downtown Wheeling Oct. 6, stands in the Cathedral of St. Joseph following the procession. The procession began at St. Alphonsus Church and ended in the cathedral after benediction.

Colleen Rowan Photo





1 SAINT PIO'S CRUST OF THE WOUNDS 2 A PIECE OF SAINT PIO'S MANTLE 3 GAUZE WITH SAINT PIO'S BLOOD STAINS 4 SAINT PIO'S HANDKERCHIEF SOAKED WITH HIS SWEAT 5 A LOCK OF SAINT PIO'S HAIR

Relics of St. Padre Pio to Visit Morgantown

The tour of the relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina will make a stop in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on Sunday, Nov. 5. The relics of Padre Pio are on a national tour sponsored by the Saint Pio Foundation.

The relics will be available for public veneration at St. John University Parish (1481 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505) on Sunday, Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a special Mass in honor of Padre Pio at 11 a.m. The relics will be present during the regular Sunday Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. as well.

"We are so excited for this sacred opportunity for our students and community to pray before the relics of this famous saint," said St. John University Parish's pastor, Father Brian Crenwelge. "So many of us grew up with a deep love for St. Padre Pio. The miracles that happened in his presence, his ability to read souls, his bilocation, his obedience to his superiors even when he was under unjust persecution, and the gift of the stigmata—these are just some of the gifts from God that he received that point us to the fact that our Lord was working miraculously through him. May this day be filled with exactly the graces that God wants us

to receive as well! Saint Padre Pio, ora pro nobis!"

In the Catholic Church, relics are physical objects associated with a saint or candidate for sainthood – part of the person's body or something with which he or she was in contact. Relics are not worshiped but treated with religious respect. Touching or praying in the presence of such an object helps a faithful individual focus on the saint's life and virtues, so that through the saint's prayer or intercession before God, the individual will be drawn closer to God.

The first and second-class relics of Saint Pio available for public veneration include:

- The crusts of his wounds
- Cotton gauze bearing his blood stains
- A lock of his hair
- His handkerchief soaked with his sweat only hours before he died
- A piece of Padre Pio's mantle

Confession will be offered throughout the day as well in between the Sunday Masses in order to encourage the faithful to receive God's sacramental mercy. Padre Pio has been called the "martyr of the Confessional" because

he would hear Confessions for 15 to 19 hours a day.

"In this year of the parish initiative for the Eucharistic Revival, this is an excellent opportunity for people to learn about a man who was so devoted to the Eucharist that our Lord gave him a particular share in His Passion through the stigmata," Father Crenwelge said. "I believe everyone who comes to venerate the relics will leave with a deeper sense of the sacred, a deeper love of the Eucharist, a deeper love of Confession, and ultimately, a deeper love of our Lord. What more could you ask for in this time of Eucharistic Revival?"

Founded in 2014, the Saint Pio Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization that promotes the legacy and teachings of Padre Pio. Among its most important initiatives is the tour of the relics of Padre Pio, which has visited more than 100 cities in the United States and abroad, and the "Panis Angelicus" initiative, which provides thousands of boxes of food for families in need through its two programs "A Margherita for a Smile" and "Christmas Challenge." The tour of Padre Pio relics has been covered by televised and written media including FOX NEWS, NBC, CBS, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times.

Religious Sisters, Brothers, and Consecrated Persons Honored at Mass



Colleen Rowan Photo

Women and men religious and consecrated persons are gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling for the annual Mass in which they were honored.

By Colleen Rowan

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston honored the women and men religious and consecrated persons who have dedicated their lives in service to the people of God in West Virginia. From all corners of the state, they gathered at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 7 where Bishop Mark Brennan celebrated the annual Mass of Appreciation for Religious Sisters, Brothers, and Consecrated Persons. Joining the bishop was Msgr. Joseph Peterson, V.G., who concelebrated the Mass.

In his homily the bishop announced to the people gathered for Mass that evening of the presence of men and women consecrated to the Lord who were being honored.

“All of us, of course, are consecrated to the Lord through our baptism,” the bishop said,

“but he calls some of his disciples to a further consecration often as members of religious communities, sometimes as consecrated virgins living in secular society. Some are now active in parishes and hospitals and schools in our diocese. Others have retired from active ministry in those settings, but still find ways to serve others through volunteer service and frequent prayer.

“We honor them,” the bishop continued, “for they have understood the Lord’s teaching about bearing good fruit and they have produced it. Our church would be immensely poorer without their witness to a life fully dedicated to God and to the service of God’s people. They inspire us by their faithfulness and good example, teaching us that we too can serve God in different vocations and produce the fruit of good works.”

Many religious and consecrated from around

the state attended the Mass, including the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters; Sisters of St. Joseph of Pittsburgh (Baden); Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word; Sisters of the Child Jesus; Marist Brothers of the Schools; Marist Fathers and Brothers; Eudist Servants of the Eleventh Hour; and Order of Consecrated Virgins.

Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, also attended. Her office organizes the Mass and dinner each year.

During the Mass, Marist Brother John Byrd, FMS, read the first reading and Sister Jessica Bernal, HMSP, gave the second reading in Spanish.

Bishop Brennan also joined the men and women religious present at the special dinner in their honor at the Great Hall at Central Catholic High School next door.



Colleen Rowan Photos

From left: Catherine Leahy, a consecrated virgin, and Sister Pat Murray, CSJ, present the gifts to Bishop Mark Brennan; Brother John Byrd, FMS, offers the precious blood; and Sister Martha Gomez, RGS, (left) talks to Sister Alicia Ramos Morales, HMSP, after Mass.



The Cathedral of Saint Joseph
together with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
cordially invites you to attend the

White Mass

recognizing the ministry and contributions
of all medical and healthcare professionals

CELEBRANT: BISHOP MARK E. BRENNAN

Saturday, October 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
1300 EOFF STREET, WHEELING WV 26003



THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

40-Hours Devotion to be Held in Wheeling

WHEELING—Gather as one family of faith with Our Eucharistic Lord! Join faithful from throughout the area in a personal encounter with Jesus during a special 40-Hours Devotion at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. In a 40-Hours Devotion, the Holy Eucharist is exposed on the altar in a monstrance for forty hours of adoration. The devotion will begin with an Opening Mass on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. After the Opening Mass, adoration will take place continuously, to include overnight hours, through the Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. At least two people are needed for every hour that the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. Please sign up for an hour of adoration by visiting www.saintjosephcathedral.com or by calling the diocese at (304) 233-0880.

Consecration of Children Born and Unborn to Mary to be Held at St. Vincent's in Wheeling

WHEELING—Consecration of Children Born and Unborn to Mary will be Sunday, Oct. 15, following the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling.

This is an opportunity of added protection and prayer for all children. The child need not be present.

Father James McCafferty, SM, and

members of the Marist Third Order of Mary will conduct the ceremony. The born and unborn will be consecrated to Mary, Our Lady of Good Hope.

Forms will be available at the parish office or on the day of consecration. For additional information, contact Judy Stadler at (304) 242-5867.

Morgantown Magnificat to Host Prayer Breakfast, Featuring 'Catholic Revert' Heidi Potter

MORGANTOWN—West Virginia's Morgantown Magnificat chapter invites women from around the state to its next prayer breakfast, featuring inspirational speaker and "Catholic Revert," Heidi Potter, Oct. 28, at St. John University Parish Hall.

Potter will share her story of how her struggle with anxiety, depression, and physical illness, led her to fully understand God's healing love, which was poured out upon her through the Immaculate Heart of our Mother Mary.

Magnificat is a ministry for Catholic women, aiming to help them open more to the Holy Spirit and grow in holiness through love, service, and sharing the good news of salvation.

Tickets are \$20 per person, \$12 for students, and a buffet breakfast will be served.

To register online, or print up a mail-in registration form, visit: <https://magnificatministry.net/chapters/wv-morgantown/> and follow the "Tickets & Reservations" instructions.

Diocesan Official Appointment

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointment:

In consultation with Very Rev. Adam Oleszczuk, SVD, provincial superior for the Society of the Divine Word Chicago Province, **Father Lusius Mite, SVD**, is appointed priest in residence at St. Patrick Parish in Hinton with residence at the parish rectory, effective October 1, 2023.

Join in the Ninth Annual Mid-Ohio Valley Rosary Rally in Parkersburg

PARKERSBURG—The Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce that they will be hosting the Ninth Annual Mid-Ohio Valley Rosary Rally at City

Park band shelter/horseshoe pit in Parkersburg on Saturday, Oct. 14. Rosary will begin at 11 a.m. and will be followed immediately by a hot dog lunch.



HOW TO LIVE & BE A EUCHARISTIC PEOPLE
A DAY OF REFLECTION
OFFERED BY:
THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

DIocese OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON www.dwc.org

SATURDAY, OCT. 21
9:00AM - 12:00N
SACRED HEART GATHERING SPACE
DONUTS & COFFEE 8:30AM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

respect life month

OCTOBER 2023



Models used for illustrative purposes only. iStock.com/SDI Productions

<https://www.usccb.org/events/2023/respect-life-month>

‘Making Abortion Unthinkable’ is Theme of West Virginians for Life Convention Oct. 14

FAIRMONT—NRL Director of Education and Research Dr. Randy O’Bannon will present on Abortion Pills in West Virginia this Saturday, Oct. 14 at the West Virginians for Life (WVFL) Annual Convention, whose theme is “Making Abortion Unthinkable.”

WVFL invites all to the convention at Trinity Assembly of God fellowship hall at 70 Maranatha Drive, Fairmont from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Doors will open at 9 a.m.

O’Bannon has tracked and analyzed the latest abortion statistics, monitored the activity of abortion giant Planned Parenthood, and studied the risks of chemical and surgical abortion methods, sharing this information in fact sheets, lectures, articles, and interviews. His talk is titled “Will Abortion Pills be Sold in West Virginia?”

Other presenters include “The Voice of John” Executive Director Maryann Lawhon. WVFL President Dr. Wanda Franz will present “Abortion’s Impact on Medical Practitioners.”

WV Alliance for Ethical Health Care Legislative Coordinator Mary H. Tillman, J.D., will share why an Assisted Suicide Prevention Act is necessary in West Virginia and WVFL Legislative Director Sadie Shields will add to the 2024 Legislative Agenda.

Lunch and continental breakfast are included in the \$35 cost. During the noon luncheon, the

crowd will be introduced to elected officials and candidates.

Led Keaton and Delegate Riley Keaton, the Teen Day Camp is an added feature. Catering to teens, the day camp will provide time for games in addition to learning. Prices are now \$15 for both high school and college students (\$10 each if in a group of 10 or more).

Attendees will be treated to short but information-packed presentations with music and pro-life video clips interspersed. Random prize giveaways are also a fun part of the conference.

This is a catered event, so those interested are asked to RSVP to WVFL at (304) 594-9845. Payment can be made at the door if attendees make their plans known ahead of time. Online payment is also an option at wvforlife.org/event/annual-state-convention/.

West Virginians for Life, the state affiliate to the National Right to Life Committee, is the only statewide non-partisan organization dedicated solely to the protection of human life. WVFL, over 30 county affiliates strong, works in educational, legislative, and political activities to ensure the right to life for unborn children, people with disabilities and elderly Americans.

For more information about West Virginians for Life, visit the organization’s website at www.wvforlife.org

Religious Vocations Fair at Franciscan University Oct. 13

Sixty Religious Communities and Dioceses to Inspire Interest in Religious Vocations

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—The annual Religious Vocations Fair will take place at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, today, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Finnegan Fieldhouse.

All who are interested in learning about religious life and diocesan priesthood are invited to attend.

About 60 religious communities and dioceses will be represented at the fair, including the Franciscans, Dominicans, Benedictines, Salesians, Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, Byzantine Archeparchy, United States military chaplains, the

Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Diocese of Columbus, and many more.

The fair is sponsored by Franciscan University’s Priestly Discernment Program, which helps men discern a call to the priesthood or religious life while attending Franciscan University.

The day also includes a Mass for religious vocations at 12:05 p.m. in Christ the King Chapel.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lucia Bortz, Priestly Discernment Program, at lbortz@franciscan.edu.



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supports Sisters like Sister Rita Miranda, Sister Mary Kezo, and Sister Reeta Lopis who nurture our students at Fairmont Catholic and are living examples of Christ’s love to the surrounding community.

These religious sisters jumped into their roles just as they jumped into the community pool at their back to school party - *with a joyful heart!*

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FREE EVENT

SPEAKER - SCOTT WEEMAN



Scott Weeman is a beloved son of God, a husband, and a father. He is the founder of Catholic in Recovery, a community of men and women seeking freedom from a variety of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Scott is the author of *The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments* and editor/compiler of *The Catholic in Recovery Workbook*, both published by Ave Maria Press.

He holds a master's degree in clinical counseling from Point Loma Nazarene University and is an associate marriage and family therapist. Scott and his family live in San Diego, California.

PRESENTATION

Finding Freedom from Addictions, Compulsions, & Unhealthy Attachments

The allure of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments related to alcohol, drugs, food, lust, money, codependency, and many others seek to separate us from God, isolate us from our families, and leave us empty. While sharing personal experience, strength, and hope, Scott Weeman offers key spiritual insight rooted in Catholic faith and 12-step recovery wisdom on how to avoid these temptations and find freedom if already in the grip of addiction.

**Discover more about Catholic in Recovery and our speaker at
CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM**

For information about this event, contact the parish office at 304-242-1560

More Online Courses for Catechists and Catechetical Leaders Available through the University of Dayton's VLCFF Program

Two five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com.

The courses will run from Oct. 21- Nov. 24. They are as follows:

Introduction to Catechesis

"(T)he definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ" (GDC #90, NDC p55 and CCC #426). This course focuses on the processes and methods that will help the catechist to minister in light of this

statement. We will examine appropriate methods, planning, the process, importance, ministry and vocation of catechesis in light of the Vatican II call for its renewal. This course will be of help to all those involved in catechetical work and is part of the certificate for catechesis program for the diocese. Course material includes the National Directory for Catechesis and online material. We will meet weekly over Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for lecture and discussion.

Ecclesiology: The Beginnings of the Church

Becoming familiar with the earliest layer of Christian Church, the living community who received the revelation of Christ's life, death and resurrection, is an essential element in understanding the Vatican II Church today. We will trace the development of the First Century Church, focusing on its contribution to our theology of Church today. Our conversation in this session will take into account the current Synod on Synodality as part of our discussion. All materials are to be found online and we will meet on Zoom Monday evenings at 7p.m.

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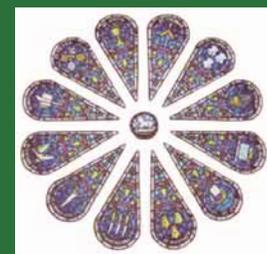
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Sunday Mornings

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8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

The Eucharist
in Song

MARK HAAS, SPEAKER
FRIDAY, OCT. 20, 7:00PM
ST. JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER
Reception to follow

Wheeling's DPT Students Introduced to University's Mission During Orientation

WHEELING — The newest cohort in Wheeling University's Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program learned the importance of serving others on their very first day of class.

The university's mission calls on its students to live a life of service to others, and the director of the program decided to incorporate service learning into the new students' orientation.

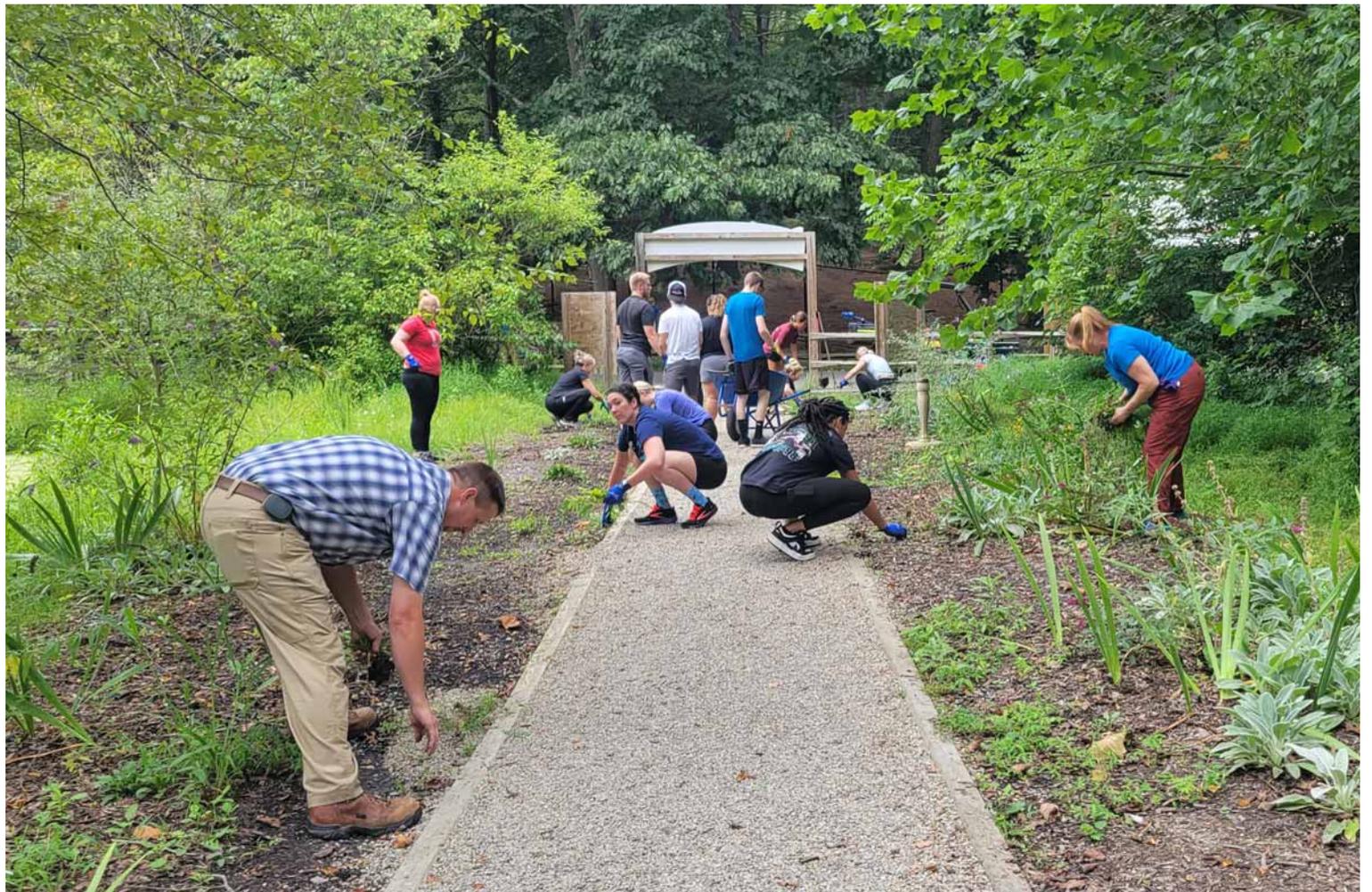
"Our first year DPT students participate in local Service Learning as part of the curriculum in the second and third terms. This year, the faculty decided to add a service project to orientation to reinforce the mission of the university and our department," said Dr. Alison Kreger, director of the DPT program.

The students, along with several faculty members, worked at the Oglebay Zoo's pollination garden. "They weeded areas and cleaned up the garden, as well as learned more about Oglebay's conservation sections of the zoo, the many projects that happen at the zoo and opportunities available to the students," Kreger said.

"One of the pillars of our mission is to teach students to serve others," said Ginny R. Favade, president of Wheeling University. "Each of our academic programs incorporate service learning into its curriculum. Having service built into the coursework teaches the students to be servant leaders throughout their lives."

Kreger noted, the future physical therapists, regardless of where their careers take them after graduation, will be serving their communities.

"Part of the DPT program's mission is to help students realize that they



Courtesy Photo

The newest cohort in Wheeling University's Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program along with several faculty members, work at the Oglebay Zoo's pollination garden.

have skills to share – that they can make a difference in the community."

The students are shown that they can make a difference and give to the community in a variety of ways – spending time at a senior center, working in the department's pro bono clinic, volunteering at the Edelman Garden, as well as volunteering at the zoo and Wheeling Health Rite. Participating in service opportunities, Kreger said, "helps the students realize the importance of the community

and family when treating patients."

Kreger noted, "Faculty within the program set a positive example for the students, as each member is involved in service in a variety of ways, including state and national association positions and involvement, medical volunteering, as well as serving at the United Way and

with professional associations.

In addition to working at Oglebay, the new group had the chance to bond as a class and get to know one another in a relaxed setting, Kreger added.

"This day was a nice change of pace from the classroom and other typical orientation activities. The students really enjoyed

being together and talking to the faculty and their fellow students, she explained.

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A Perspective of History

Reading of an excerpt from a sermon by the Bishop of Roman North Africa

DR. DONALD PATTHOFF

Faith in Fiction, History, and Reality: Presence and Possession

Don Patthoff is a dentist, author, editor-in-chief: "Journal of Laser Dentistry," and co-founder George Washington Institute of Living Ethics.

Keynote: BOB O'CONNOR

Priestfield and the Colonial Founding of the American Catholic Church

Bob O'Connor is a Civil War historian, author of over two-dozen books on Civil War history, frequent speaker and historical impersonator, and past Director of Tourism in Washington County, Maryland.

STANLEY D. WILLIAMS, PhD

*Persecution of the Catholic Church in America
and Writing the Wizard Clip Haunting Novel*

Stan Williams is a filmmaker, author, Hollywood screenplay consultant, and publisher of Catholic apologetic media.

BOOK SIGNING

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Full Day History Conference at Priest Field - Sat., December 9, 2023: 8:30 AM–4:00 PM

Speakers & Registration: www.wizardclip.stanwilliams.com/conference.html (See QR code)

El Papa reza por la paz y dice que el terrorismo y la guerra no solucionan nada

Por **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — "Toda guerra es una derrota", insistió el Papa Francisco al pedir oraciones por la paz en Israel y Palestina.

Hablando ante miles de personas reunidas en la Plaza de San Pedro el 8 de octubre para el rezo de la oración del Ángelus, el Papa dijo que está sigui-

endo los acontecimientos en Israel y Gaza "con aprensión y dolor."

Un día antes, militantes de Gaza lanzaron un ataque masivo contra el sur de Israel, disparando cohetes y traspasando la frontera.

"La violencia ha estallado aún más ferozmente, provocando centenares de muertos y heridos", dijo el Papa a la gente reunida para la oración del mediodía del

domingo. Al cierre de esta edición, funcionarios israelíes informaron que al menos 900 personas habían sido asesinadas en Israel y funcionarios en Gaza dijeron que el número de muertos entre palestinos era de al menos 765.

"Expreso mi cercanía a las familias y a las víctimas", dijo el Papa Francisco. "Rezo por ellas y por cuantos están viviendo

horas de terror y angustia".

"Que los ataques y las armas se detengan", dijo. "¡Por favor!"

"Comprendan que el terrorismo y la guerra no conducen a ninguna solución, sino sólo a la muerte y al sufrimiento de muchos inocentes", dijo el Papa Francisco. "¡Toda guerra es una derrota! ¡Recemos por la paz en Israel y Palestina!".

Durante octubre, mes tradicionalmente dedicado al rezo del rosario, el Papa pidió a los católicos que recen por la intercesión de María para invocar "el don de la paz sobre los numerosos países del mundo marcados por guerras y conflictos; y sigamos acordándonos de la querida Ucrania, que sufre mucho cada día, tan martirizada".

María muestra a los cristianos que todos son hermanos, dice el Papa

Por **Cindy Wooden, Catholics News Service**

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — María no es sólo una "abogada", que ayuda a los cristianos necesitados, sino que también es una "facilitadora", que les ayuda a reconocer que, como hijos suyos, todos son hermanos y hermanas, dijo el Papa Francisco.

"María es facilitadora en los conflictos y los problemas, como en la falta de vino en las bodas" de Caná, dijo el Papa el 7 de octubre, fiesta del Santo Rosario. "Ella nos ayuda a 'desatar los nudos' que se hayan hecho en nosotros y entre nosotros".

"Es decir, María también allana

el camino de la amistad entre los pueblos, invitándonos a volver nuestra mirada al origen y meta de nuestra existencia, que es Jesucristo, y nos anima a seguir su ejemplo, recorriendo las sendas de la paz, la amabilidad, la escucha y el diálogo paciente y confiado", dijo el Papa a los miembros de la Cofradía española de Nuestra Señora de Montserrat.

El Papa Francisco colocó una escultura de rosas de oro delante de una copia de la estatua de Nuestra Señora de Montserrat traída al Patio de San Dámaso del Palacio Apostólico para la audiencia, que conmemoraba el 800 aniversario de la fundación de la cofradía.

La estatua representa a María, sentada con Jesús en su regazo y sosteniendo un globo terráqueo en la mano.

"La Virgen de Montserrat, con el mundo en sus manos, nos invita a vivir esa fraternidad universal, sin fronteras, sin exclusiones, que disipa las sombras de un entorno cerrado", dijo el Papa.

"Ella se preocupa no sólo por Jesús, sino también por el resto de sus hijos", continuó. "Ella, con el poder del Resucitado", quiere dar a luz un mundo nuevo, "donde todos son hermanos, donde haya lugar para cada descartado nuestras ciudades, donde resplandezca la justicia y la paz".

María es particularmente "la madre de los descartados", dijo el Papa. Mientras la gente está dispuesta a desechar a los demás, ella acoge a todos.

María también escucha a todos, dijo. "Como es Madre, sabe escuchar tantas cosas, tantas peticiones, incluso cuando nacen de un corazón doble, de un corazón que no es coherente consigo mismo, un corazón injusto que hace daño. Escucha, escucha al hijo criminal también".

Los devotos de María, dijo el Papa, están llamados a imitar su alegría por compartir a Cristo con el mundo.

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

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números 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 eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

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

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis: llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

Obituary—Sister M. Carmelita Miele, SC



Sister M. Carmelita Miele, SC, age 90, entered eternal life at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg, Pa., on Sept. 21 in the 68th year of religious life. She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Charity on Jan. 1, 1955, from Saint Pius X Parish in Mount Pleasant, Pa. In her pastor's recommendation, he wrote, "She will find her greatest happiness only in the sisterhood."

She is preceded in death by her parents, Joseph A. and Mary (Maliandi) Miele; a brother, Felix; and a sister, Catherine Shutty. She is survived by two brothers, Joseph and Jerry; the Miele families; and her religious community.

Sister Carmelita earned a bachelor's degree in education from Seton Hill University preparing her for 34 years of teaching at the elementary level in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Washington, D.C., and Tucson, Ariz. She earned a Certificate of Religious Studies through a three-year summer program at Seton Hill University which led her to ministries as director of Faith Formation and parish minister.

Sister had a great zeal for the less fortunate. Her interest was nurtured during her first assignment at the House of Mary in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Phrases like "Option for the Poor" and "Dignity of Each Person" took on a new meaning. She said it was there she "learned that it was never enough to feed only the body or provide clothing or shelter. It was most important to nourish the soul and to provide hope." She experienced similar meanings when she participated in the Intercultural Mission Exchange Program between the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill and the Sisters of the Holy Family, New Orleans.

In 2004, Senator Joe Minard (West Virginia) presented Sister Carmelita a proclamation in recognition of her 50th jubilee, retirement, and countless accom-

plishments during her ministry in West Virginia. She was proclaimed an official member of the Order of the Thirty-Fifth Star of the State of West Virginia for her distinguished and committed service in her position as director of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. She was also presented a proclamation on behalf of the mayor and the citizens of Clarksburg on "Sister Carmelita Day," in recognition of 14 years of labors of love, visitation, teaching youth and adults, and ministry.

When she retired at Caritas Christi, Sister immediately began to volunteer on the Pastoral Care Team at Jeannette District Memorial Hospital until it closed, and the St. Vincent de Paul Store, Greensburg for 10 years. She continued her active volunteer ministry at the Adult Day Care Center located in the Monahan Center at Caritas Christi. The Sisters of Charity are grateful for the faithful and caring nursing staff and employees who ministered to Sister Carmelita during her final years the way she did to so many.

In reflecting on her life as a Sister of Charity, Sister Carmelita said, "The call to live the religious life is God's gift and I am deeply grateful. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's counsel to her sisters, 'to be children of the church,' has led me to know and understand that we are always in the company of the apostles in carrying out the mission of Jesus in the church." Rest in peace, Sister Carmelita, as you are received by God into the fullness of eternal life with Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Company of Charity, and your loved ones.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Sept. 26 in the Chapel of Assumption at Caritas Christi. Burial immediately followed in the sisters' cemetery.

If you wish to offer prayers or remembrances, you may do so by emailing prayer@scsh.org.

**Diocese of Wheeling-
Charleston
CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE Fall
2023
Bishop Mark E.
Brennan,
Celebrant**

Monday, October 23:
Sacred Heart, Chester;
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4:
St. Francis Xavier, Parkersburg; 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19:
Sacred Heart, Bluefield;
9:00 a.m.

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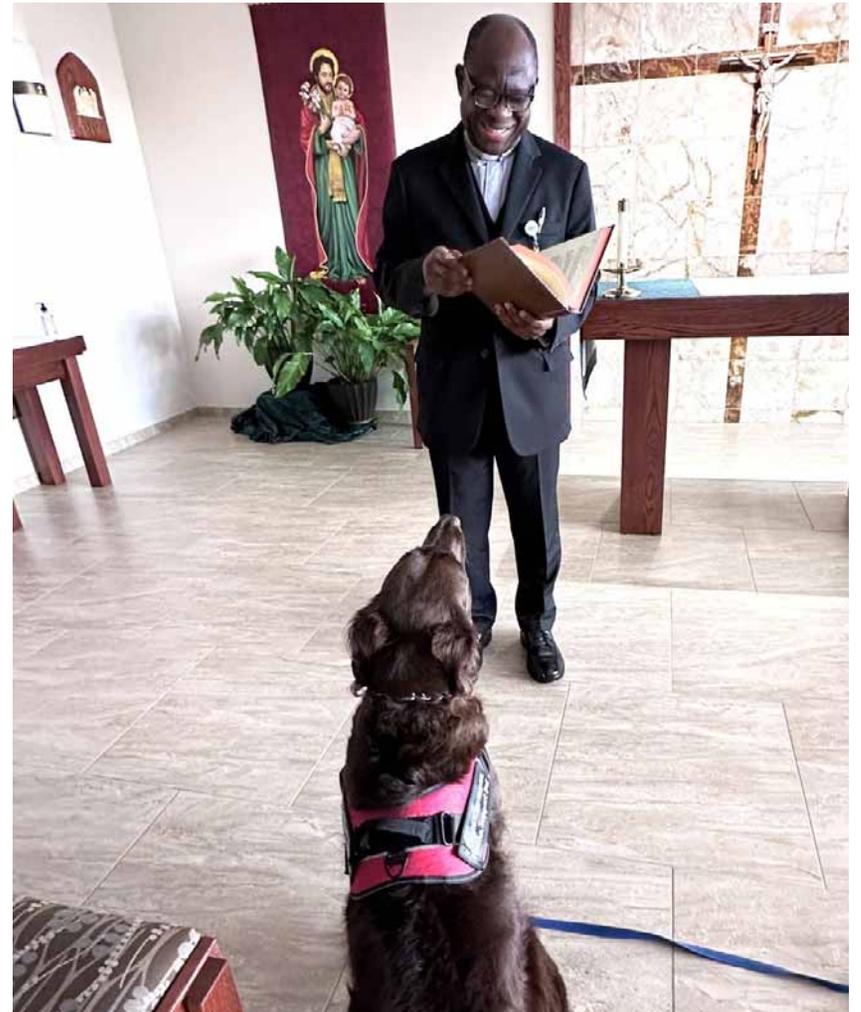
WHEELING—WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital is excited to announce a two-pronged approach for more convenient pediatric care via a new Pediatric Call Center and Pediatric Acute Care Center.

With the addition of the new Call Center and Acute Care Center, parents don't have to worry about waiting to see their regular pediatrician for non-urgent/traumatic needs. This eliminates the need for families to wait long hours in urgent care facilities or emergency rooms to get same day service. The new Call Center links Wheeling Hospital's pediatricians with the new Acute Care Center to schedule same day service for non-urgent/traumatic pediatric care.

Sara Howard, pediatric nurse practitioner, will work hand in hand with Wheeling's pediatricians to provide the same high quality care patients are accustomed to. Patient information is able to be accessed via MyChart, the patient's normal pediatrician will be aware of all developments, and the patient will get fast, same day service from an experienced pediatric NP.

Howard is even able to see patients that are not currently seen by Wheeling Hospital pediatricians. By utilizing the new call center number at (304) 243-8400 current, and non-current patients alike, are able to get same day pediatric care.

WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Emotional Support Dog Receives Blessing



Courtesy Photo For the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Father Cyprian C. Osuegbu blessed the beloved emotional support dog, Mocha, in the WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Chapel. Father Osuegbu is chaplain of the hospital and its Continuous Care Center.

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