

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Cathedral Celebrates 200th Anniversary of the First Catholic Community in Wheeling



Colleen Rowan Photo

Parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling gather with Bishop Mark Brennan following the Mass he celebrated Oct. 8 for the 200th anniversary of the first Catholic community in Wheeling. Also pictured is Msgr. Joseph Peterson, who previously served as rector of the cathedral.

By Colleen Rowan

On Oct. 8, the 200th anniversary of the first Catholic community in Wheeling was celebrated with Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Joining in the celebration was Msgr. Joseph Peterson, who previously served as

rector of the cathedral, and Deacon Doug Breiding, deacon for the cathedral.

The city's first Catholic community established St. James Parish, which later became the cathedral. Printed inside the worship aid for the Mass was a statement from the parish: "We give thanks to Al-

mighty God and offer our sincere gratitude for the ministry, devotion, and service of the bishops, priests, deacons, men and women religious, and lay faithful who have served our community over the past 200 years. Through their dedication to Christ and his church, they have helped to build a firm

foundation of faith, hope, and love. Together, we reflect on the past with thanksgiving, and we look to the future with confident hope."

In his homily, Bishop Brennan said these men and women of the city's first Catholic community in
See "Anniversary" on Page 3

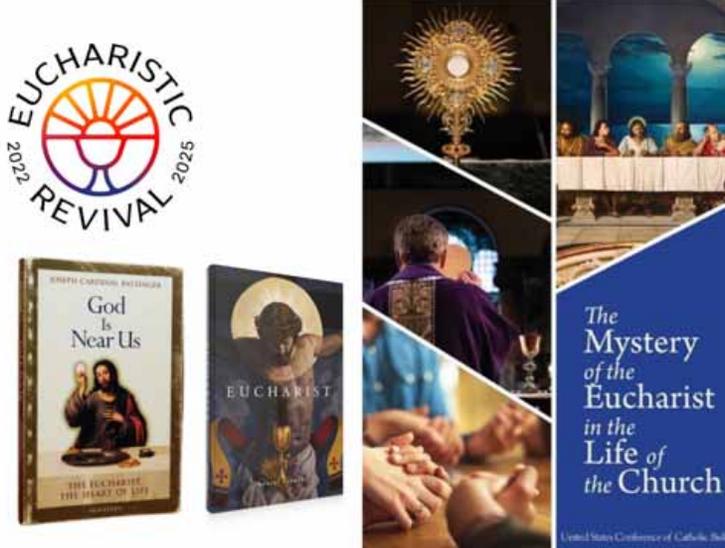
Inside: Steubenville Diocese Faces Prospect of Union with Columbus with 'Fortitude,' Page 9

Pope Prays for Unity of Church as He Celebrates Anniversary of Vatican II, Page 10



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DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON www.dwc.org

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. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Complaint forms are available online at www.dwc.org, click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator: please call Dr. Patricia Bailey at 304.242.6988. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

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

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“We are the spiritual descendants of those early Wheeling Catholics. We are responsible for guarding their legacy and building upon it.”

—Bishop Mark Brennan, homily for the Mass celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first Catholic community in Wheeling



Colleen Rowan Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan celebrates Mass at the cathedral for the 200th anniversary of the first Catholic community in Wheeling. Concelebrating is Msgr. Joseph Peterson, who previously served as rector of the cathedral, right, and Deacon Doug Breiding, deacon for the cathedral.

Anniversary...

Cont'd from Page 1

Wheeling established St. James Church, when the diocese was still a part of Virginia and belonged to the Diocese of Richmond, then only two years old.

“They were not content simply to pray in their humble homes as good and helpful as that was,” the bishop said. “They wanted to gather as Catholics to celebrate Mass and the other sacraments. They persevered.” That community built St. James Church and finally they were named as an official parish.

“And their faith bore fruit as that little parish grew, eventually becoming the cathedral parish of the Diocese of Wheeling when it was founded in 1850,” Bishop Brennan said. “Can anyone doubt that they had a vigorous faith in God’s love or that they were grateful for the blessings that God had bestowed on them? We are the spiritual descendants of those early Wheeling Catholics. We are responsible for guarding their legacy and building upon it.”

That, he said, is the focus of the cathedral parish’s pastoral council. The bishop said the council is striving to reinvigorate parish life, noting the recent parish festival on the Sunday of Labor Day and the anniversary dinner that would follow the Mass, among others. More parish activities are being planned, he said, but the greatest challenge is people.

“Many Catholics who used to worship with us and take part in other parts of parish life are no longer with us for a great variety of reasons—some very serious, others not so much—but they are our brothers and sisters. You, who are here this evening, have the responsibility to invite them to come back.”

The bishop encouraged parishioners to reach out to absent Catholics and to those who have no religious affiliation, but who might be open to the gift of faith.

“For their good and to build up our parish, encourage them to consider our Catholic faith,” the bishop said.

Begin this with spiritual preparation, the bishop said. This is a simple preparation within everyone’s reach, he said. It is within the reach of the children at the Mass, of the homebound, and of those watching the Mass on TV or livestream, he said.

“What you do first is pray for the absent Catholics and possible new converts whom you know and do it every day that their hearts and minds will be open to the gift of faith or a renewed faith,” the bishop said.

The second action is to fast for them once a week.

“You can fast from food or from a favorite TV show or other legitimate activity,” he said. “Fasting is a prayer of the body. It engages us more fully. So, fast for those for whom you are praying. Do that once a week.”

Third, he continued, offer hardships, sufferings, and good works up to God for those for whom you are praying. “When you dedicate your sufferings and your service to others in the cause of bringing people to the Lord, to draw them closer to Christ,” he said, “that increases the merits of offering those sufferings and good works up to the Lord.”

Finally, the bishop told the faithful to ask the Lord to provide the opportunity to speak to absent Catholics and the religiously unaffiliated.

“In a simple, personal way about why your faith in Christ and your belonging to his people matter to you,” the bishop encouraged them. “You are experts on your own life. You know why your faith in Christ matters to you. You know why belonging to this Catholic people matters to you. You can speak of that with authority because you’re living it. As St. Paul told Timothy, ‘...the word of God is not chained’ (2 Timothy 2:9). You are speaking that word on God’s behalf when you approach others on behalf of faith. If you think, ‘That’s not my business.’ Think again. Remember Paul’s words, ‘I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory’ (2 Timothy 2:10). We call others to faith in Christ for their eternal

good. God will reward their faith and ours. As Jesus told the Samaritan, ‘your faith has saved you’ (Luke 17:19).

In a message to the cathedral parish community inside the worship aid for the Mass, members of the 200th Anniversary Committee welcomed all to the Mass and expressed the joy they have in their parish.

“For 200 years the faithful in Wheeling and the surrounding areas have been gathering together to share our faith as we celebrate Christ’s love for all of humankind,” members of the 200th Anniversary Committee said in the message. “From humble beginnings, we have made efforts to be living examples of Christ’s love while praising God who is the source of all of our blessings. We have built buildings, hosted important religious

See “Anniversary” on Page 4



Courtesy Photo

The faithful enjoy the anniversary dinner at the chancery.

A Brief History of the Cathedral of St. Joseph



The following was compiled by Tyler J. Greenwood, Pastoral Assistant & Associate Organist at the Cathedral of St. Joseph

St. James Catholic Church was the first church built in the Diocese. Initial members of the parish were primarily Irish and German immigrants. In 1847, the church was moved from its former location at the corner of 11th and Chapline Street further south to the corner of 13th and Eoff Street.

In 1850, St. James became the cathedral of the diocese, with Bishop Richard V. Whelan as the first bishop of Wheeling. In 1872, in response to the rising devotion to St. Joseph throughout the universal church and the burgeoning labor movement among the Catholics of the coal fields, Bishop Whelan petitioned Rome to change the title of the cathedral to honor St. Joseph.

Grade schools were opened for both the boys and girls of the parish by 1848 and high schools by 1865. Central Catholic High School was established in 1898. The Cathedral Parish School became Wheeling Catholic Elementary School in 1988. The schools were staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Marist Brothers, Xavierian Brothers, and lay teachers.

Bishop Patrick J. Donahue, the third diocesan bishop, conceived a design for a new cathedral church and began to interview possible architects, eyeing Edward J. Weber of Pittsburgh, a rising star in church architecture, as a likely candidate. Bishop Donahue's death in October 1922, before work had even begun, may have scuttled all plans, were it not for a serendipitous fire in 1923 that did significant damage to the cathedral structure.

The fire cleared the way for Bishop John J. Swint, the fourth bishop of Wheeling, to begin the construction of the new cathedral, with the help of Weber and a team of artisans. In three short years, the new cathedral was completed and the church was dedicated on April 21, 1926.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish has been a center of Catholic life in Wheeling and the diocese from the time of its humble wood frame (1822) to the majesty of its Romanesque carved stone (1926). All city parishes and many in the Northern Panhandle were formed from the cathedral: St. Anthony Parish (East Wheeling) was closed in 1968; Sacred Heart (North Wheeling), St. Joan of Arc (Fulton), and Blessed Trinity (Wheeling Island) were all closed in 1995 and merged with the cathedral.



Photo illustrations by Tyler J. Greenwood

The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling throughout the years is shown in the photo illustrations on this page.

Anniversary...

Cont'd from Page 3

figures, gathered in times of trouble, and celebrated many great events. We made it through

times of great struggle and times of immense happiness. Never faltering we stand strong in our mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a community."

Following the Mass, Bishop Brennan

invited the congregation to join him in the sanctuary for a group photo to mark this joyful and historic celebration. Those gathered then attended an anniversary dinner at the chancery.

Eucharistic Revival Days of Reflection Being Scheduled

By Joyce Bibey

Eucharistic Revival Days of Reflection are being offered through the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis.

The Day of Reflection is a mini retreat for the faithful to gather to focus on the Eucharist and our Eucharistic nature of the faith and our Church, nurturing a deeper understanding of the celebration, Christ's true presence, and our call and ability to live it.

Daniel Maul, director of Evangelization and Catechesis, said the retreat highlights key insights found in the writings of Bishop Robert Barron, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), and University of Notre Dame theology professor Timothy P. O'Malley. The presenter will explore Catholic beliefs about the Eucharist, especially along the themes of Eucharist as Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, and Real Presence.

"We will also explore what it means to become a Eucharistic people, and how we are to live the Eucharist, not only believe in it and receive it," Maul said. "After we examine the nature of the Love that we receive in the Eucharist, we will seek to describe the character of the Love we are called to give away to our neighbors, because of the Eucharist.

Through prayer, presentation, silent reflection, and personal sharing, attendees will have the opportunity to draw closer to the Eucharistic Lord and to one another."

Maul has made all parish priests in the diocese aware of this opportunity being offered through June 10, 2023. So far his office has announced six Days of Reflection. The following schedule was coordinated with the pastors of the parish:

Dec. 3 – Ascension Parish, Hurricane. Tentative time is 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 10 – Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarksburg – 9 a.m. to noon

Feb. 25 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkeley Springs – 9 a.m. to noon

March 11 – St. Peter Parish, Welch – 3 to 5 p.m.

March 12 – Sacred Heart Mission, Powhatan – 10 a.m. to noon

Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon is also planning a mini retreat with Maul. Area residents should contact the parish for more information.

Any parish or Catholic organization in the diocese interested in hosting a Day (or evening) Reflection can contact Maul at (304) 233-0880, ext. 376, or email him at dmaul@dwc.org.

Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis Will be in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in November

By Joyce Bibey

A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston from Nov. 14-23. The relic is a piece of the protective wall of his heart and will be exposed in a reliquary for prayer and veneration. Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, the bishop of Assisi, Italy, brought the relic to America in recognition of the Eucharistic Revival.

"My prayer is that the presence of Blessed Carlo's relic stirs a desire within our American brothers and sisters, especially the young, not to waste life, but rather to make of it a masterpiece, as chosen by Blessed Carlo in our own times and St. Francis before him," Archbishop Sorrentino said.

Watch your FaithInWV e-bulletin, the diocesan social media



Courtesy Photo
A reliquary holding a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis is shown.

(Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), The Catholic Spirit, and your parish bulletin for details once released.

NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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On **Saturday, October 29th, 2022** from **11:00 AM to 7:00 PM,** join us at our Diocesan camp property: **225 Catholic Conference Center Huttonsville, West Virginia 26273**

We will celebrate Mass with our bishop, Mark E. Brennan. There will also be adoration, music, food, recreational activities, catechesis, and speakers.

Please register through The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Parents are encouraged to attend as well.

For more information, please call the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis at 304-233-0880, extension 374.

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The Eucharist: ‘Medicine for the Soul’

By Colleen Rowan

As an altar boy in grade school, the elevation of the host and the cup of wine during the concentration at Mass had a powerful effect on Father Chester Pabin.

“As I reflect on this moment at Mass,” he shared, “it was a moment of radical change happening right in front of my eyes. No longer was it bread and wine, but rather the sacred body and precious blood of Jesus. This belief in the Eucharist has led me to this gift of priesthood. At every Mass during the consecration, bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ. The tabernacle housing the Eucharist, reminds us that God is present to us.”

Father Pabin, a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville who is retired from active ministry, shared this in his homily on the sixth night of the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 10. The theme of the novena is “The Holy Eucharist.”

Father Pabin said in his homily that Jesus came to save us, not to condemn us; and he uses food to connect this reality. For it is necessary to eat every day to survive; food is salvation here on earth, he said, noting that without it one will die.

“Jesus raises the meaning of food to a higher level—to a supernatural and lasting reality,” Father Pabin said.

“The evangelist John,” Father Pabin said, offers this account: Jesus says to the people, “Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life” (John 6:27).

“Jesus bridges the reality of a physical food and nourishment which it brings to the supernatural reality for the people to recognize him as the bread of life,” Father Pabin said.

Many of his followers abandon Jesus because they did not have that faith connection, Father Pabin said, and instead they saw him as man not God. However, he noted, not all would abandon Jesus. For Peter spoke of the reality of faith: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). Father Pabin said this is the same Peter to whom Jesus said, “For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father” (Matthew 16:17).

“For the feeding of the crowds Jesus planted the seed in the hearts of those who believe that there is more beyond this life,” Father Pabin said.

“Jesus prepares us for eternity in the Eucharist at the Last Supper. With his apostles, during the meal, Jesus proclaimed the bread and wine as his body and blood,” Father Pabin said. “This change, by which the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ, occurs in a way surpassing understanding. And this belief in the Eucharist has been believed since very ancient times. Early Christian writers refer to the Eucharistic elements as Jesus’s body and blood. They saw the Eucharist as the medicine for the soul. To this day our Catholic Church declares that the presence of Christ in the Eucharist is true, real, and substantial.”

Father Pabin further pointed to paragraph 1381 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “That in this sacrament are the true Body of Christ and his true Blood is something that ‘cannot be apprehended by the senses,’ says St. Thomas, ‘but only by faith, which relies on divine authority.’ For this reason, in a commentary on Luke 22:19 (‘This is my body which is given for you.’), St. Cyril says: ‘Do not doubt whether this is true, but rather receive the words of the Savior in faith, for since he is



Colleen Rowan Photo

Father Chester Pabin blesses the faithful at the Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling Oct. 10.

the truth, he cannot lie.”

This, Father Pabin said, excludes any understanding of the presence as merely that of a sign or figure. He further stated that the reality of the Eucharist is independent of the thoughts and feelings of the participants, whether they have faith or not.

“Lack of faith may make reception of sacraments fruitless ... but it does not make his presence unreal,” Father Pabin stressed. “What God, in his divinity, brings about remains whether believed or not believed. In Holy Communion we receive the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. We are reminded that Jesus becomes part of us in which we share in his divine life. Faith tells us this. For faith is a realization of things hoped for. As Jesus told St. Thomas, ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed’ (John 20:29).

“We live in this mystery of faith confident that what we believe is not in vain,” Father Pabin said in closing. “We are confident that we have something waiting for us—eternity. Life becomes more meaningful. For death is only a doorway to a life in heaven, our true home. Jesus tells us he is the way, truth, and life and the Eucharist is our amen to the truth we believe.”

The novena is a great prayerful opportunity during the National Eucharistic Revival. All are invited to attend the novena every Monday at 7 p.m. with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a homily by guest clergy, music, and prayers to the Infant of Prague. The seventh evening of the novena is Oct. 17 with Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L. The remaining dates are Oct. 24 with Father Jude Perera, TOR; and Oct. 31 with Bishop Mark Brennan.

Have You Heard?

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We are in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival. Why? Because the Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.

Scan the code to learn more about the exciting journey ahead, and sign up for weekly updates on what’s happening in this unprecedented national movement!

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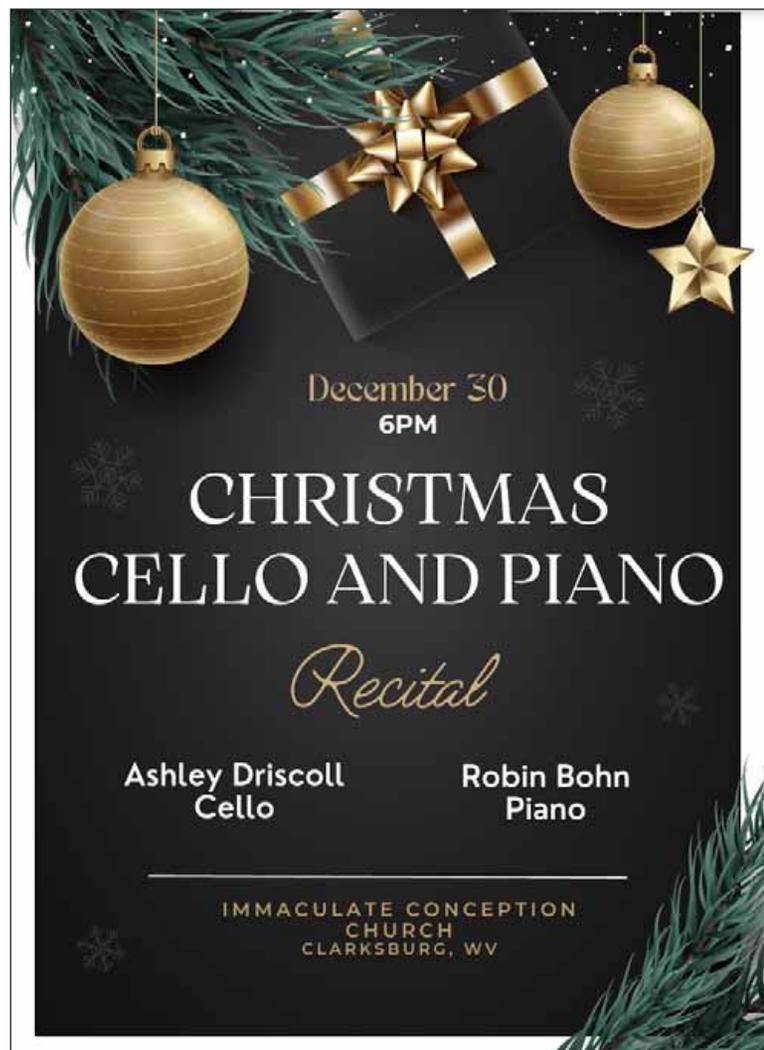


Marian Consecration Group to Begin in Charleston

CHARLESTON—Interested in making the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary? A Marian Consecration group will be meeting at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston for discussion for around one hour on Sundays during the 33-day preparation period starting Nov. 5 leading up to consecration day on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8). The group will be using and discussing Father Michael Gaitley's book "33 Days to Morning Glory," which is a do-it-yourself retreat following "True Devotion" by St. Louis de Montfort. Contact Sam Willson at samwillson2@gmail.com for more information or to register.

All Saints Choir to Hold Afternoon of Music at Parish in Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT—All Saints Choir in Bridgeport will be doing an afternoon of music on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 4 p.m. The concert is being held in celebration of the 75th anniversary of their parish. The program will consist of some of the music of varies musical styles that has accompanied the prayer life of the church over a span of time, including songs that are sung a few different languages, as well as some new music. There will also be hymns and songs that attendees will be invited to sing as well. This free event is open to all. For more information, please contact Stephen Pishner in the All Saints Music and Liturgy Office at (304) 842-2283, ext. 16.



Nail City Chef Fundraiser to Benefit Two Wheeling Non-Profits

WHEELING—The Highlands Event Center and the Ohio County Commission proudly present the "1st Annual Nail City Chefs" event to benefit Wheeling Health Right and Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling. This event will be held at The Highlands Event Center on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 5:30 p.m. Because of the similarity of our service populations in the Upper Ohio Valley, it seems fitting that these two agencies are joining together for this new and exciting fundraiser.

Well-known local area food personalities, Chef Rocco Basil of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Chef Adam Luiso of Chef-N-Company, will compete for the title Best Chef in the Valley live on stage. For this exciting

night, the chefs will prepare dishes with three mystery ingredients to be judged by a panel of local celebrities while a pre-prepared delicious dinner will be served to all guests. Guests will also have a chance to win some great prizes in a silent auction.

All the funds from this major fundraiser will be used to provide quality healthcare, medication and food security to those in need in our community, this is an opportunity to give back to your community.

Tickets for the event are on sale now, but space is limited. Tickets cost \$100 a person. Those interested in attending can buy tickets at whr.home.qtego.net/ or call (304) 233-1135 for more information.

THE HIGHLANDS EVENT CENTER AND THE OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION PROUDLY PRESENT THE

1st Annual Nail City Chefs

The Highlands Event Center

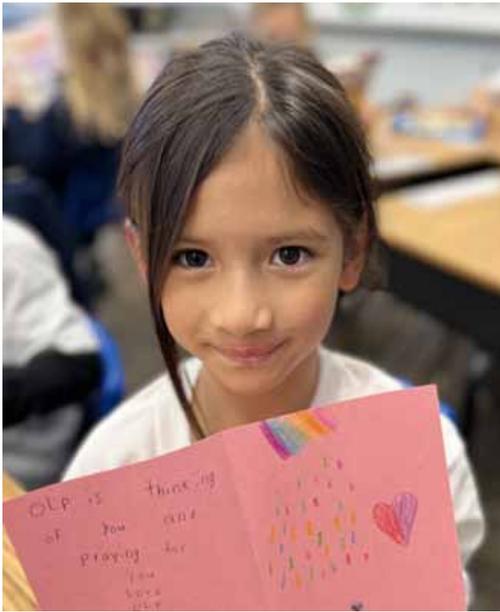
Saturday
NOVEMBER
19
5:30 PM

Well-known local area food personalities, Chef Rocco Basil of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Chef Adam Luiso of Chef-N-Company, will compete for the title Best Chef in the Valley live on stage. For this exciting night, the chefs will prepare dishes with 3 mystery ingredients to be judged by a panel of local celebrities while a pre-prepared delicious dinner will be served to all guests. Guests will also have a chance to win some great prizes in a silent auction.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: WHR.HOME.QTEGO.NET/
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 304-233-2992 OR 304-233-1135

To benefit Wheeling Health Right and Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling

Catholic Schools Celebrate 'Caring for Our Community' Day



Courtesy Photos

The eight Catholic schools in the Northern Panhandle collaborated to celebrate "Caring for our Community" Day. Each school came up with its own care project. Wheeling's Catholic schools are the first five photos, clockwise from top left: A student at Our Lady of Peace School shows the 'Card of Caring' she made for those in neighboring communities who need encouragement; Corpus Christi School students pick up litter in their community; members of the Central Catholic High School Homecoming Court hold hygiene products they collected for those in need and rosaries at the CCHS annual Rosary Rally; St. Michael Parish School students display donations for expecting mothers they collected for the Gabriel Project; and students in grades five-eight at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School assemble 100 brown bag meals for the Catholic Charities 18th Street Center in Wheeling. Weirton's Catholic schools, in the two photos directly above, joined together to make cards and notes of encouragement for patients in the Weirton Medical Center Breast Care Center. Holding some of the cards are, at left, students from Madonna High School and St. Joseph the Worker School; and, at right, students from St. Paul School. All of the schools engaged in additional projects to care for their communities.

Steubenville Diocese Faces Prospect of Union with Columbus with ‘Fortitude’

By Carl Bunderson, Catholic News Agency STEUBENVILLE,

Ohio—Bishop Jeffrey Monforton of Steubenville, Ohio, announced in a message to the diocese on Tuesday that a merger of the local Church with the Diocese of Columbus seems to be the best response to the decline in the area’s population.

“It is with sadness of heart that I share with you the continued decline in the Ohio Valley population and how it adversely affects our future sustainability. Furthermore, we are all too aware how the population is aging as well, to our ministerial detriment,” Bishop Monforton wrote in a column for *The Steubenville Register* published Oct. 11.

“In my discussion with the Ohio bishops it appears a merging of the Diocese of Steubenville with the Diocese of Columbus would be the best solution,” the bishop explained.

The Steubenville diocese comprises 13 counties in southeastern Ohio, and the

Columbus diocese, which borders it to the west, includes 23 counties in south-central Ohio. The Steubenville diocese was erected out of the territory of the Diocese of Columbus in 1944.

Dino Orsatti, communications director for the Steubenville diocese, told CNA that “all of the Ohio bishops approved the merger about a year ago.”

Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus, who was appointed in April, told CNA that “prior to my arrival, the Ohio bishops discussed the matter of the viability of the Diocese of Steubenville. The Ohio bishops were unanimous that the situation in Steubenville couldn’t continue much longer and referred the matter to the Congregation for Bishops.”

He added that “this matter will now need the approval of the USCCB. There should be a discussion of this during the November Plenary Assembly. At this point, I ask you to keep the Diocese of Steubenville and Bishop Monforton in

your prayers as they receive this news.”

Orsatti also mentioned that Bishop Monforton has had contact with Bishop Fernandes “on several occasions about the merger.”

In his column on the suppression of the diocese, Bishop Monforton discussed at length the demographic challenges facing Steubenville. The area’s population has been in decline since at least the 1980s.

He noted a 45% decline in the number of persons attending Sunday Mass between 1990 and 2019.

The diocese has 36 active priests, the bishop noted, half of whom are 60 or older. While many dioceses are in similar positions, “we are more vulnerable due to the fact we are small in number, in priests and in Catholics,” he wrote.

While the Steubenville area’s steel industry once employed tens of thousands, “neither the steel nor the coal industries are of any significant economic asset today,”

Bishop Monforton wrote.

“If local employment opportunities through the diocesan pastoral footprint are not declining, they are stagnant. They are at replacement value at best. Maintaining decline is not an evangelization initiative, nor a goal.”

Bishop Monforton indicated that “there is concern about the effectiveness of our diocese in evangelization and celebration of the sacraments a decade from now.”

In addition to the diocese’s active priests, many of whom are nearing retirement, the local church has five seminarians.

The Steubenville diocese has also experienced financial difficulties in recent years.

In 2020, its former comptroller was sentenced for failing to pay payroll taxes withheld from the paychecks of diocesan employees, filing false tax returns, and embezzling \$299,500 in diocesan funds between 2008 and 2017.

And in 2021, the diocese’s

former vicar general admitted to diverging nearly \$300,000 of diocesan funds for his private use.

The comptroller and vicar general had colluded to “falsify records to conceal the true financial condition of the diocese,” the *Weirton Daily Times* reported.

In his column, the bishop also noted that the apostolic nuncio and the U.S. bishops’ conference have been made aware of the diocese’s situation.

Bishop Monforton asked that the faithful in the diocese respond to a forthcoming survey about how to move forward, recalling “that stubbornness and fortitude are not synonymous. Stubbornness serves self while fortitude, a virtue, serves Christ and his Church. It is with fortitude that we address this sad reality head-on.”

In a similar case, in Alaska, the Diocese of Juneau was in 2020 united with the Archdiocese of Anchorage to create the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau.

Good Shepherd Nursing Home Launches Outpatient Therapy Program to Support Seamless Recovery Process

WHEELING—Good Shepherd Nursing Home has begun offering outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy, Administrator Donald R. Kirsch announced Oct. 7. The West Virginia Health Care Authority recently authorized a certificate of need to permit Good Shepherd to expand its therapy program to non-residents of all ages.

The success of its therapy program for short-term skilled care patients and for long-term residents led Good Shepherd to introduce the outpatient program. Many skilled care patients who came to Good Shepherd for a few weeks or months to recover after surgery or illness had asked to continue their therapy at Good Shepherd after their discharge. “Now we are able to offer a seamless recovery pro-

cess,” he said. “Even after they return home, recovering patients can continue working with their therapists on an outpatient basis.”

Therapy at Wheeling’s only five-star nursing home and therapy facility is provided by highly respected Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting of Ohio. Absolute employs an interdisciplinary approach with the goal of returning patients to their highest levels of functioning to support an excellent quality of life.

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Pope Prays for Unity of Church as He Celebrates Anniversary of Vatican II

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Second Vatican Council was the universal Catholic Church's response to God's love and to Jesus' command to feed his sheep, Pope Francis said, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the council's opening.

The council reminded the church of what is "essential," the pope said: "a church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom he loves," one that "is rich in Jesus and poor in assets," a church that "is free and freeing."

Pope Francis presided over the Mass Oct. 11 in St. Peter's Basilica, where the council sessions were held in four sessions from 1962 to 1964. The date is also the feast of St. John XXIII, who convoked and opened the council; the glass urn containing his body was moved to the center of the basilica for the liturgy.

The Gospel reading at the Mass recounted Jesus asking St. Peter, "Do you love me?" and telling him, "Feed my sheep."

In his homily, the pope said the council was the church's response to that question and marked a renewed effort to feed God's sheep, not just those who are Catholic, but all people.

The debates that followed the council and continue today are a distraction from the church's mission, Pope Francis said.

"We are always tempted to start from ourselves rather than from God, to put our own agendas before the Gospel, to let ourselves be caught up in the winds of worldliness in order to chase after the fashions of the moment or to turn our back the time that providence has granted us," he said.

Catholics must be careful, he said, because "both the 'progressivism' that lines up behind the world and the 'traditionalism' that longs for a bygone world are not evidence of love, but of infidelity," forms of "selfishness that puts our own tastes and plans above the love that pleases God, the simple, humble and faithful love that Jesus asked of Peter."

"A church in love with Jesus has no time for quarrels, gossip and disputes," the pope said. "May God free us from being critical and intolerant, harsh and angry. This is not a matter of style but of love."

Jesus, the good shepherd, "wants his flock to be united under the guidance of the pastors he has given them," the pope said, but the devil loves to sow division; "let us not give in to his enticements or to the temptation of polarization."

"How often, in the wake of the council, did Christians prefer to choose sides in the church, not realizing that they were breaking their mother's heart," the heart of their mother, the church, Pope Francis said.



CNS Photo/Vatican Media

Cardinals and bishops process out of St. Peter's Basilica after Pope Francis celebrated Mass Oct. 11 to mark the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

How often, he asked, did they prefer "to be on the 'right' or 'left,' rather than with Jesus? To present themselves as 'guardians of the truth' or 'pioneers of innovation' rather than seeing themselves as humble and grateful children of Holy Mother Church?"

The council, he said, taught the church to see the world around it and to share God's love with all, knowing that "if it is fitting to show a particular concern, it should be for those whom God loves most: the poor and the outcast."

With Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant representatives present, as they were at the council, Pope

Francis also prayed that "the yearning for unity" would grow within each Christ, "the desire to commit ourselves to full communion among all those who believe in Christ."

Thanking God for the gift of the council, the pope asked the Lord to "save us from the forms of polarization that are the devil's handiwork. And we, your church, with Peter and like Peter, now say to you: 'Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you.'"

Pope Francis, who was ordained to the priesthood
See "Vatican II on Page 11"

Texas Death-Row Inmate Takes Plea for DNA Testing to Supreme Court

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In oral arguments Oct. 11, the Supreme Court considered the case of Texas inmate Rodney Reed, who has been on death row for more than 25 years and has gained the attention of Catholic leaders and celebrities for his claims of innocence.

In this case, the justices were specifically looking at a procedural question: whether Reed had been too late in filing his civil rights lawsuit against state officials who had rejected his requests for DNA testing of crime-scene evidence he hoped would clear him.

Reed, who is Black, was convicted by an all-white jury of the 1996 murder of a white woman, Stacey Stites. He has consistently maintained his innocence, ex-

plaining that he was in a secret relationship with Stites. His attorneys and activists have said that evidence unearthed since Reed's trial points to Stites' fiance as the murderer.

So far, the state has denied Reed's request for DNA testing, saying that evidence from the crime scene should not be tested because the items were improperly stored and could be contaminated. A Texas district court agreed in 2014 and three years later, the state's Criminal Court of Appeals affirmed that decision.

Reed took his case to U.S. District Court in Texas and argued that the Texas law about post-conviction DNA testing violated his right to due process. The state in turn argued that his claims have a statute of limitations of two years that began in 2014 when the state dis-

trict court made its initial decision not to test the DNA. In the oral arguments, Texas Solicitor General Judd Stone argued that as time passes, it is harder for the state to defend its case because the evidence degrades and the witnesses age.

The justices did not clearly tip their hands in this case, wrote SCOTUSblog, an online site that covers the Supreme Court. The justices asked varied questions about the deadline imposed by the lower court on the timing of Reed's lawsuit. Some seemed to understand it, while others were skeptical.

Reed's execution had been set for November 2019 but was stayed by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and sent back to a lower court for a review of new claims. In 2021, after an evidentiary hearing, a district judge said the new evidence was not enough to give Reed a new trial.

Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph who is a longtime opponent of the death penalty, has been drawing attention to Reed's case for several years, citing the lack of evidence of his guilt.

Similarly, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, said in a 2019 statement that if Reed's execution

proceeds, "there is great risk the state of Texas will execute a man who is innocent of this crime while allowing the guilty party to go free."

The bishop pointed out at the time that he had joined other state bishops through the Texas Catholic Conference in asking Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to grant Reed a stay of execution. He said there were "enough doubts in this case that justice dictates a careful review of the new witness statements and other evidence recently brought forward," he said, referring to recent statements from other witnesses that have implicated Stites' fiance, Jimmy Fennell, in the murder.

The Innocence Project, a non-profit legal group committed to exonerating wrongly convicted people through the use of DNA testing, filed an application for Reed's clemency with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles following the sworn affidavit of a witness who said Fennell confessed to Stites' murder when the two men were in prison together. Other witnesses have come forward with similar statements.

A decision in Reed v. Goertz is expected next year.

Vatican II...

Cont'd from Page 10

in 1969, is the first pope ordained after the Second Vatican Council. His immediate predecessor, now-retired Pope Benedict XVI, attended all four sessions of the council as a theological adviser — a "peritus" — to the archbishop of Cologne, Germany. St. John Paul II participated in all four sessions as a full member of the body, first as auxiliary bishop of Krakow, Poland, and then as archbishop of the city.

Among the more than 400 priests concelebrating the Mass, the Vatican liturgical office said there were five who were present at Vatican II.

According to the websites GCatholic.org and catholic-hierarchy.org, there are six bishops alive in the world today who participated in at least one session of the Second Vatican Council. Among them is Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, an 89-year-old former Vatican official who was ordained a bishop in 1965 and attended the council's last session; he was one of the concelebrants at the anniversary Mass.

Before the Mass, passages were read from the speech St. John XXIII gave at the council's opening. Known by its opening words in Latin, "Gaudet Mater Ecclesia," the speech begins: "Mother Church rejoices."

Selections from the council's four constitutions also were read. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to prepare for the Holy Year 2025 by re-reading and studying the documents: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy ("Sacrosanctum Concilium"); Dogmatic Constitution on the Church ("Lumen Gentium"); Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation ("Dei Verbum"); and Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World ("Gaudium et Spes").

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In Ukraine, Archbishop Lori Sees Resilience, Helps Distribute Knights' Aid

By **Christopher Gunty**,
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore joined a small group of leaders from the Knights of Columbus on a four-day trip to Poland and Ukraine to help distribute aid from the fraternal organization to orphanages and other service centers assisting refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly established the Ukraine Solidarity Fund in February to assist with food, shelter, clothing and other supplies.

During this trip, the Knights brought care packages for internally displaced persons and also provided monetary support for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Latin-rite Church in Ukraine and for the orphanage run by the Archdiocese of Czestochowa, Poland.

In a video interview Oct. 2 from Lviv, Ukraine, where he had completed a day of gatherings with Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, the city's Latin-rite bishop and president of the country's Latin-rite bishops' conference, among others, Archbishop Lori said he sees a lot of resilience in the Ukrainian people.

"The Ukrainians are a very sturdy people, a courageous people. What I'm seeing is beautiful hope," he told the *Catholic Review*, magazine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

As an illustration, he noted that the choir at Sunday Mass at St. John Paul II Parish in Lviv was made up of children who are refugees "and they sang like angels." Among them were one who played piano and two who played violin.

"These are all children whose homes, as far as I know, are gone. But they were there, and they were joyful. They were singing," said the archbishop, supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

The choir director also was communicating hope and joy to the young people in the choir, who were reflecting it back to her, Archbishop Lori said. He said he also saw resilience in the workers taking care of the displaced persons.

He walked around the main square with Archbishop Mokrzycki.

"You see it (resilience) in the people, in the general populace. ... And there are people — war or no war — they're out

there, their families are out there, lots of young people are out there and they are doing their very best to carry on as if there is no war. I think there's great resiliency here in Ukraine," Archbishop Lori said.

On the second day of the trip, the group stopped at an orphanage near Czestochowa near the famed shrine that houses an icon of Mary holding the child Jesus.

At the parish of St. Wojciech there, the archbishop helped distribute warm coats as part of the Knights' Coats for Kids campaign. He also gave out little treats during lunch time.

"What's interesting is that a lot of these children were from families that already were in difficult situations," Archbishop Lori said. "Some of them were families that were broken up, some of them did not have any kind of stability before the war."

"But once the war broke out, their situation just got worse," he said. "Many of them have no one in the world to look after them; their families have been dispersed or whatever. And so, Caritas (the Catholic charity) of Krakow has taken them in."

"I've been uniformly impressed by what I've seen the Knights doing here, both in Poland and in Ukraine," Archbishop Lori added.

Knights councils were first established in Poland in 2006 and Ukraine in 2012. There are now more than 7,000 Knights in 164 councils in Poland, and nearly 2,000 Knights in 44 councils in Ukraine.

Archbishop Lori said the spirit of generosity is the same in both places.

"In fact, there's a remarkable bond of cooperation between the Knights in Poland and the Knights in Ukraine," he said, noting that it is good to see this close communication and them working together, as they respond to needs and help each other grow in their respective countries.

"The big difference, of course, is that in Ukraine you're in the country where the war is taking place, and even though Lviv has not been shelled for months, nonetheless, you're in the country where the war is actually going on," he said.

"I would say the other difference is that the people I met this morning were, in a very di-

rect way, victims of the war," he continued, "because they lived in cities that have been heavily damaged by the hostilities by the shelling and many of them have come here to Lviv really without any other place to go."

Lviv has been less affected than other sites in Ukraine, he said, but it is not out of harm's way.

"There was shelling going on earlier in the war, and they're not immune from shelling now, and, of course, the aggressors will not stop at military targets," the archbishop said of the Russians who invaded Ukraine in February. "They're perfectly willing to do civilian targets as well, and so while in many ways it looks like life is returned to normal, there are signs it's not normal."

Among those signs, he cited tighter border security between Poland and Ukraine, checkpoints and fortifications for buildings that house precious artifacts.

Archbishop Lori said the Ukraine Solidarity Fund and the efforts in Poland and Ukraine to assist those affected by the war represent "an unbroken chain of charity."

Knights, especially in the United States and Canada, raised a significant amount of money. Knights in Poland and Ukraine have added to the funds and also are the points of distribution for the financial assistance.

As of Oct. 3, the Ukraine Solidarity Fund had raised more than \$19 million from more than 56,000 donors, including a \$1.5 million pledge from the Knights' Supreme Council.

According to Steven Curtis, vice president of corporate communications for the



CNS Photo/Tamino Petelinsek, courtesy Knights of Columbus Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori greets a child Oct. 1 in Czestochowa, Poland, at an orphanage for Ukrainian refugees where children received warm coats from the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids campaign. Archbishop Lori was in the country to help distribute aid from the Knights of Columbus to refugees of the war in Ukraine.

Knights, 100% of donations are used to assist those directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

According to Szymon Czystek, director of International Growth in Europe for the Knights of Columbus, more than 40,000 care packages and more than 1.2 million pounds

of supplies including food, medicine and clothing have been distributed so far as a result of the Ukraine Solidarity Fund.

(Gunty is associate publisher/editor of *Catholic Review Media*, the publishing arm of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.)

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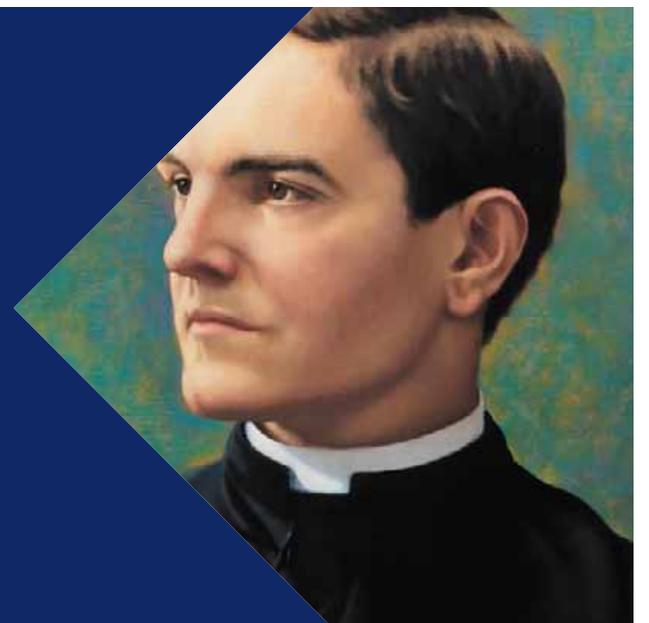
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Shepherdstown Knight Honored



Courtesy Photo

October is Italian Heritage Month, and Bob Rizzo (right), a member of the Shepherdstown Knights of Columbus, was honored at a Columbus Day Dinner. The local Order Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) recognized Rizzo for his 42 years of service to Italian Americans in the area. Victor Triola, president of the local OSIA, and Martha Rizzo are also pictured.

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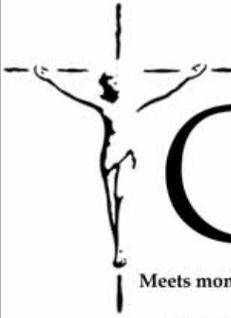


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Courtesy Photo

Catholic Charities West Virginia provides emergency rental and utility assistance to those in need.

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Papa pide unidad en celebración de aniversario del Concilio Vaticano II

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Concilio Vaticano II fue la respuesta de la Iglesia Católica universal al amor de Dios y al mandato de Jesús de apacentar a sus ovejas, dijo el papa Francisco, celebrando el 60 aniversario de la apertura del concilio.

El concilio recordó a la iglesia lo que es "esencial", dijo el papa: "una iglesia locamente enamorada de su Señor y de todos los hombres y mujeres a quienes él ama", que "es rica en Jesús y pobre en bienes", una iglesia que "sea libre y liberadora".

El papa Francisco presidió la misa del 11 de octubre en la Basílica de San Pedro, donde se celebraron las sesiones del consejo en cuatro sesiones de 1962 a 1964. La fecha también es la fiesta de San Juan XXIII, quien convocó e inauguró el consejo; la urna de vidrio que contenía su cuerpo fue trasladada al centro de la basílica para la liturgia.

La lectura del Evangelio en la Misa relata que Jesús le preguntó a San Pedro: "¿Me amas?" y diciéndole: "Apacienta mis ovejas".

En su homilía, el papa dijo que el concilio fue la respuesta de la iglesia a esa pregunta y marcó un esfuerzo renovado para alimentar a las ovejas de Dios, no solo a los católicos, sino a todas las personas.

Los debates que siguieron al concilio y continúan hoy son una distracción de la misión de la iglesia, dijo el papa Francisco.

"Siempre estamos tentados a partir de nosotros mismos en lugar de Dios, a anteponer nuestras agendas al Evangelio, a dejarnos llevar por los vientos de la mundanalidad para seguir las modas del momento o dar la espalda al tiempo que la providencia nos ha concedido", dijo.

Los católicos deben tener cuidado, dijo, porque "tanto el 'progresismo' que se alinea detrás del mundo como el 'tradicionalismo' que anhela un mundo pasado no son evidencias de

amor, sino de infidelidad", formas de "egoísmo que pone a nuestros propios gustos y planes por encima del amor que agrada a Dios, el amor sencillo, humilde y fiel que Jesús le pidió a Pedro".

"Una iglesia enamorada de Jesús no tiene tiempo para peleas, chismes y disputas", dijo el papa. "Que Dios nos libre de ser críticos e intolerantes, duros y enojados. Esto no es una cuestión de estilo sino de amor".

Jesús, el buen pastor, "quiere que su rebaño esté unido bajo la guía de los pastores que él les ha dado", dijo el papa, pero al diablo le encanta sembrar división; "no cedamos a sus señuelos ni a la tentación de la polarización".

"Con qué frecuencia, tras el concilio, los cristianos prefirieron tomar partido en la iglesia, sin darse cuenta de que estaban rompiendo el corazón de su madre", el corazón de su madre, la iglesia, dijo el papa Francisco.

¿Con qué frecuencia, preguntó, preferían "estar a la 'derecha' o a la 'izquierda' en lugar de estar con Jesús? Presentarse como 'guardianes de la verdad' o 'pioneros de la innovación' en lugar de verse a sí mismos como humildes y agradecidos hijos de la Santa Madre Iglesia?"

El concilio, dijo, enseñó a la iglesia a ver el mundo que la rodea y a compartir el amor de Dios con todos, sabiendo que "si corresponde mostrar una preocupación particular, debe ser por aquellos a quienes Dios más ama: los pobres y los descartados".

Con la presencia de representantes ortodoxos, anglicanos y protestantes, como lo estaban en el concilio, el papa Francisco también rezó para que crezca "el anhelo de unidad" dentro de cada Cristo, "el deseo de comprometernos en la plena comunión entre todos los que creen en Cristo".

Agradeciendo a Dios por el don del concilio, el papa pidió al Señor que "nos salve de las formas de polarización que son obra del diablo. Y noso-

tros, tu iglesia, con Pedro y como Pedro, ahora te decimos: 'Señor, tú sabes todo, sabes que te amamos.'"

El papa Francisco, quien fue ordenado sacerdote en 1969, es el primer papa ordenado después del Concilio Vaticano II. Su predecesor inmediato, el ahora jubilado papa Benedicto XVI, asistió a las cuatro sesiones del concilio como asesor teológico, un "perito", del arzobispo de Colonia, Alemania. San Juan Pablo II participó en las cuatro sesiones como miembro de pleno derecho del cuerpo, primero como obispo auxiliar de Cracovia, Polonia, y luego como arzobispo de la ciudad.

Entre los más de 400 sacerdotes que concelebraron la Misa, la oficina litúrgica del Vaticano dijo que había cinco presentes en el Vaticano II.

Según los sitios web GCatholic.org y catholic-hierarchy.org, hoy en día hay seis obispos vivos en el mundo que participaron en al menos una sesión del Concilio Vaticano II. Entre ellos está el cardenal nigeriano Francis Arinze, un ex funcionario del Vaticano de 89 años que fue ordenado obispo en 1965 y asistió a la última sesión del consejo; fue uno de los concelebrantes en la Misa de aniversario.

Antes de la Misa, se leyeron pasajes del discurso de San Juan XXIII en la apertura del concilio. Conocido por sus primeras palabras en latín, "Gaudet Mater Ecclesia", el discurso comienza: "La Madre Iglesia se regocija".

También se leyeron selecciones de las cuatro constituciones del consejo. El papa Francisco ha pedido a los católicos que se preparen para el Año Santo 2025 releyendo y estudiando los documentos: Constitución sobre la Sagrada Liturgia ("Sacrosanctum Concilium"); Constitución Dogmática sobre la Iglesia ("Lumen Gentium"); Constitución Dogmática sobre la Revelación Divina ("Dei Verbum"); y Constitución Pastoral sobre la Iglesia en el Mundo Moderno ("Gaudium et Spes").

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:

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

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

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al 304.230.1504.

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

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

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

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Sunday, October 16: St. Agnes, Shepherdstown, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 20: Ascension, Hurricane, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 22: Blessed Sacrament, South Charleston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 23: Combined Confirmation: Sacred Heart, Huntington, & St. Peter Claver, Huntington, at Sacred Heart Parish, 9 a.m.

Sunday, October 30: Holy Rosary, Buckhannon, 9 a.m.

Sunday, November 6: All Saints, Bridgeport, 10 a.m.

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6:30 WOWK 13	Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTOV FOX 9	Wheeling-Steubenville
8:00 WBOY NBC 12	Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
8:30 WVNS FOX 59	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
11:00 WDVM 25	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.
8:00 WTAP TV	Parkersburg
6:30 WOAY TV 4	Beckley & Bluefield

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WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital Awarded Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification

WHEELING—WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital has achieved Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification by earning The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and the Heart-Check mark from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA).

The hospital's Stroke Center underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review on Aug. 25. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards including: assessment and treatment of acute stroke with focus on stroke-specific time metrics; timely treatment of acute ischemic stroke with IV thrombolysis; stroke education; secondary stroke prevention interventions; and evaluation/treatment of rehabilitation needs.

Lucas Burkhardt, director of the Advanced Primary Stroke Center, said, "I have been fortunate enough to have involved with and witnessed the evolution of our stroke care practices since the program's inception. The Advanced Primary Stroke Center designation is a validation of our care practices, team oriented approach and reaffirms our commitment to stroke care. This designation sets the standard for our team members and serves as motivation to maintain our evolution and improvement in stroke care practices as we move into the future."

"I could not be prouder of this team for this prestigious recognition," hospital President and CEO Douglass Harrison said. "This is the culmination of years' worth of preparation and dedication to improv-

ing patient outcomes. This is yet another example of the high level of care being offered at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital. Our priority is to make sure that people don't have to leave the area for advanced care and this is a perfect example of that commitment."

Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

Burkhardt said the hospital prepared for the certification process by developing its stroke team, acute stroke protocols/processes, stroke activation system, and robust hospital-wide education.

"The commitment of our administration and team members has led to incredible, sustained im-

provement in the care provided to those within our community and beyond," Burkhardt said. "Having been born and raised in this community I take great pride in knowing that my family, friends and neighbors can rely on our team in times of emergency."

Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission, said, "The Primary certification recognizes healthcare organizations committed to fostering continuous quality improvement in patient safety and quality of care. We commend Wheeling Hospital for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for stroke patients."

"We congratulate Wheel-

ing Hospital for this outstanding achievement," says Nancy Brown, chief executive officer, AHA/ASA. "This certification reflects its commitment to providing the highest quality of care for stroke patients."

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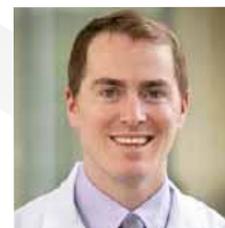
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