

THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

Pope: Time is Running out to Fix Economy, Protect the Earth, Help the Poor

By **Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The predominant global economic system is “unsustainable,” particularly in its impact on the environment, Pope Francis said.

“We are faced with the moral imperative — and the practical urgency — to rethink many things” about the economy: “how we produce, how we consume, our culture of waste, its short-term vision, the exploitation of the poor, indifference toward them, the increase of inequality and its dependence on harmful energy sources,” the pope said Oct. 10 as part of the global TEDx Countdown on climate change.

The event, broadcast live on YouTube, featured more than 50 speakers from around the world presenting “actionable and research-backed ideas, cutting-edge science, and moments of wonder and inspiration,” according to the program description.

With scientists, climate activists, actors, singers, poets, politicians and comedians, the program looked at the state of the environment, predictions about how little time is left to alleviate climate change and about the role of individuals, businesses and governments in taking action.

“As the term ‘countdown’ suggests, we must act urgently,” Pope Francis said. “Each one of us can play a valuable role if we all set out today — not tomorrow, today.”

See “Time” on Page 2



A Living Rosary at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine

John Sherwood Photo

Mindy Zampino signs the rosary to her son Aaron during a Living Rosary at the Our Lady of Fatima Garden-Shrine at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town Oct. 4. As part of the celebration of October being the Month of the Rosary, the parish held the recitation of living rosaries in the Fatima Garden, which includes a rosary presented as stones in the brick work. On Oct. 4, the parish school of religion classes led the recitation with students standing on each bead and saying the prayer for that bead. The children are also pictured above with Deacon David Galvin, permanent deacon at the parish.

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Diocesan Official Appointments:

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

Father William Kuchinsky is appointed administrator of St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville with continued residence at the parish rectory, effective immediately.

Father Joseph M. Augustine, J.C.L., has been incardinated into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, effective Sept. 14, 2020.

Rev. Mr. David Galvin is appointed permanent deacon at St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town, effective immediately.

Correction

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

Time ...

Cont'd from Page 4

"Science tells us, every day more precisely, that we need to act urgently — I am not exaggerating — this is what science tells us, if we are to have any hope of avoiding radical and catastrophic climate change," he said. "This is a scientific fact."

As he did in his 2015 encyclical letter, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis insisted in his TEDx talk that concern for the environment must go hand in hand with concern for the people who live on the Earth, especially the poor, who are most impacted by climate change and natural disasters.

People must make a choice "between what matters and what does not, a choice between continuing to ignore the suffering of the poorest and mistreating our common home, the Earth," he said, or "commit ourselves at every level to transforming the way we act."

While science insists on the need to change to protect the planet, he said, "our conscience tells us that we cannot be indifferent to the suffering of the poorest, to growing economic inequalities and social injustices."

Pope Francis asked his global audience to begin "a journey of transformation and action," one "made not so much of words, but above all of concrete actions that cannot be postponed."

"It will be necessary to go step by step," he said, "to help the weak, to persuade the doubtful, to imagine new solutions and to commit oneself to carrying them forward."

The pope explained that the "integral ecology" he has called for — responding to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth — requires seeing how "everything in the

world is connected and that, as the pandemic has reminded us, we are interdependent on one another, and also dependent on our mother Earth."

Presenting a three-part action plan, the pope said change must begin with "education for the care of our common home, developing the understanding that environmental problems are linked to human needs — we must understand this from the very beginning: Environmental problems are linked to human needs."

So, he said, education must include both scientific data and ethics.

Next, he said, priority should be given to water and food, ensuring access to safe drinking water and adequate food for all the world's people.

"The third proposal is that of energy transition: a progressive replacement, but without delay, of fossil fuels with clean energy sources," he said. "This transition must not only be rapid and capable of meeting present and future energy needs, but also must be attentive to its impact on the poor, on local populations and on those who work in the sector of energy production."

Socially responsible investing and stockholder activism, he said, can make companies see "the unavoidable need to commit themselves to the integral care of the common home."

The pope recommended divesting from stock in "companies that do not meet the criteria of integral ecology and rewarding those that are making concrete efforts in this transition phase to put at the center of their activities criteria such as sustainability, social justice and the promotion of the common good."

To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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

To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement; numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. 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: Sr. Ellen Dunn, O.P., ext. 264; 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, Internet Crimes Against Children

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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New Report Details Abuse, Assault Allegations against Catholic Composer Haas

By Maria Wiering, Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — A report detailing sexual abuse and assault allegations against Catholic musician and composer David Haas describes him using his influence as a faith leader in grooming victim/survivors and suppressing reports or concerns about his behavior.

The report also alleges Haas sexually abused minors, including the claim he raped a 13-year-old girl in 1979 during a confirmation retreat in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The advocacy group Into Account published the 22-page report Oct. 1. It includes graphic descriptions of victim/survivors' claims, including forced sexual acts and unwanted touching.

The report alleges that, between 1979 and 1982, when Haas was in his early 20s, he targeted girls ages 13 to 17 for sexual acts, including rape. After 1982, reported allegations include grooming of girls under 18, and grooming, unwanted attention and touching, and forced sexual acts with women between the ages of 18 and 60.

Haas is a well-known composer of contemporary hymns, including "You Are Mine," "We Are Called" and "Blessed Are They." From 1999 to 2017, Haas led Music Ministry Alive!, a liturgical arts camp independent from, but held at, St. Catherine University in St. Paul. Haas has led concerts and retreats and participated in conferences around the United States.

He also directs the Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry in Eagan, Minnesota, and has worked in campus ministry in two high schools in the archdiocese.

In an Oct. 11 email to The Catholic Spirit, the archdiocesan newspaper, Haas, through an attorney, said he reiterated an apology he issued in July, and denied the claim he raped a 13-year-old girl.

"The new allegation in the Into Account report as referenced in the archdiocese statement that I sexually abused and raped a 13-year-old girl is absolutely false. It is an anonymous allegation and an attempt to smear me

with an outrageously false allegation. I have never had improper sexual contact with a 13-year-old girl," he said.

In June, Haas denied Into Account's allegations, calling them "false, reckless and offensive." In July, he issued an apology that said he had "come to realize that I have caused great harm to a variety of people."

In the Oct. 11 email to The Catholic Spirit, Haas said he wants people whom he's harmed to know he takes "full responsibility for my actions and am truly sorry."

"I am continuing with professional intervention to help me face and understand how my actions have violated your trust," he said, speaking to those whom he's hurt.

"I have continued to give prayerful thought to my actions and ask for forgiveness from anyone I have harmed — those individually and those in the church community who have been harmed because of these accusations," he said. "I believe in the God who loves all of us and pray for anyone I have harmed and pray for God's forgiveness."

In an Oct. 8 statement, Tim O'Malley, director of ministerial standards and safe environment in the archdiocese, called the report "disturbing."

"We affirm and emphasize the importance of courageous survivors of abuse telling their story publicly," he said. "History has shown that confronting sexual abuse leads to a better future and promotes justice. Hopefully, that proves to be the case here."

O'Malley said that prior to Into Account's report, his office was unaware of the 1979 rape allegation. The Into Account report claims the alleged victim and an adult reported the incident to church officials, including Archbishop John R. Roach, on three separate occasions. The late archbishop led the archdiocese from 1975 until his retirement in 1995; he died in 2003.

O'Malley said that professional investigators, all former law enforcement personnel, reviewed the archdiocese's files and did not locate a report of the claim. The office has alerted law enforcement about the allegation, he

said.

In the Oct. 8 statement, O'Malley encouraged anyone with information about criminal behavior to immediately report it to police. He also reiterated information he shared in two prior statements this year, following a May 2020 letter circulated by Into Account first publicizing the allegations.

In 2018, the archdiocese received reports that Haas had allegedly made noncriminal, sexual advances on two young adult women in another state. O'Malley said his office interviewed the women and allowed Haas to address the reports. The archdiocese then told Haas that he was not allowed to provide his services to Catholic institutions in the archdiocese without disclosing those complaints, and it declined to provide a letter of recommendation that Haas requested.

In a June 16, 2020, statement, O'Malley also acknowledged a complaint the archdiocese received in 1987 that "Haas made unwanted sexual advances toward a young adult woman," which Haas denied.

The October report from Into Account, which is based in Kansas and led by Stephanie Krehbiel, described the incident as a "sexual assault of an 18-year-old first-year woman student at the College of St. Benedict" in St. Joseph, Minnesota, for which Haas was required to write a letter to the victim-survivor's parents.

In July 2020, after receiving additional complaints that Haas had "engaged in inappropriate conduct" with other young women at various locations around the country in the 1980s, the archdiocese notified Haas that he was no longer allowed to provide his services at Catholic institutions in the archdiocese.

The archdiocese also discontinued using Haas' compositions at archdiocesan liturgies, and encouraged parishes and schools "to consider the sensitivities involved with using Haas' music."

Seventeen other dioceses and other Christian groups have made similar decisions. Liturgical music publisher GIA Publications announced in June that it had ended its longtime relation-

ship with Haas, a prolific composer.

Into Account's report was based on reports of 44 women, including Haas' former wife Jeanne Cotter, a fellow liturgical musician to whom he was married from 1988 to 1995. In a June 21 Facebook post, Cotter said they began a relationship when she was 16 and he was 23, and that they divorced because of Haas' infidelities.

The report's authors described Haas' sexual behavior toward his victims as aggressive and sudden, with a focus on vulnerable women.

Women who raised alarms about signs of grooming — such as an abundance of personal communication, sexual conversations or excessive physical affection — were told by others that those behaviors could be dismissed as "That's just David." The report claims that women who resisted his advances received or feared Haas' retaliation in their professional or social lives.

The report also includes allegations that Haas spiritually manipulated girls and women, in part through Music Ministry Alive!, a five-day camp for teenagers ages 14 and older.

According to the report, participants had "a cult-like reverence for Haas," who created emotionally intense prayer and small-group sharing situations, where Haas gained information he could use to allegedly assess participants' vulnerability. The report claimed that Haas groomed girls during the camp, and then would later assault them when they were young adults.

In an Aug. 4 statement to its community, St. Catherine University said that while his camps were held on its campus, Haas has never been a member of the university's faculty or staff. It said the university was investigating its relationship with Haas and allegations involving Music Ministry Alive! and "will take action pursuant with university policies and legal guidelines" if it finds any abuses have taken place.

In an Oct. 9 statement, the university said it "believes the victims who have come forward to share their experience" and its investigation continues.

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Catholic Activists Applaud Encyclical's Stance against Death Penalty

By Carol Zimmermann,
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis tackled several issues in his new encyclical, but the section devoted to ending capital punishment was particularly cheered by U.S. Catholics who oppose the death penalty.

The pope reiterated how St. John Paul II had described the death penalty as “inadequate from a moral standpoint and no longer necessary from that of penal justice,” but then went further by adding: “There can be no stepping back from this position.”

“Today we state clearly that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible,’” he wrote, quoting from the revised Catechism of the Catholic Church, and adding: “The church is firmly committed to calling for its abolition worldwide.”

Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille and longtime anti-death penalty activist, said in a tweet Oct. 4, the day the encyclical was issued at the Vatican, that she was pleased with the pope’s “ringing proclamation of the inviolable dignity of all human life, even the life of murderers.”

She also said she was “heartened by the church’s unequivocal opposition to governments’ use of the death penalty in all instances.”

Over the years, Sister Prejean met with St. John

Paul II and Pope Francis urging them to establish the Catholic Church’s position as unequivocally opposed to capital punishment. In 2018, Pope Francis announced new language of the catechism that says the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person, with no exceptions.

The activist tweeted Oct. 4 about her own experience ministering to those on death row, saying that she has “seen close-up the torture and suffering of human beings, rendered defenseless and killed by the state, their lives stripped of all dignity.”

In the seven paragraphs examining capital punishment in the encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” the pope examined this form of punishment through the lens of human dignity and said: “The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity of every human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe.”

The encyclical’s section on the death penalty is placed between the injustice of war and the need for dialogue between members of different religions.

Sister Prejean said the pope’s words will “help end this unspeakable suffering and spark the Gospel of Jesus to be lived in its full-

ness: restoration of human life, not humiliation, torture and execution.”

She tweeted Oct. 5 that the pope’s encyclical says the death penalty is a “false answer” that does not resolve the problems it meant to solve and instead introduces “new elements of destruction in the fabric of national and global society.”

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of the Catholic Mobilizing Network, which works to end use of the death penalty and promotes criminal justice reform and restorative justice, said in an Oct. 5 statement that by dedicating a section of his document to ending the death penalty, “Pope Francis has leveraged the full weight of the church’s teaching behind its opposition to capital punishment.”

She pointed out some of the pontiff’s words she said have particular significance during the church’s Respect Life Month and the annual commemoration of World Day Against the Death Penalty Oct. 10: “It is impossible to imagine that states today have no other means than capital punishment to protect the lives of other people from the unjust aggressor.”

Vaillancourt Murphy also said the pope’s “acknowledgment of modern society’s capacity to avoid recourse to the death penalty strikes a blatant contrast to the U.S. federal gov-

ernment’s recent resumption of executions after a 17-year hiatus.” This summer, seven men on the federal death row were executed and an eighth execution is scheduled for Nov. 19.

She also noted that Pope Francis not only addressed “the proclivity toward vengeance that fuels the practice of capital punishment,” but he warned against becoming “obsessed with taking revenge and destroying the other” and reminded the document’s readers that “nothing is gained this way and, in the end, everything is lost.”

Vaillancourt Murphy said the encyclical highlights a number of social concerns and the need to build a culture of encounter, which she said

points to “a more restorative way of understanding harm and violence.”

This approach, she added, centers on the people and relationships that were violated and seeks “justice that values human dignity, healing, accountability and the hope of redemption for all involved.”

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Beatified Teen Showed that Heaven is 'Attainable Goal,' Cardinal Says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Thousands sang and applauded as Italian teen Carlo Acutis was beatified in a town dear to him and to many Christians around the world: Assisi.

During the Oct. 10 beatification Mass, Italian Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the papal legate for the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, read Pope Francis' apostolic letter proclaiming Acutis' "blessed," the step before canonization.

"With our apostolic authority, we grant that the venerable servant of God, Carlo Acutis, layman, who, with the enthusiasm of youth, cultivated a friendship with our Lord Jesus, placing the Eucharist and the witness of charity at the center of his life, henceforth shall be called blessed," the pope decreed.

After the reading of the apostolic letter, the newly beatified teen's parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, processed toward the altar carrying a reliquary containing their son's heart.

The reliquary was engraved with one of the teen's well-known quotes: "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven."

Pilgrims flocked both to the Basilica of St. Francis for the beatification Mass as well as to the Shrine of the Renunciation at the Church of St. Mary Major, where the newly beatified teen's remains were on display for veneration.

Men and women, boys and girls passed by the tomb quietly, some stopping to pray the "Our Father." A young toddler blew a kiss goodbye to the young blessed as she passed by.

Known as the site where a young St. Francis renounced his father's inheritance and embraced poverty, the shrine — like the city of Assisi and St. Francis himself — held a special place in Acutis' heart.

The teen loved St. Francis "very much," his mother, Antonia Sal-



CNS Photo/Junno Arocho Esteves
Carlo Acutis is pictured on the booklet for his beatification Mass in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 10.

zano, told Catholic News Service Oct. 9. St. Francis "was a very Eucharistic soul who used to attend Mass twice a day," and her son sought to imitate that same Eucharistic devotion throughout his brief life.

Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino of Assisi reflected on the link between the two saintly figures, and proclaimed that by "providential design, (St.) Francis and (Blessed) Carlo are now inseparable."

"Carlo's life — always united to Jesus — his love for the Eucharist, his devotion to the Holy Virgin, his making friends with the poor, brought him closer to the spirituality of the Poor One," St. Francis, Archbishop Sorrentino said at the end of Mass. "Both invite us to live according to the Gospel."

The liturgy was held inside the Basilica of St. Francis, but measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 meant that most of those attending sat outside on seats set three-feet apart, watching on big screens.

Many young men and women came to Assisi for the beatification. For many of them, the fact that a normal teen could be beatified was a source of hope and inspiration.

"With his life, Carlo made me see that despite the small or even great difficulties — like his illness — that we could live a full and happy life if we keep our eyes looking up toward heaven," said 19-year-old Rosanna, who was among those attending the beatification.

In his homily, Cardinal Vallini said that Acutis' beatification "in the land of Francis of Assisi is good news, a strong proclamation that a young man of our time, one like many, was conquered by Christ and became a beacon of light for those who want to know him and follow his example."

Reflecting on the teen's life, Cardinal Vallini said that like most young people his age, Carlo was a "normal, simple, spontaneous, friendly" teenager who used mod-

ern forms of communication to transmit the "values and beauty of the Gospel."

For him, "the internet was not just a means of escape, but a space for dialogue, knowledge, sharing and mutual respect that was to be used responsibly, without becoming slaves to it and rejecting digital bullying," the cardinal said.

Cardinal Vallini said that Blessed Acutis was a model of virtue for young men and women today, reminding them not to seek "gratification only in ephemeral successes but in the perennial values that Jesus proposes in the Gospel."

"He gave witness that faith does not distance us from life but immerses us more deeply in it and showed us the concrete way to live the joy of the Gospel," the cardinal said. "It is up to us to follow it, attracted by the fascinating experience of Blessed Carlo, so that our lives may also shine with light and hope."

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Vatican Updates Transparency Laws to Strengthen Financial Management

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Continuing its efforts to combat money laundering and financial mismanagement, the Vatican amended its transparency laws and expanded the role of its financial watchdog agency in monitoring financial transactions.

According to a statement released Oct. 10, the Vatican said it updated its legislation, more commonly known as Law XVIII. Passed in 2013, Law XVIII regulated financial activities and paved the way for collaboration and an exchange of information between the Vatican's Financial Information Authority, known by the Italian acronym AIF, and its international counter-

parts, and monitored financial transactions.

In an interview with Vatican News published Oct. 10, Carmelo Barbagallo, a seasoned Italian finance inspector who was appointed to lead AIF by Pope Francis in late November, said the updated law followed an anti-money laundering directive adopted by the European Union in 2018.

According to the European Commission's website, the directive enhanced "the powers of the EU Financial Intelligence Units and provides them with access to broad information for the carrying out of their tasks."

Vatican Gathers Ambassadors to Hear What is Happening in Syria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the world's attention is focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and its dire economic consequences, the Vatican urged nations not to forget the people of Syria, who are still living in a situation of violence and extreme need.

In an extraordinary move, the Vatican invited diplomats accredited to the Holy See from around the world to meet Oct. 15 with Cardinal Mario Zenari, nuncio to Syria.

"The appointment was an opportunity to rekindle attention toward the situation in Syria, which has been prostrated by almost 10 years of violence," the Vatican said in a statement issued hours after the event

ended. The Vatican did not say how many ambassadors attended the meeting.

Cardinal Zenari told the ambassadors that while the war and suffering in Syria had all but disappeared from the "media's radar," the humanitarian disaster continues. After the destruction of rocket fire, he said, the nation now faces the threat of the "bomb of poverty," according to the Vatican statement.

The nuncio said some 80% of the population is living in poverty and an estimated 11 million Syrians require humanitarian assistance. Syria is an "expanse of ghost villages" strewn with rubble, he said, and "many Syrians have lost hope."

Pandemic Increases Risks of Human Trafficking, Exploitation, Speakers Say

ROME (CNS) — While the COVID-19 pandemic has shut down or slowed most businesses, it does not appear to have put a dent in human trafficking, said Callista Gingrich, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

In fact, the financial difficulties many families face around the world actually make people more vulnerable to traffickers' offers of quick cash or false promises of good jobs in other lands, said speakers at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See's symposium Oct. 14, "Combatting Human

Trafficking: Action in a Time of Crisis."

Faith-based organizations "are among some of our best partners" in the push to end trafficking and assist the victims, Gingrich said, pointing specifically to Talitha Kum, the international network involving some 2,600 women religious and their collaborators around the world.

Loreto Sister Patricia Murray, executive secretary of the women's International Union of Superiors General, said the poor who

are susceptible to traffickers are "doubly vulnerable" during the pandemic, when many more families are facing hunger.

"It's estimated that an additional 130 million (people) will fall below the poverty line this year, and I suspect that that is an optimistic figure," she said.

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In Confirmation Hearings, Barrett Stresses Commitment to 'Rule of law'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During the two days of questions from members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett made a clear distinction between policy preferences and legal precedents. She also did not give direct answers on how she would vote on top issues but assured the senators that she would follow the rule of the law. "My policy preferences are irrelevant," she said, Oct. 13 when asked if she had intended to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, and she reiterated this same view when asked about abortion and same-sex marriage. On the opening day of the hearings, Republican senators had adamantly emphasized that Barrett's Catholic faith should not be a factor in questioning, and on the start of the first day of this inquiry, it clearly wasn't a topic, although it was mentioned. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, committee chairman, asked Barrett if she would be able to set aside her religious beliefs to fairly decide legal cases. "I can. I have done that in my time on the 7th Circuit," she said. "If I stay on the 7th Circuit, I'll continue to do that. If I'm confirmed to the Supreme Court, I will do that."

Archbishop Aymond Reconsecrates Church, Altar; Calls Priest's Acts 'Demonic'

PEARL RIVER, La. (CNS) — In an act of solidarity with the 350 parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Pearl River, a visibly upset New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond celebrated Mass Oct. 10 for a second consecutive week for the parish and reconsecrated its church and its new altar. The parish had learned a week before that its 13th pastor appointed in July 2019, Father Travis Clark, was arrested Sept. 30 for alleged obscenity with two women in their church. Before he began celebrating Mass, Archbishop Aymond reiterated to those present his shock and anger over what happened — calling Father Clark's behavior inside the church obscene. He said he knew the Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners were shocked and angry, too. "The desecration of this church and altar is demonic, demonic," he said. "Let me be clear, there is no excuse for what took place here. It is sinful, and it is totally unacceptable. Travis has been unfaithful to his vocation; he's violated his commitment to celibacy; and also, he was using that which was holy to do demonic things. He will not be able to serve in priestly ministry, and he will not be able to serve as a priest anytime in the future."

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A Pastor's Reflection on Fratelli Tutti

By Father Andrew Switzer

As 2020 begins to wind down, it is time for prayerful reflection on all that is unfolding around us. Just a week ago, we, the Catholic community, and all people of good will received an extraordinary and faith-filled guidance to help us through these difficult days. Pope Francis shared with us a new encyclical on Fraternity and Social Friendship.

Yes, it's a long document but is an excellent and necessary read. We have printed out some copies, which are available at the Church and Office for those who need to pick one up. This is only the second encyclical entirely written by Pope Francis and it may well be the most complete guidance of his pontificate. The symbolic signing of the document on the feast day of St Francis, October 4th, already prepares us for the reception of a special Franciscan message for our times.

What is an encyclical? These days, the scope of an encyclical letter (literally, a message to be cir-

culated) reaches out to all people of good will: Catholics, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, as well as agnostics and atheists, all our brothers and sisters with whom we share our common home and, together with whom, Pope Francis has listened and dialogued. Our response, therefore, as Catholics to such a document is to try our best to make a sincere effort to assimilate the given teaching into our personal and community convictions. Not always an easy task, but one which requires a prayerful openness towards the Pope's message.

The encyclical emerges from a deep awareness and approach towards the signs of our time. You too are familiar with them: respect for all life at every stage, corona virus, war, want, the death penalty, as well as the responses of polarization and fear, love and dialogue. Our Pope does not shy away from the tough issues, but embraces deeply the joys and sorrows of our world so as to better respond to them with Gospel wisdom, ever new and ever inspired

by God's Spirit at work in God's pilgrim people.

I want to just focus on one part of the document that is especially important. Pope Francis affirms that we can do a lot to bring healing in our world by recovering our ability to dialogue. The faith community in a sense should be a microcosm for society where people of different views and perspectives can come together, even if they disagree, and exchange ideas. Pope Francis emphasizes that even in disagreement, we should be open to see the best in others.

I remember when I was in junior high, I had a great history teacher, who taught us that a debate is not a fight. A debate is a dialogue, and after a good debate we may leave with some disagreements, but that we are able to find some common ground. We should not be afraid in a debate if our perspective broadens and changes as we exchange ideas with the other person. That is the constant gift of dialogue. I can, truly, say that some of my greatest

friends have at times shared ideas different from mine; they have helped to expand my horizon and deepen my understanding of self and others.

Growth is often painful; the tendency of just fighting and giving in to the temptation to be outright mean, is very strong. I have never felt good about myself when I have been closed to some opinion in a downright mean kind of way. While we must disagree sometimes, let us be kind! Let us walk onwards and together with each other as Christians who love one other. I think that if this happens in our community and pews, we are living the mission statement of St Agnes as an inclusive community, contributing to a society of dialogue and inclusiveness. We are also listening to Pope Francis spiritual guidance in Fratelli Tutti.

To read Fratelli Tutti, visit: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Father Finnell Offers Talk on 'Being a Priest in a Pandemic' at Charleston Serra Meeting

By M. A. Sadd KCHS

CHARLESTON—A seasoned Kanawha Valley pastor shared what he called a priest's particular blessings and challenges during the enduring season of Covid-19 pandemic that affects nearly every facet of our temporal and spiritual lives.

"The foundation of my spirituality is how I witness the dying and rising of our parishioners in the Paschal Mystery of Christ," Father John H. Finnell explained during a recent talk to the Serra Club of Charleston whose members met under diocesan safety protocols at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center.

The pandemic underscores his love for and admiration of his parishioners and gives opportunity for proper Christian response to it, said Father Finnell, 69, who was ordained a priest in 1978. Father Finnell is the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in South Charleston.

"Is there an opportunity for us to value life a little better?" he asked during his talk. "Does it make us not take other people for granted?"

He daily feels a lack of physical presence and social proximity with his parish family, but offers his isolation as a dying and rising to new life with Christ.

Father Finnell says he has quickly learned the value, sometimes overlooked, of the little daily tasks that others took on for the glory of God and in service to others. "I appreciate these people so much more," he said.

As the pandemic has motivated him to learn how to do more with less, "there will be more

need than ever to have new skills," he said. "It is not a bad thing that new and unexpected things come at us."

One of them has been to become more adept at the tools of technology and mass communication. "I have to die to the notion that I am computer illiterate," he said. "That is a wonderful thing."

Father Finnell has gained a stronger appreciation of the power of newer modes of connecting with people. He has embraced narrow and broadcasting tools including live-streaming every Mass from his parish. That commitment that gives spiritual communion for now many people unable to communicate the Blessed Sacrament.

He has been delighted to learn that many more people view weekday Mass from his church during the pandemic than who attended before the crisis. In times of hardship, he asked, "how can you argue with that?" More than ever, shut-ins, the elderly and even non-Catholics are hearing the Word of God and witnessing the Catholic liturgy. "This is a marvelous outcome," he said.

He lauded the diocesan and national safety protocols for Catholics who have returned to Mass, even though the Sunday obligation, for the time being, remains suspended. They are working, he said, while some other non-Catholic congregations do not embrace the discipline that the Church has demonstrated.

Father Finnell called on all people of the Faith to participate in the Church's response to the pandemic, a new urgency to act and speak. "If something is missing, speak up about it," he said.



Michael J. Tupta Photo
Father John H. Finnell presents his talk at a recent Serra Club of Charleston meeting.

"Everybody has a responsibility to carry out the mission of the Church"

The Serra Club of Charleston, founded in 1951, is one of the oldest within Serra International, a global lay apostolate for vocations to the ordained state and religious life and for nurturing its members to fulfill their own Christian vocations to service.

Clarksburg's IC Parish Nurses Debut Facebook Page

By Colleen Rowan

CLARKSBURG—The IC Parish Nurses in Clarksburg have announced they have launched a new Facebook page.

"We will use this page to share health and wellness information with our parishioners and the community," officials posted Oct. 2 on the page's debut.

The group is a ministry from Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarksburg. The page is called Immaculate Conception Parish Nurses and Friends. The mission of the group, as listed on the page, is to enhance the overall health of parishioners and community (mind, body, and spirit) with a focus on integrating the practice of faith with the practice of nursing.

"Our group is comprised of active and retired registered nurses, social workers, interested health professionals, and lay persons. We welcome all new members with an interest in health!" officials said.

The page has 55 likes so far and is growing.

The IC Parish Nurse Ministry offers a variety of programs. Presently, the organization's six-week bereavement program, Seasons of Hope which began Sept. 12, is being held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines, the sessions will be held at the Freedom Shelter at the VA Park as long as weather permits. Masks will be required.

"We are blessed to have Judy Labdik, a licensed social worker, who has facilitated this program before to help us," ministry officials said.

For more information or to register, call Theresa White at (304) 623-1302 or Mary Jo Flaherty at (304) 622-4147 to register.

For more information about the IC Parish Nurses or the programs and events they offer, check out their Facebook page or visit Immaculate Conception Parish's website at icclarksburg.com and click IC Parish Nurse Ministry.

Father Michael J. McGivney, a Model for Today

By Michael Bush,

The founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney was a central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America, and he remains a model today. His example of charity, evangelization and empowerment of the Laity continues to bear fruit and guide Knights of Columbus around the world.

During his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI cited Father McGivney as a key figure in "the impressive growth" of the Church in the United States, stating, "We need but think of the remarkable accomplishment of that exemplary American priest, The Venerable Michael McGivney, whose vision and zeal led to the establishment of the Knights of Columbus." Through the spiritual genius of Father McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has become a way for Catholic men to transform friends into brothers—brothers who care for one another.

In his letter to Brothers in Christ of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston on January 24, 2020, Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, stated "We men need to band together and work with one another to serve God and our neighbor. He told us that President John F. Kennedy reminded us: "On earth God's work must truly be our own." The Bishop continued, "the Knights of Columbus are an excellent way to be formed as brothers in Christ and to do God's work on earth. I urge you to consider becoming a Knight of Columbus."

Today more than 2 million members of the Knights of Columbus and their families, and many others around the world, continue to seek out Father McGivney as a heavenly helper in times of need. His heroic virtue was recognized in 2008 by the Vatican, which named him a Venerable Servant of God, and on May 26, 2020 Pope Francis approved a decree for a miracle attributed to his intercession, opening the way for Father McGivney to be Beatified on Oct 31, 2020. A second approved miracle is needed for him to be canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church.

In honor of the Beatification, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has announced that they will be offering free membership to everyone joining On-Line through December 31, 2020. Our West Virginia State Deputy, Paul Niedbalski, is asking all eligible Catholic men to join the Order during these very challenging times. Knights must be practicing Catholic men at least 18 years of age. Consider becoming a Knight and help us help our sisters and brothers in need.

To join the Knights Go To www.kofc/joinus and use the Promo Code MCGIVNEY2020.

Those who knew him best in life saw in him both a "genial" countenance and a man with an "iron will" to achieve the good. In sum, Father McGivney's founding of the Knights of Columbus "attests to the love in which he held for his brothers and sisters in Christ."

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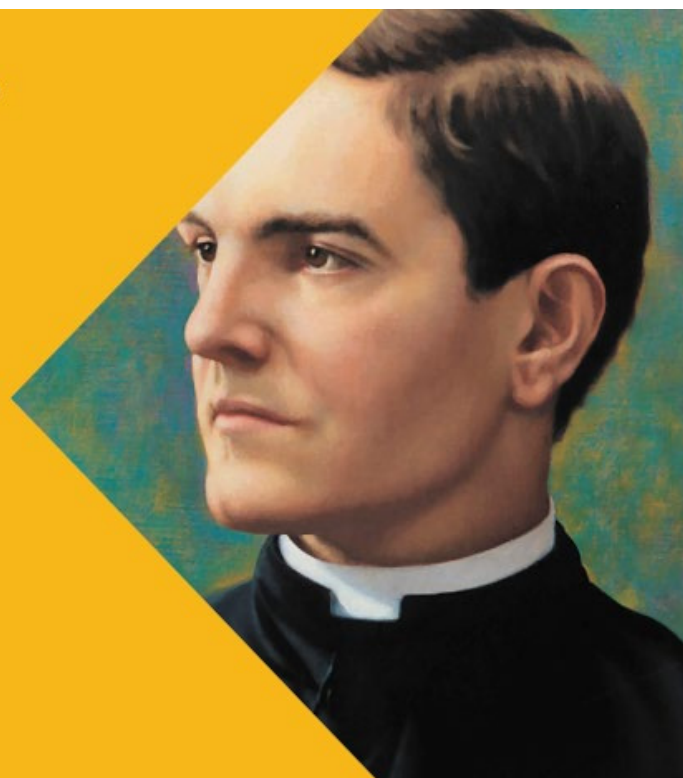
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Composer Hopes Concert Offers a Little ‘Shelter from the Storm’



The Catholic Spirit Photo

Catholic Composer Stephen Pishner is pictured during his concert “Songs of Grace for the Soul,” which is part of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians’ (NPM) Lunchtime Concert Series on YouTube.

By Colleen Rowan

A little “shelter from the storm.” That’s what Catholic Composer Stephen Pishner hopes people will get from his concert “Songs of Grace for the Soul,” which is featured as part of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians’ (NPM) Lunchtime Concert Series on YouTube.

“It seems like the world is being tossed and turned right now on many fronts,” Pishner said. “I hope the music that I did in this lunchtime concert could serve as a 30-minute retreat for people, at least for the time the music lasts.”

The Lunchtime Concert Series may also be found on NPM’s facebook page and features various pastoral musicians, known and unknown, from around the country. Pishner was contacted by NPM in an e-mail request for pastoral musicians to consider submitting some of their music that could be reviewed and then decided upon, as to whether they would be in turn asked to do a lunch-

time concert.

“I did six songs (all originals) in about 30 minutes,” said Pishner, who serves as director of Music and Liturgy at All Saints Parish in Bridgeport. “I also showcased a new one called ‘Tu Eres Mi Otro Yo’ (You are my other self). It has one Spanish lyric in it, and I build off of that thought in English.”

Pishner’s concert, “Songs of Grace for the Soul,” is based on the title of his recent liturgical music album.

“The songs, you might say, are a reminder that God has not forgotten us but is faithfully right beside us, even though it may be hard to feel at times,” Pishner said.

His concert was pre-recorded in Wheeling at Jamie Peck Productions, and may be viewed on YouTube by typing in “Lunchtime Concert Series with Stephen Pishner, Songs of Grace for the Soul.” The link to view the concert on YouTube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p43BXWctRNw&t=175s>

COVID Diaper Drop for Parents in Need Begins in St. Marys

ST. MARYS—The COVID Diaper Drop to assist parents in need began Oct. 14 at Neighbor Network – 411 Second St., St. Marys. It is described by organizers as a “coming together to help our neighbors during COVID-19.” The event is being coordinated by Wild Wonderful & Healthy Pleasants County in conjunction with Neighbor Network’s Gabriel Project. Items needed include: Disposable diapers sizes 4-6, baby wipes, formula, and any other baby care products. Items can be dropped off at Neighbor Network.

Healing Prayers Offered for COVID-19 Victims

CHARLESTON—Father Tijo George, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Charleston and Our Lady of the Hills Parish in Elk View, is offering healing prayers for COVID-19 victims, especially for parish family members or friends who has been infected by the coronavirus. Father George is praying for the infected person during private, daily Masses and Sunday Masses. A votive candle will also be lit for his/her healing. Parishioners are invited to call the parish office or Father Tijo to have their names included in his prayers and a votive candle lit.

Personal Care Drive to be Held in Wheeling

WHEELING—A Personal Care Drive will be held in two Wheeling locations Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters invites all to join them in this Service Day at the Wheeling Center, which includes collecting items for local organizations that serve those in need—Hearts United and Catholic Charities West Virginia.

Items needed for men and women include: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, cologne, body spray, new wash cloths, towels, new socks, and briefs and underwear in a variety of sizes. Items may be donated at the Congregation of St. Joseph Wheeling Center, in front of the building. Donors must stay in their cars. Traffic flow is one way, and signs are posted. Items may also be donated in the parking lot of the St. Michael Parish Angelus Center in Wheeling, 1225 National Road. Masks are required at both locations. The event was organized by Friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph. For more information, call 304-232-8160.

Online Event to Focus on ‘Revelation on Mystery: Thomas Merton’s Christian Center’

WHEELING—The St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling will hold an online gathering focusing on the “Revelation on Mystery: Thomas Merton’s Christian Center” Oct. 24 from 1-3 p.m. Merton promoted social justice, ecumenism, interfaith dialogue, and spiritual renewal. “We will focus on the Christian center of his thought,” event organizers said. The day includes a talk, quiet time, questions and answers, and closing prayer. The facilitator is Rev. Dr. Bonnie Thurston, Ph.D. The cost is \$10. RSVP to Anna Marie Troiani, executive director of the St. Joseph Retreat Center, at atroiani@csjoseph.org.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Blessed Sacrament Parish, South Charleston
Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

St. Anthony Parish, Follansbee
Sunday, Nov. 22 at 10:30 a.m.



Catholic Charities
West Virginia
Mission Moment

Empowering Miss Paulette

By Trina Bartlett, Catholic Charities West Virginia Eastern Regional Director

Before Paulette arrived at Catholic Charities West Virginia's Martinsburg office, she had, in her own words, "been in several shelters, homeless programs, counseling, jail and the psych ward." The first assistance Catholic Charities provided for Paulette was acquiring a C PAP machine in March 2019, and a few months later she met case manager Luci Hernandez and decided she wanted to participate in case management.

When she entered case management in November 2019, Paulette had three goals: to obtain her high school equivalency, to find a better place to live, and to improve her health.

The first task Paulette undertook was finding better housing. She was living in a substandard apartment, and the toilet didn't work. She attended budgeting classes with Catholic Charities partner organization, Telamon, and was able to find a more adequate apartment in a better location. She continues to work on her other goals.

When talking about her experience with Catholic Charities, Paulette said: "I didn't have family here. I did not have the genuine family support, and I now see Catholic Charities like a family. I feel supported and accepted here. I came across a community event and met Ms. Luci. She had a booth with different things that Catholic Charities did. As we began to talk. I felt more comfortable speaking to a woman of color. Little did I know the beautiful working relationship that we would have. Being in case management gives me the motivation to work on myself knowing that I have someone that supports me. I feel empowered going into my meetings and getting a chance to get out of my home and into the community."

Paulette and Luci have continued to meet weekly even throughout the pandemic.



Courtesy Photo

Paulette, left, meets with her case manager, Luci Hernandez.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

Adolescente beatificado demostró que el cielo es una 'meta alcanzable'

Por Junno Arocho Esteves, Catholic News Service

ASÍS, Italia (CNS) — Miles de personas cantaron y aplaudieron mientras el adolescente italiano Carlo Acutis era beatificado en una ciudad querida por él y por muchos cristianos de todo el mundo: Asís.

Durante la misa de beatificación del 10 de octubre, el cardenal italiano Agostino Vallini, legado pontificio de las basílicas de San Francisco y Santa María de los Ángeles en Asís, leyó la carta apostólica del papa Francisco, proclamando "beato" a Carlo Acutis, el paso antes de la canonización.

"Con nuestra autoridad apostólica, concedemos que el venerable siervo de Dios, Carlo Acutis, laico, que con el entusiasmo de la juventud cultivó una amistad con nuestro Señor Jesús, poniendo la Eucaristía y el testimonio de la caridad en el centro de su vida, de ahora en adelante sea llamado beato", decretó el papa.

Después de la lectura de la carta apostólica, los padres del adolescente recién beatificado, Andrea Acutis y Antonia Salzano, se dirigieron hacia el altar, llevando un relicario que contenía el corazón de su hijo.

El relicario estaba grabado con una de las citas más conocidas del adolescente: "La Eucaristía es mi autopista al cielo".

Los peregrinos acudieron en masa tanto a la Basílica de San Francisco para la Misa de beatificación como al Santuario de la Renuncia en la Iglesia de Santa María la Mayor, donde los restos del adolescente recién beatificado se exhibían para veneración.

Hombres y mujeres, niños y niñas pasaron silenciosamente junto a la tumba, algunos deteniéndose para rezar el "Padre Nuestro". Una niña pequeña se despidió del joven beatificado enviándole un beso al pasar.

Conocido como el lugar donde el joven San Francisco renunció a la herencia de su padre y abrazó la pobreza, el santuario, así como la ciudad de Asís y el mismo San Francisco, ocupaba un lugar especial en el corazón de Acutis.

El adolescente amaba a San Francisco "mucho", expresó su madre, Antonia Salzano, a Catholic News Service el 9 de octubre. San Francisco "era un alma muy eucarística que solía asistir a misa dos veces al día", y su hijo buscaba imitar esa misma devoción eucarística a lo largo de su breve vida.

El arzobispo Domenico Sorrentino de Asís reflexionó sobre el vínculo entre las dos figuras santas y proclamó que, por "designio providencial, (San) Francisco y (el Beato) Carlo ahora son inseparables".

"La vida de Carlo, siempre unida a Jesús, su amor por la Eucaristía, su devoción a la Santísima Virgen, su amistad con los pobres, lo acercó a la espiritualidad del Pobre", San Francisco, declaró el Arzobispo Sorrentino al final de la misa. "Ambos nos invitan a vivir según el Evangelio".

La liturgia se llevó a cabo dentro de la Basílica de San Francisco, pero las medidas para evitar la propagación del COVID-19 hicieron que la mayoría de los que asistieron se sentaran afuera, en asientos separados a un metro de distancia, mirando en pantallas gigantes.

Muchos hombres y mujeres jóvenes fueron a Asís para la beatificación. Para muchos de ellos, el hecho de que un adolescente normal pudiera ser beatificado era una fuente de esperanza e inspiración.

"Con su vida, Carlo me hizo ver que, a pesar de las pequeñas o incluso grandes dificultades, como su enfermedad, podemos vivir una vida plena y feliz si mantenemos nuestros ojos mirando hacia el cielo", señaló una joven de 19 años, Rosanna, que estaba entre los que asistieron a la beatificación.

En su homilía, el cardenal Vallini explicó que la beatificación de Acutis "en la tierra de Francisco de Asís es una buena noticia, un fuerte anuncio de que un hombre joven de nuestro tiempo, uno como muchos, fue conquistado por Cristo y se convirtió en un faro de luz para aquellos que quieren conocerlo y seguir su ejemplo".

Reflexionando sobre la vida del adolescente, el cardenal Vallini indicó que, como la mayoría de los jóvenes de su edad, Carlo era un adolescente "normal, sencillo, espontáneo, amistoso" que usaba formas modernas de comunicación para transmitir

los "valores y la belleza del Evangelio".

Para él, "el internet no era solo una vía de escape, sino un espacio de diálogo, conocimiento, intercambio, y respeto mutuo que se debía utilizar de manera responsable, sin convertirse en esclavos y rechazando el hostigamiento digital", expuso el cardenal.

El cardenal Vallini dijo que el Beato Acutis fue un modelo de virtud para los jóvenes de hoy, recordándonos que no busquen "la gratificación sólo en los éxitos efímeros sino en los valores perpetuos que Jesús propone en el Evangelio".

"Dio testimonio de que la fe no nos aleja de la vida, sino que nos sumerge más profundamente en ella y nos mostró el camino concreto para vivir la alegría del Evangelio", señaló el cardenal. "Depende de nosotros seguirlo, atraídos por la fascinante experiencia del Beato Carlo, para que nuestras vidas también brillen de luz y esperanza".

En la noche de la beatificación de su hijo, Salzano dijo que era un "influencer para Dios".

Antes de su muerte por leucemia en 2006 a los 15 años, Carlo Acutis era un genio italiano de la tecnología. Era un adolescente promedio con un don para las computadoras por encima del promedio. Puso ese conocimiento en práctica, creando una base de datos en línea sobre milagros eucarísticos ocurridos en todo el mundo.

Para su madre, la angustia que experimentan todos los padres por la pérdida de un hijo se mezcló con serenidad y alegría mientras se preparaba para ver a su hijo beatificado.

"Es inusual que los padres (estén presentes) en la beatificación de su hijo o hija", expresó Salzano a Catholic News Service el 9 de octubre. "Es muy inusual porque normalmente toma mucho tiempo. Pero en cambio, para Carlo tomó 14 años tener la beatificación".

La beatificación de Acutis, declaró, es "un paso importante para nosotros porque tenemos tantos devotos de Carlo en todo el mundo. Creo que es una gran señal para ellos, un gran consuelo. Es muy, muy importante que tengamos este reconocimiento de la iglesia".

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 anónimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Hna. Ellen Dunn, O.P., ext. 264; 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 está protegida.

Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp> Policía del Estado de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Delitos contra los Niños, Crímenes de Internet contra los Niños

Wheeling Hospital Installs Additional Safety Measures at ER Entrance

WHEELING — Wheeling Hospital has upgraded its safety measures to protect patients, visitors and employees by installing metal detectors at the Emergency Room entrance.

“Implementing safety measures, especially those that have the ability to detect weapons, is a proactive measure, and an industry best practice,” hospital CEO Douglas Harrison said. “This can assist in reducing the possibility of tragic incidents happening.”

Wheeling Hospital is a firearm-free facility with the exception of on-duty law enforcement officers. Any person with a valid carry permit and found to be carrying a firearm will be asked to return the firearm to their vehicle.

All visitors, patients and employees, whether off or on duty, who are entering the building through the Emergency Room entrance are required to go through

the metal detector each and every time they enter.

Patients entering with obvious life threatening emergencies are allowed to bypass the metal detector. Unconscious, critically ill or seriously injured patients need not be scanned. Patients arriving via ambulance enter through the ambulance area and will not pass through the detector.

While research further indicates metal detectors have no adverse effects on medical implants and pregnancies, patients with pacemakers or other medical issues may request to bypass the metal detectors and be scanned with a wand. Signage is available for patients meeting this medical condition. Anyone entering in a wheelchair or with the aid of a metallic walker or cane is scanned with a wand.

People activating the metal de-

tor are asked to empty their pockets of all metallic objects and instructed to re-enter the detector. The metal detector will show zones of activity that indicate specific areas of the body where metal are present. If there’s a second activation, the officer conducts a scan with a wand. Subsequent activations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The same applies to children, and any wand scans will be done in the presence of the parent/guardian/adult they are accompanying.

All baggage, brief cases, purses, backpacks, sacks, baby carriers, patient gifts, etc., are inspected for weapons by the security officer at the metal detection post. Anyone declining searches are not allowed to bring the articles into the facility and are asked to place the items back into their vehicle.

If illegal weapons, drugs, drug

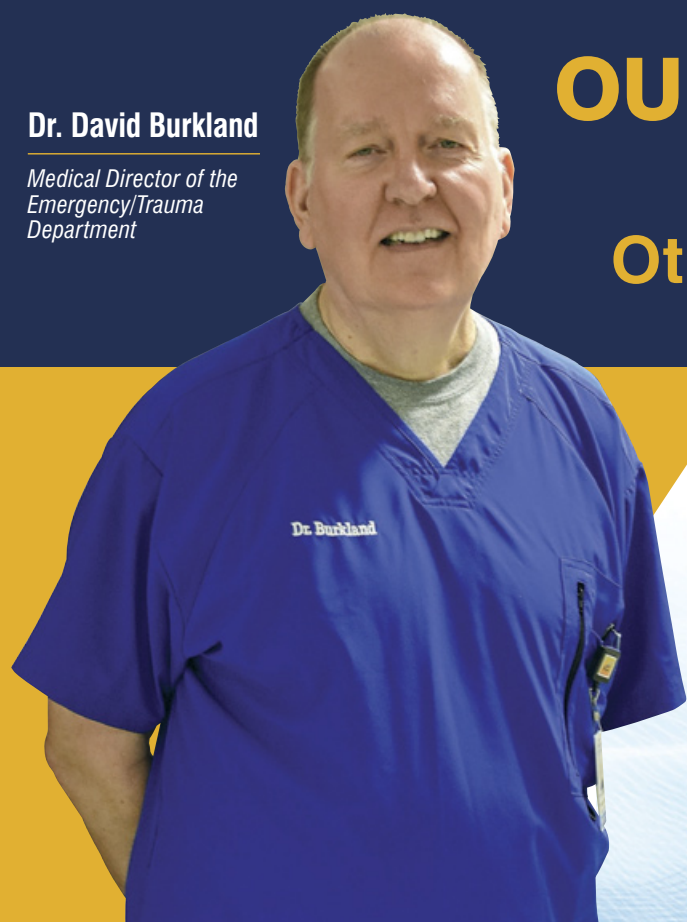
paraphernalia or other contraband is discovered, the security officer will contact the security supervisor immediately and request police assistance if needed. Anyone found to be in violation of state law or city ordinance for weapon offenses is subject to criminal charges. Illegal weapons will be confiscated and placed into police custody.

In addition to the metal detectors, other safety measures include having Wheeling Police Department personnel on site at the hospital 2 p.m. to 6 a.m. seven days a week. This security is in addition to the 24/7 presence of McKeen Security staff.

COVID-19 visitation restrictions also remain in place, with all visitors and staff required to wear masks in all areas of the hospital and observe social distancing. The Gift Shop and cafeteria remain closed to visitors.

Dr. David Burkland

Medical Director of the
Emergency/Trauma
Department



OUR ER WILL PROTECT YOU.

Do Not Ignore Warning Signs of
Other Illnesses Because of COVID-19.

Our Emergency/Trauma Department is staffed by board-certified emergency physicians from WVU Medicine.

Don't ignore signs of strokes, heart attacks and other emergency conditions.

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